

**Select Board Meeting
Mount Holly Town Office
Nov 11th, 2025
6:00 pm**

MINUTES

Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Clinton Woolley, Elizabeth Karle, Zena Gates, James Seward, Christine Pratt, Jon McCann, Phil Leonard, Stephen Michel, Ron Unterman, Phillippe Crane, June Capron, David Johnson, Amy Turco, Barbara and Steve Hazelton (via Zoom).

1. Call to Order 6 pm
2. Pledge of Allegiance
3. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda: none
4. Approval of Oct 14th and Oct 22nd meeting minutes: Diana Garrow moved to approve the minutes as written, seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
5. Reports
 - a. Highway and Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley: Transfer station warming shed has been replaced, and some insulation has been donated. A dumpster has been placed for tires. Jeff Chase asked if the Hortonville Road culvert was patched. Mr Woolley reported that a temporary fix has been made but the permanent one will be in the Spring. Mark Turco asked about the grader repair. - Mr Woolley said he has not been able to get any responses from those he's called.
 - b. Town Treasurer Update - Elizabeth Karle: approximately \$225,000 in tax payments were outstanding at the due date, around 3% of the total due. Peter Perrino has been instructed to start collection of outstanding taxes. Reimbursements and payments from the State have been received for Grants in Aid work on the roads in August, State Aid and Current Use payments. There is evidence that the Sheriff's Department has issued tickets. Philippe Crane asked why the financial reports were not posted on the website? Mark Turco said that this could be done.
 - i. Update on Town Audit: the auditors were onsite and there was a question as to whether a single audit would be required; the auditors confirmed that it is not necessary. Progress is ahead of the timing required.
 - c. Conservation Commission Update - Phil Crane: the Commission has decided to purchase an infra-red camera to be kept in the library to allow residents to identify heat loss in their homes. The Commission is looking into accessing funds through ANR for increasing recreational access to the Syria Farm trails through installation of boardwalks and bridges and Mr Crane asked if the Select Board would like to review the application; Mark Turco asked that the application be emailed to the Select Board. Mr Crane noted that trees in the Star Lake recreation area need trimming and asked if the Town Highway Department would be able to assist; the Commission will prepare an outline of specific work required. Stephen Michel noted that Dennis Devereux is trying to identify a person to remove a tree at the Museum and Star Lake.
 - i. Star Lake Mechanical Harvesting Permit: Phil Leonard confirmed that a permit for harvesting in part of Star Lake has been issued. When harvesting occurs, will the Town be able to assist with taking it to a composting site. Mark Turco asked if there are any requirements for where it can be placed? Ron Unterman confirmed that the last time harvesting had happened there were no restrictions. Mr Leonard also noted that the Commission would like to raise funds to support the harvesting and improvements around the Lake, and asked if a tax exempt special fund could be used to collect donations via the Town. Elizabeth Karle responded that since the Town is not a 501c3 organisation there would not be a tax benefit; Diana Garrow suggested doing this through the Museum or Community Association. Mr Leonard said he would look into the various options. Ron Unterman noted that there may be options to make tax deductible donations through the Town if it is for public purposes. The Aquatic Nuisance Control grant has been spent and the report is due at the end of November.
6. New Business

- a. Employee Health Insurance: 2026 premium / renewal: Diana Garrow noted that the Town currently utilises the top tier plan, but that there may be other options which cost less but have higher deductibles. Elizabeth Karle reviewed and responded that other options would limit the benefits and prevent use of the HRA. Diana Garrow moved to continue enrollment in the current tier of the plan, seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
 - b. Appointment to the Planning Commission: Mark Turco reported that there had been two letters of interest, from Jon McCann seeking reappointment and from June Capron, both with multiple letters of support from Town residents. Mr Turco asked the two to present to the Select Board. Jeff Chase, noted that both are good candidates but based on his work with Jon McCann and Mr McCann's experience he moved to reappoint Jon McCann, seconded by Diana Garrow, motion approved by Jeff Chase and Diana Garrow. Jeff Chase and Diana Garrow encourage Ms Capron to consider an application in 2026 when two more positions will be open.
 - c. Appointments to the Rutland Regional Emergency Management Committee: Mark Turco made a motion to nominate Jeff Chase and Billy Austin, seconded by Diana Garrow, motion approved by Mark Turco and Diana Garrow.
 - d. Renewal of mounthollyvt.gov website - Elizabeth Karle. The site was set up in 2025 and has the potential to enable/improve access to other government websites or utilize online services. Currently both mounthollyvt.org and mounthollyvt.gov can be utilised to access the Town website. Mark Turco confirmed that the .gov website should be continued.
 - e. Renew FWS permit: Ron Unterman explained that there is a new process to renew the geese depredation permit and that he has already worked with the Select Board clerk on the process, but asked the Select Board to approve the permit for another year. Mark Turco moved to approve the FWS permit for another year, seconded by Diana Garrow, approved unanimously. Ron Unterman asked if there would be anyone who would be willing to take on the role for shooting the geese; the applicant needs to have a hunting license.
 - f. PACIF Renewal: Diana Garrow stated that the renewal paperwork had been completed for renewal of insurance of Town property and workers compensation. Jeff Chase moved to renew the PACIF insurance, seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
7. Old Business
- a. Speed limit on section of Rte 155: update on progress and next steps: Diana Garrow noted the completion of the engineering study with the report expected shortly. A meeting (in person and virtual) will be held on December 10th at 1.30pm to make a decision on the request. Jeff Chase suggested people attend, and noted that details will be circulated once available.
 - b. FEMA Beaver Meadow Bridge project time extension - Elizabeth Karle. This is the last project outstanding from the 2023 floods, and a time extension request must be submitted with an adequate explanation of the reason for the request. Ms Karle asked the Board to approve the extension request. Jeff Chase asked how long the extension would need to be, but Ms Karle responded that there is limited guidance on this, but the project is expected to be completed by the end of October 2026. Diana Garrow made a motion to request an extension of the Beaver Meadow Bridge project until October 31st 2026, seconded by Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
8. Citizen Comments: Diana Garrow asked Jon McCann about progress on the Municipal Housing Needs Study. Mr McCann noted that progress has been slow but noted that there should be a presentation to the Select Board in December; Jeff Chase noted that after a period of inactivity there is a draft report and he will discuss with the consultant and with RRPC about the need for an extension into the first quarter of 2026. There should be a public presentation of the draft, followed by a presentation of the final report. Ron Unterman made an observation about the Planning Commission, chaired by Jon McCann, that it has become more confrontational over the last year and expressed his view that the Commission should be more supportive of businesses and town residents and that he would like to see a change in tone in the Commission.
9. Announcements: Town office closed Wednesday 26th, Thursday 27th November for Thanksgiving, and Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th December for Christmas, with a half day on 31st December, closed on 1st January.

10. Review & Sign Orders

11. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) - personnel: Mark Turco moved to go into executive session, seconded by Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.
12. Adjourn

These minutes are in draft form until approved by the Select Board at the next regularly scheduled meeting.