

Selectboard Meeting Minutes

May 25, 2026

Present: Pat Harvey, Mike Teetsel, Mary Fratini

Guests Present: Julie Smith, Kristen LaPell, Orca Media, Nancy Woolley, John Champion, Lizzy Shackelford, Vic Ribaldo, Drew Hudson, Frank & Faye Severy, Steve Cummins & Karen Redfean, Lois Bond, Tony & Brenda Goupee, Asia Labejsza-Kennett, Sarah Martire, Nic Piccicuto, Justin Stover, Suzie Smolen, Nancy Sanz, Vic Ribaldo, Dave Harvey

Guests Present on Microsoft Teams: Orca, Berma Cassidy Wisner, and Brenda Downs, Troy LaPell, Tim Larocque, Michael Miller, Blythe Goupee-Bates,

Pat called the meeting to order at 5:00 pm

Pat confirmed the meeting met the Vermont Open Meeting Law.

Prior Meeting Minutes: Pat moved to approve May 11, 2026, meeting minutes. Mike seconded the motion. All in favor. So, approved.

Departmental Reports

Energy Coordinator Updates: Drew Hudson shared he is getting up to speed in his new position. He will be attending the walk-round at the town office for the MERP grant.

Highway Department Updates: John Champion reported the grader is currently out of service and scheduled for repair on Wednesday. Road sweeping will begin tomorrow.

Housing Committee Updates: Mary Fratini reported that the Area-Wide Plan Community Conversation held the previous evening was well attended.

Selectboard Updates: The board discussed potential relocation of the park porta potty in response to a resident's concern regarding noise, odor, and maintenance activities. Several alternative locations were suggested. The Board will conduct a site visit before making a final decision.

Pat reported that two applications have been received for the vacant Road Crew position.

Pat clarified that the upcoming pig roast event will require closure of Park Row only, rather than multiple sides of the parks as previously discussed. This would allow for additional parking.

Pat attended the recent housing-related community conversation potluck hosted by Two Rivers and found the discussion to be informative.

Mike thanked volunteers Bill Matthews and Larry Straus for the maintenance work they completed around the Pump Track. He asked if there were any mowing contractors who would

be able to take on the weed eating around the Pump Track. Pat suggested adding on the walking path through the field as well. She will reach out to some locals.

VHI Management Updates: Vic reported they submitted a \$650,000 grant application to the Agency of Community Development. There has been a request from staff for additional information. They have a deadline by noon tomorrow to submit the information. They have a meeting with the Community Development board on June 11. A decision for the award should follow a few weeks after that.

Vic shared VHI is planning to host a community wide open house at the Hub and “HUB HUSTLE” fundraiser on June 20th featuring building tours and community activities. Hometown Physical Therapy and Feed the Valley Alliance are also preparing to occupy space within the facility.

Asia shared there will be two community collaborations this week. One will be with Hancock Town Pride and White River Valley Players. They are doing HUB Sing. That will happen on Friday evening. There will be a potluck, food and music. She said on Sunday they will host with the Rochester Public Library a Climate Future Film Festival event. She also shared they have been doing a lot of work with the ventilation in preparation for the summer camps coming through. She and Tim Dunham were in contact about the history of the building and it was all good news. When the contractor reviewing the building shared his feedback that the building’s ventilation and exhaust was buttoned up well when the last class came through.

New Business

Park Use Application, The Nature Conservancy will have lunch after a field trip, 6/4 11:30-1:30: Pat moved to approve the application for The Nature Conservancy. Mike seconded the approval. All in favor. So, approved.

Sign Municipal Energy Resiliency Plan (MERP) Grant Amendment: Mike explained that the amendment changes the proposed heating system from a pellet boiler to air-to-air heat pumps with propane backup. Pat moved to approve and sign the amendment. Mike seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Approve April Treasurer’s Report: Pat moved to approve the treasurer’s report. Mike seconded. All in favor. So, approved.

Approve Driveway Permit on Mountain View Loop: This is for an applicant on Mountain View Loop. This is for a lower cut driveway on the pond side. John Champion shared there are solutions but none of them are easy. He felt the landowner would need to put in a cross-drain culvert across the road instead of a driveway culvert. John felt it was not the time to approve the installation of a cross-drain without first approaching the neighbor for permission since the water will route to their property. John felt the landowner should be the one to work it out first with his neighbor. He felt at that point then a permit could be approved. Mike asked if the application would be sent back to the applicant and go from there. Dave Harvey asked if he could continue with the project with construction access. John said that he was ok so long as a plan would need to be put in place. Pat said this permit will be left on the bulletin board and continue to be done

and revisit to see what the situation is and what the solution will be and who is responsible for this.

Choose Contractor for paving Quarry Hill: Pat said three bids were submitted for the paving project on Quarry Hill. Th is just a shim and top just like what was done on Bethel Mountain Road.

- Pike Industries submitted a bid in the amount of \$95.27/per ton
- Wilk Paving submitted a bid in the amount of \$101.75/per ton
- D&F Excavating and Paving Inc submitted a bid in the amount of \$ 91.75/ per ton

Pat moved to accept the bid from **D&F Excavating and Paving Inc.** Mike seconded. All in favor. So, awarded.

Sign CDBG documents: This has been tabled until a future meeting.

Old Business

Tree Discussion

Residents continued discussion regarding the recent trees removed from the Town Park and requested clarification regarding the assessment process, public notice requirements, and long-term tree preservation planning.

Board members discussed the State statutes governing shade trees, public notice requirements, and opportunities for increased public participation in future tree management decisions.

Mary reported that the State Urban Forester, Adam McCullough, is scheduled to conduct a tree assessment on July 22, 2026. The assessment will include the town parks, cemeteries, and public rights-of-way.

Several residents and former volunteers provided historical context regarding tree health, prior assessments, storm damage, and replacement planting efforts.

The Board acknowledged the public's concerns and agreed that future tree-related decisions should continue to involve public participation and compliance with current statutory requirements.

Meeting adjourned at 6:17 pm

Respectfully submitted,
Julie Smith