



# Town of Barnard, Vermont

Chartered July 17, 1761

P.O. Box 274  
Barnard, Vermont 05031  
(802) 234-9211

## SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

7:00 PM

TOWN HALL DOWNSTAIRS

OCTOBER 2, 2024

**Present:** Rock Webster (Chair), Richard Lancaster (Vice Chair), Robert Edmunds

**ALSO PRESENT:** Kassie Hull, Nick Stone, Wes Hennig, Steve Hamsch, Gina Lancaster, Justin Lancaster

1. **Call to Order** at 7:00PM.
2. **Review Agenda** – No additions.
3. **Public comments.**
  - A. Steve Hamsch renewed his request for amendments to be made to the minutes of the Cootey Road Discontinuance Hearing held on June 5, 2024, and added a request for amendments to be made to the minutes of the Selectboard Meeting held on September 18, 2024, because the minutes did not quote him word-for-word. The Selectboard also received a letter from Attorney Heather Devine on behalf of the Hamsch Vermont Residential Trust to this effect. Steve's request generated a contentious conversation between him and Justin Lancaster. No decision was made.
4. **Review/Approve Minutes of September 18, 2024.** Minutes were reviewed but not signed. The minutes will remain unedited and unsigned until reviewed again at the next meeting.
5. **Old Business**
  - A. **Review Lime Pond Culvert Bids.** No bids were opened or reviewed. The Selectboard was contacted by Scott Jensen at the Department of Environmental Conservation on Wednesday afternoon and he "strongly suggested" that the culvert work be put on hold until next summer. The Selectboard voted to follow this advice. Bidders notified.
  - B. **Review the FEMA list of damages.** According to FEMA, a culvert is not considered damaged if it remains intact and the reason it failed was because it was undersized. When this is the case, FEMA will only pay for road damage that was caused by the failure. The Selectboard reviewed the list to determine which projects will require a separate application process for mitigation funds to upgrade the undamaged culverts.
  - C. **Choose the Cootey Road public hearing date.** No decision was made. Rock and Bob voted to confer with Town Attorney Jim Barlow to determine the Selectboard's obligations. Richard recused himself from this discussion due to a conflict of interest.
  - D. **Approve energy audit refunds.** Completed.

6. **Review Revised Town Hall Rental Policy Draft.** Kassie proposed updates to the town hall policy that include adding the option to rent the kitchen space only, adding the option to rent the town hall for a half day (six hours or fewer), changing the rate for a funeral or Celebration of Life, changing the rate for groups/organizations/club rentals, and adding a new waiver policy, among other changes. The Selectboard voted to approve the proposed changes effective January 1, 2025. The full policy will be posted online soon.
7. **Town & Highway Operations**
  - A. **Updates.**
    - i. The salt contract is signed.
    - ii. The grader is back, and the crew will focus on getting caught up.
    - iii. The Grants in Aid ditching projects were completed by the deadline. The next step is to request reimbursement. Paperwork is due at the end of December.
8. **Review/Approve Town & Highway Orders.**
9. **Other Business.** The Selectboard approved Wes Hennig's request for a third compost bin at the transfer station. Wes also notified the Selectboard that White River Alliance has not been informing him about hazardous waste pickup day events being held in the area.
10. **Adjourn.** Meeting Adjourned at 8:25PM.

Minutes prepared by Kassie Hull, Clerk of the meeting. All votes unanimous unless otherwise indicated. The next regular meeting is October 16, 2024, at 7:00 PM at the Town Hall Offices.

Selectboard:

 Rock Webster, Chair	 Richard Langaster, Vice Chair	 Robert Edmunds
--	---	---