



**SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
OF JUNE 22, 2026**

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

Absent: Don McDowell

ADMINISTRATION and STAFF: Brent Raymond, Town Manager; Judi Alberi, Executive Assistant; Jordan St. Onge, Highway Superintendent

PARTICIPANTS/GUESTS: Town Attorney, David Rugh; Patrice Knapp, Brian Anderson, David Bernier, Calvin Nichols

**participating via Zoom*

FIELD INSPECTION (SITE VISIT)

- 1. 4:30PM - Examination of Sand Ridge Road (Town Highway #78)**
 - a. Meeting Location - Intersection of Sand Ridge Road (Town Highway #78) and Elmore Road (VT Route #12)**
 - b. Scope - Inspection of the +/-0.08 miles long, fifty-foot (50') wide Class 3 town highway right-of-way for Sand Ridge Road (Town Highway #78)**

Richard Craig opened the site visit for consideration of discontinuance at 4:30 PM.

Those in attendance were Town Manager Brent Raymond; Executive Assistant Judi Alberi; Town Attorney David Rugh; Highway Superintendent Jordan St. Onge; Selectboard Members Craig, Cormier, Hollenberger, and Belanger; and residents Patrice Knapp, Brian Anderson, and Dave Bernier.

The Selectboard conducted a site inspection of Sand Ridge Road (Town Highway #78) and its intersection with Elmore Road (VT Route 12). The inspection included approximately 0.08 miles (+/- 424 feet) of a fifty-foot-wide (50 foot) Class 3 town highway right-of-way extending north from Route 12.

Highway Superintendent Jordan St. Onge measured the roadway and reported that the 0.08-mile Class III road does not meet town specifications. He explained that the road width varies from approximately 19 to 20 feet for the first 280 feet, narrowing to approximately 12 feet for the next 140 feet, terminating at the paved portion of the driveway for 50 Sand Ridge Road. An 18-inch culvert was observed on the right side of the "Y" in the road, where Private Ridges Road diverges to the left and the driveway for 50 Sand Ridge Road continues straight ahead.

5:30PM - PUBLIC HEARING - SAND RIDGE ROAD

- 1. Call to Order and Introduction**

Richard Craig opened the public hearing at 5:30 PM at the Tegu Building. He introduced Town Attorney

David Rugh and Highway Superintendent Jordan St. Onge.

Those providing testimony were duly sworn in, including Town Attorney David Rugh; Highway Superintendent Jordan St. Onge; and residents Patrice Knapp, Dave Bernier, and Calvin Nichols. Resident Brian Anderson arrived shortly after the hearing began and was also sworn in.

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. Total Station Survey and boundary survey of property at 50 Sand Ridge Road, Morristown, Vermont, by Gove Land Surveyors, Inc., dated April 24, 2019, recorded at Map Slide 362 (1834)
7. Letter from Vermont Department of Forests, Parks & Recreation dated June 4, 2026
8. Sand Ridge Road layout documents, September 1960 and February 1962

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

The Town held a public hearing to discuss the discontinuance of Sand Ridge Road, a 0.08-mile Class III road that does not meet Town specifications.

Town Attorney David Rugh and Highway Superintendent Jordan St. Onge presented testimony, along with supporting documentation, concerning the status and condition of Sand Ridge Road (Town Highway #78). Highway Superintendent St. Onge testified that Sand Ridge Road's width varies from 19 to 20 feet to 12 feet and that the estimated annual maintenance cost is \$3,000, primarily for plowing. An 18-inch culvert was observed on the right side of the "Y" in the road, where Private Ridges Road diverges to the left and the driveway for 50 Sand Ridge Road continues straight ahead.

In his review, Highway Superintendent St. Onge 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, he testified that Sand Ridge Road does not meet the public good standard.

He further explained that the roadway is too narrow to accommodate traffic safely, presents ongoing maintenance challenges, has no ditching, and lacks a turnaround. During the winter months, plowing is challenging, and snow is often pushed into the "Y" area. He estimated that it would cost approximately \$5,000 to bring the road up to standards.

Attorney Rugh stated that if the Selectboard decides to discontinue Sand Ridge Road, residents who access their property via Private Ridges Road would retain their access rights as governed by Vermont law, including 19 V.S.A. § 2702 regarding private road maintenance. He explained that when more than one person enjoys a common benefit from a private road, each person must contribute equitably to the cost of maintaining the road.

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

persons

Residents raised concerns about maintaining safe access to nine homes on the road, and Brian Anderson noted prior accidents on the hill and questioned who would pay for necessary improvements if the road were discontinued. Brian stated that the Sand Ridge Road/Elmore Road intersection is a dangerous section of road in the winter and that it is difficult to see traffic. He further stated that safe access to his property is necessary.

Calvin also asked about right-of-way widths after discontinuation, and Town Attorney David Rugh explained that property owners would retain private access rights sufficient for safe travel. In response to Attorney Rugh's inquiries, Highway Superintendent Jordan St. Onge stated that he was not aware of any accidents at the intersection and did not know of any requirement to maintain the road. Attorney Rugh did note that VTrans does keep a record of high crash designations in the State and was not aware of this area being noted in that designation.

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

Selectboard members asked for further clarification from Calvin Nichols regarding the location of Morrisville Water and Light's power lines to the road. According to Calvin Nichols the power lines run to the left of Sand Ridge Road. Attorney Rugh further defined a "public good."

6:00PM - DELIBERATIVE SESSION

The Select board opted to enter a private, closed, deliberative session with Town Attorney David Rugh, Town Manager Brent Raymond, and Executive Assistant Judi Alberi to discuss discontinuing the town highway right-of-way.

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to close the public hearing. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried (4/0).

After deliberation, the meeting reconvened with no action taken, and the session ended at 6:38. 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.

6:40PM - ADJOURN

Motion made by Leah Hollenberger to adjourn. Motion seconded by Rose Belanger. Motion carried. (4/0)

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 pm
Submitted and filed this 6/23/26.
Bonnie McDermott, Scribe

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