

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Colrain Town Office
55 Main Road
2:00 PM

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
September 22, 2025**

Present Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Janice Barnes, Rusty Barnes, Richard Herzig, Amy Herzig, Kathy Steinhem, Sue Slowinski, Michelle Hillman, Elaine Stanley, Betty Johnson, Kathy Phelps, Valeda Peters – Council on Aging; Marjorie Smith – Administrative Assistant; Diana Parsons – Town Administrator

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 2:13pm.

Joint Meeting with Council on Aging re: COA Bylaw to appear on Special Town Meeting Warrant of 11/4/2025

Emily Thurber explained that the Attorney General never approved the by-law when it was first voted on in 1978 and the need to bring the by-law back to Town Meeting to make it legal. Ben Eastman further explained the need to revise the language to make sure it's all correct. Emily proposed that the members of the COA read over the packet and then meet again to discuss the by-law.

Diana Parsons summarized the packet handed out and that according to the State, Colrain is a large senior community because of the age of the population, and they are very interested in making sure Colrain is doing what they are supposed to do.

Janice Barnes noted that the key issue is not necessarily the number of council members, but rather the legality of the COA in Colrain. Diana clarified that regardless of committee size, meetings are open to the public and anyone may attend and offer suggestions. While social engagement efforts are effective, there is a need for additional outreach for individuals requiring resources such as food and transportation. Many seniors currently receive services in Shelburne. Kathy Steinhem pointed out that Colrain lacks space to host programs. Diana suggested forming a subcommittee for long-range planning with the Town Administration. Discussion on difficulty communicating with all the seniors in town and leaning on the administration.

Discussion regarding the Conflict of Interest and disclosure for the members to file if they use the services they offer. Diana suggested the members call the State Ethics to confirm.

Discussion about the list of seniors held by the Police Department that want to be contacted or checked in on during an emergency. Discussion on the process for approving the by-law and the language, and the reappointment process.

Janice thanked the Board for what they are doing and stepping up.

Dissolve Meeting:

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 3:16pm.
Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Respectfully submitted,

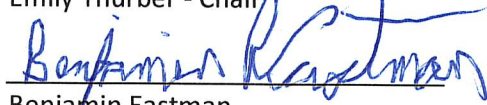


Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board on 10/28/2025



Emily Thurber - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

Documents Distributed to the Select Board Before the Meeting in a Packet or at the Meeting:

Elements of an Effective Council on Aging Board: A Resource Guide for Council on Aging Board Members