

All-Board Meeting Minutes

March 12, 2025

The meeting was called to order by Ann Marie Visconti, Chair, with Curt Robie and Tamarin Laurel-Paine, members also present, as well as Mark Doane, Town Administrative Assistant. Town Department heads present were: Kirsten Henshaw, Treasurer; Laurie LaFreniere, Assessor; Mary Ann Pease, Tax Collector; Suzanne Lemieux, Town Clerk; Kerri Trask, Finance Committee; David Fuller, Conservation Commission; Maureen Sullivan, Zoning Board; Skip Savery, Highway Superintendent; Jenny Dion, Chief of Police; Doreen Black, Historical Society; Judith Hoag, Council on Aging; Ronald Radwich, Fire Chief; and Crystal Kruszyna, Emergency Medical Services.

Town residents present were: Susan Schneller, Raymond Schneller, Daniel Bergeron, Sharon Daldoss-Bergeron, Maureen Longobardi, Mitch Feldmesser, Kenneth Murray, Carlos Flores, Diane Radwich, and Judith Flores.

Department heads introduced themselves, and gave brief update on what is needed by that department.

Police Chief: Would like to replace old cruiser, has received tasers and training in how to use, also recommending cameras for the town hall.

EMS Co-Ordinator: Will most likely need more money for training of new fire chief. The State take over of calls doesn't change the town response plan. Reported the new fire chief will be Cody Paschal.

Council on Aging: Everything is running smoothly; biggest need is to continue renovations of the Senior Center.

Zoning Board of Appeals: No needs at this time; major revamp on the application and application fee has taken place; one of the most vulnerable boards legally, so will be using town counsel if a substantial ruling is necessary.

Historic Commission: No needs at this time

Conservation Commission: Nothing is on the horizon, but spring is coming

Town Clerk: Getting ready for the Special Town Meeting, Rabies Clinic, Dog Licenses, and Town Caucus.

Tax Collector: Ordered boxes to package up extra paperwork, any items for the Town Newsletter, get to the Administrative Assistant in time for the June tax bill.

Assessors: gathering information for 5-year recertification, everything should be done by September 1, 2025 so tax rate can be set by October 2025.

Fire Chief: Nothing to report.

Highway Department: Hoping to have enough salt for the rest of the year, the grader is out to get pins and bushings repaired, the new truck should be available by May 2025, hoping to buy a used large dirt roller.

Administrative Assistant: No needs.

Treasurer: the Town has a new accounting firm: Eric Kinshurf, who are cleaning up a mess and getting things back on track. Using the VADAR system, which supports UMAS. Vadar being used under the recommendation of the auditors. Laurie Bartkus, our point person at Kinshurf will be at the Annual Town Meeting.

Reminder that town reports were due by February 14, 2025, however, the Administrative Assistant will still accept them.

Questions were raised about job descriptions being on the website and each department head was requested to look at what is on the website and update/modify as necessary.

A discussion was held on the need for a recording secretary, some boards use the recording secretary, some don't. Later discussion revolved around possibly getting a college student to volunteer. After much discussion back and forth, it was decided to keep the position. It was also noted that the recording secretary does an excellent job in her duties.

Questions were raised about posting of minutes on the website. The Administrative Assistant stated that any minutes he receives are posted. Some Committees do not meet on a regular basis but on an as necessary basis, so there may be perceived gaps in minutes. The Administrative Assistant also reiterated the procedure for posting of agendas.

The Selectboard Chair reported that new microphones for the OWL have arrived, and a new projector has also been delivered. When the IT consultant is back from vacation, he will be asked to set up the projectors, and do an in-person tutorial on using the OWL for meetings.

The Selectboard Chair stated the attorney from Town Counsel will reschedule his presentation on the Open Meeting Law.

The Selectboard Chair then had the Laurie Bartkus on the phone for the purpose of explaining funds, donations, fund raising in the name of the Town, and end of year roll overs.

Questions from the audience were raised about the interview process, and was everyone interviewed. The Selectboard reported that everyone was interviewed, after reading thru resumes, and picking the ones to interview. Discussion was raised why names and addresses of potential Town Administrators wasn't posted.

Much discussion, once again, took place on the Town Hall Floor Replacement project, use of ARPA funds and questioning of transferring funds back to the Senior Center. The whole discussion will be left up to the residents to vote on at the Special Town Meeting. It will be Article 1 and 2 on the STM Warrant. The rest of the Articles for the Special Town Meeting were discussed, and the Articles will be on the Warrant for the residents to decide on at the Special Town Meeting. The representative from the accounting firm was on the phone, as well.

The meeting then went into a heated discussion about the Senior Center, and repairs necessary, with some residents wanting to not repair the building, and other residents thinking the building should be preserved.

Following all the discussions the audience left; however, the meeting had not been closed. The Selectboard continued with the meeting and decided on who to offer the Town Administrator position to. The name will not be made public until acceptance or declination has been received.

There being no further business to come before the Board, it was declared closed at 9:00 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mark W. Doane, Administrative Assistant

Ann Marie Visconti, Chair: _____

Curt Robie, Member: _____

Tamarin Laurel-Paine, Member: _____