

SELECTBOARD MEETING
September 10, 2026
Minutes

Present:	Pat Haller Deb Jorschick Casey Mathieu Julia Andrews	Callie Hamdy Tommy O'Connor Abby O'Neil Sean Cushing
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Guests: see attached.

The meeting was called to order at 6:15 p.m. The meeting was held in person and via Zoom.

CHANGES TO THE AGENDA

There were no changes to the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENT – Items Not on the Agenda

Barb Peck was present. She noted that Michael Miller had never announced himself in the meetings previous. P. Haller and the board know this and explained that with Open Meeting Law any of the public is welcome to attend, but if he wanted to speak he would have to announce himself and be recognized by the chair.

MINUTES

D. Jorschick motioned to accept the minutes from August 13, 2026, meeting as amended. J. Andrews seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

C. Mathieu motioned to accept the minutes from August 27, 2026, meeting as amended. J. Andrews seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

CCRPC UPDATE

Ben Bornstein, CCRPC Representative, was present. Next week there is the monthly CCRPC executive meeting. He and Kirsten Tyler provided a review of documents CCRPC had forwarded and made suggestions regarding further outreach and public engagement for 1705. He is on the UPWP sub-committee and is undertaking a review of projects that were approved for last fiscal year to see what might help Westford in the future.

ROAD SCHEDULE

Sean Cushing, Road Foreman, was present and went over the road schedule from August 28, 2026 to September 10, 2026.

P. Haller motioned to approve the Fidium 467 Old stage Road work in the ROW and empower Tommy to forward the approval to Fidium. D. Jorschick seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

FY'27 HIGHWAY BUDGET STATUS REPORT

A. O'Neil, Treasurer, went over the FY'27 Highway Budget Status Report.

TREASURER FY'27 GENERAL FUND BUDGET STATUS REPORT

A. O'Neil, Treasurer, went over the FY'27 General Fund Budget Status Report.

REVIEW AND APPROVE ACCOUNTS PAYABLE AND PAYROLL WARRANTS

The Selectboard went over the Accounts Payable and Payroll Warrants.

COMMON USE REQUEST

A vendor at the Westford Farmers Market wishes to have beer sold at the last market in September. The board needed to approve the sale of alcohol on the Common for this event before the vendor can get their permitting from the Department of Liquor Licensing. J. Andrews moved to approve contingent on permits being obtained. D. Jorschick seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

CCRPC ANNUAL REPORT

Charlie Baker from CCRPC was present and gave the CCRPC Annual Report.

P. Haller asked about the VTRANS Highway Grant. \$200,000 covers about half of the average paving project and we have to stagger our paving every five years to seven years to afford through the tax base the other \$200,000. It would be great as cost rise if VTRANS had a higher grant potential. C. Baker noted this has come up prior and is on the CCRPC priority list. It got discussed some last year, but VTRANS also has a tight budget as well. He's not sure if there's fruit to be harvested there. J. Andrews noted the transportation budget is the only budget that is consistently under budgeted, especially with federal cuts.

WESTFORD INCLUSION STATEMENT

Edits to the Westford Inclusion Statement had been completed and a draft had been provided to the Selectboard. J. Andrews felt the committee had made good choices in balancing the inclusive language while also acknowledging what the town can be responsible for. D. Jorschick asked how are we going to incorporate this into the town itself so it doesn't just live as a document somewhere. J. Andrews thought that was a fair question. The Committee had done some Fourth of July activities regarding this; there had also been desire for students to read the statement at Town Meeting, which had been previously paused until the draft was finalized. Another way the board could make it more a living thing is a policy review to make sure the town's policies are more aligned with their hopes to be a welcoming community. P. Haller imagined we would ask all of the committees that have charters to review their charters with declaration of inclusion as a barometer to see if it meets the inclusion statement. He also thought it should be part of the town plan so that as we're adopting things we can say we meet the declaration of inclusion. P. Haller motioned to approve the new wording of the declaration of inclusions. J. Andrews seconded. Motion passed 4-0.

COVERED BRIDGE UPDATES

The were expecting Miles from Vermont Heavy Timber in attendance like last Selectboard meeting. He'd insisted he would make this meeting, and he was not present to discuss. P. Haller thinks the board should look at the information provided to them without Miles present and have Tommy review it with them.

Three of the four payments have been paid. The first one was in a previous fiscal year. The second and third and this fiscal year and they reflect on the budget status report. J. Andrews was unclear of what's happening. There was a change order and another round of rot found in

a support beam that requires the bridge to be lifted off the foundation and the beam replaced. The quote is \$11,500. J. Andrews is worried about giving this person that's taken two years to finish this work all the money before the work is finished. She doesn't have a strong sense of confidence that the work will be completed. T. O'Connor was comfortable withholding the final payment until completion.

Ben Bornstein was present. He wonders if it's a situation we might want to ask for a bond from the people doing the work since there's been a difference in their deliverables. C. Mathieu asked what the timeline for completion is. That's what we were hoping to hear from Miles, but he was not present. We had also lacked response from Miles until the Town Attorney talked with him. P. Haller wanted us to tell Miles to come to the next Selectboard meeting to discuss and that we should withhold payment until he attends a meeting.

VOSHA REPORT & CORRECTIVE ACTION PLAN

Representatives from the Vermont Occupational Safety & Health Administration (VOSHA) had completed their assessments on the Town Buildings on July 28, 2026 and provided a report of their findings. They'd compiled a list of hazards that required corrective action on behalf of the town. Documentation of those corrective actions were required by September 3, 2026, or else we will be referred to the VOSHA compliance program. Corrective actions had been taken and provided. A detailed report of these actions was included by Tommy. Representatives from VOSHA accepted the Corrective Action Report and the matter was considered closed.

FIRE TRUCK BOND RE-VOTE FORUM DATES SELECTION

The Selectboard discussed setting dates for the Fire Truck Bond Re-Vote Public Forums. They also discussed communication to the public on Front Porch Forum. They wanted to make sure that voters could be as informed as possible. They shortlisted 9/29 and 9/30 at 7pm at the Westford School depending on availability. It will be warned to the public when a date is finalized. They discussed October 26 instead of November 2.

CORRESPONDENCE

There's an email exchange between the town attorney and Tommy. N. Nichols had also suggested coordinating with Fairfax for a Dog Warden, a process Tommy confirmed is happening and will be presented next meeting. Complaints about goats on Brookside Road, P. Haller has talked to the owners of the goats. Email from Dick Lavalley about the trail closure. P. Haller and Dick Lavalley met on the Common and discussed further. T. O'Connor had send an update about budget season and the capital budget.

COMMUNICATION

Communication about Fire Truck Bond Re-Vote, Budget Presentations to the SB forthcoming. Selectboard will communicate about trail closures, town newsletter, FPF, website, trail signage.

Barb Peck was present. In the next two weeks there's a petition going around and stir over the decision to close the trail. The board should be prepared to be asked for a line item in an agenda. She's not sure how this is going to roll out, but she thinks it's becoming a bigger issue than the board might realize.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pat moved premature public knowledge regarding personnel would place the town at a significant disadvantage and to enter executive session. Deb seconded. Motion passed 4-0. at 8:24pm.

The Selectboard exited Executive Session at 9:03 and took no action during the session.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 9:04 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,
Pat Haller
Selectboard Chair

Callie Hamdy
Minute Clerk

GUEST LIST

Dave Gauthier
Ben Bornstein
Lori Johnson
Dick Lavallee
Barb Peck
Michael Miller

Kirsten Tyler
Dave Lavallee
Kim Guidry
Ira Allen
Charlie Baker (CCRPC)
Kati Anderson