



Town of Hamilton  
Select Board  
Meeting Minutes of November 4, 2024

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Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, MGL Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Select Board members, a meeting of the Hamilton Select Board was posted for November 4, 2024 at 7:00pm. This meeting was held at the Hamilton Wenham Library at 14 Union Street, on Zoom, and recorded by HWCAM.

The Select Board functions as the Chief Executive body of the Town. Its five members are elected to three-year terms with one or two seats up for election each year. The Board acts as the chief policy making body of the Town and directly supervises the activities of the Town Manager. The Select Board typically meets the first & third Monday evening at 7 p.m. Select Board: Caroline Beaulieu (2025); Thomas Myers (2025); Bill Wilson (2026); William Olsen (2027); Rosemary Kennedy (2027).

**Call to order:** Chair Beaulieu called the meeting to order at 7pm. Present: C. Beaulieu, Chair; B.Wilson, Vice-Chair; T.Myers, Clerk (via Zoom); R.Kennedy; W. Olsen. Also present: Joseph J. Domelowicz Jr., Town Manager; and others as noted.

**The Chair announced Board and Committee openings as displayed on the agenda:**

- Conservation Commission – 3 openings
- Council on Aging - 2 associate openings
- Cultural Council – 1 opening
- Finance and Advisory Committee – 1 associate opening
- Hamilton Development Corporation – 1 opening for a 3-year term
- Historic District Commission - 2 openings for 3 year terms, 2 openings for 2 year terms
- Human Rights Commission - 1 opening

**Select Board Member Reports:**

- **T.Myers** – noted that there was a great event the prior day to support the re-election of Senator Elizabeth Warren and Representative Kristin Kassner.
- **R.Kennedy** – attended an abutter's meeting regarding the sale of the dorms at Gordon Conwell. The COA continues to be a vibrant part of the community. The Conservation Commission has experienced turnover, to be discussed later in the meeting.
- **B.Wilson** – the School Building Committee is submitting the plans to estimators for solid bids on the construction cost of the school, and to establish the final reimbursement rate from the MSBA(Mass School Board Authority); the estimates are expected to be ready in December. The District reached a tentative agreement with the teacher's union.
- **Chair Beaulieu** – noted tomorrow is election day; the Clerk and election workers put a lot of work into it.
- **J.Domelowicz** – the election is expected to be a very busy day, with high participation rates, please be patient. Planning for the FY26 budget season is starting.
- **Invitation from the American Legion to Veterans Day services** - the Board is invited to attend the Veterans breakfast at the American Legion.

**Public Comment** – Three (3) minutes per person on items not already on the agenda - *There was none.*

**Consent Agenda:**

- Approve temporary signs for ECTA Road Race at Patton Park
- Approve EdFund Tree Sale at Patton Park
- Approve the minutes of the September 9, 2024 Select Board meeting

**Vote:** *The Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the consent agenda.*

**Agenda:**

**1. Discuss use of Town funds to study Alewife Brook and surrounding watershed in collaboration with the Town of Essex, with Dave Lash of the Chebacco Lake and Watershed Association – Discuss & Vote**

D.Lash of Lake Shore Ave. and the Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association gave a presentation to request \$15,000 for each of the next two years to support a study of the watershed. He explained Chebacco Lake is 209 acres, and the Association started 40 years ago when an invasive plants began taking over the lake. The Lake Association continued on to monitor the health of the

## 9. FY '25 Town Manager and Select Board Goals Recap - Discussion

The Board reviewed FY25 goals, including communications improvements such as wifi coverage downtown. J.Domelowicz reported he is part of the North Shore Water Resilience Task Force and has just been assigned to a committee looking at the finalization of water resource options for the Task Force to consider. The Town Hall project is underway and will continue to be managed. All of the Town's trash operations are going to have to be re-negotiated in the near future. The Town has been informally told that Brick Ends Farm will be winding down operations; the Town has been approached by Black Earth as a replacement compost service. The contracts with the Wheelabrator (incinerator) and Casella (trash hauler) are coming up for renewal. This discussion will be brought back on a future agenda. The discussion on whether to couple or decouple 3A and form-based code is also a continuing issue.

## 10. Recap of September 23, 2024 Special Town Meeting vote - Discussion

Chair Beaulieu said the Special Town Meeting went well. There was discussion among the Board regarding the cost escalation of building projects and how challenging it is to understand why the costs have skyrocketed in the way they have.

## 11. Supporting town boards and committees in their work – Discussion

Chair Beaulieu stated there have been challenges getting people to fill open seats on Tow Boards/Committees that have been vacant for some time, and there have been some disheartening resignations very recently. R.Kennedy reported both the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Conservation Commission resigned and explained some of the reasons why the resignations occurred, including a significant lack of administrative support for the Commission. J.Domelowicz described some of the recent challenges with administrative support and how it will be improved. The Board discussed what a remarkable job the Commissioners have done, and discussed concerns were raised by the Commission's resigning officers regarding the lack of support from the Town. B.Wilson suggested a feedback loop for Boards and Committees to communicate potential issues to the Select Board. R.Kennedy stressed the need for individual conversations and expressed regret regarding the Commissioner's resignations. Chair Beaulieu expressed the challenges of being on Board and Committees in a very politically charged environment, where every decision is questioned and challenged.

## 12. New Business

There was none.

*Adjournment Vote: The Select Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:15PM.*

### *Meeting Packet Enclosures:*

- Invitation to Veterans Breakfast
- Email regarding ECTA lawn signs
- Meeting minutes of September 9, 2024.
- Letter from Chebacco Lake & Watershed Association
- Revised regulation for the keeping of animals
- Myopia Hunt Club change of manager application
- Information from the Cook family regarding their cemetery plot request
- Energy management services agreement
- Select Board meeting schedule
- ARPA funds spreadsheet
- Town Manager evaluation form FY23
- Memo on FY25 Budget Goals and Guidance
- 2025 Town Meeting and FY26 Budget Calendar

*Respectfully submitted by D. Pierotti, Recording Secretary, 11/10/24.*

*The minutes were prepared from video.*

Respectfully submitted as approved at 11/18/24 meeting.

Tom Myers, Clerk