



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF FEBRUARY 17, 2026**

Members: Don McDowell, Laura Streets, Richard Craig, George Cormier, Leah Hollenberger

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Jordan St. Onge, Highway Superintendent

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Jamie Jaret, Martin Green, Tom Snipp, Jerry & Evelyn Throne, Chuck & Christine Pepe, Tom Rogers, Mark Kelly, Judy Bickford, Rose Belanger

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:33 PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

None

5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

One comment regarding the frozen water at the corner of Congress and Winter St. is hazardous to pedestrians.

5:47PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes of 2-2-26 Informational Meeting

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 2/2/26. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (5/0)

2. Approve minutes of 2-2-26 SB Meeting

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 2/2/26. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (5/0) with amendments.

Add Meredith Scott as an attendee via zoom.

5:50PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Consideration to approve 1.4 Class C (Consumer) fireworks display - Thomas Snipp

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the 1.4 Class C (Consumer) fireworks display permit for Thomas Snipp at 178 Demars Road scheduled for February 20, 2026. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

2. Update for the 4th of July Fireworks

Judi Alberi was informed by the new owners of Pyrotecnico (formerly NorthStar) that Morristown's

Fourth of July fireworks were being canceled due to the company's other commitments to the 250th celebration and a shortage of available technicians. Judi immediately brought Adele Taplin into the discussion, and after significant effort from both, they successfully secured the contract with Pyrotecnico. Adele was instrumental through community outreach and pressure from the previous owner. The show will go on with the theme "Then, Now, and Next" for the nation's 250th anniversary!

3. On-The-Spot Awards - Judi Alberi & Adele Taplin

Don presented the On-The-Spot Award to Adele Taplin and Judi Alberi, which acknowledged the extraordinary time and efforts of both recipients in procuring the necessary provisions to enable the Morristown Fireworks to be held on July 4th this year.

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve Chair Don McDowell to sign the On-The-Spot awards as presented to Judi Alberi and Adele Taplin. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (5/0).

4. Stowe Land Trust - Muddy Moose

Matt Kelly, Director of Land Protection, and Tom Rogers, Executive Director of the Stowe Land Trust, presented a proposal to transfer ownership of approximately 150 acres of conserved, undeveloped land at the end of Cote Hill Road—formerly part of the Muddy Moose enterprise—to the Town of Morristown at no cost. The property includes an existing trail system, diverse wildlife habitat, scenic waterfalls along Jacob Brook, and a floodplain forest along the Lamoille River. A conservation easement, to be co-held by Stowe Land Trust and the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, will permanently protect these natural resources. Stowe Land Trust has budgeted \$87,000 for initial trailhead infrastructure and five years of trail maintenance. Kelly and Rogers explained that transferring the property to the Town would align management with community goals and the Town Plan while supporting local recreation and economic development. Jerry Throne noted he would present this proposal to the Conversation Commission on Thursday evening. Leah raised a question regarding maintenance costs beyond the five-year support period, which could become a town responsibility, and Brent suggested encouraging community interested in recreation to get involved. The Selectboard discussed the terms, with Stowe Land Trust noting they could include a provision allowing the land to revert to the Trust in the future if the arrangement proved unsuccessful. Don and Laura spoke in favor of the collaboration, noting its community benefits. The Selectboard expressed general support to engage in discussions as an “interested party,” allowing the Stowe Land Trust to proceed with the conservation easement. Don thanked the representatives, calling the proposal a great opportunity to enhance the town, and George called it a “jewel”.

5. Update from Habitat for Humanity — Robin Pierce regarding the survey of the lot on Richmond Street

Robin Pierce reported that the lot survey was completed. A discussion about the parking spaces remaining in the lot across from the library ensued. The library is impacted by too few parking spaces, especially with the school employees using the lot. It was suggested that the school be contacted to direct their people to park on school property. Habitat for Humanity needs to know if they can proceed with arrangements with the Tech Center's student workers. This topic will be put on the next Selectboard agenda.

6. Approve & sign Annual Disclosure to the State for Highway Mileage

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve and sign the Annual Disclosure to the State for Highway Mileage for the year ending February 10, 2026. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (5/0).

7. Review and adopt the updated 2026 Town Road and Bridge Standards and Certification of Compliance

Motion made by Richard Craig to adopt and sign the updated 2026 Town Road and Bridge Standards and the associated Certification of Compliance as updated by the Vermont Agency of Natural Resources and the Vermont Agency of Transportation. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried (5/0).

1. Approve and sign Local Option Tax Fund Use Policy

A review of the final version of the Local Option Tax Fund Use Policy resulted in a change to the language, removing the word "sales" before tax in the document. Laura wanted to ensure the policy does not mislead people. She suggested adding wording that the funds will be used for capital projects, and not for general operating costs. Laura emphasized the importance of educating the public about the intended use of the tax revenues, particularly in the first year if it passes. The board acknowledged that while the wording of the policy could be refined in the future, their current intent was clear, and they moved forward with the existing policy and motion.

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve and sign the Local Option Tax Fund Use Policy for the Town of Morristown to establish guidelines for the dedicated use of revenues for community benefit and fiscal responsibility. Motion seconded by George. Motion carried (4/1). Laura Streets Nay

7:00PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the warrants. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

7:05PM - SCHEDULE

- 1. Wednesday, March 4, 2026 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM**
- Monday, March 16, 2026- SB Meeting - 5:30PM**

7:10PM - OTHER BUSINESS

None

7:15PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn. Motion seconded by Laura Streets. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:14 pm
Submitted and filed this 2/19/2026.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

Please note all minutes are in Draft form and are subject to approval at the next Selectboard meeting.