



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES  
OF MARCH 16, 2026**

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

Absent:

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Sara Haskins, Town Clerk/Treasurer; Tina Sweet, Finance Director, Cyndi Wiltshire, HR Director; Jason Luneau, Chief of Police; Corey Boisvert, Chief of EMS; Jordan St.Onge, Highway Superintendent: Adele Taplin, ECDD

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Charles Cooley, Alex Cyr, Hilary Warner, Bob Bortree, Brooke Scatchard, Gary Mercy, Martin Green, Carol Lauber, Maggie Cleary\*, Heather Cheney\*,

*\*participating via Zoom*

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**5:30PM - CALL SELECTBOARD MEETING TO ORDER**

Don McDowell called the Selectboard Meeting to order at 5:35 PM at the Tegu Building.

**5:31PM - AGENDA CHANGES/ADDITIONS**

None

**5:33PM - COMMUNITY COMMENTS**

None

**5:47PM - APPROVE MINUTES**

**1. Approve minutes of 3-4-26**

***Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 3/4/26. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried by roll call (5/0) with amendments.***

Under New Business # 1 Elect a chair, the meeting was turned over to the vice-chair, Richard Craig. Under #2 Elect a vice-chair, the meeting was turned over to the nominated chair.

**2. Approve minutes of 3-9-26**

***Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the minutes of 3/9/2026. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried by roll call (5/0)***

**5:50PM - NEW BUSINESS**

**1. Approve Architectural & Engineering Services for Morristown Emergency Response Station with Wiemann Lamphere Architects**

Chief Luno and Brent explained the process of selecting Wiemann Lamphere Architects from 9 proposals received for the architectural and engineering services to complete a conceptual design for a new police station, fire station, and EMS facility. They noted Wiemann Lamphere's reputation and experience with municipal work in Vermont, and their willingness to include the highway village garage assessment at no additional cost. The board discussed the potential of combining all three public safety entities under one roof in a 50-year building design. This assessment will evaluate four sites and recommend the best location for

the building.

***Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the selection of Wiemann Lamphere Architects to provide architectural and engineering services for the Morristown Emergency Response Station site evaluation in the amount of \$45,350, and to authorize Town Manager Brent Raymond to sign the contract and negotiate the inclusion of the EMS Building in the scope of the contract. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried by roll call (5/0).***

**2. Approve and sign new road and road name "Juniper Meadow"**

***Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the new private road and road name 'Juniper Meadow' for the property located off Cote Hill Road. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried by roll call (5/0)***

**3. Consideration of Coin Drop on Brooklyn Street April 17th**

***Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the request from Maplefields to hold a coin drop on Brooklyn Street on April 17th from 11:00 AM to 2:00 PM to benefit the Children's Hospital of Vermont, contingent upon the required safety package being in place. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried by roll call (5/0)***

**4. Consideration of MOU for EMS transport from The Manor to Copley Hospital**

Chief Boisvert presented the memorandum, explaining the rationale for establishing a standardized \$375 flat fee for local Basic Life Support (BLS) non-emergent transfers between The Manor and Copley Hospital. The proposed rate is designed to align with regional and industry norms, reflect the true cost of service delivery, and promote sustainable EMS operations without burdening taxpayers. By implementing a consistent, transparent billing structure, Morristown EMS can ensure equitable cost-sharing with partner facilities, maintain readiness for emergency response, and streamline administrative processes for all parties involved. The Selectboard praised Chief Boisvert for her initiative in designing this outcome.

***Motion made by Richard Craig to approve the Memorandum of Understanding between Morristown EMS and The Manor Nursing Home for local non-emergent transfers at a fixed rate of \$375.00 per transfer, effective April 1, 2026. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried by roll call (5/0)***

**5. Discuss formation of a Recreation Committee**

Don acknowledged that this topic had been discussed before at the Selectboard. He noted its importance to the community and said one of the items to be decided is whether the Recreation Committee would fall under the town's purview or operate as a volunteer organization. It was decided to identify the community's recreation needs and wants. Another important task mentioned was creating a record of activities already organized in town. Placing the committee under the auspices of the Conservation Commission was discussed, as well as creating a survey. Adele will research recreation as handled by other municipalities. The Selectboard emphasized the need for a clear mission and charge for any committee, highlighting the importance of town involvement in leveraging resources and supporting economic development. While no final decisions were made, the board acknowledged the importance of moving forward with these initiatives and suggested further community engagement and research into the structures of other municipalities.

**6. Discuss formation of a Trails Committee**

The concept of a Trails Committee started with the Stowe Land Trust Muddy Moose discussion. People come to the Morrisville area to use the many trails for biking, walking, and hiking. Adele highlighted the economic benefits of trails, citing Waterbury's \$1 million annual economic impact, and mentioned upcoming tools and grants that could help assess and develop the town's trail system. Richard suggested that a

group of interested people should decide how the Trails Committee should be organized. Maggie noted there have been ongoing conversations about the committee's structure, whether it should be part of the Conservation Commission or a separate entity, and emphasized the positive engagement from younger residents. Hilary shared insights from a civic engagement discussion on trails, emphasizing the desire for connected trail networks, clear signage, and the potential for trails to drive local economic activity. The group discussed the importance of integrating trails with broader recreational efforts and maintaining the town's ownership of key roads. The idea of combining the Recreation and the Trails Committees was suggested for the future. At the next Selectboard meeting, Don suggested they discuss a mission statement and framework for both committees.

#### **7. Muddy Moose survey results - Adele Taplin**

Adele reviewed survey results from over 200 residents regarding the Muddy Moose property, which showed strong community support for balancing conservation with low-impact recreation such as hiking and nature observation, while expressing concerns about motorized vehicles, hunting, and potential overdevelopment of facilities. It was noted that approximately 10K-15K trails identified near Washington Highway could be leveraged for community recreation and economic benefit. Leah raised questions about trail assessments, ownership, and infrastructure, while Rose clarified that Stowe Land Trust, not the town, would own the property and determine easement language. The group discussed the possibility of allowing basic recreational facilities and infrastructure, with Brent cautioning against limiting options too much. Adel will identify resources for trail assessment grants and suggest a plan to develop a trail map useful for community members and tourists.

#### **8. Discuss reactivation of Charter Committee**

The Town Charter was created in 2024. Sara, town clerk, suggested that amending the Charter would allow a separation of the Alcohol and Tobacco meeting from the Selectboard. The members agreed it was a good idea and requested that the administration provide recommendations on the committee's structure. Don recommended reactivating the committee with a minority of select board members to allow a balance with community members.

#### **9. Approve Lien Discharge- Ashley Wells**

***Motion made by Richard Craig to discharge the tax lien against the property of Ashley Wells located at 13 First Street, as recorded in the Morristown land records in Book 363, page 296. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried by roll call (5/0)***

#### **7:00PM - OLD BUSINESS**

##### **1. Review and approve amendments to Rules of Procedure**

There were two new amendments to the Rules of Procedure. One is to name the News & Citizen as the official paper of record for the Town of Morristown, and the other is to require public participation at the Selectboard meeting, which requires citizens to state their name and town of residence before speaking.

***Motion made by Richard Craig to adopt the amended Selectboard Rules of Procedure as presented. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried by roll call (5/0).***

#### **7:10PM - APPROVE WARRANTS**

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

#### **7:12PM - SCHEDULE**

- Monday, April 6, 2026 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM**  
**Monday, April 20, 2026 - SB Meeting - 5:30PM**

**7:15PM - OTHER BUSINESS**

**1. Executive Session - Legal & Labor relations**

***Motion made by Richard Craig, I move to find that premature general public knowledge regarding possible litigation would clearly place the Town at substantial disadvantage. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried by roll call (5/0)***

***Motion made by Richard Craig to enter executive session for possible litigation per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(E) and include Sara Haskins, Tina Sweet, Brent Raymond, Jason Luneau & Judi Alberi. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried by roll call (5/0)***

***Motion made by Richard Craig, I move to find that premature general public knowledge regarding labor relations agreements would clearly place the Town at substantial disadvantage. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried by roll call (5/0)***

***Motion made by Richard Craig to enter executive session for labor relations per 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) and include Tina Sweet, Corey Boisvert, Cyndi Wiltshire, Brent Raymond, and Judi Alberi. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried by roll call (5/0)***

***Motion made by Richard Craig to come out of the Executive Session. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried by roll call (5/0)***

**7:45PM - ADJOURN**

***Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried by roll call (5/0)***

Meeting adjourned at 9:16 pm  
Submitted and filed this 3/17/26.  
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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