



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF MARCH 4, 2026**

Members: Don McDowell, Richard Craig, George Cormier, Leah Hollenberger, Rose Belanger

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Adele Taplin*, ECDD

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Ron Stancliff, Jerry & Evelyn Throne, Jamie Jaret, Tasha Wallis, Carol Lauber, Charles Cooley, Gary Mercy, Hilary Warner, David Durand, Martin Green

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:34 PM at the Tegu Building.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Don welcomed the new member, Rose Belanger, to the Selectboard.

Correction to agenda #8 from Local Underwriting Review Board to Land Use Review Board. Change the agenda to reverse the order of item #5 and item #6.

5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

None

5:47PM - APPROVE MINUTES

1. Approve minutes 2-17-26

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 2/17/26. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

5:50PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Elect Chair

Motion made by George Cormier to nominate Don McDowell as Chair. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (4/0/1). Don McDowell abstained.

2. Elect Vice-Chair

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to nominate Richard Craig to Vice Chair. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (4/0/1). Richard Craig abstained.

3. Set regular meeting schedule

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to hold the Selectboard meetings on the first and third Mondays of the month at 5:30 PM. Motion seconded by Richard Craig. Motion carried (5/0).

4. Town Appointments

Town appointments were presented to the Selectboard as part of the annual reappointment process. Everyone being considered has confirmed their interest in continuing to serve or being newly appointed. In accordance with the rules of procedure for jointly appointed boards, any appointments to the DRB or PC must first be interviewed by those respective boards before coming to the Selectboard for appointment. Any vacant positions that remain unfilled will be advertised by the administration. Don thanked all the nominees for filling these positions. George Cormier questioned the agent to convey property for Dennis Smith and Joie Marshall, as the Town is now managing all cemeteries. It is nice to have them involved as backups to the sexton.

Motion made by Richard Craig to appoint all the nominees to the Town Appointments and all the nominees to the Boards/Councils as presented. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

5. Set locations for posting meeting notices

Discussion was held regarding the locations for posting meeting notices. In addition to the official posting sites, notices could also be shared on Front Porch Forum as an extra means of public outreach; however, it was noted that this would not constitute an official posting since the Town cannot control the publication of notices on that platform.

Motion made by Richard Craig to set the town's location for posting meeting notices in or near the municipal office, Morrisville Post Office, Morristown Centennial Library, and the town website. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Richard Craig to set the town's newspaper of record as the News and Citizen. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0).

6. Rules of Procedure Amendments

Motion made by Richard Craig to adopt the Selectboard's Rules of Procedure as presented. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motions were retracted due to amendments and a final document being presented for consideration March 16th.

Discussion followed with a request that the members of the selectboard's meeting packets be available earlier than Friday. Judi noted that the members' iPads have the information as soon as the agenda is created. Agendas and attachments can be accessed at the iPad board portal. Richard requested that public participation in the meetings begin with the individual speaking his/her name and the town of residence. This is for informational purposes, rather than permission to speak.

7. Certificate - No Appeal or Suit Pending

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve and sign the Certificate – No appeal or suit pending as presented. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

8. Authorization for the Town of Morristown to submit a request for Tier 1B designation through the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC) to the Land Use Review Board (LURB).

Tasha Wallis, Executive Director of the Lamoille County Planning Commission (LCPC), provided an

overview of the Tier 1B designation, explaining that it would grant Act 250 exemptions for housing developments with fewer than 50 units on less than 10 acres, thereby simplifying the process. Don noted that he received a letter of endorsement for adopting Tier 1B from the Planning Commission chair, Etienne Hancock. The Selectboard expressed support for moving forward with Tier 1B, noting that ongoing zoning bylaw revisions addressed legal counsel's concerns and would not represent a barrier to the community's ability to create affordable housing that meets local standards. Brent thanked the LCPC for their time in assisting.

Motion made by Richard Craig to approve and authorize Chair Don McDowell to sign the Municipal Request for Tier 1B Area Designation. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0).

9. Trails Committee Discussion for Muddy Moose Donation and Area Trails

The board discussed the potential acquisition of the Muddy Moose property from Stowe Land Trust, which would include \$87,000 for trail maintenance over five years. The discussion concluded with a broader conversation about establishing a trails committee to formalize and manage the town's extensive trail system, even though questions remained about whether trails should be treated as a separate entity or as part of a broader recreation program. Adele Taplin, Economic and Community Development Director, explained that a survey about the Muddy Moose property would help gauge community interest and could serve as a catalyst for broader trail development. Jerry Throne, Chair of the Conservation Commission noted that this had been an ongoing discussion and would be further addressed at their next meeting on March 19th. Concerns were raised about parking issues and safety, particularly regarding the Muddy Moose property, with residents expressing concerns about overnight camping and limited parking space. Future cost and labor for trail maintenance were topics for further discussion.

6:40PM - OLD BUSINESS

None

6:42PM - APPROVE WARRANTS

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

6:45PM - SCHEDULE

- 1. Monday, March 16, 2026- SB Meeting - 5:30PM
Monday, April 6, 2026 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM**

6:50PM - OTHER BUSINESS

Leah spoke for the Selectboard when she welcomed the new member, Rose Belanger, and thanked Laura Streets for her many years of committee work and service to the town. She also thanked all the town's people who voted and the election volunteers.

6:55PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Richard Caig to adjourn. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 pm
Submitted and filed this 3/5/26.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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