

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 14th, 2026
DRAFT

1. **CALL TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE**

The meeting was called to order by S. Peisch at 7:00 pm.

Members in attendance: Sam Peisch (Chair, Clerk), John Dunham (Vice Chair), Joe Szarejko (Highway Liaison), Walter Crandall (Facilities Use Liaison)

Members Absent: Sarah Bouchard

Others in attendance:

Stan Wilbur (Town administrator), Trevor Currier, Adrienne Raphael, Tom Steadman, Denny Cota, Don Mannigan, Chris Gherst, Robin Hopps, Kimball Butler, Jamie Schulte, Ivor Hughes, Kevin Lambert, Scott Baker, Hannah Schwartz, Stacy Jones (minutes recorder)

2. **ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS FROM THE AGENDA**

Additions: S. Peisch proposed moving the Bike/Pedestrian Grant Application to immediately follow item 10, Monkton Boro Veterans Memorial.

He also proposed adding discussion of sign purchases and a radar speed sign under Highway Department item 13(C), and adding a Silver Street right-of-way permit for tree work after Old Stage Road.

Deletions: W. Crandall noted there was nothing to report under Facility Use Requests and suggested skipping that item. The Board agreed.

3. **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

T. Steadman commented favorably on recent paving and road improvements.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

No public comment was offered.

5. **SELECTBOARD MEMBER FOCUS AREA/GOAL FOR THE YEAR**

W. Crandall said he continues to work with the town webmaster to refine the facility use request form and make it more user-friendly.

J. Dunham said he would like to revisit the possibility of solar on the town office roof, while recognizing that the financial outlay has changed.

S. Peisch said his focus area for the year is making the town budget process more transparent, timely, and streamlined.

J. Szarejko said his focus remains road and infrastructure improvements while being mindful of the town budget.

6. **REVIEW & APPROVE CHECK WARRANTS**

J. Szarejko moved to approve Check Warrant Report #60514 in the amount of \$37,331.66.

*W. Crandall seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.*** Primary items noted in discussion for the accounts payable warrant included the sheriff's department, Champlain Valley Equipment, computers, and sand and gravel expenses.

*J. Szarejko moved to approve Payroll Check Warrant Report #60506 in the amount of \$17,138.99. W. Crandall seconded. **Motion carried unanimously.***

7. **REVIEW & APPROVE OVERWEIGHT PERMITS**

J. Szarejko reported that only a few overweight permits were ready for approval and that several applications had been returned because of invalid insurance documentation.

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 14th, 2026
DRAFT

Permits approved since the last Selectboard meeting include: Henry Excavating, Joseph Bissonette, Lewis Excavating, Mack Transport, Palmier Waste, and SJW Docks.

8. **REVIEW & APPROVE FACILITY USE REQUESTS**

This item was skipped.

9. **REVIEW & APPROVE APRIL 28, 2026 MEETING MINUTES**

S. Peisch moved to approve the April 28, 2026 Selectboard meeting minutes as submitted. J. Dunham seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

10. **MONKTON BORO VETERANS MEMORIAL & FLAG/VERMONT VETERANS FUND APPLICATION**

S. Peisch opened discussion on relocating the veterans memorials from their current location on private property to a public site in town. He said he had contacted the Vermont Veterans Fund regarding possible grant support and emphasized that he wanted to begin the public conversation before any final decision was made.

D. Cota, a community member and veteran, spoke in support of relocating the memorials to the Town Office property, preferably near the existing flagpole and visible from the road. He explained that he had discussed the matter with members of the American Legion and believed the Town Office site would provide a respectful and prominent location.

Board members discussed possible placement options, visibility from the road, accessibility, and the need for further public input before choosing a final location. T. Currier stated that, if authorized by the Selectboard, the Highway Department would be willing to assist with equipment and labor related to the move.

11. **BIKE/PEDESTRIAN GRANT APPLICATION**

S. Peisch introduced discussion of the VTrans bike and pedestrian grant application and reviewed the earlier focus of the proposal, which included four Share the Road signs on Rotax and Davis Roads and a 300-foot pedestrian path on the east side of Pond Road.

A. Raphael discussed the history of the article and possible ways to leverage funds already in play. Discussion also addressed how the project might fit into a broader pedestrian-safety and village-connectivity effort.

Board members and participants discussed permitting, possible project scope, and alternative approaches. Questions were raised about the former parking arrangement near the green triangle, and T. Steadman asked whether neighboring property owners might oppose parts of the proposal.

K. Lambert described four permitting categories for the Board to consider and referenced his experience with the hardcourt project. He also asked about the VTrans grant process and shared a related resource.

S. Wilbur clarified the grant amount and will seek estimates for various sidewalk and path options, including gravel and paved alternatives, one-sided and two-sided options, and with-curb and without-curb designs.

12. **LIQUOR LICENSES**

S. Peisch moved to approve the Yates Orchard liquor license application. J. Szarejko seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 14th, 2026
DRAFT

13. **HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT**

A. Paving Update

T. Carrier reported that Pike is expected to finish Silver Street paving and then leave temporarily for another job in Stowe before returning. He also reported that Tyler Bridge Road will receive a shorter stretch of paving than originally anticipated due to increased raw material costs.

B. Hardscrabble Road Project

The Board received an update on the Hardscrabble Road project schedule and related work planning.

C. Review & Approve Culvert Purchase

The Board discussed potential purchases of culverts, a radar speed sign, and additional traffic-related signage. I. Hughes suggested Rotax Road as a possible location for the radar sign.

S. Peisch moved to approve the culvert and signs purchases as discussed. J. Szarejko seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

D. Sale of Highway Assets

The Board discussed the possible sale of highway assets, including whether the Town's F-550 should be sold with or without the sander.

E. Riverflow Work in the Right-of-Way Permit

J. Dunham summarized the recent site visit and walked the Board through site photographs. S. Baker described revisions to the plans and stated that the Fire Department had signed off on the redrawn access plan.

S. Peisch moved to approve the permit as amended. J. Szarejko seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

F. Piney Woods Road Update

S. Peisch reported that survey work on Piney Woods Road is underway and should be wrapping up soon.

G. Purchasing Policy

S. Peisch proposed adding language to the purchasing policy stating that purchases by the Road Foreman between \$5,000 and \$10,000 must be approved by the Selectboard Chair and the Selectboard Highway Liaison, in lieu of being brought to the full Board, provided they remain limited to the amount in the budget. He also said the existing language requiring competitive quotes from two vendors whenever possible would remain in place.

S. Peisch moved to amend the purchasing policy as proposed. W. Crandall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

H. Highway Access Policy

The Board agreed to defer fuller discussion of the Highway Access Policy to a future meeting.

I. Old Stage Road- Item Placed in Right-Of-Way

T. Carrier described a situation in which a homeowner placed large stones, broken

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 14th, 2026
DRAFT

cinder blocks, and other material into a newly installed ditch line associated with FEMA-funded work on Old Stage Road.

Board members discussed the effect of the material on drainage, the possibility of damage to the road, and the fact that no permission had been granted for work in the right-of-way.

J. Dunham moved to authorize S. Peisch to work with the town attorney to prepare a written notice of violation regarding the materials placed in the right-of-way to be sent to the landowner as soon as it is complete. J. Szarejko seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

J. Silver Street Right-of-Way Permit for Tree Work

The Board reviewed a right-of-way permit request for tree work on Silver Street. Discussion clarified that the trees themselves were not in the right-of-way, but that traffic control and temporary road impacts would be required during the work.

S. Peisch moved to approve the right-of-way permit. J. Szarejko seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Peisch then amended his motion to appoint J. Szarejko as the signer of the right-of-way permit. J. Dunham seconded the amendment. Motion carried unanimously.

14. REVIEW & APPROVE LOCAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN

J. Szarejko reviewed updates to the Local Emergency Management Plan, which had been developed with the regional emergency management director.

Board discussion included updated contact information, alternate shelter details, available equipment, and clarification about generator capacity at Town Hall and the school. Members discussed that Town Hall has a generator hookup but not a permanent generator, while the school is identified as an emergency shelter but does not currently have a generator in place.

Discussion also included whether it would make sense to pursue a generator or generator capability that could serve either location, and whether the school district should be approached about a future generator hookup at the school.

S. Peisch proposed adding River Flow as a special outreach community in the plan and updating the contact and objective information discussed during the meeting.

S. Peisch moved to approve the Local Emergency Management Plan pursuant to the discussed amendments and updates, including updated contact information, objective revisions, and the addition of River Flow as a special outreach community. J. Szarejko seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

15. ACT 181/ADDISON COUNTY REGIONAL PLAN

S. Peisch proposed delaying any action on Act 181 until after the upcoming public hearing on June 10th. The Board agreed to defer the matter.

16. ACTION ITEMS

J. Dunham

- Check with the school and/or superintendent regarding generator service and related questions for the school site.

MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, May 14th, 2026
DRAFT

J. Szarejko

- (Jointly with S. Peisch and S. Wilbur) Make the discussed updates to the Local Emergency Management Plan.

S. Peisch

- Work with the town attorney on a written notice of violation regarding materials placed in the Old Stage Road right-of-way.
- (Jointly with J. Szarejko and S. Wilbur) Make the discussed updates to the Local Emergency Management Plan.

S. Wilbur

- Seek estimates for sidewalk and path options, including gravel and paved alternatives, one-sided and two-sided options, and with-curb and without-curb designs.
- (Jointly with S. Peisch and J. Szarejko) Make the discussed updates to the Local Emergency Management Plan.

The Board

- Continue gathering public input on possible locations for the veterans memorials.
- Revisit the scope of the Bike/Pedestrian Grant Application at a future meeting.
- Return to the Highway Access Policy at a future meeting.

17. DATE & TIME OF NEXT MEETING

The next regular Selectboard meeting will be held Thursday, May 28, 2026, at 7:00 pm at Monkton Town Hall.

18. ADJOURNMENT

J. Dunham moved to adjourn at 9:04 pm. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Jones