

Select Board Meeting
Mount Holly Town Office
May 12th, 2026
6:00 pm

1. Attendance: Mark Turco, Jeff Chase, Diana Garrow, Faith Tempest, Clinton Woolley, Dawn Augustine, Christine Pratt, James Seward, Zena Gates, Dennis Devereux, Julie Parsells, Carol Garrow-Woolley, Clinton Woolley, Jessie Prucnal, Martina Barnes, June Capron, Steven Michel.
Via zoom: Barbara and Steve Hazelton, Michael G?
2. Call to Order
3. Pledge of Allegiance
4. Consideration of any changes and/or additions to the agenda: Mark Turco added pest control in Town office as item 7g, and Treasurer Applications as item 8g.
5. Approval of Approval of April 14th, 21st and 28th Minutes: Diana Garrow moved to approve the minutes as presented, second Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
6. Reports
 - a. Highway and Transfer Station Update - Clinton Woolley: three quotes have been received for removal of 6 hazardous trees at Star Lake Recreation Area: Mccullough Brothers \$19350, Willow Tree Service \$8000 without debris pick up, DB Tree Works \$4000 including clean up. Jeff Chase clarified that although this was not budgeted, since they are hazards they need to be removed; Mr Chase made a motion to remove 6 trees at Star Lake to be funded through summer road outside services budget line, second Mark Turco, approved unanimously. Mr Woolley reported that the State of Vermont inspected the Transfer Station and found breaches due to residents not following the rules especially for the burn pile; a report will be forthcoming and there may be fines. Mark Turco asked Mr Woolley to speak to the attendants, to consider limiting entry through a one way system to allow better monitoring by the attendants, and also asked for research into alternatives to having a Town transfer station. Jeff Chase proposed closing the burn pile. Mark Turco said he would not oppose removing the open top containers (metal, construction rubbish) and keeping only trash and recycling. Jeff Chase asked that the State be notified of actions taken as soon as the report is received. Jeff Chase made a motion to close the burn pile immediately, and close the open top containers for construction debris and metal at the end of the financial year, second Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
 - i. Status of Hortonville/Shunpike intersection, culvert on Hortonville/103: Clinton Woolley reported that the intersection has broken up during the winter meaning the scope of work is broader than originally expected; an RFP will go out for those repairs and retreatment from Rte 103 up to the junction. Jeff Chase noted there are funds in the retreatment budget. The exact specifications will be based on how much funds are left.
 - ii. Sawyer Hill and Beaver Meadow Culvert Replacement - Material Procurement RFP. Jeff Chase reported he has done the drawing, and is working on the ANR stream permit and Army Corp of Engineers approvals. He will seek quotes for the installation. Julie Parsells asked for more details; Jeff Chase responded that there is a State Grant to fund these repairs and enable the State Standards.
 - b. Town Treasurer Update - Dawn Augustine
 - i. Monthly Income and Expenses Report: activities were similar to last month; delinquent taxes are almost all paid, with only \$67,676 outstanding. Clinton Woolley noted he has spoken to VLCT about insurance coverage for using the man-lift: the Town is covered, and an additional safety demonstration will be held. Using the lift will save the Town considerable money.
 - ii. RHR Smith Reappointment for Auditor: Faith Tempest reported that the official engagement letter has been sent. She is in discussion with the auditors about how to manage an interim audit following the departure of the Treasurer.
 - c. Listers' Report - Mary Surething. In Ms Surething's absence due to a family emergency Faith Tempest reported that the Listers are working on reassessments and grievance notices should be sent out in around 2 weeks.

d. Conservation Commission Update - Phil Crane: tabled.

7. New Business

- a. US Forest Service Spring update: Martina Barnes Manchester District Ranger, gave an update on ongoing projects and USFS reorganization. She noted two successful prescribed burnings at Tarbellville and Beaver Meadow Road which reduces fine fuels and helps to maintain wildlife habitat. Ms Barnes noted that drought conditions mean the need for the public to be careful to avoid fires. Work on a statewide mountain bike trail will start in this region this year, and will pass through Mount Tabor. Jessie Prucnal noted the five-year timber sale happening in Mount Holly, with the objective of supporting wildlife habitat with the timber as a byproduct. Stephen Michel asked about access to the bike trail from Mount Holly; Ms Barnes responded that there have been conversations about this, but no action but the recent appointment of a permanent staff member handling this means that further discussions and action are possible.
- b. Town office photocopier replacement: Carol Garrow Woolley presented a quote from Symquest; McGee has not responded with a full quote. The most cost effective option is leasing a color copier. The current copier is no longer serviced. Jeff Chase confirmed that this would be part of a move to a single machine for the whole office, and that this would be funded from the office supplies budget. Diana Garrow moved to lease the Symquest color copier for \$199.14 per month, second Jeff Chase, approved unanimously. Jeff Chase asked to code the expense to copier expense (in the budget line). Stephen Michel asked if the copier is owned by the Town at the end of the lease - Ms Garrow Woolley confirmed it would not.
- c. Delta Dental renewal: annual renewal is on July 1st with a 2.58% increase in the premium. Mark Turco moved to accept this, second Jeff Chase, approved unanimously.
- d. Rutland Sheriff Department report of Traffic Control and Animal Control activities: Mark Turco will speak to them again regarding a full report.
- e. 2026 Rutland Region Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement: agreement signed.
- f. Pest control for Town office: Mark Turco asked for Carol Garrow-Woolley to get 3 quotes, including for boxes for the outside of the building.

8. Old Business

- a. Local Emergency Management Plan (LEMP) Annual Update and Approval: Jeff Chase reported he will have the Plan for the next meeting.
- b. Act 181 letter: Mark Turco read a draft letter to the Vermont Legislature. Dennis Devereux noted that the legislature is working on repeal. Diana Garrow moved to accept the letter, Jeff Chase second, approved unanimously.
- c. Dreamhost account: Faith Tempest reported that a DreamPass account, at \$14.99 per month for the first year, \$19.99 thereafter, was agreed with EndeavorOps to be the best account for the Town. Diana Garrow moved to allow Faith Tempest to set up the Dreamhost account, second Mark Turco, approved unanimously.
- d. Administrative Officer/ Planning Commission Clerk appointment: The Planning Commission Chair confirmed that an application had been received, but the Commission has not had time to discuss and proposed extending the term of the incumbent by a month. Mark Turco noted that a special meeting is likely and proposed tabling this until that time.
- e. Dog license update: Carol Garrow Woolley reported that only 26 dogs with 20 owners remain unregistered and she is still working on the issue. Ms Garrow Woolley asked if the SB can have this updated in June before deciding what further action may be required.
- f. Posting places for public notices: Mark Turco proposed to amend the earlier vote to go back to posting notices at the Mount Holly Post Office instead of the Oddfellows Hall, second Diana Garrow, approved unanimously.
- g. Treasurer applications: Mark Turco noted the need to appoint a Treasurer for the remaining term of the elected position; he would like to put to the Town a vote for an appointed treasurer. The Select Board received applications from Marc Miller and Amy Tayler and interviews will be held as soon as possible.

9. Citizen Comments: Dennis Devereux asked about removing the hazardous tree at Carleton Cemetery, with quotes becoming very high; could work be done at least to remove the canopy to

make any fall less dangerous? Clinton Woolley responded that he will speak to DB Tree Works about this.

10. Announcements

- a. Town Office Closed for David Johnson Memorial May 21st (Maple Grove Cemetery, 2.30pm followed by Oddfellows Hall for reception), and for Memorial Day, Monday, May 25

11. Review & Sign Orders

12. Executive Session: Title 1 V.S.A. S 313(a)(3) – personnel (if needed)

13. Adjourn. 7.14 pm

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