

Minutes of the Westmoreland Selectmen's Meeting

Tuesday August 4, 2026

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

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:02pm
2. Approval of Minutes: July 23, 2026 Motion was made by John Snowdon seconded by Bill McGahie to accept the minutes as printed. Motion passed 3-0.
3. Accounts Payable: Motion was made by Mark Terry, seconded by Bill McGahie to approve Manifests for: \$ 397,445.23 Motion passed 3-0.
4. Old Business

A. Rail Trail

- The Selectboard reviewed requests related to improvements to the Rail Trail. It was noted that the project is intended to be funded through grants, private donations, and other non-taxpayer sources whenever possible.
- Dan Shelley, a member of both the Rail Trail Committee and the Snow Belters Club, requested Capital Reserve funds to match grants that the Snow Belters Club obtained for trail improvements.
- The first grant funded repairs to a washout at a total project cost of \$9,250. The grant covered 60% of the cost, leaving a required match of approximately \$2,500. The Rail Trail Committee requested reimbursement of the local match from the Parks and Recreation Capital Reserve, which was established this year. A motion was made by John Snowdon and seconded by Bill McGahie to appropriate \$2,500 from the Parks and Recreation Capital Reserve to reimburse the Snow Belters Club for the required 40% grant match for work already completed, including repairs to a culvert and a section of the Rail Trail. Motion passed 3-0.
- Shelley also reported that the Snow Belters Club received a second grant in the amount of \$7,560 to purchase approximately 420 yards of Sure-Pak for resurfacing the Rail Trail between Gilboa Road and London Road. The estimated cost for hauling and labor is an additional \$7,500. The Rail Trail Committee requested that \$7,400 be appropriated from the Parks and Recreation Capital Reserve to cover these costs, leaving an estimated balance of \$100 in the reserve. The Selectboard agreed to continue discussion of the request at its next meeting and asked representatives of the Rail Trail Committee to attend.
- Mark Terry emphasized the importance of the Recreation Committee developing a formal five-year capital improvement plan to help prioritize projects, provide greater transparency, and avoid unexpected requests for capital reserve funding.
- Shelley further reported that the Rail Trail Committee applied for an \$80,000 New Hampshire Recreational Trails Program (RTP) grant but was not selected for funding. He stated that the committee intends to reapply next year.
- Shelley added that the Rail Trail could also serve as an important emergency access route to Keene should Route 12 become impassable due to flooding.

B. Japanese Knotweed

- Bill McGahie shared information from a recent Harrisville Conservation Commission meeting regarding the successful eradication of Japanese knotweed. He explained that Harrisville has eradicated 95% of their knotweed using a method involving treating the infestation with a glyphosate-based herbicide with an anti-drift agent,
- John Snowdon expressed concern that glyphosate residues could persist in the soil and potentially affect future plants and pollinators. The Selectboard agreed that additional information should be obtained before pursuing any treatment. The Board discussed seeking an

unbiased opinion from qualified experts, including the New Hampshire Cooperative Extension and state biologists or entomologists, regarding the effects of glyphosate.

C. Property Reevaluation and Property Tax Rate

John Snowdon explained that property assessments are expected to increase as a result of the 2026 revaluation, with current assessments estimated to be approximately 60% of market value. However, he noted that the municipal tax rate is expected to decrease accordingly. He emphasized that property owners should not attempt to estimate their 2026 property taxes by applying the current 2025 tax rate to their new assessed values, as the New Hampshire Department of Revenue Administration will not establish the new tax rate until the revaluation process is complete, which is expected to occur in November.

5. New Business

Signatures: Special Limited Power of Attorney for Deeded Property Auction,
Deed Waiver, Tax Payment Plan and 2 Cemetery Deeds

A. Election Information

Mark Terry presented a proposal, developed from recommendations of an election information coalition, to enhance the Town's online voting information. He explained that the document could be customized for Westmoreland and would provide residents with links to information on voter registration, voting procedures, polling information, and the roles of local election officials. The Selectboard agreed that the resource would be a valuable tool for helping residents better understand the election process and supported tailoring the document for publication on the Town's website.

B. The board approved hanging a sign at Woodward Field created by Justin Priebe.

6. Upcoming: August 8th - Deeded Properties Auction. Registration at 10am
August 13th - Selectboard meeting at 10am. No meeting August 19th

7. Board acknowledged the passing of Ed Johnson who served the Town in past years as the fire department's Deputy Chief, the Town's Fire Warden and a member of the Snow Belters Club.

8. 7:02 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 THURSDAY, AUGUST 13, 2026 10:00AM
MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED SELECTMEN
SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Mark Terry, Chairman

John Snowdon

William McGahie