

Select Board Meeting Minutes July 16, 2025

Present: Heather McElroy, Jeanne Gervais, Mike Testut, Bill Hawkins, Bruce Webster, Trevor Colby, Lisa Martin, Rick Hannux, Walt Driscoll, Doug Brent, Ben Applegate, and Teresa DeBonville.

Attending virtually: Joel Cope, and Mike Strait.

Heather McElroy called the meeting to order at 5:30 PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited by all in attendance.

Updates to the agenda: Ben Applegate-Memphremagog Watershed Association, Library Trustee Appointment, Executive session to discuss a personnel matter.

Public comment: None.

Burning Ordinance: Trevor Colby was present to discuss the town's ordinances on burning. He has received several calls on illegal burning in a residential area and wanted clarification on the town's ordinance and who exactly the town wanted to enforce the ordinance. Lisa Martin stated that she felt that the ordinance was a little unclear and wanted clarification on who to call to enforce this matter. The board will look over the ordinance and amend this to have a clearer definition of what is illegal burning, and who a resident should be calling to enforce this. Joel Cope suggested calling the Town Health Officer, because if trash was being burned, this would fall under her jurisdictions.

Ben Applegate/Memphramagog Watershed Association: Ben Applegate was present to give the board a demonstration on the Memphramagog Watershed Association project and how it would affect the surrounding areas in the Northeast Kingdom and was asking for the board's support on this project. The board was very supportive of this project.

Animal Control Officer Appointment: A motion was made by Bill Hawkins to appoint Bruce Rumball-Petre to the position of Animal Control Officer to fill the vacancy. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Library Trustee Appointment: Jeanne Gervais motions to appoint Amanda Harris to the library Board of Trustees to fill the position vacated by Michelle Osborne until the next town meeting day. Bill Hawkins seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

NEK Chamber Membership: Mike Strait mentioned to the board that he thought it would be a good idea if Brighton became a member of the Northeast Kingdom Chamber. The board agreed this was a good idea. This membership will be good for regional marketing.

WWTF Update: Sludge removal will be done by the end of the week. There will be a groundbreaking ceremony held on August 26, 2025, at the wastewater treatment plant.

Pay Orders: The board reviewed and signed the pay orders for the general account, and the road department expense account.

Approve minutes from the previous meeting: The board reviewed the minutes of the July 2, 2025, meeting. A motion was made by Mike Testut to approve the minutes as printed. Jeanne Gervais seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried.

Other business: Mike informed the board that he accepted Tardif Heating's bid for the new hot water pump for the town hall. This will all be covered by the MERP Grant.

Jeanne informed the board that someone had been docking their boat overnight at the town dock, and she had ordered signs to be put in place that says no overnight docking.

Executive session: Jeanne Gervais made a motion that the board enter the Executive session in order to discuss a personnel matter under the provision of Title 1, Section 313 of the Vermont Statutes finding that premature public knowledge would substantially disadvantage the town. No decisions are expected following the Executive Session. Mike Testut seconds the motion, all in favor, so carried. The board entered Executive Session at 6:45 PM.

At 6:55 PM, a motion was made by Jeanne Gervais to exit Executive Session. Mike Testut seconds the motion, all in favor so carried.

No decision was made.

Meeting adjourned at 6:55 PM.