Town of Brookline, NH
Selectboard
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Selectboard Meeting Minutes
Monday June 22, 2026, 6:30 pm
Public In-Person Meeting (RMMS Music Room) and via Zoom

Brian began the meeting at 6:31 pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Brian then read the ground rules for hybrid meetings.

In Attendance
Selectboard members present: Brian Rater, Ed Perry, Jerry Roche, Steve Dolfini, Dan Marcek. Also present Town Administrator Andrea Cameron-Williams, Brendan Denehy, Chief Jeffrey Stewart, Police Chief Jack Hebert, Buddy Dougherty, Drew Kellner, Michele Decoteau, Ed Arnold Jr., Alan Rosenberg, John Schofield, Jerry Farwell, Cathy Burbee Farwell, Chief Meaghan Fricke.

Minutes
Ed moved to approve the June 8, 2026 minutes; second by Steve. Dan noted that the minutes showed Jerry Roche as present when he was not. This was corrected. Ed and Steve agreed to the correction. Vote in favor of corrected minutes 4-0-1 (Jerry abstained).

It was decided to review the March 30 non-public minutes (5 sets) and the April 13 non-public minutes (set 3) at the end of the meeting. At that time Ed moved to approve the March 30 non-public minutes (5 sets); second by Steve. Vote in favor 5-0. Ed moved to approve the April 13 non-public minutes (set 3); second by Dan. Vote in favor 5-0.

Sign and Approve Warrants:
General: $699,046.52
Payroll: $106,271.54
Police Detail: $1,250

Steve moved to approve the warrants as presented; second by Ed. Vote in favor 5-0

Public Input and Announcements
The Selectboard Administrative Assistant position is open; Andrea has been receiving applications and hopes to begin reviewing them soon.

Brian read the Proclamation Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Brookline Ambulance Service and the 200th anniversary of the Brookline Fire Department, and the service of all

Brian Rater (Chair) *Ed Perry (Vice Chair)* *Gerald Roche* *Stephen Dolfini* *Dan Marcek*

members of both departments. Jerry moved to accept the Proclamation, second by Steve. Vote in favor 5-0.

Appointment to Fill Fire Ward Vacancy

The Fire Wards have recommended Buddy Dougherty to fill the remainder of the vacant Fire Ward position. Ed Arnold asked if the open position had been announced; it was announced at the previous meeting. There was discussion on the process. Steve moved to Notice the appointment of Buddy Dougherty to the vacant Fire Ward seat; second by Ed. Vote in favor 5-0.

Gathering Grounds Request for Outdoor Liquor License

The Planning Board has approved an outside seating area; this is a request to serve liquor in this area. Dan moved that the Selectboard write a letter to the Liquor Commission in favor of the Gathering Grounds serving liquor in the designated outdoor area; second by Steve.

Brian noted that the letter had already been written in anticipation of Board approval. Cathy Burbee Farwell asked if the letter also mentioned the indoor area which was previously approved; it does. Vote in favor 5-0.

Prohibition of Target Shooting on Town Owned Land

Brian reviewed the discussion of this Bylaw at the previous meeting and noted that Chief Jack Hebert was present to answer questions as was requested. Brian also noted that there had been discussion of limiting the Bylaw to cover land managed by the Conservation Commission and read a potential version of the Bylaw with that limitation.

Chief Hebert noted that the Conservation Commission's rules that are in place, only allow the Police to ask people to stop; there is no enforcement mechanism. He noted that the target shooting issues have been limited to an area of Northwest Brookline that was purchased by the Town for conservation purposes a few years ago. The Police have been successful in monitoring this area and letting shooters know that it is no longer allowed. The area is full of trashed objects which have been used as targets. However, now that this issue is being publicly discussed, word will get out that there are no penalties and people will show up to shoot. A rule is needed so it can be enforced.

There was a question of whether NH Fish and Game Department can enforce a Brookline Bylaw; the answer is no. Dan asked how having a Bylaw would assist the BPD in enforcement; it gives the police the authority to fine if shooters ignore the rules.

Ed Arnold Jr. discussed a conversation he had with a forest ranger that indicated that Brookline did not have the authority to enact this Bylaw because of RSA 159:26 and that it would be null and void. He feels the Townspeople are against this Bylaw. Brian responded that there are RSAs that allows the Town to enact this type of Bylaw; it has passed legal counsel and is in place in other Towns.

Drew Kellner noted that at a previous meeting, he had listed the RSA that allows the Town to pass a Bylaw. This would give the current rules that the Conservation Commission has had in place for the last 10 years "more teeth".

Brian asked the Board for their opinions on whether to focus on Conservation land or all Town land. Steve felt it should be restricted to Conservation land, supported by Jerry. Brian read the version that covered all Town land. Dan asked what the Bylaw would solve, and why do some land and not all land? The problem is irresponsible gun users. Brian noted that there are large parcels of Town land that don't have conservation trails on them. Ed noted that he prefers the version limited to Conservation land since that is mainly large parcels. Dan asked Chief Hebert to explain the problem. Chief Hebert noted this is not a Townwide problem, but the Bylaw would assist in enforcement.

There was discussion about the larger Town owned properties. Melendy Pond land and land received from the Tamposies, don't have large open areas suitable for target shooting. It was discussed that target shooting damages trees and is subject to fines. Alan Rosenberg asked, "if this Bylaw was passed, would it be posted at the entrances to Conservation land?" That is up to the Conservation Commission. Brendan Denehy noted that the Melendy and Tamposi land are not the only large Town owned land not under Conservation management; there are several 'open space lots' such as in the Laurel Crest subdivision.

At this point, the Board reviewed their positions. Ed, Jerry and Dan support Bylaw covering all Town owned land; Steve leaned towards just the Conservation land. Jerry moved to adopt the Bylaw 'Target Shooting Prohibited on Town Land', second by Dan. Vote 4-1, Steve opposed, believes it should be Conservation land only.

Onyx (Mason Gravel Pit) Update

The process is moving along. Mason Planning Board meets Wednesday, June 24th and will need to decide unless Onyx requests an extension. Town Planner Michele Decoteau prepared a letter for the Selectboard to send to MPB noting concerns about Road Safety and potential water contamination. The traffic study is disappointing since it didn't include key data, has erroneous data from Route 101 in Wilton, and doesn't break out key information about heavy vehicles. The report raises a number of questions. In addition, there are concerns about water being trucked onsite for dust control having potential contamination which could get into Brookline's water. Ed moved that Brian sign the letter to the Mason Planning Board, second by Steve. Vote in favor 5-0.

Later in the meeting, the discussion returned to this topic with Michele Decoteau present. Alan Rosenberg asked the status of putting weight limits on the roads. Brian has discussed this with Scott Leard; it is complicated to do so since we don't know what lies under most roads. The Town has worked with NRPC to document paving conditions. There are sections of Mason Road that are in poor shape, estimated to cost $30,000 to pave. Anticipate further road damage from the gravel trucks, and no way to recover costs. It was also noted that Alan heard from an NRPC member from Merrimack that the NH DOT has ended support for

Continental Boulevard and that this may be the start of DOT ending support for other 'state maintained' roads such as Mason Road. It is important that Mason give Brookline a 'seat at the table' if the plan is approved and there are reviews in the future.

Financial Review for May
Overall the budget is in good shape. There was a question about spending under Highways, Streets and Bridges; Brian will reach out to Scott for an answer. In response to a question from Ed Arnold, Legal is 11% spent so far.

Town Hall Project Manager Bids
There were 3 bids:

1. North Point Construction Management of Hudson - $109,910
2. Bracken Consulting Group LLC of Hudson - $140 per hour
3. ECG of Jacksonville Florida, no rate given – materials on thumb drive.

The Board will be reviewing the bids. John Schofield of Bracken Consulting was present, and discussed his process, noting 17 years in Construction field.

Town Hall (Daniels Academy) Investigation Project
Morin Construction revised the contract into two steps. Step one is to investigate the walls and support structure to determine if additional work would be required in step two. Step two would be to complete the work to support the roof structure and remove the temporary supports. Costs: Step 1 - $9,115; Step 2 - $19,820. Ed has concerns that if they do this work then open up the floors/ceilings for later renovations they might find bigger issues. There was a discussion that that would be separate issue. The temporary supports are expensive, getting the roof structure supported permanently should move forward. Ed moved to approve the agreement with Morin Construction for Step 1 at a cost of $9,115, second by Jerry. Vote in favor 5-0.

Bids for Pierce Pond Dam Removal
There were two bids:

1. William T Davis Excavation LLC of Hampton NH - $277,550
2. Sumco Eco Contracting LLC of Wakefield, MA - $177,945

The bids will be reviewed by Scott Leard and the Town Engineer as well as the Board.

Announcement of NH Municipal Convention Delegate Position
NHMA will be having a convention to review potential legislation on September 11. Brookline can send one delegate. Two people have already expressed an interest; if anyone else is interested, they should contact the Selectboard before the next meeting.

Ambulance Service Apparel
Motion by Jerry to approve the sum of $2,551.45 from the Ambulance Expendable Trust Fund for the purchase of 50th anniversary apparel, second by Ed. Vote in favor 5-0. It was noted that the source of this fund is donations to the Ambulance Service.

Compensation Policy Regarding Stipends
The Compensation policy regarding stipends is that if a person leaves a stipend position through resignation or death, then a pro-rated amount can be provided but requires Selectboard authorization. The question came up regarding the stipend for Fire Ward Fessenden, and whether a pro-rated stipend should be provided or a full stipend then a pro-rated stipend for the person completing the term. There was a lot of discussion around this, with various options discussed. There were several comments from both Board members and the Public that the full stipend should be paid for Fire Ward Fessenden in terms of his overall service. There was discussion of other situations where someone resigned during a term and how it was handled. It was decided to review this further and then bring it back to the Board.

NH DOT Health Portal
Brookline's two members of the portal will be Health Officer Jeffrey Stewart and Welfare Officer Bethany Beck. The portal is not yet active.

Zoning Board of Adjustment Notice
The Zoning Board will be holding a rehearing on Case 470 at the request of the Selectboard. This will be heard on July 1 at 7:00 pm.

Items for Next Meeting
- Pierce Pond Dam bids
- Project Manager bids
- Fire Ward appointment
- Appointment of NHMA delegate
- Revisit Stipend
- Look at moving expenses
- Budget clarifications of Highways, Streets and Bridges account

8:00 pm Non-public Session
Brian moved to go into Non-public session per RSA 91-A: 3 II (l) legal, (c) reputation and potentially others; second by Ed. Roll call vote in favor 5-0.

8:25 pm
Brian made a motion to come out of non-public session and to seal the minutes; second by Steve. Roll call vote 5-0.

The Board reviewed the non-public minutes.

8:30 pm

Dan made a motion to adjourn, second by Steve. Vote in favor 5-0.

X _____

Brian Rater
Selectboard Chair

X _____

Edward Perry
Selectboard Vice Chair

X _____

Gerald Roche
Selectboard Member

X _____

Stephen Dolfini
Selectboard Member

X _____

Daniel Marcek
Selectboard Member

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Recognition of Service
Brookline Fire Department and Ambulance Service

Whereas the Brookline Ambulance Service was founded on June 22nd, 1976 and celebrates 50 years of dedicated service to the people of Brookline, and
Whereas the Brookline Fire Department was founded on June 22nd, 1826 and celebrates 200 years of dedicated service to the people of Brookline, and
Whereas the members of the Brookline Ambulance Service and Brookline Fire Department dedicate themselves to many hours of training in order to provide the highest levels of service to the members of our community, and
Whereas the members of these departments can be counted on by the residents of our community to respond in their times of trouble no matter the time of day or night, and
Whereas these members and their families have committed themselves to interrupted dinners, missed birthday parties, late nights of training and other inconveniences to help their friends, neighbors and complete strangers, and
Whereas the members of both departments who, through their fundraising, celebrations, educational events, and participation in local events have strengthened Brookline's sense of community;
Therefore, we, the Selectboard of the Town of Brookline, New Hampshire on behalf of all the residents hereby Recognize and Commend all members of the Brookline Ambulance Service and the Brookline Fire Department, past, present, and future for the commitment and service that they have provided our Town. Please know that you have the gratitude and respect of the residents of Brookline.

Given this 22nd day of June, 2026.

x Brian Rater — Brian Rater, Chair

x EP — Ed Perry, Vice Chair

x Jerry Roche — Jerry Roche

x — Steven Dolfini

x Dan Marcek — Dan Marcek