

# Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday, March 18, 2025

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** John Snowdon, Bill McGahie and Mark Terry

1. The meeting was called to order at 1:03 pm by John Snowdon.
2. Motion was made by Mark Terry seconded by Bill McGahie to elect John Snowdon as Selectboard Chair. John Snowdon accepted the position abstaining from the vote. Motion passed 2-0.
3. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by John Snowdon seconded by Mark Terry to approve Manifests for: General Fund \$67,133.24. Motion passed 3-0.
4. Guest: Paul Steblein previously worked for the Government as a National Resource Manager and has worked with invasive species. Would like to do test experiments at the Town's Recycling Center to see the best way to mitigate invasive knotweed and share results with residents.
  - Preventing the Spread of Japanese knotweed Best Management Practices study by NH Department of Agriculture, Markets & Food 2018 Prepared by: Douglas Cygan (attached) outlines methods such as: cutting, digging, smothering and using chemicals such as Round-up.
  - Snowdon - Opposed to chemicals like Round-up due to effects on beneficial insects. Terry added the use of chemicals near wells can contaminate water.
  - Selectmen asked Steblein to put together a proposal with what specific types of methods to be tested, timeframe of tests, where specifically tests will take place and how many volunteers will be needed. Steblein will work to have it ready for the 1st May meeting.
5. Old Business
  - A. Hurricane Road - Scott Talbot, Heath Office has reached out to the owner of Archway Farms about public safety violations to see if all had been addressed and ready for inspection. Only 1 of the 15 code violations has been addressed. Tenants of 1 of the larger apartments have been given a notice of eviction, but no actual date. Talbot will write a letter to the owner giving 10 days to respond. If no response will pass to the State Fire Marshal. Letter from selectboard to be sent requiring all 15 code violations to be resolved by April 15, 2025 to avoid fines outlined in Zoning Enforcement Policy in accordance with Town Ordinance Section 304 and State RSA 676:17. Further inspections to include both Health Officer and Building Inspector to ensure all health and safety codes are followed.
  - B. River Road Bridge - Selectmen submitted an application in the amount of \$5,600,000 for 2026 Congressional Spending Grant. Beginning work with NHDOT and Cheshire County on a Plan B which is yet to be determined. No decision has been made as far as reopening the bridge.

- C. Recreation -Youth Sports - Youth sports can be covered by the town's insurance if run by the recreation dept./committee. WYSI would have to act as only a booster club that would raise money then donate to the town in support of the youth sports program. Expenses would be paid by the town using donations to offset costs. Sports would be organized and run by the recreation committee.
- D. Basic Law of Budgeting Training - NHMA will send a lawyer to review rules and regulations and discuss the responsibilities of a town Budget Committee. The Committee consists of 3 elected members and an ex officio member from the Selectboard and the school board. Snowden would like to schedule the training for the Budget Committee and Selectboard and invite the school board to also attend. Selectmen agree it would be a beneficial use of workshop funds. Snowden to schedule after the next Budget Committee meeting on April 21st.

## 6. New Business

Signature Approval was given for the following

Payroll 3/15/2025	Septic Design Authorization
Payroll Taxes 3/15/2025	RC-Post Closure Report
Veteran's Credit (1)	Eversource \$1030.27
Intent to Excavate (2)	Hannaford \$72.63

- A. New board and committee members begin as of April 1st. Selectmen discussed emailing a letter to each chair to review responsibilities of the members as well as right to know obligations. Selectmen to discuss policy for member's attendance at the next meeting.

Appointments made as follows:

Conservation Commission Member (3yrs) April Ferguson, Jonathan Lounsbury, Nancy Zeller  
 Planning Board Member (3 yrs) Bruce Smith, Planning Board Alternate (3yrs) Lisa Prince  
 Zoning Board Member (3yrs) Alan Bell & Nancy Ranson  
 Westmorelander Member (3yrs) Katherine Cox, John Harris, Sarah Dupeyron, Bruce Farr  
 Recreation Committee Member (3yrs) Catherine Gray-Matthews & Emily Allen  
 Old Home Days Committee Member (3yrs) Theresa Russell & Rosemarie Semaski

- B. Website/Social Media - Tabled for next meeting
- C. Westmorelander - Request for Selectmen to provide an article for the newsletter. Ideas to be discussed at the next meeting.
- D. Warrant Article 14 - Cannot assign Selectmen as agents by amending the article per NH Municipal Association (NHMA). The Capital Reserve Fund has been used over the years, however, other issues exist with the fund that are currently being evaluated.
- E. Town Meeting - Per RSA 39:2-a as Westmoreland adopted the provisions of RSA 31:94-a the selectmen are authorized to choose another day for the second session of the town meeting for the transaction of all other town business. Some towns choose to have school and town meetings back to back on a Saturday and there seems to be some community interest in this. The NH School Board Association would need to be consulted. Selectmen agree to discuss a potential change at a later meeting.

7. Motion made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie per RSA 31:95-b, to accept and expend unanticipated money in the amount of \$1000 donated to offset the cost of the Edson Cemetery fence. Motion Passed 3-0
8. 2:34pm Motion by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to adjourn meeting. Motion Passed 3-0. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,  
Jodi Scanlan  
Town Administrator

NEXT REGULAR MEETING TUESDAY APRIL 1, 2025 6:00PM  
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED  
SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

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John Snowdon, Chairman

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William McGahie

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Mark Terry

