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MINUTES OF THE  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING  
MARCH 18, 2026  
7:00 P.M.

REC'D BY: *me*

83 Mountain Road, Suffield CT  
Hybrid Meeting

**Selectmen present:** Colin Moll, Klaire Bielonko, Kathy Dunai and Kathleen Harrington

**Selectmen absent:** Pete Hill

**Also in attendance:** Peter Leclerc – Director of Community Services, Amy Vesella – Library Director (Via Zoom), Kevin Goff – Chairman, Permanent Building Commission, Glenn Neilson – Vice Chairman, Permanent Building Commission and Eric Vincent – Fire Marshal/Zoning Enforcement Officer

First Selectman Moll called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and asked everyone to join him in the Pledge of Allegiance

**Public Comment**

None.

**Discussion and approval of the minutes from the February 9, 2026 Joint Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance**

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the February 9, 2026 Joint Special Meeting of the Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance as presented. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and approval of the minutes from the February 18, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen**

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the February 18, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen with the following change:

Page 1 – Brad Belcher should be identified as the Chairman of “ACCE.”

Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Discussion and approval to re-appoint Sue Mayne, Todd Mervosh, Danna Gauntner, Joyce Zien, Judith Hanmer and Anita Wardell to the Helena Bailey Tree Committee through March 31, 2027**

Selectman Bielonko MOTIONED to re-appoint Sue Mayne, Todd Mervosh, Danna Gauntner, Joyce Zien, Judith Hanmer and Anita Wardell to the Helena Bailey Tree Committee through March 31, 2027. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

**Department Updates from the Community Services Director and Library Director**

First Selectman Moll invited Director of Community Services Peter Leclerc to address the Board. He thanked Mr. Leclerc and his staff for opening the Senior Center the previous evening and operating it as a warming center during the electrical outage caused by Eversource.

Mr. Leclerc reported that the emergency shelter operation was successful, with approximately 20 or more residents utilizing the facility for warmth and a pizza dinner provided by staff. All individuals were able to safely return to their homes by 11:00 p.m.

Additionally, Mr. Leclerc provided an update on the Parks and Recreation Department. He highlighted a request submitted to ACCE for a master plan study focused on the Parks and Recreation program. The study, which is not related to buildings, is intended to guide the development of a 3-, 5-, and 10-year strategic plan. He explained the scope of the study, who would conduct it, and how it would inform future decision-making for the program.

Mr. Leclerc noted that this type of investment is standard practice in many communities. He has requested \$70,000 for the study, which he believes is sufficient. To provide context, he shared examples of similar initiatives undertaken by other municipalities, including Glastonbury and Simsbury.

Mr. Leclerc also reported on Summer Camp registration, which sold out within 15 minutes of going online. He provided updates on the upcoming summer concert series and movies on the Town Green, as well as the installation of new flooring at the Senior Center. In addition, he highlighted ongoing initiatives including the mini-bus program, the popular senior lunch program, and youth services.

First Selectman Moll thanked Mr. Leclerc for his updates and posed several questions submitted in advance by Selectman Hill regarding the use of lacrosse and soccer fields in town, which Mr. Leclerc addressed.

Library Director Amy Vesella addressed the Board of Selectmen and reported strong library usage statistics. She outlined upcoming initiatives, including a community needs survey and focus groups designed to better understand and respond to community needs.

She noted that 32% of Suffield residents currently hold library cards and expressed her goal of increasing that number through a planned library card drive.

Ms. Vesella also provided an update on the Atrium project, which is scheduled to begin soon, and noted that the Rotary has generously donated furniture for the new space.

Finally, she shared that the popular chicken hatching program will be returning, with a live feed allowing residents to follow the chicks' progress.

The selectmen thanked Ms. Vesella for her updates and praised her for the great job she has been doing since joining the Library as Director.

#### **Updates from the Permanent Building Commission**

First Selectman Moll invited Kevin Goff, Chairman of the PBC, and Glenn Neilson, Vice-Chairman, to join the Selectmen and referenced a document that had been provided in advance of the meeting. Mr. Goff explained that the presentation would be divided into two parts: pre-referendum master plan work and other ongoing projects.

They provided detailed information on the middle school project, noting that current efforts are focused on a renovation, with work on a potential new building delayed until a site is selected. Mr. Goff discussed possible locations, building options, budget scenarios, and timelines for RFP submissions.

The discussion then turned to the possible renovation or new construction of Firehouse #1. They reviewed information collected to date, including an initial assessment of a proposed 20,000-square-foot building designed to meet all of the Fire Department's identified needs.

In addition, they addressed the current status of the High School HVAC rooftop replacement and shingle roof project, as well as the Bruce Park Bridge project. Discussion ensued, with the Selectmen asking numerous questions, which Mr. Goff and Mr. Neilson answered accordingly.

#### **Discussion of request from Fire Marshal to adopt a Fee-Based Plan Review and Testing Policy**

Eric Vincent, Fire Marshal and Zoning Enforcement Officer, referenced a memo provided in advance and discussed implementing fee-based plan review services for commercial and three-family-plus buildings. He explained that the fees would help offset costs and support additional training and coverage.

Mr. Vincent outlined a sample scenario to demonstrate time spent on projects and how a fee-based review and testing policy would apply. The Selectmen asked several questions and requested that he return with a draft policy for further review.

#### **Adoption of Annual Report**

First Selectman Moll noted that the Town received a number of recommendations for updates to the Annual Report from various individuals, including Tom Frenaye and Kathy Dunai. He stated that the Town reviewed these suggestions and incorporated updates where appropriate.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to adopt the Annual Report with updates made based on recommendations provided. Vote: 4-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

#### **Public Comment**

Neil Hornish, 864 Thrall Avenue

#### **Selectman Updates**

#### **Thank You**

First Selectman Moll extended his thanks to Emergency Management Director John Spencer for his leadership during the previous day's power outage, which was caused by a tree falling onto power lines and compounded by delays in response from Eversource.

### **Bandstand on Town Green**

First Selectman Moll reported that the Historic District Commission has approved plans for a new bandstand on the Town Green to replace the existing structure, which has been condemned and will be removed in the coming days. He extended his thanks to Robin Zatony for her hard work in advancing this project.

### **Eagle Scout Award**

Congratulations to Logan McHugh on earning the Eagle Scout Award. As part of this achievement, he completed a project to build benches for Rails to Trails.

### **Adjournment**

Selectman Dunai MOTIONED to adjourn at 8:12 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kristen O. Lambert  
Recording Secretary