

**MINUTES REGULAR SELECT BOARD MEETING
6:00 P.M. THURSDAY, AUGUST 7, 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 - *absent*

Others Present

Casey Rowell, Business Manager
Michael Henry, Police Chief
Tom Fadden, Road Foreman
Kristen Leahy, Zoning/Floodplain Admin.
Tracy Martin, Comm. Dev. Coordinator (*CDC*)
Tracy Annis, The Clip Joint
Nikki Robarge, The Clip Joint

Others Present

Patrick Shattuck, Rural Edge
Bruce Larrow
Rewa Worthington, Evernorth
Raymonda Parchment
Kole
Joe Nudell

Regular Meeting

6:01 P.M. – Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, called the meeting to order.

6:01 P.M. – Set/Adjust Agenda – none

No communication from the audience

6:01 P.M. – Select Board to approve the minutes of the Regular Select Board meeting of July 10, 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 July 10, 2025, as written.

6:02 P.M. – 6:06 P.M. Road Foreman Report – Given by Tom Fadden

Tom reported that they are almost finished with the Church St. sidewalk. They only have a couple more sections to complete.

Tom also shared that they are almost finished hauling their winter sand from the Town's pit to Creamery Rd. They have installed eleven meter pits so far and will be doing another cluster of six in the same area.

The crew recently finished some improvements to Mackville Rd. funded by the Better Roads Grant program. The upcoming work in the pipeline is grant-in-aid work on Tucker Brook Rd. and then they plan to start working on some of the hazard mitigation work on various roads. They have also done some spot grading here and there.

Tom talked about the crushing that happened recently at the gravel pit and the types of materials that we now have stockpiled at the pit. He also shared that the roadside mowing was done this week and that the Center Rd. paving was completed almost 2 weeks ago and the center lines were just painted yesterday.

Eric asked about trimming back the brush on roads as we did last year. Tom explained that last year the Town rented two large tractors, and the highway crew did the roadside mowing and the brush trimming, which was pretty costly. This year we opted to have just the mowing done by an outside contractor. That contractor did the mowing and also did some trimming back on a few roads. Next year, we will look at doing more trimming again as needed.

6:06 P.M. – 6:09 P.M. Hardwick Police Department (HPD) Report – Given by Mike Henry

Mike reported that HPD has three portable radar signs, one on E. Church Street in East Hardwick, one on Center Rd., and one on West Hill. These are battery powered and last about 2 weeks. The East Hardwick Neighborhood Organization (EHNO) applied for a grant to get their own radar sign that could permanently be in East Hardwick. They did receive a grant to purchase a sign, so that will be forthcoming.

Mike shared that Joe Donna has completed his field training as a Level II Officer. We hired Ariana Morris who will be going to the Level II Academy in September and then the full-time Level III academy in February.

Mike also shared that Robin French is leaving HPD and taking a position at Morristown Police Department.

6:09 P.M. – 6:12 P.M. Item #1 – Select Board to discuss throwing up Town Highway 316 off of N. Main Street next to 283 N Main St. – *Possible Action needed*

Kristen presented a handout for the process of completing this. The State has already deducted this from our total mileage. See attachments for the details. The Board generally agreed to move forward with this because it is a process. At the next meeting, they will have a resolution to start the process.

6:12 P.M. – 6:15 P.M. Item #2 – Select Board to consider approving the submission by the Community Development Coordinator (CDC) of an application to MTAP to support the hiring of Heather Carrington to work on two CDBG-DR applications. – *Action needed*

Tracy Martin, CDC, explained that we have access to Rural Economic Development Initiatives (REDI) and Municipal Technical Assistance Program (MTAP) funds to hire Heather Carrington to assist with two CDBG-DR applications. Tracy has already completed the pre-applications for the two Community Development Block Grant- Disaster Recovery (CDBG-D) funds. The first is a planning project in the downtown area to develop a scoping study for future flood mitigation to protect the downtown area and the second is an implementation project for floodplain restoration downstream.

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to have Select Board Chair Eric Remick sign a letter of support for what Tracy explained.

6:15 P.M. – 6:16 P.M. Item #3 – Select Board to consider appointing Peter Moskovitz for a 3-year term and Joe Nudell for a 2-yr term to the Hardwick Conservation Commission - *Action needed*

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to appoint Peter Moskovitz for a 3-year term and Joe Nudell for a 2-yr term to the Hardwick Conservation Commission.

6:16 P.M. – 6:42 P.M. Item #4 – Select Board to hear from Rural Edge Executive Director, Patrick Shattuck, about various properties in the Town managed by Rural Edge

Patrick handed out information on several of Rural Edge's programs, including homeownership services and their SASH program. See Attachment 3 for the handouts on these programs.

Patrick gave background on how Rural Edge ended up acquiring the management of the Lamoille Housing Partnership (LHP) properties in Hardwick. They have not taken actual ownership of the properties. They are only currently managing the properties. They are working toward acquisition by the end of the year dependent on USDA Rural Development. He went into detail on some of the programs they offer. See attachments for the detailed report.

Shari asked about the remediation from the 9 S. Main St. oil leak incident. Patrick explained that there will be twelve wells that will be drilled on September 9 as part of the long term plan for the site. Shari said that we want to know what happens because the long term plan is delaying VT Huts who wants to purchase the lot right next to the building. The Town has an option to purchase with them. The site that VT Huts is looking to purchase from the Town may have been contaminated by the spill as it's right next to S. Main property.

There is a Hardwick property manager at the Maple St. property. Patrick will send their contact information.

Rewa with Evernorth said that she is grateful that Rural Edge stepped in to take care of these properties since the former management company pulled out rather abruptly.

Tracy, from The Clip Joint, asked who owns the properties that Rural Edge is managing. LHP still exists as an organization partnering with Downstreet Housing who Rural Edge will merge with. Downstreet is currently serving as LHP's general agent.

Tracy A. also asked if this happened again in another building if insurance would cover it. She asked why LHP was not responsible for the oil spill. Rural Edge is the management company and so they stepped in to manage the situation. Patrick said that there are limitations on insurance and that they sought out funding to make the repairs and were able to make that happen.

6:42 P.M. – 6:55 P.M. Item #5 – Act 181 Overview – given by Kristen Leahy & Tracy Martin

Kristen explained that they wanted to get this in front of the Select Board now since they will likely need to make decisions on how Hardwick wants to deal with these changes later this year during budget season. She provided a detailed memo (see Attachment 1) with background information about the changes and how they will affect the Town.

Ceilidh asked about applying for grants in the interim period when we are in transition with the designated downtown/village center and the proposed Tiers. Tracy said that we have an advantage because we have already given our designation as downtown and village centers, so we should not encounter any issues.

6:55 P.M. – 7:01 P.M. Item #6 – Select Board to discuss “Certified Local Government” - *Possible Action needed*

Tracy Martin gave an overview of the “certified local government” Program. See Attachment 1 for the details.

Upon motion by Shari Cornish, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to authorize the Town of Hardwick staff to pursue a Certified Local Government designation in accordance with the requirements of the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation and the National Park Service.

7:01 P.M. – 7:04 P.M. Item #7 – Select Board to consider joining the VT-Alert System – *Action needed*

This is just another tool for the Town to have in communicating with the public. See Attachment for the detailed resolution.

Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Tim Ricciardello, the Select Board voted to adopt the Vermont VT-Alert system as one of our public safety notification systems for municipal use and authorize designated municipal officials to complete training and issue alerts in accordance with public safety protocols.

7:04 P.M. – 7:05 P.M. Item #8 –Select Board to consider reappointing Kate Brooke to the DRB for a 3-yr term – *Action needed*

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to reappoint Kate Brooke to the Development Review Board (DRB) for a 3-yr term.

There is one vacancy on the DRB and one alternate spot on the Hardwick Planning Commission. Reach out to the Town Manager’s office if you are interested in filling one of the positions.

7:05 P.M. – 7:11 P.M. Item #9– Kristen Leahy, Zoning & Floodplain Administrator to give Select Board opportunity to ask questions about the information given to them on “work in progress”

Kristen provided a folder to the Select Board prior to the meeting outlining upcoming events and information related to tasks she is working on. She wanted to give the Board an opportunity to ask any questions they might have. She noted a few important announcements that were included in those items.

A “Local Concerns” meeting will be held next week, August 13 at 6:00, at the Parker Ladd Community Room at the Library. VHB is collecting input on Mill St. and Main St. pedestrian traffic, parking, bicycles, etc. They are conducting a scoping study on this area of town, and they are looking for community feedback.

Nine buyouts have been completed in Hardwick– the most in any VT town to date.

There will be a Watershed Forum in September on Wednesday nights from 6-7:30 at the Library Community Room. These will be recorded by HCTV and available to the public. There will be multiple speakers and several topics including dredging rivers, beavers, dam removal, climatology, etc.

Kristen gave an update on the Granite Street Municipal Planning Grant. We hired SLR to do the project and they will be doing a walk through on September 15 and talking to people in the Granite Street area. She encouraged the Select Board to read through the items she placed in their folder.

7:10 P.M. – 7:12 P.M. Item 10 - Select Board to discuss a new mobile medical clinic that wants to speak with the Select Board and if they want to have them at the next meeting on August 21

Tonya Guare reached out because she and Dr. Jeffery Haddock , a family medicine physician from Williston, are looking at doing mobile medical services for areas where access to health care is challenging. They have purchased a 34' RV that will travel around to provide basic health care needs, including CDL exams. They are going through the process of being able to accept insurance. She wanted to know if the Select Board would want them to come to a future meeting to talk about their plans for the mobile unit. The Select Board said they could come to present at a future meeting. Casey will let her Tonya know and it will be on a future meeting agenda.

7:12 P.M. – 7:14 P.M. Item #11 - Select Board to review and acknowledge funds for the Downtown Partnership from the Downtown Vibrancy Fund and complete the Municipal Letter of Attestation – *Action needed*

Shari explained that the Hardwick Downtown Partnership received a \$25,000 grant from the Downtown Vibrancy Fund and in order to accept it, the Select Board needs to complete the Letter of Attestation in order for them to accept the funds.

Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, the Select Board voted to acknowledge the funds for the Downtown Partnership from the Downtown Vibrancy Fund and complete the Municipal Letter of Attestation.

No Select Board Reports, New Business, or Old Business.

7:15 P.M. *Upon motion by Tim Ricciardello, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to enter Executive Session pursuant to 1 VSA 313 for a loan contract discussion to include the Business Manager.*

7:31 P.M. *Upon motion by Ceilidh Galloway-Kane, seconded by Shari Cornish, the Select Board voted to exit Executive Session. No action taken.*

Ceilidh mentioned that in recent months the Board has discussed reviewing our current Economic Development Policy and making changes to accommodate smaller loan requests and make the funds more accessible to borrowers. She would like to see this happen soon. Casey mentioned that we currently only have a few loans left

on our books and close to \$300,000 in available funds for loaning out. There are a couple that will pay off soon so we will only have three left. By revising the policy, we could open up the opportunity for more businesses to take advantage of the fund, which offers an attractive interest rate and terms that are not as strict as conventional banks. Ceilidh suggested that the Board members take a look at the policy and make suggestions for changes.

The group discussed that Main Street has some vacant spaces that it would be great to fill, such as the former AT& T building, the Bank building, and the former Rehair Shop location. etc. Shari thinks that it is not well known that we have these funds available for lending out.

7:40 P.M. Eric Remick, Select Board Chair, adjourned the meeting.

Minutes taken by: _____
Casey Rowell, Business Manager

Minutes approved by: _____
Eric Remick, Select Board Chair