



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JUNE 2, 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:

**participating via Zoom*

FIELD INSPECTION (SITE VISITS)

1. **4:30PM - Examination of Lyle McKee Farm Road (Town Highway #53)**
 - a. **Meeting Location - Intersection of Lyle McKee Road and Lyle McKee Farm Road**
 - b. **Scope - Inspection of the +/-0.4 mile long, three-rod (49.5 feet) wide town highway right-of-way terminating in the woods or pasture identified as 831 Lyle McKee Farm Road.**
1. 4:30PM- Examination of Lyle McKee Farm Road (Town Highway #53)
 - a. Meeting location — Intersection of Lyle McKee Road and Lyle McKee Farm Road
 - b. Scope — Inspection of the +/-0.4 mile long, three-rod (49.5 feet) wide town highway right-of-way terminating in the woods or pasture identified as 831 Lyle McKee Farm Road.

Don McDowell opened the site visit at 4:30 PM. Those in attendance were: Selectboard members McDowell, Craig, Cormier, Hollenberger, and Belanger, Executive Assistant, Judi Alberi; Town Attorney, David Rugh; Highway Superintendent, Jordan St. Onge; resident Andrew Neel.

The Selectboard first conducted a site inspection of Lyle McKee Farm Road (Town Highway #53) at the intersection of Lyle McKee Road and Lyle McKee Farm Road. The inspection examined the town highway right-of-way for Lyle McKee Farm Road (Town Highway #53) is three rods (49.5 feet) wide, commences on the southerly side of Lyle McKee Road (Town Highway #52), and extends southerly +/- 0.4 miles (+/-2,100 feet), terminating in the woods or pasture on the lands and premises now or formerly of Neel Family Partners, LLC, known and identified as 831 Lyle McKee Farm Road. Highway Superintendent Jordan St. Onge measured the roadway and reported a length of the Class 3 portion extends +/-0.06 miles (+/-300 feet) southerly from Lyle McKee Road, ending after the first driveway to the barn on the westerly side of the road, and then it continues southerly as a Class 4 town highway for +/-0.34 miles (+/-1800 feet) with a traveled width of approximately 16ft.

5:30PM - PUBLIC HEARING - LYLE MCKEE FARM ROAD

1. Call to Order and Introduction

Don McDowell called the Public Hearing for Lyle McKee Farm Road to order at 5:30 PM at the Tegu Building. He introduced Town Attorney, David Rugh, and Highway Superintendent, Jordan St. Onge. Those providing testimony were sworn in as follows: Attorney David Rugh, and Jordan St. Onge.

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 hearings
2. Proof of Publication of notice in the newspaper
3. All certified mailings of notice of discontinuance
4. (Placeholder for Morristown Selectboard Meeting Minutes)
5. Morristown Tax Parcel Map
6. Letter from Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation dated May 15, 2026.

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 testimony, along with supporting documentation, concerning the status and condition of Lyle McKee Farm Road.

Jordan testified that Lyle McKee Farm Road does not meet current Town standards for roadway width and carries an estimated annual maintenance cost of approximately \$3,300. In his review, he referenced applicable provisions of the Town of Morristown Road Policy, including Section B9 (Dead-End Roads), Section B11 (Downgrading Substandard Roads, which requires Selectboard review every five years), and Section C1 (Rural Road Specifications).

Based on these standards and his professional assessment, Jordan testified that Lyle McKee Farm Road does not meet the "public good" standard. He explained that the roadway is too narrow to safely accommodate traffic, serves only one residence and a small dairy farm, and presents ongoing maintenance challenges. While he noted that a culvert on the road has been upgraded within the past five years, additional deficiencies remain.

Jordan further identified concerns with the road's configuration. The entrance forms a "Y" intersection with rocks and plantings located at its center, which complicates plowing and general maintenance operations. He also noted the absence of proper ditching along the roadway, a feature typically present on Town-maintained roads.

Jordan testified that the cost, risk, and time associated with maintaining Lyle McKee Farm Road diverts Highway Department resources from other roads that serve a greater number of residents. He estimated that bringing the road into compliance with Town standards would require significant improvements at a cost exceeding \$10,000.

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

After no public comments were received, the Selectboard unanimously voted to close the public hearing.

6:00PM - DELIBERATIVE SESSION

The Selectboard opted to go into a private, closed, deliberative session to discuss discontinuing the town highway right of way with Town Attorney, David Rugh and Executive Assistant, Judi Alberi.

The Selectboard's Return, containing its findings and conclusions, will be available no later than 60 days from the date of the public hearing and will be recorded in land records.

Motion made by Richard Craig to close the public hearing at 5:39 PM. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0).

Motion made by Richard Craig to go into private deliberative session with Attorney, David Rugh and Judi Alberi present. Motion seconded by Leah Hollenberger. Motion carried (5/0).

6:30PM - ADJOURN

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

Meeting adjourned at 5:48 pm
Submitted and filed this 6/2/26.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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