

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting
Thursday August 13, 2026

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 10:04 am
2. Approval of Minutes: August 4, 2026 Motion was made by John Snowdon seconded by Bill McGahie to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Old Business
 - A. Japanese Knotweed
 - Perry Sawyer, Conservation Commission Chair, reported that the commission voted on May 14th to not endorse the widespread use of glyphosate for controlling Japanese Knotweed on town property.
 - The commission has spent a year and a half researching alternative mitigation approaches, including organic methods and solarization using high-quality weed barriers. (See Attached)
 - Sawyer explained that herbicide treatment is most effective after blossoming or near freezing when nutrients are pulled into the roots.
 - The board requested that the Conservation Commission provide a document highlighting alternative methods, including a best guess of costs for each.
 - Mention was made of Doug Cygan from the Department of Agriculture, who has specific expertise and potentially available funds for invasive species management.
 - B. Rail Trail
 - The board reviewed how the \$10,000 capital reserve fund was initially intended to provide money available to use as a match to obtain grant money for recreation projects.
 - A motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Mark Terry to use town equipment and a temp driver to spread 420 yards of Sure-Pak procured by the Snow Belters Club grant on the rail trail. Temporary help salary to be paid for using capital reserve funds. Motion passed 3-0. This is expected to save over \$5,000 in hauling expenses.
 - The board requested that the Recreation Committee develop a formal five-year plan to prioritize future projects and justify fund expenditures.
 - • Updates on grants were provided: a Snowmobile Club grant was successful, while a proposal by Paul Stedman was not funded; the town is currently awaiting news on a \$80,000 federal grant.
 - C. Traffic Issues
 1. London Road is experiencing issues with heavy trucks following Garmin GPS maps that incorrectly identify it as a through road to Surrey, despite "No Trucks" and "Not a Through Road" signs. Bill McGahie committed to contacting the Town of Surry to see who is ordering the materials to help reroute. McGahie will also check with the New Hampshire Department of Transportation (NHDOT) to correct any mapping errors.
 2. Speed concerns on Route 63 continue. The Board met with NHDOT in December 2024 to discuss the installation of a three-way stop at the intersection of Route 63 and South Village Road. The stop signs were approved by the state but are not currently scheduled for installation until 2027.

4. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by John Snowdon to approve Manifests for: \$ 127,580.65 Motion passed 3-0.

5. New Business

A. Highway Department Temp. CDL Driver

The driver available to haul Sure-Pak also available to work as needed for the highway department. Selectmen agree that the per diem employee can be utilized as needed by the highway department as long as there are funds in the department's budget.

B. Deeded Property Auction Results

The auction for four deeded properties on Saturday August 8th was well-attended with approximately 30 participants and active online bidding. All properties were auctioned and the town expects to receive a check for approximately \$21,700, which covers back taxes, legal fees, and penalties for almost all properties involved. One property on Daggett Hill Road fell short of the total taxes owed but the overall process successfully returned the properties to the tax rolls.

6. Nonpublic Meeting At 11:04 am., a motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by John Snowdon, to enter a nonpublic session per RSA 91-A:3, II(c). Roll call vote to enter non-public John Snowdon – Yes; Mark Terry – Yes; Bill McGahie – Yes. Motion passed.

Motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by John Snowdon, to seal the minutes. Roll call vote to seal minutes: John Snowdon – Yes; Mark Terry – Yes; Bill McGahie – Yes. Motion passed.

At 11:39 am, a motion was made by John Snowdon, seconded by Mark Terry, to exit the nonpublic session. Motion passed 3–0.

7. 11:39 pm motion was made by Mark Terry seconded by Bill McGahie to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 3-0.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator

NEXT MEETING TUESDAY TUESDAY SEPTEMBER 1, 2026 6:00PM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED SELECTMEN
SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Mark Terry, Chairman

John Snowdon

William McGahie

Control Methods for Japanese knotweed

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There are two affective methods for controlling Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum cuspidatum*), henceforth referred to as knotweed. It is advised that you evaluate the site conditions where the knotweed occurs to determine which method is best suited for control. One involves smothering and the other uses herbicide.

Smothering



(PHOTO 1)



(PHOTO 2)



(PHOTO 3)

If you wish to avoid the use of herbicides you may want to try smothering. Not only does it eliminate the need for chemicals, but there are also no soil disturbance/erosion issues. Here are the general guidelines:

1. Allowing the knotweed to grow in the spring without attempting to control it;
2. Cut the knotweed at the base and close to the ground around the first week in June (PHOTO 1) (this helps to weaken the rooting system);
3. Pile the cut stems on an impervious surface such as a tarp, plastic, pavement, etc. so they can dry out (after turning brown the stems can be composted);
4. Apply a layer of mulch, grass clipping or other cushiony material over the sharp cut stems to prevent them from puncturing the plastic (PHOTO 2, an old tarpaulin was used);
5. Cover the entire area with the biggest heavy-duty dark colored plastic (7mil thick), tarp or heavy duty weed fabric you can find. If more than one piece is used make sure to overlap the seams by about 2 feet. Also, make sure the cover material extends at least 5-10 feet beyond the limit of knotweed in all directions (PHOTO 3);
6. Weight the top of the tarp/plastic and seal the edges with rocks, sticks, soil, sand, mulch, wood chips etc. (PHOTO 3). Do not puncture the tarp/plastic as this can allow knotweed stems to survive. If there are any tears or holes, patch them. Covering with wood chips or mulch does several things including improving the visual aesthetics; blocks UV rays from the sun, which photo-degrades plastic; and insulates it from cold temperatures so it doesn't crack.
7. After 5 years the covering material can be removed and the area replanted.

Although this method may take a while, it has been very successful in sensitive areas here in NH.

Foliar Herbicide Treatment



(PHOTO 1)



(PHOTO 2)



(PHOTO 3)

To achieve 95%-100% control in one application, use the following guidelines:

1. Allow the knotweed to grow in the spring without doing any type of management until the first week in June;
 2. Cut the knotweed at the base as close to the ground as possible during the first week of June (see PHOTO 1 above and note below);
 3. Pile the cut stems on an impervious surface such as a tarp, plastic, pavement, etc. so they can dry out (after turning brown the stems can be composted);
 4. Allow the knotweed resprout and again, do not do any management until after flowering, which usually occurs in early to mid September ;
 5. Just after flowering (early to mid September) an herbicide application using a 5% solution of a glyphosate based product, such as Roundup, should be applied as a foliar spray using a pump, backpack sprayer or mist blower (PHOTO 2). Apply to thoroughly wet all foliage, but not to the point of runoff.
- Read and follow the product label!**

If resprouting occurs the following year then a re-treatment will be needed following the above described guidelines (As was the case in PHOTO 3).

Note:

Knotweed is herbaceous (non-woody), so although it may be imposing, the stems cut quite easily and can be done using motorized trimmers with metal blades, or hand tools such as a machete or stout sickle, even loppers and hand pruners work just fine. Mowing is not recommended as it can promote the spread of knotweed by moving vegetative propagules to new locations. A properly timed cutting will eliminate the tall canopy and make follow-up operations much easier. The best time to cut is in early June and once in the season is all that's required to weaken the rooting system. The best time to apply herbicides to knotweed is in the fall (September to October) once the flowers have died off. The two primary reasons for waiting are: honeybees voraciously forage on knotweed flowers and by waiting till after flowering the herbicide treatment will not coincide with their activity; and secondly, this is also the time of year when carbohydrates start flowing back down into the rooting system (rhizomes) for over wintering. Glyphosate is the herbicide of choice for controlling knotweed. It is effective, has no soil activity, it is readily available, and somewhat inexpensive.