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By Erica Boucher at 3:03 pm, Sep 23, 2026

MINUTES OF THE
BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING
SEPTEMBER 16, 2026
7:00 P.M.

83 Mountain Road, Suffield CT
Hybrid Meeting

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

Also in attendance: Bill Hawkins, Director of Planning & Zoning and Lee Corbert, DPW Director

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

Jeffery Perry, 332 N. Grand Street

Discussion and approval of the minutes from the September 2, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve the minutes from the September 2, 2026 Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen as presented. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval of the 2027 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Calendar

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the draft 2027 Regular Meeting Calendar and revised it in order to avoid holiday conflicts. The revised schedule includes three meetings in March and one in April, with meetings scheduled for March 3, March 17, March 31, and April 14.

Selectman Dunai MOTIONED to approve the 2027 Board of Selectmen Regular Meeting Calendar with changes as noted. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and adoption of resolution formally requesting that Suffield be added to the federal Highlands Conservation Act region and authorize the Director of Planning and Development to forward the resolution to DEEP

First Selectman Moll invited Bill Hawkins, Director of Planning and Development, to address the Board regarding the request and referenced a memorandum provided in advance of the meeting. Mr. Hawkins provided background on the Highland Conservation Act Region, including the process involved and key considerations, and recommended that the Town move forward with the request. He explained that inclusion would make the Town eligible for federal funding for conservation projects without creating any new regulatory requirements.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to adopt the resolution formally requesting that Suffield be added to the federal Highlands Conservation Act region and authorize the Director of Planning and Development to forward the resolution to DEEP. Vote: 5-0 in favor Motion passed unanimously.

Project updates from Director of Planning and Development

Bill Hawkins, Director of Planning and Development referenced a memorandum provided in advance of the meeting and offered updates on multiple transportation projects including the Farmington Canal Heritage Trail, Bridge Street improvements, Windsor Locks Canal Trail, Kent Avenue sidewalk, and Mapleton Avenue sidewalk project which recently went to bid with Four Seasons Landscaping Construction as the low bidder at $400,500.

Discussion and appointment of Tree Warden

First Selectman Moll explained that the Board was revisiting the matter of appointing a Tree Warden after previously directing the Town to expand their search for an individual to serve as Tree Warden, which is required by statute. No interest was received. The Board discussed appointing DPW Director Lee Corbert to the position. Mr. Corbert explained the qualifications and responsibilities of a Tree Warden, including the process for assessing trees and determining appropriate work as needed. Selectman Dunai and Selectman Hill expressed concern that adding the Tree Warden responsibilities to Mr. Corbert's existing duties could place too great a burden on his already full workload.

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to appoint Lee Corbert as the Tree Warden for the Town of Suffield. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Discussion and approval to waive the Bid & Purchase Policy for the temporary bridge on Suffield Street Contractor

First Selectman Moll and DPW Director Lee Corbert explained the reasoning behind the request to waive the Town's Bid and Purchase Policy for the temporary bridge on Suffield Street. The Selectmen asked questions regarding the proposed work and, following discussion, determined that they were not prepared to waive the Bid and Purchase Policy at this time. No action was taken.

Discussion and approval of tax abatement in the amount of $2,630.04 to Robin O'Brien due to overpayment

Selectman Harrington MOTIONED to approve tax abatement in the amount of $2,630.04 to Robin O'Brien due to overpayment. Vote: 5-0 in favor. Motion passed unanimously.

Public Comment

None.

Selectman Updates

Suffield on the Green

Thank you to all who made the Suffield on the Green event a success this year, despite the unfortunate weather on Sunday.

Bandstand Dedication

The ribbon-cutting ceremony for the new bandstand was held on Saturday, September 12, on the Town Green. The Board expressed its appreciation to the Suffield Rotary Club, Robin Zatony and Elzear Roy

for their generous support in advancing the project, as well as to the many other donors who contributed to its completion.

SVAA – 50th Anniversary Gala

The Suffield Volunteer Ambulance will be holding their 50th Anniversary gala on November 21st. Tickets are still available.

Adjournment

Selectman Dunai MOTIONED to adjourn at 7:28 p.m. Motion passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Kristen O. Lambert
Recording Secretary