

Sandgate, Vermont Selectboard Meeting Minutes

March 16, 2026 6 pm

Attendance: Joe Nolan, John Phelps, Rob Viglas, Linda Schmidt, Jessica Pendleton
Also in attendance: Jean Eisenhart, Maggie Phelps, Elizabeth Daut, Jessica Lewis
Minute taker: Jessica Lewis

Called to Order at 6:05pm

Citizen Concerns

Elizabeth Daut would like to offer **free yoga classes to Town residents in Town Hall**, likely one evening a week. Jean Eisenhart speaks in favor of the yoga classes and would like to see them return. The Board agrees to allow Elizabeth to use Town Hall to facilitate the classes at no charge as she is not charging participants. Elizabeth has prepared a waiver of risk and liability for attendees to sign, and agrees to keep the space clean and maintained.

Joe received a phone call from Mike Merrow Saturday afternoon who was upset about Town water on his property. Joe told him the Town would contact the State engineers in Bennington to ask for technical assistance from a neutral third party to determine how best to proceed. They will come Monday 3/23 at 1pm to inspect the work that was done and decide what the best next steps will be. John, Linda, and Joe will be in attendance with the State for the evaluation.

Appointment of Town Auditors: Rob spoke to his neighbor Mark Neff who may be interested in becoming an auditor. Rob will direct him to contact Linda and/or Peter Markalunas to proceed.

Linda motions to **raise the pay for the Auditors** to the same rate as the Listers. Joe seconds; all in favor.

Remaining Concerns from Last Year:

Crown Maple contributions to road maintenance: we can ask again for this year and they may opt to contribute or not.

West Side Cemetery: A small load of fill could be put down to allow for one car to park and make it more accessible.

Rupert Road Message Board: Joe is willing to work on fixing the message board and restoring it back to working order.

Water at Town Hall: Town Hall is designated an emergency shelter but the water is not potable. Water tests continue to come back contaminated. Prior consultations have stated that the necessary type of filter would cost about 14k and would have to be paid by the Town as not enough grant funds are available for this. John suggests maybe there are less expensive options; The Town will look into getting a test from the State of Vermont and a more affordable filtration system from F.W. Webb. John will take the first steps toward getting the State water testing kit.

MERP: Tom Yandow will be in attendance at the April 6th meeting. He has sent over an RFP for the boiler replacement and a timeline for the project at the Town Garage to be approved by the Board. Linda will reply to Tom.

Town Laptop: The previous laptop remains unreturned. A new laptop will be purchased - Jessica will research and select a computer. The Board approves and agrees that this can be done prior to the next meeting.

Road Reclassification: The State has offered provisional reclassification of selected Class IV roads back to Class III if the Town would like to continue with reclassification and plans to go through the full process this year - photos will be required ASAP to show the roads meet Class III standards. The Board would like to proceed with the reclassification of Chambers Road and Tate Hill Road. Jessica will reach out to Jay to confirm he wants to go forward with reclassification and to request photo documentation.

Appointment of Town Officers: The Board will remain responsible for positions of Town Service Officer, Board of Health, and Emergency Coordinator.

Green-Up Day Coordinators will be Linda Schmidt and Julie Robertson.

Road Report: John inquires about the Notch and says something needs to be done sooner than later about the culvert.

Minutes from March 4 Meeting: Linda motions to pass, Rob seconds; all in favor.

One firm we approached about **RFP audit** has responded and has declined to submit a proposal.

Treasurer's Report: no comments or concerns

Joe motions to adjourn; Linda seconds

Meeting adjourned at 7:04pm

Next meeting April 6, 2026 at 6pm at Town Hall