

Town of Danville - Town Services Committee

Danville Town Hall

INITIAL Meeting Minutes - October 8, 2025

Attendance

Committee Members: Stacy Andre, Brian Henderson, Michelle LeClerc, Mark Tucker, Alison Despathy, Keith Gadapee, Tim Ide, Glenn Herrin (non-voting)

Stacy Andre called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Agenda changes and minutes review: Without objection, the committee accepted the September 10, 2025 minutes as a true indication of the business of the meeting.

Public comment: none.

Recycling / Bulky Waste: Planning lead Mark Tucker led discussion of the task analysis, options, and recommendations for reviewing the Town Recycling Center (RC) and bulky waste operations.

- Mark discussed the current operations and reviewed 4 options.
 - Transition from resident-sorted recycling to zero-sort. The group ruled this out as it would require switching from Northeast Kingdom Waste Management District (NEKWMD) membership to a contractor (Casella), with unknown but likely significant costs while resulting in a massive increase of spoiled material going to the landfill instead of getting recycled.
 - Get out of the recycling business. The group ruled this out as while it would save in operating costs, the Town would have to repay grant funds and residents have repeatedly shown great support for recycling.
 - Expand the RC and/or parking area. The facility and parking area get very crowded, and the committee agreed this would be a good future improvement, as there is currently no room for expansion.
 - Continue to operate as-is but add staffing. The current Recycling Attendant (RA) does a fantastic job, but works 52 Saturdays a year. The group agreed that hiring an additional attendant and supporting more volunteers would provide better support for the current RA and RC operations.
- Tim Ide suggested going back to bulky waste collection events so the attendant could focus on recycling. The group discussed how the current system breaks even, saving the town ~\$8,000+/year, and people like having it available.
- The group discussed refinements such as collecting bulky waste once a month, opening on Sundays or a week night, and updating fees.
- The committee settled on a recommendation that the Selectboard hire an additional Recycling Attendant, to work when the current one is not available, and identify more volunteer assistants.

Drinking Water: Planning lead Alison Despathy led discussion of recommendations for whether the Town of Danville should merge with (take over) Danville Fire District #1, building on the task analysis and options from the June meeting.

- Alison presented 4 options for potential consideration.
 - 1: The Fire District can include a letter as a call to action, seeking community members for the prudential board, with their next bill.

- 2: The Town could purchase the Fire District and continue operations with town staff. The Town Clerk and Road Foreman have offered to receive the training and certification.
- 3: The Town could purchase the Fire District and contract with H2O Innovations for operations, for an estimated contract cost of \$24,375/year.
- 4: The Fire District could sell itself in a private sale. The committee felt strongly that this would not be acceptable to water users.
- The committee discussed the options, with consensus that the water system was critical to the village and beneficial for the town as a whole. It makes sense for the Town to take ownership with user fees paying for the system expenses, similar to the wastewater system.
- After discussion, the committee agreed to recommend that the Selectboard set the transfer, under either option 2 or 3, as an article for Town Meeting. The committee also recommends that Danville Fire District #1 should pursue option 1, since any purchase and transfer will take time and the article could fail.

Public Works Administration and Facility / Grounds Management: Planning lead Keith Gadapee led a discussion of public works and facility management, continuing work from the July and August meetings.

- Keith presented an updated list of town properties and their associated services, management, and status, in 5 categories:
 - Town Government-Active Buildings (like the Town Office)
 - Town Owned Community Buildings (like the Train Station)
 - Town Highways and Rights-of-Way (ROWs)
 - Town Recreational Areas (like the Green and Joe's Pond Beach)
 - Town Owned Lands (Cemeteries and Town Forests)
- Keith observed and the group agreed that while a full-time Facility Manager is not warranted, it would be good for a building inspector to validate or update the status of structures.
- Glenn Herrin commented that simply having the list of properties, services, and management would be great for the Selectboard. He discussed the idea of a Town Recreation Committee to manage the Recreational Areas and Town Owned Lands.
- The committee recommended submitting the list to the Selectboard. Members felt the question of a Public Works administration is best delayed until 2026, when there is resolution of questions like Town takeover of the water system.

Other Service Quick Updates, Board Recommendations, Public Comment, and Additional comments / discussion: There were no further comments.

Tim Ide moved to adjourn and the meeting closed at 7:03pm.

Respectfully submitted by Glenn Herrin, secretary