

Selectboard Minutes
August 25, 2025

Selectboard Present: Jessica Pollack (chair), Greg Meulemans, Kate Ullman and Christina Robinson

Public Present: Colin Bratton, Paul Fraser, Karen Ameden, Glenn Gibson, Robbin Gibson, David Ennis, Andy Avery, Michael DiSabato, Jesse DiSabato, Tyler Wren, Rebecca Wren, Peter Golrick, Jeanne Golrick, and Madeline Helser.

Jessica called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m.

1. Late additions

Colin Bratton (Windham Regional Commission) spoke of a potential project involving students from UVM and Bridge 24 at the intersection of Depot St and Water St. The project is part of the Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering Senior Capstone Design Program. In this program students create an engineering design that will resolve the issues of the bridge. A team of 3-4 students, working throughout the semester, would design a new bridge and other options. This would be at no cost to the town.

Jessica said that VTrans has a substantial amount of data and formal reports. She asked if it is possible for that information to be shared with the students. Colin will investigate what is available. Jessica also asked if the final report would include avenues for funding. Colin stated that funding sources would be included. Jessica questioned if the program was supported by faculty. Colin said it was guided by engineering professors and professional VT civil engineers. Jessica asked what the town needed to do to move forward. Colin answered that a formal resolution needed to be made to allow him to submit the project to the Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering Senior Capstone Design Program for review and possible selection.

Jessica made a motion to approve to allow Bridge #24 to become a project of the UVM Civil Engineering and Environmental Engineering Senior Capstone Design Program. Seconded, by Greg Meulemans. All in favor. Motion passes.

2. Minutes

Jessica made a motion to approve the minutes from August 11, 2025, seconded by Christina. Greg abstained. Motion passes.

3. Compost collection agreement with WSWMD

Kate Ullman said she has reviewed the compost collection agreement. She noted that there were cost savings from the current plan to WSWMD.

Jessica made a motion to approve the Compost Collection Agreement with Windham Solid Waste Management District (WSWMD) as written. Seconded by Christina. All in favor. Motion passes.

4. *Discuss updated Town Plan*

Jessica spoke of the Town Plan amendment and the “red line” version is available for review. The updated Town Plan will need to be voted on in September.

5. *Act 250 application*

David Ennis said he supports the building of a residential home with traditional septic system. The amendment to the permit, due to wetland issues, will require a Port a Potty and semi-permanent home. David does not support this design. His suggestion is that the town purchase the land to preserve the aesthetics, nearby cemetery and wetlands. Karen Ameden, Cemetery Sexton, does not believe the proposed permit would affect the cemetery access. Jessica Pollack says that the town has no zoning plan and can’t restrict how a landowner uses their property. Act 250 is a state permit. The town only weighs in and that is done through the Planning Commission. Jessica said that it would be challenging for the town to purchase the property. The purchase would need to be included in the town budget and voted on. Jean Golrick asked if there were other potential buyers or land trusts that would be interested in purchasing the property. Tyler Wren, property owner, clarified that the property was approximately 1.5 acres and would offer it for sale at \$150,000.00. He expects the Act 250 Permit to be issued in 1-2 months.

6. *Replacement for covered container at the transfer station*

Kate Ullman explained that the container in question has needed to be replaced for several years. Casella does not have a covered container available. Purchasing from a supplier is the only option. Casella estimates that repairs would exceed \$10,000.00 and doubtful that the problems would be fixed.

Jessica made a motion to seek bids to replace the covered container, according to the town’s procurement policy. Seconded, by Greg Meulemans. All in favor. Motion passes.

7. *Time Sheets*

Jessica made a motion to approve the time sheets. Seconded, by Christina. All in favor.

8. *Pay Orders*

Jessica made a motion to approve the pay orders. Seconded, by Kate. All in favor. Jean Golrick asked if the pay orders could be made available online to the public for review. Jessica said that they are available for review, but not online.

9. *Public concerns*

Michael DiSabato has concerns regarding the Pikes Falls swimming area usage regarding trash and parking. He said the area has become a safety concern with increasing pedestrians, pets and erosion. Parking is also very limited. Jesse DiSabato agreed and added that trash is a problem as well. He and Michael often pick up trash in their yard left behind by visitors of the falls. Robbin Gibson agreed and said she also frequently

picks up trash, too. Jesse asked if there could be more signage and posted fines. Jessica clarified that the parking ordinance was adjusted for Hamilton Falls. She said the concerns could be brought to the attention of the Planning Commission to be revisited in September. Jessica or Andy Coyne would contact the Sheriff's Office to alert them of safety concerns for the upcoming holiday weekend.

Karen Ameden said that Jamaica Day was successful. She thanked the sheriff's office and Mark Anderson for allowing the parade this year. The Civil War Re-enactment was a popular attraction and plans on having the group every 2 years. 2026 marks the 250th anniversary of America's independence. Jamaica Day organizers are looking for a group to hold a Revolutionary War Re-enactment for the 2026 celebration.

Madeline Helser voiced concerns about the signage on Route 30, near the Post Office. She stated that the signs are not welcoming to the town and asked if they are permitted and meet ordinance guidelines. Jessica said they had been addressed. She encouraged that concerns should be emailed to the Selectboard.

Christina Robinson said that a fundraising will be held on October 4 starting at 4pm for Solaar. Live music, food and craft vendors will be available.

Karen Ameden reminded everyone that the Jamaica Sidewalk Social is on Wednesdays at 6pm. Musician, Paul Sanchez will be at the Jamaica Town Hall on August 29th at 7pm. Tickets are \$15.

10. Executive Session

Jessica moves, "to find that premature general public knowledge of a compliance issue would clearly place the privacy of an individual citizen, and the town, at a substantial disadvantage, because the selectboard would expose confidential information if it discusses a sensitive matter involving a citizen in public". Seconded, by Greg Meulemans. All in favor. Motion passes.

At 8:12pm Jessica moves, "that we enter into executive session to discuss a compliance issue under the provisions of Title 1, Section 313 (a)(1)(A) of the Vermont Statutes."

Seconded by Christina Robinson. All in favor. Motion passes.

At 8:42 pm Jessica made a motion to conclude executive session. No Action currently.

11. Adjourn

Jessica made a motion to adjourn at 8:47 p.m. Seconded, by Greg Meulemans. All in favor. Motion passes.

Respectfully submitted,
Meri Roberts