



MONKTON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, June 25th, 2026
DRAFT

Call to Order & Attendance

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

Members in attendance:

Sarah Bouchard, Sam Peisch, Walter Crandall, Joe Szarejko

Members absent:

John Dunham

Others in attendance:

Stan Wilbur (Town Administrator), Lisa Burns, Trevor Currier (Road Foreman), Tom Steadman, Ashley Hafele, John McNERney, Callie Brynn, Tyler Cote, Stan Bunal, Beverly Soycheck, Jackie Fefee, Emile Cote, Stacy Jones (Minutes recorder)

Additions or Deletions from Agenda

No additions or deletions were made.

Announcements

S. Peisch announced the upcoming Strawberry Festival and thanked the library trustees and volunteers for their work on the event and book sale.

Public Comment

No public comment was offered.

Review & Approve Meeting Minutes

S. Bouchard moved to approve the June 11, 2026 Selectboard meeting minutes. S. Peisch seconded. Motion carried, with W. Crandall abstaining because he was not present at that meeting.

Review & Approve Overweight Permits

J. Szarejko reported that there were no new overweight permits since the last meeting.

Review & Approve Facility Use Requests

W. Crandall reported that facility use has been slow. He asked whether the Board had any concerns about booking recurring use requests into 2027.

Board members expressed no concerns with putting 2027 requests on the calendar so long as they do not conflict with regular town meetings or committee use.

Review & Approve Check Warrants

W. Crandall moved to approve Payroll Check Warrant Report #60617 in the amount of \$15,698.21. S. Peisch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.



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W. Crandall moved to approve Accounts Payable Warrant Report #60625 in the amount of \$688,204.92. S. Peisch seconded. Motion carried unanimously. The largest share of this warrant was for paving.

Highway Department

Biweekly Update

J. Szarejko reported that most tree cutting and chipping for the Hardscrabble project had been completed. He also reported that tree cutting on Church Road had been completed in preparation for work there, and that roadside mowing and grading had continued.

T. Currier reported that the roadside mower had been down since Monday, but replacement parts were expected from the dealer on Friday.

Church & Mountain Road Proposed Work

J. Szarejko reviewed the proposed Church Road work and explained that much of the ditching and culvert work would be put out to bid so local contractors could perform that work while the town crew remained focused on Hardscrabble Road. He noted that the Highway Department would still provide culverts, materials, and final grading.

J. Szarejko moved to authorize S. Wilbur to post the bid for the proposed Church Road work as drafted and accepted by the Board. W. Crandall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Monkton Town Forest Parking Area Proposal

The Board revisited the proposal for parking areas near the Town Forest. It was noted that the Town Forest Committee supported the proposal.

Piney Woods Road

S. Peisch reported that the Board had spoken with DuBois & King regarding ongoing engineering and design work for Piney Woods Road. He said the immediate next step was to file a FEMA extension request because the project would not be completed by the current deadline.

J. Szarejko reported that another meeting with the FEMA representative was scheduled for July 2 and said FEMA appeared receptive to the updates provided so far.

Board discussion included the possibility that the state permitting process could require a different culvert design than what FEMA had originally approved, including the possibility of additional box culverts. T. Steadman asked for clarification regarding possible added costs and expenses incurred to date.

The Board reached consensus to proceed with the FEMA extension request.

Potential Sale of Highway Dept. Assets

No update was provided on the sale of highway assets.



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Right of Way Request- Old Lovers Lane Culvert

J. Szarejko reported on a site visit with T. Currier regarding Tylor Cote's request to install a culvert on Old Lovers Lane in order to access property affected by flooding and beaver activity. Both reported no concerns with the proposal.

J. Szarejko moved to approve the right-of-way request on Old Lovers Lane. S. Peisch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Right of Way Letter - 504 Hardscrabble Road

J. Szarejko reviewed a draft letter to a homeowner regarding vegetation growing into the right-of-way on Hardscrabble Road and creating a sight-distance safety concern for neighboring driveways.

T. Currier noted that the Highway Department had addressed similar issues at that location in the past. The letter would provide the homeowner an opportunity to trim the vegetation before further town action.

J. Szarejko moved to send the letter to the homeowner. S. Bouchard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Vermont Equipment Loan Fund Approval

S. Peisch reported that the town had been approved for the Vermont Equipment Loan Fund financing for the remaining grader payment and thanked Kim Barbour for her work on the application.

S. Peisch moved to authorize himself to sign the loan documents on behalf of the Selectboard. W. Crandall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Parking Spaces by Old Library/ "Town Triangle"

S. Peisch introduced discussion of restoring or redefining parking spaces near the old library and announcement sign, sometimes referred to as the Town Triangle. He noted that parking lines had worn away and that public parking in the village center may be increasingly important.

Board members and attendees discussed available space, one-way traffic flow, visibility, the need for clearer signage, possible crosswalk striping, access to deeded spaces associated with the old library property, sheriff enforcement use of the area, and emergency vehicle access.

J. McNerney noted that any barrier in the area would need to remain movable because the sheriff may need access there, and T. Currier noted that traffic flow changes could affect truck and emergency vehicle turning movements.

No action was taken. The Board agreed the idea merited further investigation, including consultation with the sheriff, fire department, and available transportation-study resources.



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Act 181 Tier 1B Opt-In

S. Peisch reopened discussion of possible Act 181 Tier 1B opt-in status in light of additional information from the Addison County Regional Planning Commission and feedback from the Development Review Board.

Board members discussed the Planning Commission's support for the concept, the Development Review Board's concerns, and whether additional input from representatives of both bodies would be useful before any decision is made.

L. Burns raised questions about the practical effects of opting in, possible development outcomes, enforcement implications, and the relationship between any opt-in decision and the still-pending town plan update.

The Board agreed to continue the discussion at a future meeting and to invite representatives from the Development Review Board and Planning Commission.

Vergennes Area Rescue Squad Contract & Feedback on Board Representation

The Board reviewed the Vergennes Area Rescue Squad contract, including clarifications made since the prior meeting and a typographical correction to W. Crandall's name.

S. Peisch moved to approve the contract with the amendment correcting W. Crandall's last name. W. Crandall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

The Board also discussed the Rescue Squad's idea of having broader service-area representation on its board and expressed general support for that concept.

Appointments:

ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee

The Board considered an interim appointment to the Addison County Regional Planning Commission Transportation Advisory Committee following Deb Sprague's resignation.

Tom Steadman spoke about his interest in the position, including long-standing transportation concerns in the region, and truck traffic issues affecting Monkton.

Board members discussed the role, meeting commitment, the importance of reporting back to the Selectboard, the value of learning from regional best practices and grant opportunities, and coordination with the outgoing representative.

Library Trustee

The Board considered interim appointment candidates for a Library Trustee vacancy.

Ashley Hafele spoke about her library experience, prior service as a trustee for the South Burlington Public Library, familiarity with current Vermont library issues and grant opportunities, marketing experience, and interest in supporting the Russell Memorial Library, its director, staff, and child-focused programming.



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Town Employee Performance Reviews: Template and Process

S. Peisch opened discussion on a possible revised employee evaluation process. He described the current process, and W. Crandall and T. Currier also commented on evaluation practices and possible ways to streamline them.

J. Szarejko noted that few evaluations had been completed prior to last year.

Consensus was reached to move forward with the proposed new review process.

Alternate Meeting Spaces at Town Hall (South Wing and Back Offices)

Discussion tabled for a later meeting.

Grants

USDA Rural Development Grant

This grant is not being pursued.

Local Roads (VTRANS)

S. Peisch reviewed the current status of the Local Roads Grant application and thanked T. Currier for his work on it.

S. Bouchard moved to authorize S. Peisch to sign the application. J. Szarejko seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Vermont Veterans Grant

S. Peisch provided an update on the Vermont Veterans Fund grant and shared a rendering of what the veterans memorials might look like. Discussion occurred, but no action was taken.

Other Business

T. Steadman asked how well Town Forest access points are marked. J. McNerney said signage is on the Town Forest Committee's agenda.

Stan Bunal asked about plans for Hardscrabble Road and Piney Woods Road and also asked whether Boro Hill would be paved. T. Currier reviewed the current plan and discussion followed.

J. McNerney reported that wood would soon be available because the wood bank is full.

T. Steadman asked about the Tyler Bridge culvert.

Emile Cote thanked the Board for a well-run meeting.

T. Currier asked for help raising public awareness about slowing down around work zones and also commented on a possible adjustment to the sign budget process.

Action Items

- S. Wilbur will post the Church Road bid documents.
- The Board will continue work on the FEMA extension request for Piney Woods Road.



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- The Hardscrabble Road right-of-way letter will be mailed to the homeowner.
- Representatives from the Development Review Board and Planning Commission will be invited to a future discussion on Act 181 / Tier 1B.
- S. Peisch will connect Tom Steadman and Ashley Hafele with the appropriate town contacts.
- S. Bouchard will work on website updates for the Town Forest.

Executive Session - Personnel & Appointment Candidate Review

S. Peisch moved to find that premature general public knowledge about a person or persons employed by the town would place both the person or persons and the town at a substantial disadvantage. S. Bouchard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

S. Peisch moved to enter Executive Session to discuss a personnel relations provision of 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B) of the Vermont statutes. S. Bouchard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

W. Crandall moved to exit executive session at 8:51 pm. S. Peisch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Upon returning to open session, S. Bouchard moved to appoint Tom Steadman to the ACRPC Transportation Advisory Committee. S. Peisch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

W. Crandall moved to appoint Ashley Haeefele to the Library Trustee vacancy. S. Peisch seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Adjourn

S. Peisch moved to authorize W. Crandall to sign the Old Lovers Lane right-of-way application. W. Crandall seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

W. Crandall moved to adjourn. S. Bouchard seconded. Motion carried unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Stacy Jones