

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Colrain Highway Garage
9 Jacksonville Road
4:30PM
MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
May 12, 2026

Present: Emily Thurber (Chair), Benjamin Eastman, Catherine Korby

Absent: None

Others Present: Andrew Evans (RCAP Solutions); Becky Budd (Connecticut River Conservancy); Gwen Macdonald (Stantec); Carl Herrett; Johnny Depin (Greenfield Recorder); Marjorie Smith (Administrative Assistant)

Call to Order

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 4:30 PM. All three Select Board members were present.

Greenfield Road Lower Reservoir Dam, Becky Budd, CT River Conservancy; Gwen Macdonald, Stantec

Andrew Evans of RCAP Solutions provided background on the project, noting that RCAP has been working with the Colrain Water District for five years on the dam removal. The dam, located on a quarter-acre impoundment and built around 1900 and expanded in 1940, is currently rated in poor condition. A reconnaissance study completed over approximately two years initiated the formal project process, entirely grant-funded to date.

Becky Budd of the Connecticut River Conservancy reported that the current phase of engineering design—funded through a North River Damages Fund grant from the Department of Environmental Protection—is substantially complete and will close by June 30. A follow-on grant application has been submitted through the Eco One Stop platform, with award notification expected in late summer or fall 2026. If awarded, that grant would fund final design and permitting through 2028, with construction targeted for the 2028 field season.

Gwen Macdonald of Stantec presented the 60% design plans. Key elements included a proposed stream restoration using a riffle-pool-riffle configuration appropriate to the 13% channel slope, with locally sourced boulders identified nearby that could reduce construction costs significantly. The estimated construction cost is approximately \$358,000, with total all-in project costs estimated at approximately \$530,000 before contingency.

The dominant site constraint identified was construction access, due to low overhead utilities, steep slopes, road geometry, and the proximity of a water tank above the impoundment. Select Board Member Benjamin Eastman noted the presence of fiber optic and Verizon lines and suggested that longer utility poles might allow the lines to be raised. Macdonald confirmed that Stantec has been in contact with an Eversource liaison but has not yet received engineering-level feedback. Eastman noted that an old cable line had already been removed from the poles.

Select Board Member Eastman asked who would bear the \$800,000 total project cost; Evans confirmed the full project is being pursued through grants and that no Town funds are anticipated. The Board was informed that the construction phase, once funded and permitted, is expected to take approximately six weeks.

The Board was advised that next steps include preliminary agency outreach prior to formal permitting, coordination with the Town on traffic management and guardrail removal, utility coordination with Eversource and Verizon, and convening an introductory meeting with relevant Town departments. Permitting processes identified include a Notice of Intent, Army Corps of Engineers Section 404, DEP, Chapter 91, and Mass Historical Commission coordination.

Consent Items

Approve Meeting Minutes

Warrant AP2643 in an amount of \$23,058.32

Warrant AP2644 in an amount of \$22,168.46

Warrant PR2621 in an amount of \$43,346.75

Chair Thurber moved to approve Warrants AP2643, AP2644, and PR2621 as presented. Benjamin Eastman seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Appointments and Resignations

No discussion.

New Business

FY27 Service Incentive Grant RFP Announcement from MCOA

Chair Thurber shared information about the MCOA Service Incentive Grant, highlighting interest from the Colrain Council on Aging Chair Janice Barnes in pursuing a transportation or nutrition project. The nutrition category seemed more feasible due to time constraints, although the COA preferred a volunteer transportation initiative to fill service gaps for long driveways. Select Board Member Eastman would attend the COA's meeting on May 18 to gather further details and discuss the COA's ability to handle the application process.

Old Business

Letter of Support for Deerfield River Watershed Association Grant Application for Woodlands Partnership Grant for a "Regional Actions to Protect the Deerfield River and its Tributaries"

The Board considered a letter of support for the Deerfield River Watershed Association's 2026 Woodlands Partnership Grant application, which would maintain momentum from a 2024 grant and fund regional actions to support wild and scenic river designation for the Deerfield River.

Chair Thurber moved to sign the letter of support for the Deerfield River Watershed Association's application for the Woodlands Partnership Grant for regional actions to protect the Deerfield River and its tributaries. Catherine Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Mass In Motion Grant

Chair Thurber gave an update on the Mass in Motion grant, informing that the group decided not to conduct a community survey due to a tight timeline for the May 31 deadline. The town is automatically eligible for another \$4,000 after completing this grant cycle. Remaining funds are planned for repairs at the Highway Garage and Town Office ramps, and possibly adding a gutter to prevent water issues. Superintendent Nate will carry out the repairs. Rachel Stoler from Mass in Motion confirmed that expenditures on accessibility improvements, tools, and materials are suitable and that work can extend beyond May 31 as long as materials are bought beforehand.

Police Chief POST Attestation for Recertification; 268A §19 and 268A §23(b)(3) Disclosures

The Board voted to authorize Chair Thurber to sign the POST Attestation for Police Chief agency head recertification, as the previously designated signatory was unavailable.

Select Board Member Eastman moved to authorize Chair Thurber to sign the POST Attestation for Chief Agency Head Recertification. Catherine Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

The Board agreed to table action on the financial disclosure to the next meeting.

Administrator Updates

Administrative Assistant Marjorie Smith reported that she has full access to Town Administrator Diana's computer and is working through outstanding email correspondence and active projects to assess the status of ongoing matters. Items being followed up on include the MVP 2.0 Grant, Green Communities project, and the New England Craft Cultivators Host Community Agreement (HCA). Smith noted that Highway Superintendent Nate Gilbert will take over management of his department's bills, and that the highway email forwarding will be restructured so the superintendent has direct shared access without duplication.

The Board also discussed coverage of upcoming meetings during the Town Administrator's absence, including a regional EMS meeting in Shelburne on May 19 and the New England Craft Cultivators community meeting on May 19 at 6:00 PM. Smith agreed to compile and circulate a list of upcoming meetings from the Town Administrator's calendar for the next two weeks so Board members can arrange coverage. Chair Thurber and Korby indicated they would coordinate on EMS meeting attendance.

Public and Board Member Comments (votes will not be taken)

Emily Thurber - Colrain Sewer District:

Chair Thurber summarized a request received from FRCOG Health Agent Randy Crochier asking the Board to vote affirming that North River LLC may redirect collection system flow from the former treatment plant to a new compliant septic system. Andrew Evans (RCAP) explained that the change would eliminate a problematic pipe section and entirely replace aging infrastructure on the Barnhart property side. The Board acknowledged the request but determined that a vote should not occur until further consultation with Crochier and Jessica Atwood (FRCOG) takes place. The matter will come before the Board of Health on Thursday at 5:00 PM, where both proposed designs will be presented. Korby and Thurber indicated interest in attending. The item was noted for a future Select Board agenda.

Town Election:

Board members noted that Town elections were held that day and discussed voter turnout informally.

Requests for Future Agenda Items

Select Board Reorganization, May 26, 2026

Select Board Member Eastman expressed his support for Chair Thurber to continue her role, with Korby shifting to Vice Chair, citing his own schedule and accessibility concerns. Thurber confirmed prior discussions had Korby set to chair, and Korby accepted.

Joint Meeting with Colrain Council on Aging, June 1, 2026

Annual Reappointments, June 9, 2026

Appointment of Hazard Mitigation Planning Committee

New Host Community Agreement (HCA) for NE Craft Cultivators

Response to Colrain Sewer District re: Proposed Collection System Options

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items (votes will not be taken)

Notification from Massachusetts School Building Authority re: Franklin County Regional Vocational Technical School District, Franklin County Technical High School

April 2026 KP Law eUpdate: Overview of Recent Changes to Cannabis Law

FY2027 Certificate of Appointment of Animal Inspector

Marjorie Smith noted the certificate arrived by mail and will be filed with the Town Clerk.

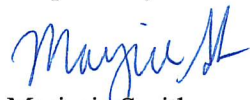
Dissolve Meeting

Chair Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting. Catherine Korby seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

The meeting was dissolved at 6:05 PM.

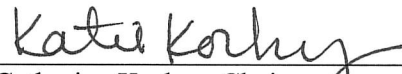
These draft minutes were created using ClerkMinutes, an AI-powered platform that transcribes meetings, identifies speakers, and generates professional minutes.

Respectfully submitted,

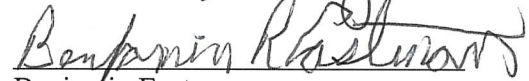


Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

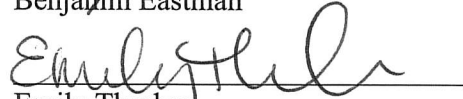
Accepted by the Select Board on 7/7/2024



Catherine Korby - Chair



Benjamin Eastman



Emily Thurber

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

Email dated 4/29/2026 from Becky Budd re: Colrain Lower Reservoir Dam Removal Project Public Notice

CT River Conservancy Colrain Lower Reservoir Dam Presentation

Email dated 5/7/2026 from Janice Barnes, COA Chair, to Emily Thurber and Maggie Smith re: FY27 Service Incentive Grant RFP Announcement

Letter of Support for Deerfield River Watershed Association Grant Application for Woodlands Partnership Grant

POST Commission Attestation for Chief by Appointing Authority

Conflict of Interest Disclosures as Required by 268A §19 and 268A §23(b)(3) from Chief Christopher Lannon

MA School Building Authority Project Approval Letter dated 4/29/2026 to Richard Kuklewicz, Chair of FCTS School Committee

KP Law eUpdate dated April 2026 re: Overview of Recent Changes to Cannabis Law