

MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, July 10, 2025
HARDWICK MEMORIAL BUILDING
20 CHURCH ST. 3rd FLOOR AND VIA ZOOM

Select Board

Eric Remick, Chair
Ceilidh Galloway-Kane
Shari Cornish
Tim Ricciardello
Danny Hale

Others Present

David Upson Jr. Town Manager
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator
Mike Henry, Police Chief
Tonia Chase, Town Clerk
Tracy Martin
Roger Prevot, HED
David Gross

Others Present

Dave O' Brien
Hannah Redmon
Ben Pougner
Norma Wiesen
Rachel Kane
Paul Cillo
Peter Moskowitz
Jack Travelstead
Joe Nudell
Catherine Siefert
Kathy Hemmens
Jake Lester

Regular Meeting

6:00 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

6:00 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda – Adding an item: Select Board to consider approving the submission by the Community Development Coordinator of an application to the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) to support the hiring of Heather Carrington to work on two CDBG-DR applications. The CDBG-DR applications would address a flood resilience planning project in Downtown Hardwick, and a flood mitigation project on HED-owned land west of downtown. The Community Development Coordinator will draft and submit the CDBG-DR pre-applications.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve the adjusted agenda as stated.

6:00 P.M. Communication from the audience – None

6:00 P.M. – Select Board to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of June 26, 2025

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of June 26, 2025.

6:02 P.M. – 6:10 P.M. Hardwick Town Manager's Report – Given by David Upson Jr.

David reported that the hiring committee for the Public Works Director had two interviews this week. Danny asked who was on the hiring committee, and David stated that it was him, Shari, and Eric. Ceilidh asked the timeline for this position. David stated that he would like to do the second round of interviews towards the end

of the month. It's open until filled.

David reported that he's been working on the sanitary survey response to the state and coming up with a plan to move forward.

Horizon Engineering has been in communication with the Manager's office with updates on several projects around town. They plan to start creating site plans for the bridges this fall.

David and Casey have received several public records requests this week in which they have been working on completing the requests.

The scope study of Mill Street has started. There will be a meeting with stakeholders in that area for local concerns. The meeting will be held around August 11.

David is continuing to work with FEMA with the Wastewater Treatment Facility, Lift Stations, and Fire Department. Negotiations are currently underway between FEMA, the Town of Hardwick, and engineering firm Aldrich & Elliott (A&E)

David has extended the real estate option with Vermont Huts until the end of 2025. This is regarding the property on Mill Street. There are several environmental studies that need to be completed before moving forward. Danny asked when the Select Board will be meeting with Rural Edge. David will reach out to them to ask them to come to a Select Board meeting soon.

The contract for the Pedestrian Bridge is still being worked on. The contractor, CCS, has the contract for the wall already. Danny asked if we could start mobilizing the wall, and David stated that he didn't want to jeopardize anything before the Town received the certificate to proceed. The construction timeline for this year is halfway through, and it's making people genuinely concerned.

6:10 P.M. – 6:11 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by David Upson Jr.

The crew has been busy ditching on Mackville with new stone produced from the Town's gravel pit. They have been working on sidewalks, the Cottage Street Bridge, and fixing water lines. David also mentioned that Edward is covering the plant as Kenny is on vacation.

6:20 P.M. – 6:17 P.M. Hardwick Police Department (HPD) Report – Given by Mike Henry

Mike reported that Hardwick Police Department lost internet and email access last Friday. This meant that they could not print, download camera data, or get into the email server. Monday of this week Mike was able to fix the internet issue; however, the email system is down nationwide.

Mike reported that George Sheldrick is stepping down. He was a part-time officer who helped the Town out immensely. George will still help with snowmobile patrol, or events, but will not be patrolling the roads. The Town of Hardwick appreciates George's time and dedication.

Hardwick has experienced issues with vehicles on the Rail Trail. Temporary ballards have been installed in

various locations to help prevent this from continuing.

The Hardwick Police Department initially acquired a radar speed sign through a grant. Unfortunately, the sign proved to be difficult to operate and charge, leading to its return. In response, the Town purchased a new radar sign that is battery-operated and significantly more user-friendly. The new unit has demonstrated a battery life of approximately two weeks per charge and is easy to relocate, allowing for greater flexibility in monitoring traffic in various areas of the community.

The department received three applications for the open full-time officer position. None of the applicants had prior law enforcement experience. However, one candidate stood out during the interview process and will start the part-time academy soon. Additionally, Joe Donna is nearing completion of the part-time academy and is expected to finish Field Training (FTO) soon as well.

Lastly, the 2019 Ford Fusion that the Police Department used to drive is up for sale.

6:17 P.M. – 6:24 P.M. Hardwick Electric Department (HED) Report – Given by Roger Prevot

Roger reported that in an effort to improve customer experience and decision-making around new projects, the board has approved a revised engagement process. Staff are now permitted to provide potential customers with preliminary information and a project “scoop” before requiring the \$250 application fee. This informal, non-binding discussion—limited to one site visit—will help customers better assess whether they wish to proceed. This replaces the previous policy that required the application and fee upfront. The change reflects the positive contributions of new staff and a focus on more customer-friendly procedures.

The advanced metering initiative is progressing steadily. This project involves internet-connected meters and is currently in the field survey phase. The goal is to design an effective network infrastructure, including the placement of data concentrator units necessary for reliable data transmission.

Roger reported that there is an engineering study being conducted on the Wolcott Hydro Plant. This will be a long project and will determine what the future will be.

Hardwick Electric upgraded their phone system this week.

Hardwick Electric Department and the commissioners are actively working with the Town of Hardwick to update and refine the emergency management plan and procedures, ensuring coordination and effective responses to future incidents.

Lastly, Roger reported that there is a circuit on Route 14 that Hardwick Electric will need access to. They will formally ask for approval from the Select Board in August.

6:25 P.M. – 6:25 P.M. Item #1 – Select Board to consider approving liquor license renewal- *Action Needed*

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to approve the second-class liquor license for Agri-Mark, Inc. d/b/a Agri-Mark/Yellow Barn.

6:25 P.M. – 6:26 P.M. Item #2 – Select Board to review and approve the annual Internal Financial Controls Checklist– *Action needed*

Danny asked if there were any changes. Tonia stated that there is a line that asks whether or not the Select Board members have attended financial trainings, and they added Eric's name as he attended a grants training.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve the annual Internal Financial Controls Checklist.

6:26 P.M. – 6:49 P.M. Item #3 – Select Board to discuss property off of Wright Farm Road that the Conservation Commission wants to turn into Town Forest- Possible action needed

The Hardwick Conservation Commission is proposing that the Town of Hardwick acquire approximately 319 acres located on Wright Farm Road and create a community forest. The land is currently on the market. If the Town acquires the land, the Trust for Public Land would lead the negotiation and grant application process, with a potential closing projected for 2027.

Rachel Kane stated that the Conservation Commission would be willing to assist with fundraising efforts, exploring grant opportunities, and has offered a \$1,000 personal contribution. Contributions could come from a mix of public funds and private fundraising. The total funds will not be due until closing.

Hannah Redmon, from Trust for Public Lands, stated that the Select Board would need to acquire the land, then there should be a steering committee set up to get public input. There will be an appraisal, title work, and then an environmental review of the property.

David U. asked about the limitations of the property. Jack Travelstead from Northern Rivers Land Trust stated there was a template that he could provide to the Town.

Ceilidh expressed support for the vision and was impressed by the plan's flexibility as far as what would be allowed. She asked if the Town needed to commit to the asking price tonight and the specific contribution from the Town. Hannah stated no, not tonight. The possible contribution from the Town can be discussed later.

Dave G. stated that the Hardwick Planning Commission has discussed this property and sent a letter of support. See attached.

Eric noted the Town would lose approximately \$5,000/year in tax revenue.

Danny expressed hesitation, citing that he would like more time to prepare and more input from the community especially considering the size of the property (319 acres). Dave G. stated that the Hardwick Planning Commission is responsible for determining and executing projects related to the Hardwick Town Plan, and that they serve as a representative for the public in order to ensure growth and development in Hardwick. Danny remarked that the Town Plan is being used as a guiding tool in this process, and he disagrees with that approach. Jack stated that the Town of Wolcott just went through something very similar and they had public engagement. The Town had a public hearing, set up a committee, and then sent out a survey all before acquiring the piece of property. Hannah pointed out that the difference between that land and this land was that the land in Wolcott was not on the market.

See attached reports for further information.

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted four to one to accept the 319-acre property off of Wright Farm Road in order to convert it to a community forest, and to authorize the Trust for Public Lands and the Northern Rivers Land Trust to start negotiations with the current landowner.

Eric-Yes

Shari- Yes

Ceilidh- Yes

Tim- Yes

Danny-No

6:50 P.M. – 6:51 P.M. Item #4 – Select Board to consider re-appointing Tyler Buswell to a 2-year term and re-appointing Kathleen Hemmens to a 3-year term on the Hardwick Conservation Commission – *Action needed*

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway- Kane, seconded by Danny Hale, the Select Board voted to re-appoint Tyler Buswell for a 2-year term, and to reappoint Kathleen Hemmens for a 3-year term on the Hardwick Conservation Commission.

6:51 P.M. – 6:54 P.M. Item #5 - Select Board to consider appointing Michael Ambrosino and Jake Lester for a 2-year term as Hardwick Electric Commissioners – *Action needed*

Jake, a resident of East Hardwick, expressed interest in serving on the Hardwick Electric Department (H.E.D.) Board. He shared that he has been involved in the community for many years and brings a background in power and utilities, which he hopes to contribute to the board's work.

Eric also took a moment to thank Lynne Gedanken for her many years of service on the H.E.D. Board. The Town deeply appreciates her time, expertise, and dedication to the community.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to reappoint Michael Ambrosino and to appoint Jake Lester, both a 2-year term as the Hardwick Electric Commissioners.

6:54 P.M. – 6:56 P.M. Item # 6- Select Board to consider re- appointing David Gross and Larry Fliegelman for 3-year terms on the Hardwick Planning Commission – *Action needed*

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to reappoint David Gross and Larry Fliegelman, both a 3-year term, to the Hardwick Planning Commission.

6:56 P.M. – 6:58 P.M. Item #7 – Select Board to consider approving the contract with SLR as the (Municipal Planning Grant (MPG) Consultant and authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract with them – *Action needed*

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve the contract

with SLR as the MPG consultant, and to authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract with them.

6:58 P.M. – 6:59 P.M. Item #8 - Select Board to consider approving a banner application for AWARE for their fall craft fair – *Action needed*

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to approve the Aware banner for their fall craft fair in September.

6:59 P.M. – 7:08 P.M. Item #9 – Select Board to consider approving the 2026 Coin drop requests – *Action needed*

The Town received seven-coin drop requests for 2026. Traditionally, coin drops are held during six months in the summer and fall. To accommodate all interested organizations, the Select Board discussed options such as splitting time slots between morning and afternoon, or having organizations share a single time slot.

To ensure fairness, the Select Board opted to draw names at random. The selected organizations will be scheduled accordingly:

May 2026	Hardwick Kiwanis
June 2026	Friends of the Jeudevine Library
July 2026	Hardwick Trails
August 2026	Greensboro Nursing Home
September 2026	Lamoille Area Cancer Network
October 2026	Hardwick Fire Department Auxiliary

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve coin drop as stated.

7:09 P.M. – 7:09 P.M. Item #10 – Select Board to consider approving a Manufacturers Tier 3 renewal for *Green Mountain Scientific Corp.* – *Action needed*

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve a Manufacturers Tier 3 renewal for Green Mountain Scientific Corp.

7:09 P.M. – 7:10 P.M. Item #11 - Select Board to consider approving a Manufacturers Tier 1 small cultivator renewal for *Vitality Cannabis LLC.* – *Action needed*

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve a Manufacturers Tier 1 small cultivator renewal for Vitality Cannabis LLC.

7:10 P.M. – 7:13 P.M. Item #12 - Select Board to consider selecting a contractor for the EWP bank stabilization project in East Hardwick and authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract with them – *Action needed*

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve J. Merrill Construction, LLC for a total of \$76,900 as the contractor for the EWP stabilization project in East Hardwick, and to authorize the Town Manager to sign the contract with them.

7:13 P.M. – 7:16 P.M. Item #13 - Select Board to consider selecting an engineering firm to complete designs on EWP 2024 properties and authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract with them- *Action Needed*

The Town received two proposals:

Horizons Engineering for a total of \$96,000

DuBois & King for a total of \$120,353

The Select Board asked for the opinion of the Town Manager. David stated that he doesn't have an opinion as both companies are capable, and both have done projects within Town.

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve Horizons Engineering for the EWP 2024 and to authorize the Town Manager to sign a contract with them,

7:16 P.M. – 7:22 P.M. Item #14 Select Board to consider approving the submission by the Community Development Coordinator of an application to the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) to support the hiring of Heather Carrington to work on two CDBG-DR applications. The CDBG-DR applications would address a flood resilience planning project in Downtown Hardwick, and a flood mitigation project on HED-owned land west of downtown. The Community Development Coordinator will draft and submit the CDBG-DR pre-applications.

David U. explained that following the 2023 disaster, the Town of Johnson was awarded \$38 million through a one-time state program focused on rebuilding critical community facilities. There remains approximately \$13 million available statewide, which will be distributed through a competitive process.

The funding would support rebuilding efforts in the central and western parts of downtown, viewed as key areas for revitalization.

While the Town was not originally part of the \$38 million pool, the Agency of Commerce and Community Development (ACCD) added Hardwick in an amendment to increase the potential of being a part of the \$38 Million, and to increase the probability of getting some funding in general.

Pat Moulton, working on behalf of the state and local communities, has recommended that Hardwick pursue this funding, and working with Heather Carrington—who is already writing applications for other towns and familiar with the complex process. Tracy Martin, Hardwick's Community Development Coordinator, would handle the pre-application phase and coordinate with Heather. While it's unclear if Heather can support both roles for the two applications, a motion was introduced to support moving forward with the application process.

Upon motion by Danny Hale, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to approve the submission by the Community Development Coordinator of an application to the Rural Economic Development Initiative (REDI) to support the hiring of Heather Carrington to work on two CDBG-DR applications. The CDBG-

DR applications would address a flood resilience planning project in Downtown Hardwick, and a flood mitigation project on HED-owned land west of downtown. The Community Development Coordinator will draft and submit the CDBG-DR pre-applications.

Select Board Reports:

- Shari reported that the lift to make the stage accessible at the Town House arrived this week and is being installed. This project is creating egress from the balcony and access to the stage. This project should be completed soon.
- Shari reported that the Craftsbury Chamber Player first concert was held at the Town House tonight. They play every Thursday at 7pm until August 14, 2025.

New Business: None

Old Business: Ceilidh mentioned that tonight is the anniversary of the 2023 & 2024 flood and there's still a lot of trauma circling. Hardwick is an amazing community, and we need to continue to support one another through this process. Lyndonville, Burke, and Sutton are experiencing flooding this year, and our thoughts are with them.

7: 25P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: _____
Amanda Fecteau, Payroll Administrator

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair