

Town of Danville  
 Selectboard Minutes  
 October 2, 2025  
 Danville Town Hall (6:00 pm)

**Board Members Present:** Janice Ouellette, Eric Bach, Matt Choate, Alison Low and Glenn Herrin

**Others Present:** Audrey DeProspero, Michelle Leclerc, Lee Beattie, Joe Hebert, Michael Hogue, Laural Ruggles and Mary Beattie

**Meeting called to order** by Chair Janice Ouellette at 6:00 pm.

1. **Additions to the agenda:** None

2. **Approve minutes:**

*Motion by Glenn Herrin, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alison Low to recognize the **Regular** September 18, 2025 minutes as accurately reflecting the agenda of the meeting. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

3. **Municipal Minute: Public Comment – Glenn Herrin:**

**Public comment:** The Open Meeting Law requires that, “(a)t an open meeting, the public shall be given a reasonable opportunity to express its opinion on matters considered by the public body during the meeting, as long as order is maintained. Public comment shall be subject to reasonable rules established by the chairperson.” 1 V.S.A. § 312(h). Allowing public comment on each agenda item after it’s discussed but before taking action will help your body make more informed decisions while simultaneously impressing upon the public the value of their comments. In addition, we recommend that your body also dedicate a more open-ended opportunity for public comment under the heading of “other business” either towards the beginning or end (or both) of your meetings as a best practice. While you shouldn’t act on anything brought up under “other business” because it wasn’t properly warned, including it on your agenda will give the public an opportunity to raise topics for discussion and potential action at future meetings.

We treat that informally in Danville, what we are trying to do is make minor changes. Under Visitor section there will be open-ended comment, it is other business that there will be no Q & A. Under Issues and information Chair will ask if there is public comment and Chair will allow public to have input. If you are here on the agenda, we will have a back and forth. If you have concerns, you should find lead, don’t blast an email to all, and ask to get on an agenda.

4. **Visitors:** Janice Ouellette noted the new practice is for all visitors to introduce themselves.

- Joe Hebert, President of Joes Pond Association – Update to Milfoil Infestation – gave brief history of milfoil discovery: discovered, state got involved pulling milfoil out, three options: pull, suck, or put in barriers, committee formed and met in winter months, petition to state about herbicide and was granted to use, survey done in spring to find location of milfoil, July diving done in location, and August permission given for herbicide which worked. Currently no milfoil seen. Divers have been going into pond looking and checking area. Small pond has break out and being harvested. Survey to be done next spring. Herbicide may need to be done close to beach area, it is a controlled system. Milfoil grows in 8–10-foot areas so it is not in the middle of the pond. Expense list given to Selectboard:

Milfoil Expenses 2025	
Arrowwood Environmental (Surveys)	\$ 5,084
Larrabees	1,597 (rebar etc)
Signage	1,235
Vermont Hozerz LLC	11,210 (Harvesting)
Brownies Marine Group	7,184 (Snuba)
Garmin GPS	424
Various	2,215
Solitude Lake Mangement	<u>28,870</u>
Total Expenditures	\$ 57,818
Grants	(20,000) (150,000 Vermont (5,000) Danville)
Association Costs	<u>\$ 37,818</u>

Joes Pond Association has paid out \$30,000 so far and are a volunteer association. They are requesting same donation amount from Selectboard as previously given or more every year going forward. Currently looking for \$10,000.

Glenn Herrin noted the fee will go in budget. He inquired if there is a point of remission.

Joe Hebert noted it is possible; however, the expense is the herbicide treatment cost.

Janice Ouellette inquired how the petition to ban wake boats was coming.

Joe Hebert noted state is coming up with new rules and regulations. Wake boats allowed, no wake sports if proposal goes into effect. He noted Joes Pond Association was looking into boat wash station but there are no parking spaces for location but they are working on it. He wondered when the Association would know of the donation approval from the Town and about budget.

Janice Ouellette noted sometime in January Michelle Leclerc would let him know.

- Lee Beattie, North Danville Community Building – AARP Grant Application – discussed: Furnace – Mitch Shatney finished insulation and had to do one more item to complete his paperwork. He turned on the furnace and clocked how long it takes to actually come on. It didn't kick on right away; it just barely made his scope. Had the furnace come on, Mitch Shatney would have had to shut it down permanently. Dead River came to clean it in March, so they have been called to come back and look at the boiler. It needs to be tended to before winter. She thinks the Town needs to start looking for a new furnace.

Insulation – storage upstairs removed so they Mitch Shatney's group could insulate rooms, walls and sills in gym area. Bulkhead doors were thought to need insulation but have been found to not need to be insulated and should not be as it needs air since the new insulation has been completed.

AARP Winter Placemaking Grant – Kirk is interested in playing pickleball and is willing to fill out application for North Danville Community Club. Lee is seeking Selectboard support and permission to have the application completed.

Alison Low noted it was a competitive grant.

Lee Beattie noted if they don't get the grant, Kirk still wanted to use the Community Club for pickleball. She noted the grant also requires a letter of support from the Selectboard.

*Motion by Eric Bach, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Alison Low to approve application for Winter Place Making Grant for North Danville Community Club and for support letter to be signed by Jan and for Michelle Leclerc to sign grant application on behalf of Town of Danville. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries*

Glenn Herrin inquired if there were carbon monoxide detectors in Community Club.

Lee Beattie noted only the one legally required near the boiler.

Lee Beattie spoke of school key, noting there is now one at the church for accessibility to the AED that is located in the school building. She noted additional AED training is also needed.

##### **5. Town Clerk (Michelle Leclerc)**

- Liquor License: Special Events Permit for North Hardwick Farm LLC for October 5, Autumn on Green.

*Motion by Alison Low, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Herrin to approve Liquor License for North Hardwick Farm LLC for Autumn on the Green, Sunday, October 5, 2025. Vote 4-0-1. Eric Bach abstained. Motion carries.*

- Investment Accounts  
CD rates tanked, wondering if Selectboard is interested in investment accounts with Passumpsic. She has done them while she worked in Cabot. The dividends outweigh the fees. She wants to do for Marion Sevigny Funds and Special Projects.

Janice Ouellette inquired if the money is still accessible.

Michelle Leclerc noted yes.

Alison Low wondered about needing monies at different times.

Michelle Leclerc noted it would still be available.

Matt Choate wondered about strategies.

Michelle Leclerc discussed American Funds noting there are others but she doesn't know them.

Janice Ouellette discussed Marion Sevigny Funds and not needing them as often, but concern was for Special Project funds and needing those more often.

Michelle Leclerc discussed keeping it in for one year for Special Projects.

- Cott System Contract – other Town Clerks complained about the 35% increase and the 5% charge so there is a new contract forthcoming with only a 15% increase until 2028.
- Train Station WIFI Off of Fire Department – Eric Bach spoke with Dani Cochrane and has found Fire Department has WIFI, so it is possible to connect. The monthly bill could be consolidated and split between Fire Department and Train. There will be some new equipment needed. We already have internet that we can tap into. At \$200 a month it would be cheaper to tap in than run another.

Discussion of use ensued, who would use more and time of year use.

Michelle Leclerc noted access to the building is needed because Rural Solutions needs to get access to change some plugs around.

Eric Bach noted we can get that.

Michael Hogues inquired how many gigabytes would be shared.

Eric Bach explained 1,000 people on the Green without effects on Town Hall bandwidth.

Laural Ruggles was not concerned for overloading.

Michael Hogue suggested including Rob or Ryan on installation.

*Motion by Eric Bach, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Herrin to move forward with combining internet of Train Station and Fire Department together and adding necessary equipment. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

- Milfoil Donations have been coming in and currently they have \$3,200.
- Budgets have been sent to Selectboard.

Alison Low noted quarterly payments for sewer have been coming in and it looks like there is an increase in the fund balance.

Michelle Leclerc noted yes.

## 6. Highway (Keith Gadapee) - absent

## 7. Issues and Information (All)

- (a) **Excelsior Farm Road Asbestos Finding Progress Decision** – Janice Ouellette discussed inspection of structures located on 477 Excelsior Farm Road: 3 buildings on site: outhouse, west camp and east camp. Outhouse: no issues, can be removed without consequences. West Camp: has little issues. North wall has window glazing where asbestos was found. Removal needed by an asbestos abatement contractor (three window sashes, packaging them, and dispose as asbestos waste. Demolition contractor can then dispose as construction debris. East Camp: window caulking north wall and entire roof positive for asbestos, but roof is not structurally sound. Process would be considered live load; demo will be

demolition method. Contents need to be removed first, then abatement. Asbestos abatement contractor will remove ceiling tiles and strapping. Demo contractor will pull building apart with asbestos abatement contractor and put in separate dumpster as asbestos waste. Three organizations involved: Clay Point, will do work plan as it is needed by law, abatement contractor for removal of asbestos which Clay Point will oversee, and excavation contractor which could be town. There is concern for the condition of propane tanks that are on site. Total cost estimated at \$10-20,000 depending on Highway involvement. She wondered if they wanted to move forward with abatement or not.

Glenn Herrin had mixed feelings, leave but not okay because anyone could go there and there is a liability issue, landowner could sue town, feels they should do it and get it over with.

Alison Low wondered where the funding was coming from.

Janice Ouellette noted the building fund.

Eric Bach agrees with Glenn, just knowing people go up there is a concern for him.

Janice Ouellette discussed liability issue.

Matt Choate was curious about tax sale purchase and if there was any insurance consideration since it was part of tax sale. His concern is liability but wondered if insurance could cover part of it.

Alison Low noted it was worthwhile to look into before making a decision.

*Motion by Alison Low, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Herrin to spend up to \$20,000 to remediate property at 477 Excelsior Farm Road and if we find there is some relief from insurance then it is cheaper, and if not then we take funds from Building Fund. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

- (b) **Encore Fire Protection Test and Inspection Agreement** – Audrey DeProspero discussed prior to installation of nitrogen to our dry system, Mountain Valley Sprinkler, now part of Encore did our annual inspection. Michelle Leclerc pulled old invoices from 2021, 22 and 23 and found the cost at \$425 but could not find an agreement; so comparing was not able to be done. Encore submitted their test/inspection agreement in the amount of \$680, copy given to Selectboard for review.

Eric Bach inquired if contract was just for sprinkler inspection contract or does it set them up for on call for us. It's a new systems so it's probably under warranty. He noted when he read it there were some things that if you called them, it was extra, it wasn't included.

Not covered items read and reviewed.

*Motion by Alison Low, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Herrin to sign contract as proposed by Encore Fire for Test and Inspection Agreement on an annual cost of \$680. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

- (c) **Additional Mowing locations for 2026** – Audrey DeProspero spoke with JM Yard Services about adding the Sewer Treatment Plant and Peacham Road Pump Station to the current three-year contract. JM Yard Services agreed to mow and trim Sewer Treatment plant for \$100 a time and to weed whack the Peacham Road Pump Station for \$65 a time, both to be done on 2-week schedule.

Janice Ouellette wondered if they needed to do pump station every two weeks and if the areas have been mowed the required 24 times due to dry weather.

Audrey DeProspero noted areas added to the other 2-week schedule but could be changed.

Eric Bach noted mowing has been continuous.

*Motion by Eric Bach, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Herrin to add the Sewer Treatment Plant for \$100 a time and the Peacham Road Pump Station for \$65 a time to the current 3-year contract with JM Yard Services. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

- (d) **Charette Update** – Alison Low discussed meeting with Emily and Andrea and Eric. They will have a tent at Autumn on the Green, there will be flyers, dot boards showing likes and dislikes, surveys,

numbers will be crunched and will inform presentation for Monday capturing more data. They will be breaking into four groups, they will have trace boards, there will be four facilitators, a tour of the site, stations with visuals and people will then break into groups. So far 12 people have signed up for the Charette but Alison Low thinks there will be more maybe 20.

- (e) **Janice Ouellette Laptop (Rural Solutions)** – Janice Ouellette discussed using an old Lenova laptop for Town business, however it will no longer be supported by Rural Solutions as of October 15 because Windows 11 cannot be installed on it. She is working with Rural Solutions on a refurbished Dell for \$500. Her selectboard stipend of \$300 will be moved to the IT line and she has paid \$200 out of pocket to purchase the computer. There will be an expense seen on the books. Once she is done on the Selectboard, the computer will be the property of the Town. She likes having a dedicated computer because if it is lost or stolen it can be shut down.
- (f) **Dog Park Community Workday** – Alison Low discussed trying to figure out liability solution. She noted Michelle Leclerc reached out to VLCT and groups have done things in the past with liability issues and hold harmless forms have been signed. She wondered if they needed to do something like this on a larger scale as the Village Improvement Society works in median of Route 2 on the barrels and Conservation has done brush hogging in the past. She seeks clarity for right approach.

Eric Bach noted we live in an insurance-based world now a days.

Matt Choate inquired whether they have ever obtained opinion of Town Attorney or insurance folks and if so does our contract cover us.

Michelle Leclerc noted she reached out to Larry Smith who sent waiver for volunteers to complete.

Alison Low thought as long as people sign, we should be good.

Glenn Herrin was willing to underwrite something like painting a bench but brush hogging needs paperwork.

Eric Bach discussed that no power tools are okay, but power equipment is something different.

Glenn Herrin noted at some point that it is swinging axes which is more dangerous.

Michelle Leclerc discussed wearing PPE.

- (g) **Municipal Planning Grants (Next Round Opens Up)** – Alison Low discussed grants opening up and due November 3<sup>rd</sup>. She noted just because we have an open grant doesn't mean we cannot apply. She is wondering about the \$75,000 cost for engineering on the slide site and doesn't want to ask if there is no interest on the part of the Town.

Janice Ouellette was in favor of inquiry.

- (h) **Parking Tickets** – Eric Bach noted no proof received from Repo Graphics, discussion postponed until proof is in.
- (i) **Re Adopt Parking Ordinance** – Janice Ouellette noted we did not post ordinance in time when adopted earlier.

*Motion by Alison Low, 2<sup>nd</sup> by Glenn Herrin to adopt Parking Ordinance as amended. Vote 5-0-0. Motion carries.*

**Informational Items:** None

**8. Financials:** Orders reviewed and signed by Janice Ouellette.

**9. Adjourn** – *Motion by Matt Choate, to adjourn at 7:20 pm.*

Minutes taken by Audrey DeProspero submitted October 6, 2025 at 11:30 pm.