



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF MAY 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; Jordan St.Onge, Highway Superintendent

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Attorney David Rugh, Chris Towne (site visit only)

**participating via Zoom*

FIELD INSPECTION (SITE VISITS)

1. 4:30PM - Examination of Stub Towne Road (T.H. #38)

a. Meeting Location — Stub Towne Road/Lower Elmore Mountain Road

b. Scope - Inspection of the +/-0.1 mile long, three-rod (49.5 feet) wide town highway right-of-way for Stub Towne Road.

Don McDowell opened the site visit at 4:30PM. Those in attendance were: Town Manager, Brent Raymond; Executive Assistant, Judi Alberi; Town Attorney, David Rugh; Highway Superintendent, Jordan St.Onge; Selectboard Members McDowell, Craig, Cormier, Hollenberger, Belanger; Abutters to Stub Towne Road Chris Towne.

The Selectboard conducted a site inspection of Stub Towne Road (Town Highway 38) at its intersection with Lower Mountain Road. The inspection included review of the approximately 0.1-mile, three-rod-wide right-of-way, which terminates alongside the red barn. Highway Superintendent Jordan St. Onge measured the roadway and reported a length of approximately 530 feet, with a traveled width of approximately 16 to 17 feet. He also identified four substandard driveway culverts measuring 6 inches in diameter, rather than the required 18 inches. It was further noted that the access on the easterly side of Stub Towne Road serves as a driveway for 262 Lower Elmore Mountain Road and is not part of the town highway.

5:30PM - PUBLIC HEARING - STUB TOWNE ROAD (T.H. #38)

1. 5:30PM: Call to Order and Introduction

Don McDowell opened the public hearing at 5:30PM at the Tegu Building. He introduced Town Attorney, David Rugh, and Highway Superintendent, Jordan St. Onge.

Those providing testimony were sworn in as follows: Jordan St. Onge and Attorney David Rugh.

2. Evidence of Notice: Entry of exhibits into the record confirming 30 days advanced notice was

provided to interested parties, the Department of Forest Parks and Recreation, and Planning Commission, newspaper publication.

Attorney David Rugh entered evidence into the record which included:

1. Notice of site visit and hearing
2. Proof of Publication of notice in newspaper
3. All certified mailings of notice of discontinuance
4. [Placeholder for Morristown Selectboard Meeting Minutes]
5. Subdivision Survey Prepared for Clarence Towne Jr. et. al., by David Peatman, last revised October 4, 2017, recorded at Map Slide 355 (1790)
6. Morristown Tax Parcel Map

George Cormier raised a clarifying question regarding the Morristown Tax Parcel Map, specifically the section highlighted in yellow. Attorney Rugh explained that the highlighted area does not accurately represent the portion of Stub Towne Road under consideration. He clarified that the relevant section begins at the top of the intersection of Stub Towne Road/Lower Elmore Mountain Road and extends approximately 530 feet northerly. He also noted that the access point on the easterly side of Stub Towne Road connecting to Lower Elmore Mountain Road is not part of the town highway.

Attorney Rugh further reminded the Board that the legal standard for discontinuance is whether the “public good, necessity, and convenience of the inhabitants of the town” support such action.

3. Town Testimony: Presentation by the Town regarding the "public good, necessity, and convenience," including maintenance challenges or cost savings

Town Attorney David Rugh and Highway Superintendent Jordan St.Onge presented evidence showing the road does not meet Town standards. Jordan St.Onge presented testimony regarding the road's failure to meet Town standards, referencing the Town of Morristown Road Policy. He cited sections B9 Dead-End Roads, section B11 Downgrading Substandard Roads Selectboard review every 5 years, and C1 Rural Road Specifications. Jordan presented testimony and evidence that StubTowne Road (T.H. #38) did not meet the public good standard as it was too narrow, currently 16–17 feet wide, failing to meet the town's 20-foot minimum width requirement. Additionally, the road contains four substandard 6-inch driveway culverts, whereas town policy requires an 18-inch minimum. Jordan further testified, current annual maintenance is estimated at \$3,300. Upgrading the road to meet town standards—which would require widening and culvert replacement—is estimated to cost in excess of \$10,000. Jordan testified that the road serves no public interest, such as hiking trails, recreation, or access to public property. Per the road policy, accepting or maintaining such dead-end roads is generally considered contrary to the public good.

4. Interested Party Testimony: Comments and evidence from abutting landowners or other interested persons

No testimony or comments entered.

5. Cross-Examination: Opportunity for parties to question witnesses

No testimony or comments entered.

5:50PM - DELIBERATE SESSION

Motion made by Richard Craig to go into a deliberate session with Brent Raymond, Judi Alberi, and David Rugh. Motion seconded by George Cormier. Motion carried (5/0).

6:00PM - ADJOURN (REGULAR SB MEETING IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING)

Motion made by Richard Craig to adjourn the public hearing. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger.

Motion carried. (5/0)

Meeting adjourned at 5:46 pm
Submitted and filed this 5/7/26.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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