



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF MARCH 9, 2026**

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

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Tyler Mumley (Mumley Engineering), Dale Touchette, Chris Demars, Wallace Reed, Dan McLaughlin, Leah Bronner, Deb Dever, Julia Compagna, Tracy Rogalski, Kristin Fogdall*, Kate Greenmun*, Lee Lebrie, Jerry Throne*

**participating via Zoom*

5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER

Richard Craig called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:30 PM at the Tegu Building.
Don McDowell joined the meeting via zoom for the first 30 mins.

5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS

Add Community Comments after the Agenda Changes.
Community Comments- None

5:32PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS

5:32PM - NEW BUSINESS

1. Update on Jersey Heights three-acre rule stormwater project - Tyler Mumley

The Morristown Special Selectboard meeting focused on discussing an update regarding the Jersey Heights 3-acre stormwater project. Brent Raymond and Tyler Mumley (of Mumley Engineering) explained that the project had encountered significant hurdles with the state (ANR/DEC), specifically a four-month delay followed by an unexpected requirement for a heavy-duty liner. The liner requirement combined with water level led to a recommendation from the liner manufacturer that a three-foot-thick concrete slab be installed to control buoyancy. These mandates drove the estimated construction cost of the original underground chamber system toward \$600,000, making it cost-prohibitive, difficult to construct and its reliability questionable.

In response to these challenges, the team presented a new proposal for a Tier 2 gravel wetland system, which ANR/DEC has verbally approved. This alternative will capture approximately 25% of the impervious surface runoff, which is less than the 50% threshold previously sought. Because of this lower capture rate, the town will be required to pay a one-time state impact fee of approximately \$60,000. Despite this fee, the gravel wetland is expected to be a significantly more cost-effective solution than the \$600,000 chamber system, as it requires a shallower 8-foot excavation rather than the 20-foot depth previously planned. More concrete cost estimates for the gravel wetland will soon be available once the engineering plans and specs are finalized.

The technical design of the gravel wetland includes a sediment forebay to collect dirt and gravel from road runoff, which will require periodic dredging every two to three years. The system also features an overflow bypass to manage larger storm events. Once constructed, the area is intended to look like a naturally vegetated field, with the water table typically maintained six inches below the surface to prevent a "swampy" appearance or standing water. The town will be required to perform annual inspections every spring to ensure all pipes, catch basins, and structures are functioning correctly.

A sense of urgency dominated the discussion because the \$316,000 in ARPA grant funds must be fully utilized by September month end 2026. This requires an aggressive Request for Proposal (RFP) process to begin immediately to ensure construction can start in early summer 2026. The new design also simplifies the legal process, reducing the required easements from 36 to roughly 18. Notably, the developer, Howard Manosh, has verbally agreed to transfer the parcel that the stormwater solution will be located on to the town, which will facilitate long-term maintenance.

During the public comment portion of the meeting, residents raised concerns about property values, cost, aesthetics, and safety for children. Specific concerns regarding sidewalk erosion on Foss Street were noted, and Tyler Mumley agreed to evaluate these issues further. While the exact final costs are still being calculated, it was noted that approximately \$60,000 has been spent on engineering to date, leaving roughly \$250,000 for construction. The Town Manager emphasized that this path is the most fiducially responsible way to protect property deeds from potential state enforcement actions. The meeting concluded with a commitment to share finalized cost estimates with residents as soon as they are ready.

6:30PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to adjourn. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried. (4/0)

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm
Submitted and filed this 3/9/26.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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