



TOWN OF HARTFORD SELECTBOARD MINUTES

Tuesday, October 14, 2025, 6:00pm
Hartford Town Hall, 171 Bridge Street,
White River Junction, VT 05001

This meeting was conducted in person at Town Hall

Present: Chair, Mary Erdei; Vice Chair, Michael Hoyt; Clerk, Ashley Andreas; Miranda Dupre; Ida Griesemer; Erik Krauss; Tim Fariel; John Haverstock; Lana Livingston; Adam Grounds; Sheila Santaw-Cameron; Jesse Pollard; Connie Kelley; Dana Clawson; Bryan Gazda; Lori Hirshfield; Lexi Webster; David Briggs; Peggy Adams; Lucas Dunford

Present on Zoom: Laura Williams; Brian Beaudoin; Marie Alvin; Marcy Bartlett; Heidi Duto

JAM LINK: <https://www.youtube.com/live/F7FuE06OGaM>

- I. Call to Order the Selectboard Meeting at 6pm by Chair, Mary Erdei
Selectboard Chair, Mary Erdei took this time to apologize to staff members about the length of the last Selectboard meeting causing them to stay more than an hour past their times posted on the agenda.
- II. Pledge of Allegiance was recited and led by Mike Hoyt
- III. Local Liquor Control Board: None
- IV. Local Cannabis Control Board: None
- V. Order of Agenda: There were no changes to the order of agenda.
- VI. Selectboard
 1. Public Comment
Marie Alvin of Hartford related her concern about Twin Pines and the Haven. She believes there should be more consideration for people in recovery. She also would like to see the police calls report showing villages and addresses.

Marcy Bartlett of Wilder reported that Wilder has had 2 watermain breaks recently. She is meeting with town staff to look at wilder infrastructure. Water is easy to forget about until you don't have it. She would also like the Town to look back at impact fees and expenses for responses to the Haven. These warrant looking at again.

Heidi Duto of White River Jct. reminded people of the Outreach HPD group meeting on October 23rd, 5:30 at HPD. All are welcome.
 2. Selectboard Comments and Announcements
Ida Griesemer commented on the remaining OPIOD settlement law suit of \$200,000 in funds left over. If anyone knows of any organizations that would be interested there are funds available.

Mary Erdei has written a note to Michael Redmond who is retiring from the Haven. The new director is starting on November 1st. All are welcome to sign the card.
 3. Appointments
 - a. Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss made the motion to Re-Appoint Jo-Ann Ells to serve as the Zoning Administrator Officer for the Town of Hartford for a 3-year Term from November 23, 2025 through November 22, 2028. Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

4. Town Manager Report

Significant Activity Reports Link: <https://www.hartford-vt.org/Archive.aspx?ADID=530>

Selectboard Outreach Events

On the evening of Friday, October 3, members of the Selectboard participated in a Meet & Greet event at The Filling Station, located in downtown White River Junction. The event coincided with an Upper Valley Welcome Wagon event organized by the Green Mountain Economic Development Corporation. Much fun was had by all and we can be pleased with this successful outreach event.

In terms of Selectboard outreach, there will be a Community Forum open to all Town residents (and to be broadcast by JAM) on Wednesday, November 19 from 5:30 pm to 7:00 pm hosted by the Quechee Club in their Main Dining Hall.

DPW Director Retirement

DPW Director Bryan Gazda has notified the Town Manager of his planned retirement at the end of January, 2026. We appreciate the substantial advance notice Bryan has provided and we will use the time to recruit a successor. We appreciate Bryan's many contributions during his tenure at DPW and we wish him and his family a happy, healthy retirement.

Park N Ride Lighting

The Town Manager and Environmental Sustainability Coordinator met with the two VTrans employees overseeing grant funding for park and ride facilities on Tuesday, October 7 at the Wilder Park N Ride. They recommended that the Town consider three lights (as opposed to two), noting that solar lights may have the advantage of avoiding costly excavation and could save two trees along the back fence of the Park n Ride. Dana will explore this option and we plan to report back to VTrans before October 27, as requested.

Audit

The Town's external auditors are soon coming to Town Hall for several weeks to review the FY25 budget year. The members of the Selectboard are encouraged to stop in for a brief check in with the auditors—usually on the third floor at Town Hall. The auditors will be presenting their findings at the November 25 Selectboard meeting.

5. Board Report, Motions & Ordinances

- a. Energy Commission Update presented by Energy Commission Chair, Jesse Pollard.

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12955/selectboard-memo-HEC-Update-10-10-2025>

- b. Consider and Approve Revised VTrans SFY26 Grant-in-Aid presented by Bryan Gazda.

Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion that the Selectboard authorizes the Department of Public works to utilize the SFY26 Grant-In-Aid to the fully awarded value of up to \$53,000 with a 20% local match of up to \$13,250 funded through the approved FY26 paving program and Fund 10's FY26 Summer Maintenance activities with the savings utilized to further the Spring 2026 paving projects. Selectboard Member, Tim Fariel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

- c. Review and Approve Solid Waste Implementation Plan

<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12956/SB-Agenda-Memo---2025-SWIP-Adoption>

Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss made the motion to adopt and authorize the Director of Public Works to sign the pre-approved 2025 SWIP as presented, for submission to the State of Vermont's Agency for Natural Resource's Solid Waste Management and Prevention Division for final review and approval. Selectboard Member, Miranda Dupre seconded the motion. 6 were in favor, 1 (Fariel) abstained and the motion passed.

- d. Review of Transfer Station Operations by Representatives of Sanborn Head, Laura Williams and Brian Beaudoin
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12957/Transfer-Station-Feasibility-Plan-revision-2---Oct--2025>
- e. Review Proposal for C&D Disposition at Landfill Presented by Bryan Gazda and Laura Williams and Brian Beaudoin.
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12963/Sanborn-Head-C-and-D-Capping-Proposal>
Selectboard Clerk, Ashley Andreas made the motion that In accordance with Section 3. 7 of the Town Purchasing Policy, the Selectboard waive the requirements of Section 6 -Competitive Sealed Proposals and accept Sanborn Head & Associates, Inc., 6 Bedford Farms Dr, Bedford, New Hampshire, proposal for Engineer Consulting Services - Construction and Demolition (C&D) Stockpile, dated August 28, 2025, in the amount of \$74,200, and authorize the Town Manager to sign the proposal. Selectboard Member, Tim Fariel seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- f. Continued Discussion of Municipal Planning Grant Application presented by Lori Hirshfield.
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12959/FY-2026-Municipal-Planning-Grant-Application-Project-Summary-for-10-14-25-SB-Mtg>
Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to direct staff to develop a grant application reflective of the approach as outlined in this memo for final consideration at the October 28, 2025. Selectboard meeting. Selectboard Member, Miranda Dupre seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- g. Execute Vibrancy Grant Documents presented by Lexi Webster.
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12960/Letter-of-Attestation>
Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to Approve and sign the attached Letter of Attestation. Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.
- h. FY27 Budget Overview presented by John Haverstock.
<https://www.hartford-vt.org/DocumentCenter/View/12968/Total-for-posting-on-website>

VII. Commission Reports
Mary Erdei: Bugbee Building Ad Hoc Committee Report, October 9, 2025

Mark Bradley asked members to review the Feasibility Study and/or the former presentation to the Selectboard recording to bring questions for the architects who will be

meeting with us on Wednesday, October 22 at 4:30 at Bugbee. You may send questions to Mark to collate in advance.

The short-term projects subcommittee (consisting of Dana Clawson, Sean Lacey, Mark Bradley and Linda Simon-Miller) met before this meeting and divided projects into 1) Urgent, 2) Less Urgent, 3) Can Delay:

The 2nd subcommittee reporting on the Building Programs was not able to meet in the interim.

The next steps? Discussion and exploration of future financing options which will be on the agenda for the next as well as the end goal of this ad hoc committee: Restoration vs Replacement???

Next meeting dates: Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025 at Bugbee @4:30 pm
Wednesday, November 5th, 2025 at Bugbee @4:30 pm

Attendees: Scott Farnsworth, Linda Simon-Miller, Mary Erdei, John Haverstock, Daniel George, Mark Bradley, Sean Lacey, Emily Santaw, Dana Clawson, Sue Buckholz.

Erik Krauss: Conservation Commission

The Commission is working on many projects. Here is one I wanted to highlight this month:

The American Chestnut Foundation offered to provide genetically resistant chestnut saplings for the Town Forest (blight decimated chestnut trees in US between early 1900 and midcentury). Planting location details are still being worked out by the Commission based on where the trees might do well. It was agreed to plant saplings in spring.

Also, as you may know, the Conservation Commission plays a central role in Green Up Day in Hartford. Statistics from the 2025 Green Up Day include: participation of 430 volunteers, collection of 83 tires and 5,838 pounds of trash and greening-up of 92 miles of Hartford roads. This was basically the same number of volunteers as the previous year and the volume of trash down 29% from previous year.

VIII. Consent Agenda Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to approve the Consent Agenda as listed. Selectboard Member, Miranda Dupre seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed.

Approve Payroll Ending: 10/11/2025

Approve A/P Manifest: 10/10/2025 & 10/16/2025

Approve Meeting Minutes of: 9/30/2025

Future Meetings Approved: 10/28/2025; 10/30/2025 (Budget); 11/6/2025 (Budget); 11/12/2025; 11/18/2025 (Budget); 11/25/2025

IX. Executive Session: Discuss Ratification of Clerical Worker's Union Tentative Agreement; Discuss Potential HPD/Dispatch Employment Offer; Consider Legal Strategy on WHO/FIPP

In order to allow for (a) the Town Manager's update on Clerical Union contract negotiations, (b) a discussion of the Hartford Police Department's effort to recruit Dispatch personnel, and (c) a discussion of legal strategy recording conflicts between the

Welcoming Hartford Ordinance (WHO) and the Town's Fair & Impartial Policing Policy (FIPP) in Executive Session I

Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt made the motion to find the premature general knowledge would clearly place this body and/or persons involved at a substantial disadvantage, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 313 (a)(1). and Move to discuss a potential contract, personnel matters and legal advice, pursuant to 1 V.S.A. Section 131 subsections (a)(1)(A); (a)(1)(B); (a)(1)(E) and (a)(1)(F). Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor and the motion passed at 9:00PM.

NOTE: Selectboard Vice Chair, Mike Hoyt left the meeting at 9:20PM.

Selectboard Clerk, Ashley Andreas made the motion to close the Executive Session at 10:48PM. Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss seconded the motion. All were in favor (6) and the motion passed.

Motions:

Selectboard Clerk, Ashley Andreas made the motion that the Selectboard ratify the Collective Bargaining Agreement (with Side Letter to Michelle Wheatley) that has been negotiated between the Town and the Union and which has been ratified by the Union's membership. Selectboard Member, Ida Griesemer seconded the motion. All were in favor (6) and the motion passed.

Selectboard Clerk, Ashley Andreas made the motion to task the Town Manager with continuing to explore ways to align the Welcoming Hartford Ordinance with the Town's Fair and Impartial Policing Policy. Selectboard Member, Erik Krauss seconded the motion. All were in favor (6) and the motion passed.

X. Adjourn the Selectboard Meeting

Selectboard Member, Erik Kauss made the motion to Adjourn the meeting at 10:56P.M. Selectboard Member, Miranda Dupre seconded the motion. All were in favor (6) and the motion passed.



Ashley Andreas, Clerk

October 14, 2025 Selectboard Meeting

