Minutes of the Westmoreland Select Board Meeting
With the Planning Board and Master Plan Committee
Tuesday, September 22, 2026

SELECT BOARD: Mark Terry (Chair), John Snowdon (PB ExOfficio Member) and Bill McGahie
PLANNING BOARD: Lauren Bressett (Chair), Bruce Smith (Vice-Chair), Liana Capra, Jim Church, Kristen Riley (MPC ExOfficio Member) , Frank Mazzola, Alternantes: John Stronk. Larry Siegel excused
MASTER PLAN COMMITTEE John Harris (Chair), Alan Bell, April Ferguson and Lisa Prince

1. The meeting was called to order at 6:00pm

2. Approval of Minutes
   September 1, 2026 and September 8, 2026 Motion was made by Mark Terry and seconded by John Snowdon 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: $25,450.57 Motion passed 3-0.

4. Planning Board Appointment
   The Planning Board requested that Frank Mazzola be appointed as a member of the Planning Board. The Select Board unanimously agreed, and the appointment was made.

5. Master Plan Discussion
   Mark Terry thanked the volunteers and the team responsible for preparing the draft Master Plan, noting the significant amount of work involved in developing such a comprehensive document. He encouraged residents to participate in Town committees, noting the ongoing need for volunteers. Mark then turned the meeting over to Lauren Bressett.

   Lauren Bressett led a section-by-section review of the draft Master Plan, emphasizing its role as a ten-year working document for the Town of Westmoreland. Particular attention was given to the Master Plan goals and the summaries of each section.

   The following topics were discussed:

   - Rural Character: Discussed what “rural character” means to Westmoreland. Data collected by the Master Plan Committee indicated that protecting and preserving farmland, forests, wildlife, and cultural history are important priorities for the Town and reflect values identified by residents.
   - Current Use and Conservation: The impact of land enrolled in Current Use on Town tax revenues was discussed. John Snowdon noted that 81.36% of the land in Westmoreland is either enrolled in Current Use or conserved. The discussion emphasized the importance of educating residents about the relationship between the preservation of open space and its impact on the Town’s tax base. While residents value the Town’s scenic vistas and open space, maintaining these resources has an impact on Town revenues.
   - State Housing Legislation: There was significant discussion regarding state legislation that increasingly mandates changes to local housing regulations. Concerns were raised that state-level legislation may not adequately reflect the needs and challenges of rural communities. The discussion emphasized that the Master Plan should support the Town’s ability to make decisions based on local experience and community needs rather than state-level, “one-size-fits-all” mandates. It was also noted that, to help protect the Town from state-imposed development requirements, Westmoreland should demonstrate that it is taking proactive, locally driven steps to address housing needs.

- Town Roads and Class VI Roads: Town roads were discussed, including the merits and challenges of paved versus gravel roads. It was noted that gravel roads can be significantly more expensive to maintain due to the ongoing costs of materials and maintenance. However, paving roads involves more than the application of asphalt and may require land clearing and, in some cases, eminent domain proceedings, which can be costly and controversial.
  A proposal was made to establish a committee to study Class VI roads, including identifying areas with potential for development and roads that may be suitable for discontinuance. The discussion included concerns about state-level pressure on municipalities to allow development along Class VI roads and the potential long-term infrastructure impacts on the Town.
- Concluding Summary: The group reviewed a concluding summary prepared by Larry Siegel and determined that it would be better suited as an article for the *Westmorelander*, as it read more like a personal opinion piece than a formal component of the Master Plan.

6. 8:19 pm motion was made by Mark Terry seconded by John Snowdon to adjourn the meeting. Motion passed 3-0.

SELECT BOARD

_____	_____	_____
Mark Terry, Chairman	John Snowdon	William McGahie

NEXT SELECT BOARD MEETING TUESDAY TUESDAY OCTOBER 6, 2026 6:00 PM. MINUTES ARE INITIALLY POSTED AS UNAPPROVED SELECTMEN SIGNATURES DENOTE APPROVAL
RECORDED BY TOWN HALL STREAMS - https://townhallstreams.com/towns/westmoreland_nh

Planning Board Supplemental Session

1. Approval of August Minutes

   Bruce Smith proposed an amendment to include John Snowdon's full name, as there is more than one member named John on the Board. John Stronk made a motion to approve the August minutes with the minor correction. The motion was seconded by Bruce Smith and passed.

2. Items for Discussion

   Lauren Bressett brought two upcoming topics to the attention of the Board:
   A. Industrial Park Signage: A firm from Florida has been hired to design signage for the Industrial Park. Lauren has communicated the importance of using downward-facing lighting to ensure the signage remains consistent with Town ordinances.
   B. Graves Trucking: Graves Trucking has submitted a proposal for a crushing project to the Zoning Board. It appears that operations will continue rather than proceed with the previously anticipated closure and reclamation of the site.

3. At 8:24 p.m., a motion was made by Lauren Bressett and seconded by John Snowdon to adjourn the Planning Board Supplemental Session. The motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Jodi Scanlan
Town Administrator