

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Colrain Highway Garage
9 Jacksonville Road
4:30 PM

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
September 23, 2025**

Present Emily Thurber, Chair; Benjamin Eastman; Katie Korby

Others Present: Sheryl Stanton – MTRSD Superintendent; Martha Thurber, Kate Barrows, John Chivers – MTRSD School Committee; Kathryn Collier
Marjorie Smith – Administrative Assistant; Diana Parsons – Town Administrator

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 4:30 pm.

Request from MTRSD 2D&T Study Committee to Discuss Colrain Central School Reuse, Sheryl Stanton, Superintendent, and Martha Thurber, MTRSD School Committee

Martha Thurber provided a brief update on the sustainability study and where they are at this moment and the proposed phases of the consolidated school districts that the school committee will be bringing to the towns to vote on. They have asked the MSBA to put the district in their queue for the renovations. Martha and Sheryl met with MSBA today and they'll have an indication whether they'll be accepted into the pipeline in November. In the meantime, they are looking at the issues raised from the community meetings: education and transportation.

Martha outlined the projected timeline regarding the regional agreement, funding and town meeting votes. She clarified that the new regional agreement would include everything from consolidating the school districts through creating a single campus, and there is not a plan yet for the order of school closings. The first step is acceptance into the MSBA plan, then approval of the feasibility study.

Brief discussion on the Tech school and their building project and keeping all the towns' capital expenditures in mind. Discussion on how the district will work with the towns regarding their individual buildings and the possible reuse.

Request from MLP Manager to Establish Reinstatement of Service Policy Following Violation of Repeat Infringement Policy, Michael Slowinski, MLP Manager

Mike Slowinski explained Whip City's copyright infringement policy. He requested the Board create their own policy should a resident receive a fourth violation from Whip City and explained the potential risk to the Town should a policy not be put in place.

MOVED: Katie Korby moved to add to our MLP policy with Whip City to say no reinstatement of service following the fourth violation of the copyright infringement policy.

Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Mike further explained the process and liability to the Town should someone dig up the fiber without calling DigSafe.

Request to Address the Select Board re: 15 Main Road Easement, Kathryn Collier, Resident

Kathryn Collier and her partner, prospective owners of 15 Main Rd, came before the Board to express concerns and frustrations they've experienced since moving to the property at the end of July 2025. She outlined the timeline since receiving notification that the closing on the property couldn't go through as planned.

Diana confirmed the accuracy of the timeline presented and added that communications started in March with Mr. Donovan, the current owner. Diana further explained the Town was unaware that the septic pipe was on Town property until the “as-built” documents were received, the situation with the sump pump and communications with Mr. Donovan.

Discussion on the prior surveys and the septic design.

Kathryn reiterated that she wanted the town to realize what happened and how it affected them. Diana updated the Board that the survey is being worked on and the easement will be presented at the Town Meeting in November. Discussion on a plot plan versus survey.

Consent Items:

Approve Minutes of 6/10/2025, 8/12/2025, 8/18/2025

Warrant AP 2612 in the amount of \$53,817.95

Warrant AP 2613 in the amount of \$24,705.35

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve minutes of 6/10/2025, 8/12/2025 and 8/18/2025 as presented. Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

MOVED: Katie Korby moved to approve warrants 2612 and 2613 as written. Emily Thurber seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Old Business:

Deerfield River Wild and Scenic Study Report; Request for Town Endorsement of Study and Support for Deerfield River and its tributaries to be Designated as a National Wild and Scenic River; Follow up from the Town of Charlemont

Diana Parsons updated Chris Curtiss and the Board regarding communications with Charlemont.

Chris explained the main concerns regarding the National Parks Service review and summarized the different types of projects that would be affected, the process of the review in terms of delays to the projects, and the potential costs associated with the review.

Discussion on the Board’s concerns surrounding not promoting swimming and parking in certain areas and possible funds available to help with signage.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to sign the letter endorsing the study and support for the Deerfield River and its tributaries to be designated as a National Wild and Scenic River.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Appointments and Resignations:

None

New Business:

Request for One Day Liquor Licenses for Pine Hill Orchards, Saturdays, 10/11/25, 10 am-6 pm and 11/1/25, 9 am-6 pm

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the one-day liquor licenses for Pine Hill for Saturday 10/11/2025 and 11/1/2025 as written.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Review and Sign Clinician Co-Responder (Jail Diversion Program) Regional Partner Agreement for Police Department

Diana Parsons summarized the agreement and program.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve the Clinician Co-Responder Regional Partner Agreement for Police Department.

Katie Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Old Business:

Review Request to MA DOT re Rte. 112/Jacksonville Road

Discussion regarding requesting MassDOT assistance with snow removal on Route 112/Jacksonville Rd from the center of Town to the Vermont Line.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to request that MassDOT assist us this winter on Route 112/Jacksonville Rd.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Vote to Close the Special Town Meeting Warrant effective October 2, 2025, at 2 pm

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to close the Special Town Meeting warrant effective October 2, 2025, at 2pm.

Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Discuss Follow Up Required from COA Joint Meeting; COA Meeting Scheduled for 9/29/2025 at 2pm; MGL 268A Disclosures Required

Diana explained that Council On Aging (COA) members are required to file a 268A Disclosure with the Select Board when the members benefit from the services the COA is providing. Emily spoke with some of the members outside of yesterday's meeting reiterating that they can still volunteer without being on the Council. Discussion on how they could form subcommittees. Diana clarified that the Board establishes the by-law, and the COA advises the Board about the services that should be offered. Discussion on services. Emily or Katie will attend the COA meeting on Monday.

Administrator Updates:

Colrain Sewer District Public Meeting Postponed, Date to Be Determined

The meeting has been moved to sometime in November; however, a date has not been set.

Update on Equipment/Laborer Operator Hiring

There are two applicants for the position and Diana and Nate Gilbert will set up pre-screening interviews in the next week.

Received Copy of Disclosure Form from Bing Waldsmith for Energy Committee

No discussion

Public and Board Member Comments:

None

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Review of Special Town Meeting Articles/Warrant; Sign Warrant

No discussion

Joint Meeting with Fin Com re: Special Town Meeting

Diana will look to schedule a meeting with Finance Committee for the 10/14 meeting.

Joint Meeting with Planning Board; Long Range Planning as discussed in FY25

No discussion.

Police Department

Diana will schedule a meeting on 10/7 with Chris Lannon.

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:

None

Executive Session:

MOVED: At 7:10pm Chair Emily Thurber moved to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(2): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel – Highway Superintendent, to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel – Town Administrator. Katie Korby seconded.

Roll Call Vote:	Emily Thurber	<u>Aye</u>
	Benjamin Eastman	<u>Aye</u>
	Katie Korby	<u>Aye</u>

Approved unanimously.

The Board will not reconvene the Open Meeting after the Executive Session.

Dissolve Meeting:

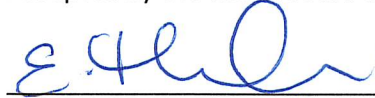
MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 8:13pm.
Ben Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

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:

2D8T Recommendation to the Mohawk Trail and Hawlemont School Committees

New/Revised Regional Agreement Timeline

One-Day Liquor License Application – Pine Hill Orchards 10/11/2025

One-Day Liquor License Application – Pine Hill Orchards 11/1/2025

Email from Sarah Reynolds, Charlemont Town Administrator, to Diana Parsons, Colrain Town Administrator, dated 9/17/2025 re: Deerfield River Wild and Scenic River Designation

Questions and Answers about National Park Service Section 7 Review

Wild & Scenic Rivers Act: Section 7

Section 7 Flowchart

Disclosure of Election of Appointment to an Uncompensated Position as Required by 930 CMR 6.02(3) re: Bing Waldsmith Energy Committee Appointment