

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

May 11, 2026

Present: Pat Harvey, Mike Teetsel, Mary Fratini

Guests Present: Julie Smith, Kristen LaPell, Orca Media, Nancy Woolley, Terry Severy, John Champion, Dan Ward, Lizzy Shackelford, Vic Ribauda, Drew Hudson.

Guests Present on Microsoft Teams: Orca, Berma Cassidy Wisner, and Brenda Downs

Pat called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Pat confirmed the meeting met the Vermont Open Meeting Law.

Additions to the Agenda: Trees on the park.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Mike moved to approve the Selectboard meeting minutes from April 27, 2026. Mary seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Departmental Reports:

Energy Coordinator Updates: Mike expressed appreciation for the many years of service Jeff Gephart dedicated as the town's Energy Coordinator. Pat moved to appoint Drew Hudson as the new Energy Coordinator. Mike seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Grant Updates: Kristen reported the Town received its first reimbursement form the MERP Grant in the amount of \$1,800.

Highway Department Updates: John shared that road sweeping will begin on Wednesday. Pat asked whether there had been any responses to the advertisement for a road crew member. No applications have been received at this time.

Housing Committee Update: Mary shared that a community-wide potluck will be held as part of a grant received by Two Rivers related to redeveloping brownfields within the village limits. The Housing Committee, with support from Two Rivers, will host the community potluck and conversation event on Monday, May 18. Flyers have been posted around town.

VHI Management Updates: Vic reported that the recent production of You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown was well attended at the theater. He also said that a jointly sponsored children's event with One Planet is currently taking place. Several upcoming events are planned for the season. Vic further announced that VHI is planning an open house even to showcase the building grounds and the future plans for the facility. The event is intended to bring together residents from all four towns. The date has not yet been finalized but may occur in late June.

Addition to the Agenda: Trees on the Park- Dan Ward and Lizzy Shackelford addressed the selectboard regarding the recent removal of older maple trees from the Park. Lizzy stated that many community members were saddened by the loss of the trees and asked how decisions regarding tree removal are made and what considerations are taken into account. She noted the community's appreciation for the sugar maples and expressed support for preserving trees whenever possible.

Pat explained that the State Arborist annually visits the Park to assess tree health and provide recommendations. Written reports are occasionally provided regarding the condition of the trees and recommended actions. The recently removed maples were determined to be unhealthy and presented safety concerns.

Lizzy asked whether larger trees could be replanted in the future. Mary noted that the Selectboard serves as the Town's Tree Wardens and shared that the State has established a Tree Warden listserv, which she has joined on behalf of the Board.

Sign Countryside Alarm Office & Town Garage Contracts: Pat moved to approve signing the contracts with Countryside Alarm for both the Town Office and the Town Garage. Mike seconded the motion. All in favor. So, approved.

Approve Issuance of the RFP for the Municipal Energy Resiliency Plan (MERP): Mike shared the project is moving forward with the help from Two Rivers, and ready to send out the request for proposals for the following projects:

- Town Office Building Envelope
- Town Office HVAC Improvements
- Town Office LED Lighting Upgrades

Approve First Class Restaurant/Bar License for Maple Soul LLC: Pat moved to approve the First-Class Restaurant/Bar License for Maple Soul LLC. Mike seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Approve Outdoor Consumption Liquor License for Maple Soul LLC: Pat moved to approve the Outdoor Consumption Liquor License for Maple Soul LLC. Mike seconded the motion. All in favor. So, approved.

Park application-Ice Cream Social and Historic Car Show 6/21 12-4: Pat shared that Pierce Hall will host an Ice Cream Social and Historic Car Show with family games on Sunday, June 21, 2026, from 2:00pm to 4:00pm. Pat moved to approve the application for the event. Mike seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Park application-4th of July Chicken BBQ and 50-50 raffle, 7/4 9-2:30: Pat shared that Pierce Hall will host a Chicken BBQ dinner and 50/50 raffle on the Park on Saturday, July 4, 2026, from 9:00am to 2:30pm

Riverbrook Park application-Pierce Hall/Ridgeline 5K run/walk, 7/4 7-10:30: Pat shared a community 5K run/walk fundraiser benefiting Pierce Hall Community Center and Ridgeline

Outdoor Collective will be held on Saturday, July 4, 2026, from 7:00am to 10:30 am. The event will include a registration table and designated parking areas excluding the area in front of the fire station.

Pat moved to approve the application. Mike seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Adjournment: The meeting adjourned at 5:33pm.

The Board entered Executive Session at 5:40 pm to discuss ongoing litigation and receive attorney advice. The Board exited executive session at 6:04 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Smith