TOWN OF CRAFTSBURY
SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES

TUESDAY, MAY 19, 2026
7 PM | CRAFTSBURY TOWN HALL

Present Alison Blaney, Jim Jones, Bruce Urie| TOWN CLERK Michelle Warren; ROAD FOREMAN Steve Perkins | Sherilyn Peterson (ONLINE); David Rowell; Christopher Roy (NEWPORT DAILY EXPRESS)

Meeting Agenda

- **Action — Call Meeting to Order |** Jim at 7:01 pm
- **Action — Adjustments / Changes to Agenda |** None
- **Action – Approve the Meeting Minutes of May 5, 2026 |**
  Alison motioned to approve the May 5th minutes; Bruce seconded. All ayed. Motion passed.
- **Action – Village Improvement Society: Use of A&U Funds for Gazebo | Harry Miller**
  Village Improvement Society requests use of portion of unused Antiques & Uniques Festival funds to assist with rehabilitation of the bandstand and gazebo on The Common. Anyone wishing to volunteer to assist is welcome to join the rehab team. Plan: fix the bandstand then proceed with gazebo stage: fix and build. Volunteer labor; primary costs consist of crane rental, materials. Some costs covered by maturing CDs; roof work already completed. Estimate about $5K-$10K for paint. **Alison motioned to use $5K of A&U funds for help with gazebo rehabilitation; Bruce seconded.** No further discussion. **All ayed. Motion passed.**
- **Discussion / Action – Interim Financing for Town Garage Bridge Project | The Board will review options for short-term financing to cover construction costs pending FEMA reimbursement.**
  SB members reviewed details from bank discussions: Community National Bank, Community NA, Union Bank. Seeking $750K line-of-credit to assist with cash-flow for Town Garage Bridge project (damaged in 2023 flood – unusable). FEMA estimates about $807,796.04 in repairs (amount requested from FEMA). Town must pay costs in advance and receive FEMA reimbursements. Bank interest options: 4.85%, ,4.69% and 4.89%. Town has account at Union, which has higher rate than other bank. **Alison motioned to accept the Community National Bank line-of-credit (4.69% for 12 months) to use as temporary finance for the Town Garage Bridge project (for use only when necessary); Bruce seconded.** No further discussion. **All ayed. Motion passed.**
- **Discussion — Letter from Town of Norton Regarding Act 181 | Requests Select Board Take Action**
  Town of Norton sent draft letter showing how Towns are addressing provisions of Act 181 and informing representatives, senators. Craftsbury Planning Commission Member David Rowell shared his perspective of the law with the SB. The Land Use Review Board is reviewing various components; very fluid with changes almost daily. “Super-restrictive” and “short-sighted”. Land trusts coming in and “buying up everything and not allowing growth. Must have growth.” Cannot restrict growth; will raise costs where it will be cost-prohibitive to make any land improvements: wetlands, culverts, septic systems. The House has repealed the Road rule. Senate trying to retain. A crap shot; do not believe that even if passed, an election would change anything. Do not see how it would remain intact. Areas now where those who work there can no longer afford to live there. SB members said they appreciated Mr. Rowell’s input. Town Clerk will draft a letter and circulate among Select Board, Planning Commission and other stakeholders. **NOTE:** Vermont's highly contentious 2024 land-use law (Act 181 of 2024, which created a new jurisdictional trigger for Act 250) would overhaul Vermont's signature development review process through a proposed "tiering" system, "which eases regulations for housing in

urban centers but imposes strict new environmental conservation rules—such as road length limits and development restrictions—on rural lands. This jurisdictional trigger provided that as of July 1, 2026, 'the construction of a road or roads and any associated driveways' would require an Act 250 permit when the length of any single road is greater than 800 feet, or the length of all roads and any associated driveways in combination is greater than 2,000 feet. See 10 V.S.A. §6001(3)(A)(xii). Exceptions are provided for municipal, state, utility, farm, and forestry roads and driveways. (Note: as of April 20, 2026, the Board has suspended further work on Road Construction Jurisdiction including guidance and rulemaking as the Legislature has indicated that it will repeal these portions of Act 181.)"

- **Committee Reports**

  None

- **Weight Permits**
  Warren Hill Trucking; McElwain Contracting LLC; Structural Wood

- **Clerk's Report**

  - Use of the Town Hall for Sewing Group, first Sunday of the month – good set up. Great idea; no money involved; all volunteers just helping each other.
  - Flowers at Corner S. Craftsbury Road and Creek Road | A nearby resident has a daughter who would like to make beautification of the little triangle there a summer project: plant flowers, etc.
  - Common Porta-Potty Email - Sherilyn Peterson | Town Clerk discussed emails and letter received regarding placement of the "big blue" porta-potty. Pictures included. Issue addressed last year; moved to edge of parking lot. Not by the tree. Moving to other end of the Common makes access more difficult. Ms. Peterson noted it was 850 feet distance and a 3-minute walk; SB members noted the access was for all, not just fully able-bodied individuals. She also asked if a more neutral color could be used. Church is not a public facility; must be in parking area and available for Town functions. Will try to move more toward school, gazebo. Will research other colors (brown, gray, green or tan).
  - Freedom & Unity: Legislative Wrap Up on Saturday, June 6th | Legislative representatives with refreshment; encourage voters to vote, ask questions, remain informed.
  - Email: Insurance Company Wants to Change Contract | Issues regarding repairs; whether claim closes now or after final walk-through and whether claim covers existing damages or unforeseen six months later. Solomons want to extend the claim; insurance company wants to settle. Will fix all things currently requiring any fix, replacement; won't close claim (or complete final sign offs on work orders) until final walk through. Reiterate: will not close claim until final walk-thru.

- **Road Foreman Report**

  - Barbara Orlovsky Email (Coburn Hill Road) | Class 4 road; she will pay to hire Town worker to dig out; also would Town provide a couple of loads of gravel to improve the surface? Road grading already planned by Town; she does not want to pay for gravel. Do not put crush on Class 4 roads: Town has three Class 4 Roads: Coburn Hill Road; Prescott Drive; Twin Bridge). Town has X-amount of dollars available for Class 4 road work: what is done for one should be done for others (or, if Coburn Hill gets $500 worth of gravel, should do same for other two). She can pay for Ethan but Town will not provide free resurface. $2K split between three roads.
  - Pit Dried Up: Town no longer able to find anything at Mallets gravel pit; everything done. They were notified that Town is finished. Foreman has obtained quotes for 1500 yards of sand: have more than 6K on hand and room for 1500 more. Matter of which vendor to use: three options nearby.

- Project Costs: Atwood / Atwood Hill, Hatch Brook, Wild Branch | culverts, guardrails and repairs: do all this year. Haven't done in a while. Encompasses an entire area: $21K for all three projects (three times the budget: $7K). Can South Craftsbury Road be included? North Wolcott Road. Can do all three for $19K, possibly? Foreman will check with vendor and respond to SB with details.

- **Other Business & Walk-ins with Business to Come Before the Select Board**
  - Town Hired Andrew May as the Grant Coordinator: he has already started: $25 / hour; very knowledgeable.
  - Phone Call Re Trimming Around Power Lines: Can Town do anything? Caller must contact those who did work. Beyond Town jurisdiction.

- **Public Comment**
  None

- **Upcoming Projects to Keep**
  1. Discontinuance of Stephen Martin's untraveled road
  2. VOIP Phone Service Update (transition to NE Wireless)
  3. Building Notification Form Update – Planning Commission
  4. Throwing Up Road – Stephen Martin
  5. Winter Bids for next year (including Tanner Road) – contact Cody Thompson
  6. Appropriations Policy Review/Update
  7. Purchase Policy
  8. Cell Tower Regulation
  9. Contractor Letters
  10. Unclaimed Parcels
  11. Emergency Shelter Triggers, Assistance, and N2N Activation

- **Decide Next Meeting Date |** Next meeting will be at 7:30 pm on Monday, June 1st, at Town Hall.

- **Adjourn |** Meeting adjourned at 8:12 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Hudson, Select Board Clerk