

EDEN TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

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SELECTBOARD Minutes

July 14th, 2026 6pm

Present were Tim Bullard, Ricky Morin, Clayton Whittemore, Melissa Morin, Pam Uhlendorff, Gary Smith, Dennis Landry, Faye Cochran, Melissa Whitcomb, Molly Morin

1. Ricky opened the meeting at 6:04pm as Tim had not made it here yet.
2. Additions and Deletions to the Agenda: Resignation- will be discussed when Tim arrives
3. Citizens Input:
 - Moved to #10b to accommodate Gary Smith
 - Moved to #10a to accommodate Dennis Landry
4. Alexander Chidiac/Tree Warden: Alex was here to give the Selectboard some updates. He had planted several trees on the property next to the school which were given to him at no cost for the town. One did not survive so he will be replacing it. He still has several trees and asked the Selectboard to think about where they would like them to go. He is able to plant the remaining in the Fall. Alex also spoke about a tree on town property that he had trimmed for the neighboring property owner. Overall, it was healthy but had some defects that were concerning for the future. There had been some cables installed when the tree was significantly smaller and they are no longer sufficient to support the size. He recommended if not removing the tree, to at least install new, larger cables to buy some time. The Selectboard asked for a quote to remove the tree altogether. Alex will prepare an estimate and get it back to the office for review. Alex also discussed some information about the Ash Borer that was sent from the VT Dept. of Forests, Parks, and Rec. The ash trees are at serious risk from this invasive species which kills trees rather quickly. Alex recommended doing an inventory of the trees on town property or in the town Right of Way and keeping an eye on them. He offered to do the inventory with some help from the Town Office regarding mapping and locations.
5. Beach:
 - a. Molly has been in contact with the USDA regarding management of the Canadian Geese that seem to be a problem year after year at Lake Eden Rec Area. Not only are they aggressive but they also cause the E.Coli level in the water to increase which causes closure of the swim area once levels are too high. There were several methods presented but the one recommended as the most effective was a fence system which would be placed on the waters edge each night and removed in the morning. For now, since they do not have their "fly" feathers, it is best to just annoy them until they go away.
 - b. Someone had inquired about the town providing some sort of wheelchair to allow disabled people to get the water more easily. The cost varies and can be up to a

few thousand dollars for one. The Selectboard agreed that the school should provide one if they were the ones asking and needing to use one. There was discussion about how public pools were all being forced to provide lifts to get in and out of the water and what kind of implications this may mean for the town owned beach in the future.

- c. Discussion was had about some warnings that were given out at LERA and a few incident reports. Someone left LERA with a child unrestrained in the back hatch area of a vehicle forcing the police to be called. A camper was concerned about another camper driving around and behind their lot. They also mentioned that there was what appeared to be a surveillance camera on the corner of the office building at LERA. We were not aware of any cameras in use by the town and Melissa Morin said that she would remove it in the morning to be sure. Pam then stated that it was not a camera, just a look alike with a spot light that was used as a deterrent and for early morning campers going to the showers/bathrooms. The lights on it indicated whether it was on/activated. She had put it up years ago to address some concerns in the office area. Johnna later returned with the device which in fact is a spotlight. Melissa M. asked about a person who has made several reservations for the summer and has paid a deposit on each but has not shown up. She has not been successful in contacting him by phone or email. The Selectboard stated that the rules are that they have 24 hours after check in to show up before the remainder of their stay is cancelled. Ricky expressed concerns over the daily campers' kayaks and other items spilling out of the site and impeding the Day Use area. The fencing was put up to clarify the site boundaries for this specific reason and it is up to Melissa M. and Pam to manage this. The kayak racks are overflowing and Melissa M. says that is due to many people purchasing season passes in order to store them there. There have been some issues with people being at LERA after hours and it was suggested maybe that the chain link fence is put in place at closing. The campers would be able to open the fence in order to come and go. Some forms were presented to better manage minors and certain activities. The Selectboard stated that it was up to Melissa M. and Pam if they wanted to use them, as they are managing LERA. Ricky and Ryan did some work at the beach Friday to fix some washed out areas from Thursday's rain well as the road.
- 6. Animal Control Update: Someone called about their friend's dog attacking their chickens/geese. The dog was from out of state and the person didn't seem to want pursue it so Faye considers the situation to be over. There have been a few calls about another dog that appears to be wandering or lost but is in fact on its own property, just on the backside and away from the house. The dog is friendly and jumps in cars when people stop to check on her.

7. Health Officer Update: Due to an impending storm, Brent Lanpher had contacted the Town Office to let them know that there were over 300 kids at the Boy Scout Camp and they planned to remain. Faye and Melissa W. had discussions with Chris Dodge at the school as well as Eric Bouchard at the Boy Scouts to make sure everyone was prepared if there was an emergency requiring evacuation like in the past. The Town does not have a working key for the school which is our Emergency Shelter. Chris advised Faye and Melissa that he would get us one within the next day or two. For now, we can use the one provided to Eden Youth Sports.
8. Sign Orders: Seven (7) were signed. Ricky asked some questions about the amounts on the orders compared to the accounts they were hitting.
9. Minutes: Reviewed minutes of 6/23/26. Clayton motioned to approve as written, Ricky seconded, approved.
10. Highway Dept. Update:
 - a. North Road Paving Discussion: Dennis Landry was present to discuss the paving on North Road and the cut through on his property. He had spoken to Ricky and sent an email with concerns regarding the cutting of pavement and how far the pavement would actually go. Ricky assured him that he would be working with Pike and that the pavement would not go beyond where it was previously. Ricky also stated that he would be the one to fix the topsoil and reseed the edge of his property. Dennis asked if the Selectboard had any pull with the State of VT because he is hoping for a flashing speed sign through that stretch of RTE 100. He thinks that education is the way to go rather than setting a speed trap or anything. Molly gave him a phone number to the district AOT garage in our area. He also requested that some signs be put up in the intersection (STOP/YIELD)
A few people complained about the work on North Road due to the timing and they felt that they should have been personally informed. The Town has never made it a practice to notify residents every time they work on the roads, which is daily. The state does not either. The road was not completely closed so traffic still flowed with the help of flaggers.
 - b. Right of Way Permit: Gary Smith had started working on a new driveway prior to applying for a permit to do so and was here to discuss. Ricky had seen the area and said the current location was probably the only place he could put it based on his property and where the lines were. The Selectboard would like to visit the site before approving the initial permit and Gary thought that would be fine given there have been some changes to his plans and he is not in a hurry. Michael Daube requested a permit to work in the Right of Way in order to repair a water line crossing North Road to Ingalls Road. Ricky motioned to approve to town specifications, Clayton seconded, approved.
 - c. Road Side Mowing: Ricky is going to try to get an estimate from Bill Allen and a few others

- d. Other: Addition- Julie Gates sent in a resignation from her Auditor position.
Ricky motioned to accept, Clayton seconded, accepted
- 11. Ratify Additions and Deletions: None
- 12. Grant Update/Discussion: Molly will be checking on the playground equipment that is supposed to be ordered mid-July. Ricky talked about some work they would be doing on Blakeville and White Road.
- 13. Other
 - a. Fund Balance Policy: Melissa urged the Selectboard to have Fund Balance in the back of their mind come Fall. They will need to determine if any amount will go before the voters at the next Town Meeting
 - b. Reschedule August 11th meeting: The Primary Election is August 11th so the Selectboard meeting will be held a day early on the 10th.
 - c. Fire Warden Info: Info was shared with the Selectboard regarding changes to the law designating Fire Wardens. We do not yet know how it will be handled for Eden.
 - d. Trash Company- We received a quote from Sylvesters which is significantly lower than Casella so the plan is to switch.
 - e. Other: A short discussion was had about the addition. An estimate was received from Manosh which was by far the highest so we will not be utilizing them. Ricky has talked to Phil Morin who would be interested in the concrete work. Green Mountain Tech Center may be interested in the building portion of it.
- 14. FYI:
 - a. Financial Management Questionnaire: Provided yearly by the Treasurer. Tim motioned to accept, Ricky seconded, accepted.
 - b. Telecommunication Grievance Requests from VTEL and Comcast were received. Comcast withdrew theirs on Monday so there isn't as much of a concern over potential lost revenue in an existing year.
 - c. Lamoille Fibernet Annual Audit Report: Informational
- 15. Ricky motioned to adjourn at 8:40pm, Clayton seconded, adjourned