

TOWN OF STAMFORD
SELECT BOARD MEETING
May 7, 2026
(UNAPPROVED)

Present: Selectboard: Nancy L. Bushika, Chair, Kurt Gamari, John Dunn, Jedidiah Gramlin, and Michael G. Denault

Visitors: Debra Burchard, Laura Champagne, Lisa Gramlin, Jenifer Hughs, Sheila Lawrence, William Levine, Marta Miller, Debra Righi, James Righi, David Saldo, Diane Saldo, James Stimpson, and Nathan Tatro.
Lori Shepard, Select Board Secretary.

Nancy Bushika opened the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance, welcomed everyone, and read a statement with procedural rules for the meeting. Jed Gramlin recorded the meeting for his YouTube video.

HEARING OF VISITORS

1. Nate Tatro recently purchased property on Mill Road. He wanted the town to be aware of some boundary discrepancy and right-of-way issues.
2. Laura Champagne informed the board that the local ATV group participated in Green Up Day and picked up a lot of trash on County Road and the loop.
3. Marta Miller stated that in anticipation of the town plan update, a survey will be coming out. Residents can respond by mail, online or by dropping off their survey at the town office.
4. Marta Miller advised that as part of the town plan update, the Planning Commission will host a Historic Walking Tour on May 30, 2026 at 12 p.m. The Bennington County Regional Commission members (BCRC) will give the tour and Kurt Gamari will be there also. After the walk, the Planning Commission will hold a Community Visioning Session to receive public input. The rain date will be June 6, 2026.

MINUTES

1. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the special meeting minutes of March 30, 2026 as written. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
2. MOTION by Jed Gramlin to accept the regular meeting minutes of April 16, 2026 as written. SECONDED by Kurt Gamari. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
3. MOTION by Mike Denault to accept the special meeting minutes of April 23, 2026 as written. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

SELECTBOARD ORDERS

The Selectboard reviewed and approved the following orders:

- WARRANT #17 \$11,266.56 payroll
- WARRANT #18 \$21,488.70 accounts payable

HIGHWAY UPDATE

1. The highway budget and anticipated projects were reviewed during a recent meeting with representatives of the Agency of Transportation in order to complete the annual highway financial plan. MOTION by John Dunn to approve and sign the annual highway financial plan. SECONDED by Mike Denault. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.
2. The town was awarded the Better Back Roads grant to replace the culvert at the intersection of Sportsmen Road and Suzanne Drive. The grant is \$16,000.00 and there will be a 20% town match.
3. Dave Tatro has been working to remove part of the state salt shed which collapsed this winter. The town expects to be reimbursed for the cost.

RECYCLING

1. Nancy Bushika attended an Alliance meeting yesterday. The budget will increase by 2% over last year.
2. The Alliance has hired John Pittroff as the Outreach Coordinator. He will visit schools and businesses to promote recycling.
3. The Household Hazardous Waste Facility will open on May 18, 2026.
4. They are implementing a new system for battery collection so the ends of the batteries won't have to be taped anymore.

GREEN UP DAY

Marta Miller said the day went well and there were several volunteers. Deb Burchard said many other towns provide the Green Up Day trash bags a week or two earlier and people are encouraged to clean up all week long and then they just drop the bags off at the transfer station throughout the week. The towns have noticed increased participation this way. Everyone agreed it would be a great idea for next year.

SPECIAL JOINT SELECT BOARD, LIBRARY TRUSTEES AND SCHOOL DIRECTORS MEETING

Nancy Bushika felt the meeting went well. There was a good discussion and board members came away with plans to keep lines of communication open and work with each other. Mike Denault encouraged residents to get involved and attend School Board meetings more often.

POLICY FOR APPOINTMENTS

Nancy Bushika presented the draft policy and asked the board if they felt a policy was needed. It would bring more consistency to how appointments are made. They decided that all letters of interest should be in writing and submitted in person, not by email. They discussed interviewing candidates if there was more than one person interested. They decided that expiring terms would be advertised and people holding those terms would not be automatically reappointed, they would need to submit a letter of interest to be considered for reappointment. The board decided these would be guidelines, not a policy, and agreed with the revisions.

JUSTICE OF THE PEACE

1. Nancy Bushika read the letter of resignation from Mary Lou Wright as Justice of the Peace.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to accept the resignation of Mary Lou Wright with regret. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

2. This resignation creates a vacancy. Anyone interested in serving as a Justice of the Peace should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board within the next two weeks.

LIBRARY BOARD VACANCY

The Select Board requested letters of interest at their last meeting. No new letters have been received; there is only one interested candidate.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to appoint Victoria Jefferies as Library Trustee until the March election. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

PLANNING COMMISSION

1. The board received four letters of interest: Sheila Lawrence, Aaron Malachuk, Pamela Tworig, and Jenifer Hughs. In accordance with the board's newly developed guidelines for appointments, interviews will be scheduled prior to the next Select Board meeting.

2. David Saldo submitted a letter to the Select Board and Planning Commission. He stated that the Planning Commission should not have entered executive session at their last meeting to choose who they would recommend to fill the vacancy. He feels the discussion should have taken place during open meeting.

3. Sheila Lawrence asked about her term and confirmed that the board knew she wanted to continue to serve on the Planning Commission.

911 NUMBERING UPDATE

Nancy Bushika reviewed the letter from Bob Briggs to be sent out to property owners who are not displaying their 911 number in compliance with state law and the town’s policy.

WINDMILL UPGRADE

The town received a letter from Green Mountain Power indicating that they will be removing eleven smaller windmills on Searsburg and will replace them with three larger windmills in the same area.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to find that premature general public knowledge of a personnel matter would place the town at a substantial disadvantage. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to enter executive session for a personnel matter pursuant to 1 V.S.A. § 313(a)(1)(B). SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The Select Board entered executive session at 7:13 p.m.

MOTION by Kurt Gamari to exit executive session. SECONDED by Jed Gramlin. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The board exited executive session at 7:25 p.m. No action was taken.

The Select Board discussed compiling a list of questions to ask when interviewing candidates for town appointments.

MOTION by Mike Denault to adjourn. SECONDED by John Dunn. All in favor. Motion APPROVED. The meeting ended at 7:30 p.m.

Kurt Gamari
Clerk

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REMINDERS

1. Townspeople should sign up with the state’s free communications network, VT-Alert. You can sign up at vtalert.gov to receive notifications. You can choose how you would like to be alerted (phone call, text or email) and can choose what type of alerts you would like to receive, i.e. weather, road closures, public health, etc.
2. Anyone interested in serving as Lister, Energy Coordinator, Tree Warden, BCRC Representative to the Regional Transportation Advisory Committee, or Justice of the Peace, should submit a letter of interest to the Select Board.
3. The town office is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Fridays from 8 a.m. to 12 p.m. and on Thursdays from 1 p.m. to 7 p.m. Closed Mondays.