

Selectboard Meeting - September 7, 2026 at 6:00 pm

Call to Order: 6:03pm

Attendance: Joe Nolan, Linda Schmidt, Jessica Pendleton, Rob Viglas, John Phelps (by phone).
Also in attendance: Sheila Kearns, Shelley Finn, Dona McAdams, Brad Kessler, Jeanne Blandford, Jack Blandford, Elizabeth Daut, Julie Robertson, Tom Santelli, Lala Pero, Jessica Lewis, GNAT-TV.
Minute taker: Jessica Lewis

Keegan from GNAT-TV, a local non-profit community media organization, introduces himself and informs the Board and attendees that they received a request from residents to stream the Selectboard meetings, and as such they will be recording the meetings on video.

Elizabeth asks if it is live streaming, Keegan says yes on Facebook, YouTube, and cable.
Sheila asks if there is any remote participation, Keegan says no.

Citizen Concerns

- **Sandgate roads follow-up**

Last Monday Todd Eaton from VT Local Roads/Vermont State DOT came to Sandgate and rode around on several of Sandgate's roads with Linda, Joe, and Jay. The DOT inspector said the roads were in good shape and he couldn't find a problem with the roads. The inspector suggested the Town document the plans and methods as to what the Road Crew is doing to build up the roads so there is a record of the projected timeline and process. Jay, Road Foreman, will be working on this.

Sheila asks if the inspector was asked whether any conditions of the road would affect tires, and if so, what did he say. Joe and Linda state this was brought up, and Todd commented on the need for the base of the road to be built up over the course of a few years, and he saw nothing that could account for the number of flat tires that have been reported.

He stated if private citizens would like to request a sample of the roads be analyzed by the State, they may do so by sending in a sample and paying a fee. Sheila suggests this could be documented for future situations of private citizens requesting this kind of process. Todd stated he would follow up with Tanya Davis to provide her with this information as well.

Julie Robertson states that in the last meeting, the Board suggested a solution of submitting the samples ourselves and asks why that wasn't pursued. Joe states that is still an option, and the Board could discuss further paying to send a sample in.

Tom Santelli asks what the timeline is for the work on the roads and asks whether it will be done one road at a time or in pieces all over town. Joe states Jay is putting together the plan and there will be more updates soon.

Ongoing Business

- **Short-Term-Rental Ordinance**

Regarding the conversation with Dave from Sunderland, Sheila points out that it would be useful to gather information on the budgeted and actual expenses of maintaining the STR program as a Town.

- **Drinking water at Town Hall**

John submitted a quote he received from Webb for the recommended filtration system which totals \$3309.82. This does not include having a plumber install the system. This would have to be bid out.

Sheila asks if this would be a system that needs to be maintained and incur intermittent expenses. Joe asks John to comment on this as he has a filtration system like this in his own home. John states this quote is geared toward a Town-sized system, and he can't say for certain but his own system at home does not require significant ongoing maintenance. This would be a self-flushing system, and would only need more material added to the filter intermittently. John will call Webb to ask those questions and the Board will discuss further prior to putting it out to bid for the installation.

- **MERP Grant Update**

The boiler has been put in at the Town Garage. Tom Yandow was contacted last week for an update on other projects, and Linda has not heard back. The last update was that the windows for the Town Hall were in, and we were just waiting for the contractor to be available.

Road Report

New gravel was laid on Sandgate Road where the pavement ends and turns to dirt road. The bidder that won the truck via auction backed out, and Jay is working with the auction house to determine how to proceed, likely re-listing the truck.

Rob inquires to Julie whether she was able to meet with Jay and Skip regarding the **West Sandgate cemetery**. Julie states they did go on a site visit, and Jay suggested possibly starting by making it accessible to mowers and eventually adding the road and turnaround for visitors. Julie and Jay discussed the end of the year as a goal for increasing accessibility at least for the mowers.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from 8/17 meeting

Linda moves to approve, Rob seconds; all in favor.

Orders Signed

Other Business

A **second Green-Up Day** has been discussed and is being planned for October. Tom Santelli mentions he takes care of Campbell Road all year.

Mike Oltedal is coming back tomorrow Tuesday September 8 to finish installation of the **cameras at the Town Garage**. He will not charge for his services due to the long delay, though there will be a charge for the other installer.

Phyllis met with Nick from BCRC regarding mapping, and she is waiting on BCRC for further direction on seeking quotes to get the maps made. Sheila states that at least the printed maps should show the zoning districts in addition to the property lines, and to try and match them with the data from the State to line up with the GIS data.

There has been interest in utilizing the **Sandgate School House**. Linda suggests gathering together a committee of interested folks to discuss using the School House and the costs.

Sheila asks if that building is included in the Town's liability insurance or if it would need to be added or investigated. Sheila also states in some cases those hosting an event in a space like that may be required to get event insurance as opposed to the Town carrying a policy for it.

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Julie asks what the official follow-up is on the tires and roads inquiry from the last meeting.

Brad Kessler states for the record that he has not had any issues with the roads, and he thinks the current road crew is doing a great job and the roads are in excellent shape.

Dona McAdams agrees with this and says she has not had any problems.

Sheila clarifies that after the meeting with Todd Eaton, he is going to follow-up with the Davis'.

Jessica motions to adjourn, Linda seconds; all in favor.

Meeting adjourned: 6:34 pm

Respectfully submitted by Jessica Lewis