

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## Select Board

Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.  
Held at the Office of the Select Board  
20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), C. William Howland (Vice chair) were present, and Michael McQueston (Clerk) was not present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

**GATHERING:** Eric Troy, Richard Ayer, Mark Mattson, Cynthia Henshaw, Jennifer Pollard, Fire Chief Dennis Letendre, Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** Motion made by C. William Howland to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7:00 p.m. and the Assessors Classification hearing with the Select Board meeting minutes of December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 6 p.m., seconded by Joseph A. Chenevert, unanimously passed.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Cynthia Henshaw** – Here to discuss the East Quabbin Land Trust works with landowners that have an interest in Conservation. Cynthia is here with Mark Mattson, who lives on 114 Dennis Whitney Rd. in Oakham. He would like to see his property remain the same as it is with the house, the barn, and it is 35 acres in total. He is interested in donating a conservation restriction, to conserve the remaining fields and woods on the property. Mark has lived at 114 Dennis Whitney Rd. for 22 years. He raised his family and had a farm there. Let's his neighbors use his land for free. Paul Thompson does his sugaring through there to make maple syrup in which he gets some of the product. Alden Brodmerckle does the hay. Marlene Morrow keeps her cows and horses there in the barn. His wife, Judith Lane and Mark want to preserve the farm as it is. C. William Howland made a motion to sign the conservation restriction and Joseph Chenevert seconded. Passed unanimously and the conservation restriction was signed.

**Paul Maio** - Needs a one-year class III Auto License. C. William Howland made a motion to sign the permit and Joseph Chenevert seconded. The permit was signed.

### **REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:**

**Town Clerk:** Not present. No report was given.

**Treasurer:** Not present. No report was given.

**Board of Health:** Not present. No report was given.

**Auditor:** Not present. No report was given.

**Finance Committee:** Not present. No report was given.

**Police Department:** Not present. No report was given.

**Fire Department:** Present. Verbal report. One mutual aid to North Brookfield for a chimney fire that extended to the house. A call to West Brookfield Rd. smoke in a house. Received a grant for \$8,922.39 for personal protective equipment. Dennis said he has paperwork for a forest fire grant that they will be applying for, he needs signatures from the Select Board, and it to be notarized. The intern is working out very good for the Fire Department and Assessors office. The tree lighting went well. Joseph said that the Historical Commission had about 100 people and there were about 60 at the library. Jennifer Pollard said the Grange just had a gingerbread house making workshop at church on Saturday. Jennifer said she spoke to a woman named Cathy Dow out of Rutland that was in charge of it in hopes that they can collaborate for next year's event.

**Highway Department:** Present. Verbal report given. Richard Ayer said that he turned in CH 90 paperwork that needs to be signed. The drainage part of that is done. Joseph Chenevert and C. William Howland signed the CH 90 Document. The storm went as well as expected because the highway department was shorthanded. Treated things to help with the process and to save on salt. Had the electrician in there to rewire plugs that were unhooked before so that they could plug in the equipment and will wire water heater in the back room. The salt shed is on the ground. Fran from Ironhorse structures planned on starting tomorrow. Joseph asked about the height being ok and Richard said yes. The loader will be going into the shop once there is clear weather because Richard has some injectors to check in the engine. Electrician is coming back once caught up this week. Jennifer Pollard mentioned the light by the library is not on. Joseph said the lights are under warranty and they should be changing them.

**Council on Aging:** Not present. No report was given.

**School Committee:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Veterans' Agent:** Not present. No report was given.

**Assessors:** Not Present. No Report was given.

**Planning Board Committee:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Zoning Board Appeals:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Conservation Committee:** Not present. No report was given.

**Executive Secretary Report:**

- Notary stamp came in and have a record book to keep track of notarizations.
- On my last procurement class. I have passed the exams for the other 2 classes. This last class ends at the beginning of January.
- Notarized Cynthia Henshaw and Mark Mattson's conservation restriction document.
- Notarized Fire Chief Dennis Letendre's contract

**Select Board Reports:**

- Would like to change the time of the meetings from 7:00 p.m. back to 6:00 p.m. Keep it at 7:00 p.m. to meet the needs of the town people.
- Cannot meet on December 26<sup>th</sup> because it is a paid holiday. Will have meeting on 27<sup>th</sup> if needed. If nothing pressing comes up, the next meeting will be on January 9<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:**

- Update on the Salt Shed.
- Update on the Town Hall being insulated this week. They already came in to put up plastic barriers, they should be done by the end of week or next. Then, the next step will be the ceiling.
- Update on Gazebo/Pavilion Project Joseph and Dennis went to pathfinder. Ready to go in the spring. Carpenter may need a post digger. They have an electrician there and said they would do electrical work for the gazebo.
- Contact Marty about flagpole at the Town Common. Need a new one.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

All mail was read at the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** C. William Howland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:30p.m., Joseph A. Chenevert seconded, and it unanimously passed. The meeting closed at 7:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Ballard  
Executive Secretary

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**Select Board**  
**Pole Hearing**

Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 6:30 p.m.  
Held at the Office of the Select Board  
20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), C. William Howland (Vice chair) were present, and Michael McQueston (Clerk) was not present. The Chair opened the meeting at 6:30 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

**GATHERING:** Fred Smith, Diana Smith, Eric Troy, Richard Ayer (Highway Superintendent), Will Fontaine (National Grid), Erin Ballard, Executive Secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Will Fontaine from National Grid** – Here to discuss the Charles Lane Pole Hearing NO. 30641881. Richard Ayer brought up concerns about the pole’s final placement. Fred Smith said he talked to Rebecca from National Grid, and she said that’s just giving a location down the road because he also had concerns with a residence there. Fred said that Rebeccas told him that the poles are going to get moved back so not to worry about it. Will said he would put in a note on the job because Rebecca just moved to different locations. Will said either he or someone else could meet with Richard out on Charles Lane to look at what Richard’s concerns are regarding having the poles about 3 to 4 ft from the road so the highway department can plow around them. Diana Smith was asking if the poles will be able to give her internet. Will said that would be a Verizon question. Fred and Diana asked what the time frame was going to be for the poles project. Will said that time will be factored in with the weather so it could be a number of weeks. Will said he still has Rebecca’s number, and he will contact her for easement questions. Richard asked if they will be in charge of the tree removal and Will stated yes.

**ADJOURNMENT:** C. William Howland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m., Joseph A. Chenevert seconded, and it unanimously passed. The meeting closed at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Ballard  
Executive Secretary

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**Select Board**  
**Assessor's**

Monday, December 5<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 6:00 p.m.  
Held at the Office of the Select Board  
20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), C. William Howland (Vice chair), and Michael McQueston (Clerk) were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with no pledge of allegiance.

**GATHERING:** Claire Reavey and Andrea Letendre

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:**

**Town Clerk:** Not present. No report was given.

**Treasurer:** Not present. No report was given.

**Board of Health:** Not present. No report was given.

**Auditor:** Not present. No report was given.

**Finance Committee:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Police Department:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Fire Department:** Not present. No report was given.

**Highway Department:** Not present. No report was given.

**Council on Aging:** Not Present. No report was given.

**School Committee:** Not present. No report was given.

**Veterans' Agent:** Not present. No report was given.

**Assessors:** Present. **See Items of new business below.**

**Planning Board Committee:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Zoning Board Appeals:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Executive Secretary Report:**

**Select Board Reports:**

**ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:**

Claire Reavey explained that the tax income percentages that taxpayers are paying are:

- 90.86% of assessed value
- 4% commercial
- .77% industrial
- 4.34% personal property

The Assessors are recommending that there be one tax rate and that it stays the same. C. William Howland made a motion to accept; Michael McQueston seconded, passed unanimously.

**ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Michael McQueston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m., C. William Howland seconded, and it unanimously passed. Meeting closed at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Ballard  
Executive Secretary

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## Select Board

Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.  
Held at the Office of the Select Board  
20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), C. William Howland (Vice chair), and Michael McQueston (Clerk) were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

**GATHERING:** Eric Troy (Turley paper), Dr. Sheila Muir, Greg Devine, Jennifer Pollard, Dennis Letendre, Matthew Koziol, Ragged Hill Cider, Peggy Thompson, Sarah Bjorkland, 2 misc. men, 1 misc. woman, 1 misc. male child, Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** Motion made by Michael McQueston, to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 6p.m. and October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, 7p.m., seconded by C. William Howland and it was unanimously passed.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Matthew Koziol (Farmer Matt) and Ragged Hill Cider** – Present, requesting permission for one-day pouring licenses for November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2022 “White Christmas”, December 17<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Vote and signatures are required. Michael McQueston made a motion to approve, C. William Howland seconded, passed unanimously, all signed. 1 oz. Samples and bottle sales for off-site consumption.

**Dr. Sheila Muir** – Here to update officials and the town on school. Greg Devine and Superintendent, Dr. Sheila Muir stated that the post-grad students feel very welcome coming here. Joseph Chenevert asked, “are they keeping preschool this year”, Dr. Muir said “yes.” Jennifer Pollard said they love having preschool come to the library. Dr. Muir said that she received feedback about how they could do a better job communicating with the communities and provided copies of school committee reports for the months of September, October, and November. Discussed the difficulty getting funds for rural schools and talked about a report intended to make legislators and other gov. officials aware of all things that are challenging for our schools to provide what the children need. Thirty-six recommendations came out of this work. The school will be launching a fundraiser to earn money to add higher bleachers with a press box on top because the press box that’s there right now, is not safe. Hoping to raise a significant part of the money through donations but may need to borrow some money, they are going to communities to ask for approval to borrow from towns for in the future. Price pre-covid \$250,000 to \$300,000. Will keep updating. March 2<sup>nd</sup>, the new Governor’s budget should be coming around. Budget is one thing that will be a challenge for next year because private schools that some special education kids get sent to have increased by 14% and were granted an increase of 14% per student. Usually, it’s about a 2% increase each year. If the number of special Education

students remains the same for next year that is a \$228,000 increase that we would not have any control over. Sheila talked to Ann Gobi about this already. Going to be updating their strategic plan because it expired in June. Revised it and will be inviting a large strategic planning committee to attend a couple of strategic meetings, one being in mid-December and one towards the end of the process. They will be surveying parents, students, town officials, staff. Once the plan is approved, they will share the plan with the town.

Dennis Letendre said that the school approved an Intern, and they will be starting the first week in December.

**Sarah Bjorkland** – Here to discuss internet not being given to McEvoy Rd. Up to 3 residents could get price to go down. Joseph Chenevert mentioned that the town had no control over who got the internet. Sarah stated she was told that it would be a total of \$9,000 to get it but Spectrum would cover \$6,000 of that and residents would be responsible for the \$3,000. She stated she does not even have a landline. Verizon will not replace the wires. Cell phones do not even have service there as well.

**Jennifer Pollard** – Library is moving forward with replacing the air conditioning system with heat pumps and will retain the propane heat system as the backup system. Energy Concepts will be doing the work. Mr. Micham will be getting in touch with the building inspector and will need to get a permit for the wiring. Joseph Chenevert reminded Jennifer to get fees waived because it is for the town. Jennifer is trying to have the work done before the end of the year so they can apply for rebates with Mass saves.

Dennis Letendre said that on Tuesday the Pollard memory tree will be getting replaced. Joseph Chenevert said he tree did not have enough room to grow.

#### **REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:**

**Town Clerk:** Not present. No report was given.

**Treasurer:** Not present. No report was given.

**Board of Health:** Not present. No report was given.

**Auditor:** Not present. No report was given.

**Finance Committee:** Not present. No report was given.

**Police Department:** Not present. No report was given.

**Fire Department:** Present. Hose testing Wednesday. Engine 1 is getting repairs done, blew another seal when he went to test it.

**Highway Department:** Not present. No report was given.



**Council on Aging:** Not present. No report was given. Joseph Chenevert said that the COA served 130 people for their dinner.

**School Committee:** Present, Peggy Thomson. Verbal report. Discussed MCAS testing.

**Veterans' Agent:** Not present. No report was given.

**Assessors:** Not Present. No Report was given.

**Planning Board Committee:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Zoning Board Appeals:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Conservation Committee:** Not present. No report was given.

**Executive Secretary Report:**

- We are still waiting for the final plans between New Braintree's Engineer Designer and SLR, for the Hardwick/Ravine Road project.
- Bob Leet is returning tomorrow to do one more final check on the truss repairs.
- I left a message for Harold Leaming regarding information about a Building permit packet and if we could return to using one because the New Braintree Conservation Committee is not being notified of homes being built among other work being done.
- Need signatures on the WRAP Guardrail project reimbursement request.
- Philip Warbasse, the Architect that worked on the Hall, has reached out to Pathfinder Tech., among others included on the Gazebo project and is trying to jumpstart the project. He prepared a draft and is asking that they provide documentation for the students to be able to construct. Once that is provided, he plans to follow up and get the project moving.
- Executive Secretary spoke to Tom from Kidd Luuko Roofing, the company that did the shingles for the Town Hall. They will be scheduling with us this week or next to come check out and assess the shingles that buckled to see what can be done.
- Town Auditor and Executive Secretary working together on setting up an account to receive the \$115,000 from the Senate Budget.
- Frrrrd program met with Lori and the Police on Thursday regarding speed Traylor.

**Select Board Reports:**

- Bob Leet wants to fix the trusses above the offices, his original quote was for \$9,500.00 but he had to go up to \$10,500.00. Joseph Chenevert said "fortunately, we cannot use the money for the hall to do the project."

**ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:**

- Discussion on estimates for insulation for the Town Hall. Phil Warbasse solicited four quotes from four different sources. Custom Insulation Company, Inc. (16 Jacques

St. Rear Worcester, MA) responded with a quote of \$57,995.00. Correct Energy Construction Group, INC. (Po Box 934 Latham, NY) responded with a quote of \$73,164.00. The other sources that were solicited and did not respond are: ThermoSeal (P.O. Box 32 New Canaan, CT) and Peritus Spray Foam Insulation (91 Middle St. Leominster, MA). Michael McQueston made a motion to accept Custom Insulation Company, INC., and C. William seconded. Passed Unanimously.

- Discussion on new phone systems - Moore Communications provided an estimate of \$5,832.40 and a monthly cost of \$219.99. Connectivity Point estimated to cost \$5,926.00. Dennis Letendre asked, “can fire and highway to be added to the extension list?” Michael McQueston made a motion to accept the Connectivity Point estimate; C. William seconded the motion to accept, passed unanimously. Joseph Chenevert said, “when we meet with Connectivity Point to discuss plans going forward, we will ask for him to add the Fire and Highway to the new phone system agreement.”
- Discussion on mini splits for the Town Hall. - R.J. McDonald’s estimate is \$17,900 not including electrical work but Pacman Electrical, LLC gave a quote of \$2,033.98 so together combined the total price is \$19,933.98. MPC provided a quote for \$75,800.00. Tom Lesure from Energy Conservation, Inc. sent a quote for \$25,556.13. Michael McQueston made a motion to accept R.J. McDonald’s quote and Pacman Electrical’s proposal, C. William Howland seconded. Passed unanimously.
- Discussion of the estimate for adding 6 more new email addresses, 3 for Select Board members and 3 for the finance committee members. The quote is assessed at \$288.00 a year. The Select Board members signed the agreement to accept the cost for new email addresses.
- Joseph Chenevert stated that everything except the email addresses will be coming out of the debt exclusion.

#### **ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:**

- Update on the Salt Shed. Must push back the date because of supply shortages.
- Update on the Town Hall, mini splits won’t go in until spring. The insulation will be in next week hopefully. Everything is just about to be done and is coming in under what it was expected to be. Truss repairs are done. Joseph Chenevert hopes it’ll be done before the town meeting.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

All mail was read at the meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Michael McQueston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:06 p.m., C. William Howland seconded, and it unanimously passed. The meeting closed at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Ballard  
Executive Secretary

**MINUTES OF MEETING**  
**Select Board**  
**Planning Board**  
**Zoning Board**  
**New Braintree Police**

Monday, November 7th, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.  
Held at the Office of the Select Board  
20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), C. William Howland (Vice chair), and Michael McQueston (Clerk) were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with no pledge of allegiance.

**GATHERING:** Marty Goulet, Police Chief James Ayotte, Jody Kablack, Paul Paradis, Nancy Paradis, Genevieve Stillman (Late 6:02pm), Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:**

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Paul Paradis** – Here to discuss the purchase of the Reed’s Country store property for the use of a gun shop. Mr. Paradis was given a checklist of what needs to be done yearly for licensing from Police Chief James Ayotte. Mr. Paradis states that his wife, Nancy, and he plan to sell the property in North Brookfield completely and move to New Braintree. For security, they have always had a monitored alarm system, that has audio and video. Mr. Paradis said, “the shop would be for repairing and selling firearms.”

Marty Goulet - contacted Bill Cantell (The Building Inspector), who said he cannot take an application for someone that does not own the property. If Mr. Paradis leased the property for at least 6 months from the Reed’s, then he could apply for a permit. Marty suggests that the Select Board give the first 3 pages of section 2 chapter 9 by- laws to Mr. Paradis, because it talks about uses allowed by right and uses allowed by special permit. Marty said, “perhaps Mr. Paradis can use the “if allowed by right” – which is limited, the ability for a trades person to have a shop, it doesn’t speak to the retail restrictions.” Executive Secretary, Erin Ballard, provided copies to Mr. Paradis of the by-laws recommended above.

Jody Kablack asked if there are any other state laws that apply or restrictions. Police Chief James Ayotte explained everything is listed in the checklist provided to Mr. Paradis. Mr. Paradis has all the licenses needed now but he just needs to transfer them over.

Mr. Paradis said the hours of operation of the shop would be 12p.m. until 8p.m., every day except for Wednesday.

Joseph Chenevert brought up the concern that Mr. Paradis had regarding buying the property for about \$400,000 but fears that later, he could be told he’s not allowed to have the gun shop there. Michael McQueston said that it would be a lot to go through all the processes with the realtor, only to be turned down.

Jody said there should be a contingency in the purchase and sale.

Genevieve Stillman agreed with Jody saying that it depends on who shows up to the ZBA hearing. Jody and Marty both recommended that Mr. Paradis speak to the realtor and his attorney about everything. Jody asked if there would be any additions or reconstruction, Mr. Paradis said he plans on using the kitchen as a machine shop and explained the rest would be for display.

Marty explained the way the process works is, Mr. Paradis would apply for a special permit, the Zoning Board of Appeals shares the application and the information provided in detail about the operation with all the other Boards in town for their comments. The Police, the Selectman, highway department, and fire department, everyone gets to comment. Then there will be a public hearing, the Board of Appeals could say “yes with restrictions”, “yes with these conditions”, or “No, has to be a unanimous decision of the Zoning Board of Appeals”. “The Board of Appeals would hear comments from abutters. At the end of the hearing, take it under advisement and we will issue a ruling at a future date. It’s up to you to give us a very clear understanding of what the operation will be and what protections would be.” Mr. Paradis said, “operation is very flexible.”

Marty stated if everything went as planned that it would be about a couple of months. Jody mentioned signage that is in step with the by-law. Mr. Paradis said the shop sign is 2x4 ft on the outside and he has an open sign he puts in the window that lights up but doesn’t flash.

#### **REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:**

**Town Clerk:** Not present. No report was given.

**Treasurer:** Not present. No report was given.

**Board of Health:** Not present. No report was given.

**Auditor:** Not present. No report was given.

**Finance Committee:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Police Department:** Present, Police Chief James Ayotte. No report was given.

**Fire Department:** Not present. No report was given.

**Highway Department:** Not present. No report was given.

**Council on Aging:** Not Present. No report was given.

**School Committee:** Not present. No report was given.

**Veterans’ Agent:** Not present. No report was given.

**Assessors:** Not Present. No Report was given.

**Planning Board Committee:** Present, Jody Kablack and Genevieve Stillman. No report was given.

**Zoning Board Appeals:** Present, Marty Goulet. No report was given.

**Executive Secretary Report:**

**Select Board Reports:**

**ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Michael McQueston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:20 p.m., C. William Howland seconded, and it unanimously passed. Meeting closed at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Ballard  
Executive Secretary

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## Select Board

Monday, October 24<sup>th</sup>, 2022, at 7:00 p.m.  
Held at the Office of the Select Board  
20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), C. William Howland (Vice chair), and Michael McQueston (Clerk) were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with the pledge of allegiance.

**GATHERING:** Tina DeVries, Joanne Thompson, Les Miller, Dennis Letendre, Jennifer Pollard, Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** Motion made by Michael McQueston, to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022, seconded by C. William Howland and it was unanimously passed.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Camp Putnam** – Not present but are requesting permission for a one-day pouring license for “The Harvest Dinner”, scheduled for October 29<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Vote and signatures are required. Michael McQueston made a motion to approve, C. William Howland seconded, passed unanimously, all signed.

### **REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:**

**Town Clerk:** Not present. No report was given.

**Treasurer:** Not present. No report was given.

**Board of Health:** Not present. No report was given.

**Auditor:** Present. No report was given. Joseph Chenevert asked if Tina DeVries could give an update on how much money is left for the salt shed project. Tina stated that she does not know off the top of her head, but she would look it up.

**Finance Committee:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Police Department:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Fire Department:** Present, Chief Dennis Letendre. Engine 1 failed its battery test, have an appointment on Nov. 7<sup>th</sup> to get repaired and plan on having the latter repaired too. Michael McQueston inquired about the backup cameras and recommended “Safety Vision out of Springfield.”

Greg Devine talked with Dennis about having an intern from the Senior class. It would consist of the intern coming one or two days to help the Fire Dept., help Executive Secretary, the Assessor's on Tuesdays, and Town Auditor. The Select Board approved the intern, but Joseph Chenevert brought up a concern about sensitive material being seen by the teen intern. We would need to be careful about what tasks are given.  
Nov. 15<sup>th</sup>, Autistic Awareness Training, 630-930p.m. Located at NBGS.

**Highway Department:** Not present. No report was given.

**Council on Aging:** Present, Joanne Thompson. Got to hear a call come in while they were doing an event with the Fire department. Has food permit for November 10<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>, and 12<sup>th</sup> event. Joanne stated she saw Donald Berthiaume on Saturday and Nov 12<sup>th</sup> he is going to be on the WRE radio station in the morning then is planning on stopping at the hall on the way back. With Ann Gobi's office and with Connie from Janet's office, the Council on Aging would like to work on getting elderly services here in New Braintree. Joanne stated that those who are usually charged for a ride, the fees are being waived due to covid, until June.

**School Committee:** Not present. No report was given.

**Veterans' Agent:** Not present. No report was given.

**Assessors:** Not Present. No Report was given.

**Planning Board Committee:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Zoning Board Appeals:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Conservation Committee:** Present, Joanne Thompson - mentioned houses are going up and no one is contacting the conservation committee. She said she only knows because of her husband. Joanne mentioned without having the building packages and without everyone having to get things signed off, it is going to be a problem. There's a house that's going to go up on Gilbertville Rd., just beyond Sibley Rd., there's a driveway that goes up and over the hill. They are going to be building over the river and the Conservation Committee has not seen anything from them. Joseph Chenevert explained that this concern was brought up earlier and the Building Inspector does not want to have the packet. Jennifer Pollard brought up a concern about if the Gilbertville Rd. people are building in the flood plains. Joseph explained that nothing has come back to the Select Board to sign off on and that the Building Inspector has taken full control over the permits. It was asked for the Executive Secretary to contact Harold Leaming, the State Building Inspector for New Braintree to inquire about getting a packet for New Braintree use.

**Executive Secretary Report:**

- We are still waiting for the final plans between New Braintree's Engineer Designer and SLR, for the Hardwick/Ravine Road project.
- We received approval for the additional funds for the Hardwick/Ravine Road project.

- I reached out to “Stu” William Loosemore and Ann Gobi, regarding the \$115,000 Senate check that is planned to be used on the Truss repair project. Stu stated that he passed on the town’s contact information to those that were supposed to be issuing the checks. He stated that he was going to be reaching out to them today to inquire about the status of the check.
- Tomorrow the Executive Secretary will go to Athol to meet before two Commissioners to finish up the Notary process.

**Select Board Reports:**

- Joseph Chenevert mentioned that people should review the school committees last minutes if they are interested in seeing what the students are doing in the New Braintree Grade School.
- Joseph mentioned the hall is coming along. Raised it 8 inches and the shingles do not lie flat. Hoping to not have to put new shingles on that one side. Project will be done Nov. 12<sup>th</sup>.
- Put out for the insulation and mini split quotes.
- So, far looking like we are under budget. When we asked for the debt exclusion, Joseph wondered what we named the project. Tina DeVries said she thinks it was Town Hall Roof Repair. There are other projects that he is wondering if we could tie the leftover money into.
- Joseph mentioned that the doors could be replaced, and we need to update the phone system. He explained the phone system concern about needing to dial digits before dialing out. He was also thinking it would be good to have a phone in the hall and kitchen.
- Joseph discussed needing a new policy regarding General Harassment in addition to the Sexual Harassment Policy. Executive Secretary shared a model policy from MIIA Insurance that could be adopted. Michael McQueston made a motion to accept the Harassment Policy in addition to the Sexual Harassment Policy, C. William Howland seconded, it passed unanimously.

**ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Michael McQueston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:26 p.m., C. William Howland seconded, and it unanimously passed. Meeting closed at 7:26 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Ballard  
Executive Secretary



# MINUTES OF MEETING

## Select Board

Monday, September 26<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Held at the Office of the Select Board

20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), C. William Howland (Vice chair), were present, and Michael McQueston (Clerk) was not present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with Pledge of Allegiance.

**GATHERING:** Tim Pollard, Jennifer Pollard, Mark Borelli, Les Miller, SGT. Robert Toupin late 7:05 pm, Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** Motion made by C. William Howland, to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022, seconded by Joseph A. Chenevert and it was unanimously passed.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Jennifer Pollard and Nephew, Timothy Pollard** - Here to discuss memory tree in Timothy's father's honor. The Revitalization committee asked Timothy and Jennifer to come discuss the memory tree getting removed and replaced because it is rotting. Jennifer expressed concern about what type of tree is going to be replanted because of tree health issues. Joseph Chenevert discussed that the salt used for winter is what maybe affecting the trees that have been planted there in previous years. Joseph mentioned that the Executive Secretary will call Bigelow Nursery tomorrow to see if they can donate a tree. Timothy asked if a new spot had been proposed and Joseph stated maybe about 10 or 15 ft away from the old location. Jennifer mentioned that there was a plaque that was there in the ground at the tree, made by Doug Frost. Katie (past Executive Secretary) sent a picture of it to Jennifer back in 2005 or around there because Susie Mulliken had taken a picture of it, to use for her Christmas card that year. It was installed by the New Braintree youth group that Timothy was in. Joseph stated that he thinks Joe Salvadore mentioned bringing a metal detector up to look for the Plaque. Jennifer said the family would be happy to buy a new one if it can't be found. Jennifer suggested getting a bench to mount the plaque on "like the one for Kyle so it wouldn't get lost". Timothy asked if there could be more research on what kind of tree to put there because this would be the 3<sup>rd</sup> tree. Joseph stated that Doug Waugh may be able to tell us what tree would be best. Joseph invited Timothy and Jennifer to join the October 17<sup>th</sup> Revitalization meeting to discuss the memory tree further.

**Matthew Koziol (Farmer Matt)** - Not present - Requested one-day pouring licenses for October 14, 2022, October 15, 2022, and October 30, 2022. Permits were approved and paid in full at the September 12, 2022, meeting. Signatures required.

**Trick or Treating** - Trick or treat will be 3-6 pm on October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:**

**Town Clerk:** Not present. No report was given.

**Treasurer:** Not present. No report was given.

**Board of Health:** Not present. No report was given.

**Auditor:** Not present. No report was given.

**Finance Committee:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Police Department:** Present. Verbal report given. 3 arrests, motor vehicle violations, drug presumed to be fentanyl, several speeding citations/warnings, no crashes. SGT. Toupin stated that he had a meeting with the Rutland Chief of Police, Nicholas Monaco and Rutland ACO, Jennifer Ford. They have no assistants to help. The Rutland ACO does not get paid overtime beyond her 40 hours a week. The ACO covers Rutland, Princeton, Barre, New Braintree, and Hubbardston. SGT. Toupin was shown the kennel and was shown where everything is. If the police are to bring in an animal, they are to call the dispatch so Jennifer can be notified but are allowed access to the kennel for their immediate needs. Rutland Chief Monaco has a copy of the agreement with the ACO and our town. SGT. Toupin said the contract states 24/7 but Chief Monaco said it is underfunded so it is not possible to fulfill that. LT. Kevin Landine has been working with IT on updating all the computers and servers.

**Fire Department:** Not present. No report was given.

**Highway Department:** Not present. Verbal report was given to Executive Secretary Erin Ballard prior to meeting. Waiting for tests on gravel and compaction before paving for the salt shed. They are starting Moore Rd. drainage next week.

**Council on Aging:** Not Present. No report was given.

**School Committee:** Not present. No report was given.

**Veterans' Agent:** Not present. No report was given.

**Assessors:** Not Present. No Report was given.

**Planning Board Committee:** Not present. No report was given.

**Zoning Board Appeals:** Present, Mark Borelli. No report was given.

**Executive Secretary Report:**

- Select Board Annual Report changes - Reminded the Select Board to review last year's Select Board Annual Report and make changes for this year's Annual Town Report and return. Need to dedicate it to someone. Jennifer Pollard suggested Lori Hoffman.

- Update on Town Hall project - We spoke to Renaissance Builders, they stated that they cannot give us an exact date yet because they do not have one but will be starting the project in October.
- Ware River Valley Domestic Violence Taskforce walk - will be taking place Saturday, October 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, 1:00 pm, at Veterans Park in Ware, MA
- Chapter 90 project request for additional funds – Signatures are required.

**Select Board Reports:**

- Joseph Chenevert brought up a concern that committee members need to understand that the Executive Secretary does not work for them. The Executive Secretary works for the Select Board and for the Highway because 10% of their budget was taken.

**ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

All mail was reviewed during meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** C. William Howland made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:32 p.m., Joseph A. Chenevert seconded, and it unanimously passed. Meeting closed at 7:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Ballard  
Executive Secretary

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## Select Board

Monday, September 12<sup>th</sup>, 2022

Held at the Office of the Select Board

20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Select Board, Joseph A. Chenevert (Chair), C. William Howland (Vice chair), and Michael McQueston (Clerk) were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with Pledge of Allegiance.

**GATHERING:** Tina Lindsey, Tina DeVries, Jennifer Pollard, Dennis Letendre, Matthew Koziol (Farmer Matt), Jody Kablack, Les Miller, SGT. Robert Toupin, Dick Reavey, Trish Settles CMRPC late 7:01 pm, Genevieve Stillman late 7:02pm, Erin Ballard as secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** Motion made by Michael McQueston, to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, seconded by C. William Howland and it was unanimously passed.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Matthew Koziol (Farmer Matt)** – Here to ask the Select Board for one-day pouring licenses for September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022, October 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022, October 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. The one-day pouring licenses requested were approved, but Select Board signed the September 22, 2022, permit for tonight. Matt needs to return at a later date to get the October 14<sup>th</sup>, 15<sup>th</sup>, and 30<sup>th</sup>, one-day pouring licenses signed. Matt gave a check for all the one day pouring license dates that were approved, dates shown above.

**Planning Board** – Here to discuss the airport land (Tanner-Hill Airport). Jody Kablack, Trish Settles from CRMPC, and Genevieve Stillman suggested uses and ideas for the property. Provided copies of a brief overview of what they would like to do to maximize the property into bringing in revenue or recreational opportunities for the town. Jody, Trish, and Genieve would like to have a public discussion about the plans to see what the residents think and would like to have CMRPC there to help facilitate. Jody stated that the East Quabbin Land Trust is very interested in this property. Trish recommended we have a meeting the first week of October. Jennifer Pollard, asked how does this work with a private owner, would the town need to work as a marketer for the property with the owner? Jody mentioned that she thinks the owner lives in China right now and an abutting neighbor named Steve Grady has been the owner's eyes and ears. Jody said the owner would market it how they would want to. Michael McQueston confirmed that the Planning Board is discussing what they want to present to a new buyer but are not narrowing the property but broadening it. Jennifer Pollard mentioned a concern about traffic impact. Jody said if there is a traffic impact, the town has the means to require the developer to make those traffic improvements.

**Police Department** – Here to discuss the contract services from the Rutland Animal Control Officer. SGT. Robert Toupin, stated that ACO is not responding to calls during business hours. Tina Lindsey stated that town residents are still calling her because they are not getting a response from the ACO. Joseph Chenevert stated that we will try to get a hold of the Chief in Rutland. SGT. Toupin stated that the police have had to reach out to area town ACO's such as Tina Lindsey, a Spencer ACO that lives nearby, North Brookfield ACO because the Rutland ACO does not respond. SGT. Toupin stated that they do not have a pound or place to even bring animals to. SGT. Toupin and Tina shared multiple events that took place in which the ACO was contacted but no return from her. Unknown if there is a contract or MOU in place with the Rutland ACO. Joseph Chenevert thinks the Rutland ACO's assistant quit so she is working alone. New Braintree has a budget of \$3,500, the bill comes in at the end of the fiscal year for the ACO's services. Tina Lindsey said she would do it again, but she does not want to do it for the \$300 some odd dollars she was making before.

**October 30<sup>th</sup> Event at Farmer Matt's** - Jennifer Pollard asked the Select Board, what is the difference about Farmer Matt's October 30<sup>th</sup> event compared to the other's he has had, that requires needing to talk to the police about the event? Joseph Chenevert explained that the town was going to have trunk or treat at Farmer Matt's, but the police said that they cannot do that because it is a town function.

**Projects for "Project Create" Students** – Joseph Chenevert mentioned that the school has approached the Select Board looking for projects for the post grads. The students have been helping with putting stickers on the covid test kits, will be painting the doorways and signpost, we would need to buy the paint and materials. The staff will be supervising them. Les Miller mentioned that Debbie Morrison was thinking about having them help at the cemetery. Tina Lindsey mentioned fall cleanup for the elderly. Tina DeVries mentioned road clean up. Michael McQueston mentioned the highway departments trucks could be washed.

**Green Communities Grant** – Jennifer Pollard mentioned she heard a rumor that we are not reapplying for green community's grant. Joseph stated we are but for insulation because the other things we applied for were not approved since there was not enough energy savings. Jennifer Pollard said that their electric bill at the library has been \$0. Tina DeVries explained it's because of solar credits.

#### **REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:**

**Town Clerk:** Not present. No report was given.

**Treasurer:** Not present. No report was given.

**Board of Health:** Not present. No report was given.

**Auditor:** Present. No report was given.

**Finance Committee:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Police Department:** Present. Report– 2 arrests, 6 citations, 1 crash. 9/5, Stolen vehicle, later found in Springfield, still under investigation by Detective Lareau. Completed Active shooter refresher training.

**Fire Department:** Present. Verbal report. Has been quiet. Fire alarms. Has a plumber coming Thursday at 8am to look at the washer. Maintenance has been the biggest thing.

**Highway Department:** Not present. Verbal report to Select Board, said Salt shed process is moving. Bulldozer was dropped off last week. Guardrail work this week with Bartlett. Richard has a Hardwick/Ravine rd. site visit on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

**Council on Aging:** Not Present. No report was given.

**School Committee:** Not present. No report was given.

**Veterans' Agent:** Not present. No report was given.

**Assessors:** Not Present. No Report was given.

**Planning Board Committee:** Present. See above.

**Executive Secretary Report:**

- Select Board Annual Report changes - Erin Ballard asked the Select Board to review last year's Select Board Annual Report and make changes for this year's Annual Town Report and return. Need to dedicate it to someone.
- Using the Municipal Records Retention Schedule, dated April 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Lori Hoffman and Erin Ballard are asking for the Select Board's approval to begin shredding records that are no longer needed, per this retention schedule. Select Board approved.
- Found in signature folder - Hardwick/Ravine Road project – Appraisals of easements need to be completed and delivered by February 2023 per current schedule. A quote has been received for appraisal services from Howard S. Dono Assoc., estimated at \$7,500. We have received from the Town Counsel an estimate that the recording and deeds of these easements is going to cost \$7,500. A Chapter 90 request will need to be submitted prior to work with estimated cost of \$16,658. This project is estimated to go out to bid May 2023.
- Joseph Chenevert brought up concerns about the service from the current alarm company, taking 2 months to get a new part for the elevator. They did not know how to even put the part in.

**Select Board Reports:**

**ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Approval of Quote – Howard S. Dono Assoc., Inc. – For appraisal of easements services of Hardwick/Ravine rd. project – Vote and signature required. Select Board reviewed, Michael McQueston made a motion to approve and seconded by C. William Howland. Passed unanimously. Joseph Chenevert signed.
  
- Town Counsel to approve the legal services for documentation of easements and Record of Deeds for services of Hardwick/Ravine rd. project – Vote is required. Select Board reviewed, Michael McQueston made a motion to approve and seconded by C. William Howland. Passed unanimously.
  
- Approval for – Forms of Agreement between Owner and Architect (Philip Warbasse) –Vote and signature required. Select Board reviewed, Michael McQueston made a motion to approve and seconded by C. William Howland. Joseph Chenevert signed.

All mail was reviewed during meeting.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Michael McQueston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:08 p.m., C. William Howland seconded, and it unanimously passed. Meeting closed at 8:08 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Ballard  
Executive Secretary

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## Select Board

Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2022  
Held at the Office of the Select Board  
20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman of Selectmen, Joseph A. Chenevert and C. William Howland, and Mike McQueston were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. with Pledge of Allegiance.

**GATHERING:** Susie Mulliken, Jennifer Pollard, Jessica Monahan, Renee Gregoire, Dennis Letendre late 6:03 p.m., Peggy Thompson late 6:26 p.m., Les Miller late 6:26 p.m., Kevin Landine late 6:31 p.m. Erin Ballard as secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** Motion made by Mike McQueston, to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, seconded by William Howland and it was unanimously passed.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

Jennifer Pollard asked, "If the school budget passes, what will happen?" Kevin Landine stated that "It will mean that about \$30,000 will need to come out of the budget." Peggy Thompson brought up concerns that town people seemed confused about the budget for the school budget.

### **REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:**

**Town Clerk:** Not present. No report was given.

**Treasurer:** Not present. No report was given.

**Board of Health:** Not present. No report was given.

**Auditor:** Not present. No report was given.

**Finance Committee:** Present. See above under public forum.

**Police Department:** Not present. Reported 2 arrest and 0 crashes.

**Fire Department:** Present. Reported verbally on fire calls and stated that Wednesdays are the busiest days.

**Highway Department:** Not present. Previously reported to Select Board Chair that things have been slow because they are short staffed.

**Council on Aging:** Not Present. No report was given.



**School Committee:** Present. See above what Peggy noted.

**Veterans' Agent:** Not present. No report given.

**Assessors:** Not Present. No Report Given.

**Executive Secretary Report:**

**Green Communities Competitive Grant:**

We were denied, are we going to reapply?

Joe Chenevert said "Yes, we are going to reapply." Erin Ballard said we have until October 7, 2022, to reapply.

**Procurement classes:**

Erin Ballard is to take all 3 core classes to fulfill her appointment as a Procurement Officer. The total is \$1,885.00 for all 3 classes. Joe Chenevert explained it is a requirement of the state that the town needs a procurement officer. Mike McQuestion made a motion to approve the classes and William Howland seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

Jennifer Pollard asked if Erin Ballard will be a notary. Erin Ballard confirmed "Yes, paperwork was signed off by the town counsel and 3 references were submitted so it takes about 18 days before anything comes back."

**Select Board Reports:**

**ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:**

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**Gill Building Corporation Renaissance Builders-** For town hall truss repair work- Legal Counsel approved the contract. Mike McQuestion made a motion to approve the contract, and William Howland seconded. The Contract was signed and initialed on every page. Renee Gregoire asked, "what did they come in at?" Joe Chenevert explained that they came in at \$225,000 for just the trusses. It does not include the insulation, ceiling, and all the other stuff that comes along with the project. The completion of this date is no later than 75 days from start according to the contract.

**Meeting Called to Recess -** Mike McQuestion made a motion to recess the regular Select Board meeting at 6:11 p.m., William Howland seconded the motion, passed unanimously.

**Opened as a Special Meeting -** Mike McQuestion made a motion to re-open for Special Warrant Meeting, at 6:12 p.m. to sign the Warrant for 2020 State Primary voting scheduled on Tuesday, The Sixth Day of September 2022, for 7:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m., for the purpose of Governor, Lieutenant Governor, Attorney General, Secretary of State, Treasurer, Auditor, Representative In Congress, Councillor, Senator In General Court, Representative In General

Court, District Attorney, Sheriff. William Howland seconded, passed unanimously. Joe Chenevert explained the document that they were signing. Document was signed.

**Adjourned Special Meeting** – Mike McQueston made a motion to close the Special Warrant Meeting at 6:14 p.m., William Howland seconded, passed unanimously.

**Meeting Reopened** – Mike McQueston made a motion to re-open and continue with regular Select Board meeting at 6:14 p.m., William Howland seconded, passed unanimously.

All mail was reviewed during meeting. Les Miller received a thank you email. Jennifer Pollard asked if she could have a copy of it for the Historical Committee, Mike McQueston, William Howland, and Joe Chenevert approved.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mike McQueston made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:41 p.m., William Howland seconded, and it unanimously passed. Meeting closed at 6:41 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Ballard  
Executive Secretary

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## Select Board

Wednesday, August 10, 2022

Held at the Office of the Select Board

20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531

**Present at Meeting:** Chairman of Selectmen, Joseph A. Chenevert and C. William Howland were present. Michael McQueston was not present. The Chair opened the meeting at 3:00 p.m.

**GATHERING:** Les Miller, Richard Ayer (Superintendent of Highway Department), Lori Hoffman and Erin Ballard as Executive Secretary.

**OPEN BIDS:** FY23 Salt Shed Bids opened.

**Iron Horse:** Fran Burke- Joe Chenevert said Fran has included his references, compliance, wage, non-collusion, got his bond, proof of insurance. \$206,350.00 – Fran did not give the scope of work.

Richard Ayer: said he is going to need something to divide, or something is going to get wet.

The Select Board ask that Fran Burke of Iron Horse be called for clarification on the scope of work and was called at 3:12 pm.

Fran: said that site cleaned and level, he is going to bring in clean fill, build up a pad to hold the blocks, build block wall, pave in and out of footprint pad with asphalt, deliver and install the salt shed building.

Richard Ayer: brought up concerns about pavement being used and not lasting so he would like to meet Fran at the jobsite to discuss it. Any place that has been paved at the highway department site is up and down from the machines driving all over it and because it's built on a swamp.

**No bids received from companies that inquired for bid package:**

- Allied Solution Enterprise
- Sourcewell
- DukesLLC
- Bolt Estimating Inc.
- Bulk Storage Inc.

Vote required- Bill Howland made a motion to accept the bid and Joe seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.

Joe Chenevert requested Erin Ballard to type a letter to the Building Inspector to waive the Salt Shed building permit fees. The letter was typed before closing and was signed by Joe Chenevert and Bill Howland.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** C. William Howland made a motion to adjourn, Joe Chenevert seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Meeting closed at 3:21 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Erin Ballard  
Executive Secretary

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## Select Board

Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Held at the Office of the Select Board  
20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman of Selectmen, Joseph A. Chenevert and C. William Howland were present, Mike McQueston absent. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with Pledge of Allegiance.

**GATHERING:** Marty Goulet, Robert Leet, Jessica Monahan, Dennis Letendre, Andrea Letendre, Claire Reavey, Rory Fitzgerald, Richard Ayer, Les Miller, Ryan Chauvin, Peggy Thompson, Joe Salvadore, Erin Ballard as secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** Motion made by C. William Howland, to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of July 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, seconded by Joe Chenevert and it was unanimously passed.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

#### **Robert Leet presenting his proposed work for Town Hall Trusses:**

Robert brought in a large, descriptive, diagram plan for the project, gave permission for everyone that would like to see it to come up to the table and Robert explained the project and plans to the audience. Marty Goulet said it is efficient and will save us money. Joe Chenevert brought up a concern that Stephen from Renaissance Builders, (who will be working on the project with Robert Leet), Secretary (Carolyn) said that they may not start until October. Robert said that the wall that we already have there is releasing the stress on the trusses by 75%. Robert said October is fine as far as he is concerned. Joe asked Robert if Robert's proposal for costs are still correct, and Robert confirmed yes. Joe said we did get a waiver, so we do not need to send it out for bids. Robert said he is not going to stamp his plans yet until he looks at the attic.

#### **National Grid- Follow-up from call and Email:**

National Grid was not present.

#### **Assessors-Assessors page on the New Braintree website:**

Andrea Letendre, stated the assessors talked about how they would like their website page to have certain links to make it easier for the taxpayers to find the forms that they may need to send in. Rather than taxpayers having to call in and wait for the forms to get mailed to them. Andrea stated it seems to be taking a long time to get the website to where they would like it to be. Andrea asked if the assessors could have access to the website to make the updates in a timely manner. Joe Chenevert stated that Renee Gregoire is the only one with access and she was invited to come to the meeting, but she is on vacation. Joe said that Renee did say she is working on it and projects this large will require Renee to have to do it on her vacation days. Claire Reavey said she understands Renee does not get paid but it's the final product they are worried about. Joe voiced concern that about 2 years ago, they had access to it, they went in and erased things that they were not supposed to be erased. We had to go back and redo all of those files. Joe stated that they would need to get permission from Renee to have access.

Dennis Letendre said he can't get access to the grants for the Federal government and can't get it straightened out with Tina (Town Auditor). Dennis said he is missing out on thousands of dollars of grant money because Tina is the only one with access. Dennis said that Tina and he spent 4 hours working with the Feds trying to figure it out, but they couldn't. Joe said it would be between \$1,000 to \$1,200 to have a webmaster take it on. Joe said we will have to talk to Renee.

**Revitalization Committee-Approval of the Gazebo/Pavilion project and Appointment of Jessica Monahan. Vote for approval:**

Dennis Letendre, here looking to fill vacancies and talk about the Gazebo project. C. Bill Howland made a motion to accept the appointment of Jessica Monahan and Rory Fitzgerald, for the Revitalization Committee, Joe Chenevert seconded, all-in favor. Passed unanimously.

Dennis and Joe Salvatore, are looking for support from the Select Board to get the Gazebo/Pavilion project started. Dennis and Joe, discussed the plans to remove some trees, stumps, and blacktop. Joe Salvatore has been repairing the benches. Dennis mentioned that there is someone that wants to make an anonymous donation to pay for a gazebo/pavilion and Pathfinder Vocation School offered to build it. Pathfinder stated that the project will be at the top of their list because they do not get many community projects from New Braintree. Dennis presented a diagram of what the gazebo/pavilion would look like. Dennis and others mentioned it could be used to hold family events, girl scouts, bands, and have a signup sheet so people can use it. Bill Howland asked who would be responsible for it? Dennis stated Parks and Recs hopefully. Marty Goulet mentioned possibly having a shed to store things like tables in. Joe Chenevert stated that they cannot vote tonight on the Gazebo/Pavilion project because Joe Chenevert is on the revitalization committee and Mike McQuestion is not present. Bill Howland said he had no problems with it. Mike McQuestion was not there but said that he would support it, so the project could start moving forward.

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:**

**Town Clerk:** Not present. No report was given.

**Treasurer:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Board of Health:** Not present. No report was given.

**Auditor:** Not present. No report was given.

**Finance Committee:** Not Present. Nothing to report.

**Police Department:** Not present. See report.

**Fire Department:** Present. Verbal report: Smoke Detector seminar for Council on Aging Committee. Meeting is in NB Conference room at 10:45am. The goal with the seniors is do something quarterly going forward. Dennis wants to talk about extension cords, electric heaters, and fuel in October and November. The fire trucks are getting pumped tomorrow. Dennis said they have had a lot of fire calls lately including a car accident the other night and fire alarms going off.

**Highway Department:** Present. Verbal report: Richard Ayer discussed the vehicle report from last week. Still working on Guardrail clean up on Gilbertville rd., he's hoping dig safe comes next week to mark it. Bartlett came out, marked lines. Bartlett is having trouble getting their stuff. Slow on Moore rd. Trying to do the mowing and get things done but short staffed. Might not get all culverts in by winter. Progress is slow. One tree was trimmed but did not bother trimming the other ash tree because

it needs to come down. Did some work for the school. Richard called the backup guy but he said he was retired. Hoping to get that resolved before winter.

**Council on Aging:** Not Present. No report given.

**School Committee:** Present. Verbal report: Peggy Thompson said they had a meeting on the 19<sup>th</sup> to give an update on the new assessment number. To get to what New Braintree wanted they would need to cut out over \$600,000 out of their budget that's just us. Hubbardston would have been over \$800,000 to get to their number. Peggy said she does not think Hubbardston or us are sitting in happy situation. Joe Chenevert said we are having a Special Town Meeting on August 22 to vote on the school budget. Joe said, we have to have it by the 29<sup>th</sup>. Marty Goulet, \$5 Billion but state will not give it out. Joe said we are supposed to get a rebate for overpayment on taxes.

**Veterans' Agent:** Not present. No report given.

**Assessors:** Present. No Report Given.

**Executive Secretary Report:**

**National Grid follow-up:** The Smith's were not present so follow up with them tomorrow.

**Suzor IT:**

Suzor IT sent a list of prices from Spectrum, recommending that we switch to Spectrum. See list with options. Dennis Letendre asked why we need to switch when we have the Mass broadband and it is free. Joe Chenevert explained that it was free when they brought it in but then we have to pay for the carrier. Joe said we would need to talk about it with everyone before we make a decision.

**MMA:**

They are collecting information for the community profiles for their new online directory. They are looking for a photo of our Town Hall. Joe Chenevert and Bill Howland stated they do not have a problem.

**Select Board Reports:**

**ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:**

**ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:**

- Update Discussion of outdoor sign repairs and tree maintenance near town hall- vote may be required. Joe Chenevert said Richard Ayer already addressed it.
- Letter to the Building Inspector was signed by Bill and Joe to waive the building permit fees for the Trusses project

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** C. William Howland made a motion to adjourn, Joe Chenevert seconded, and it unanimously passed. Meeting closed at 7:48 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Ballard  
Executive Secretary

**MINUTES OF EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE  
S E L E C T   B O A R D  
Wednesday August 3, 2022  
20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531**

The meeting of the Selectboard opened at \_\_\_\_\_ am. On Wednesday, August 3, 2022, in the Hall of the town hall.

Those present included Joe Chenevert, Mike McQueston, Bill Howland, Lori Hoffman, Erin Ballard as secretary.

**Status of Main Hall Ceiling/Roof/Trusses;**

**Meeting was cancelled.**

Meeting was adjourned at approximately \_\_\_\_\_ am.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Ballard  
Executive Secretary

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## Select Board

Monday, July 25, 2022

Held at the Office of the Select Board

20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman of Selectmen, Joseph A. Chenevert and C. William Howland and Michael McQueston were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m. with Pledge of Allegiance.

**GATHERING:** Joanne Harder, Kelly Adomaitis, Susie Mulliken, Les Miller, Chief James Ayotte Fred Smith (Late 7:14 pm), Diana Smith (Late 7:14 pm), John Carlson (Late 7:31 pm), Erin Ballard as secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** Motion made by Michael McQueston, to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and July 18<sup>th</sup>, 2022 (Fuel Bid) meeting minutes, seconded by C. William Howland and it was unanimously passed.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Joanne Harder** – Here tonight because she is one of 16 people that don't have internet in town. It was determined that there are 14 poles starting from the Hardwick/West Road intersection to the end of her address of 1610 Hardwick Rd. New Braintree, Ma. Joanne reached out to Select Board via email to state that she was told that "the Selectman were the ones picking who didn't get wired and that the town should pay approximately \$2,000 that Spectrum does not handle (They pay the first \$5,000). Joanne states that the total cost for internet is \$7,000. Joe stated that he wanted to set something straight, "We did not tell them what streets they can do and what streets they can't do, we had nothing to do with who would get wired and who would not". Joe stated that we are going to call them tomorrow to straighten that out because they are not going to be telling people that and throwing us under the bus again. Joanne said it was a construction supervisor that said it. Joanne said the construction supervisor told her that she needed to talk to the selectman to see if they are going to help cover the \$2,000 cost. Their going to take the first \$5,000 and it is \$2,118.00 for the rest of it. Joanne said her main concern is Benoit's has internet from two directions, one goes down to Slein's and then there's a wire ran to Benoit's again from the other side. If they went straight, it's a half mile from her driveway, Ravine to Hardwick Road, it would be at her driveway. She said that one house has 2 wires, and she would have to pay \$2,118 just to get one. She said that's not right. Bill asked if there were 2 apartments. Joe said he doesn't think so. Joanne said she does not know how many apartments or hook ups, but they are getting internet from 2 directions. Joanne said the wire from Benoit's down to Ravine Road is not necessary. Mike asked if she called Charter about it to see if they have a reason why it goes on both sides. Construction guy told Joanne that there's no reason why she shouldn't have internet. Joanne said that she feels discriminated against. Mike asked to confirm that they told Joanne it was going to cost \$7,100 and they were only going to pay \$5,000 of it. Joanne said "yes, they would pay the first \$5,000 of it" and they told her to go to the town to ask the town to help with the rest. Joe stated the reason why they did not want to get involved with who was going to be turned on and who wasn't is because half of all the people are all related, so if he got internet and someone else did not, the first thing people could say is that he's a Selectman so that's why he got it. Joanne asked if they have any suggestions on how she can recoup some of her money a little bit for the \$2,000. Joe asked if the \$2,000 was for her driveway too. Joanne said they told her to



connect all the way to her house is \$7,100. Joanne said that the finance people told her today that she has 1400 ft and 200 ft underground. Mike said it's more money for underground. Joanne said she did not know what they could be doing underground. Joanne said all her poles are above ground and that she should have probably questioned that. Joanne said if they could fix the two wires going to Benoit's then maybe she would not have a \$2,000 bill. Joe said we will call them tomorrow to see what is going on. Joe said we have been in contact with the governor, we are trying to get the governor to come because there is supposed to be federal money to upgrade the internet. They have not gotten back to us. Joe said they usually get back to us. Joanne said she has not heard from any political leaders either. Joe said it is federal money so it's not coming from the state, not coming from Ann Gobi or Berthiaume. Joanne said she is going to pay the \$2,000, because it's going to take 4 months, 128 days, permits need to be pulled, Joe added licenses for the poles... Joanne asked, "if a grant comes through somewhere along the line"? Joe said then "we will reimburse you". Joe said that "some houses are going to be even more than \$7,000 because they are even further out. There is a couple out 2 miles away and they are the only ones on the street. If we give you the \$2,000, those people are going to come back and ask why they did not get money. It will be about \$50,000 to get the other residences that do not have internet, service". Joe said so if we can get that money, we will reimburse you. If we don't get it... right now we do not have the extra \$2,000, our budget is very tight. The school is coming back, they are only giving us \$8,000 from the last time, so we are still going to have to come up with \$28,000. Joe said most is being covered by a grant right now, but it is not covering the whole thing. Joe stated that money should be coming in 2 years, we are hoping to get to do the rest of the town internet. Mike reminded Joanne to save her receipt if she pays with a check or whatever she uses to pay for the internet so she can be reimbursed.

Joanne said that she needs the brush cut outside of her driveway, she has hired the farm up the road to do it last year for her. "I'll be damned if I have a personal person do it again this year". She said she pulled out in front of someone the other day. She's gone down to try to trim herself but "some of this stuff is thick". Joe said he knows the mower has been down. Joe and Mike stated they would talk to Richard (Highway superintendent). Joanne said she sent an email and did not get a response. She said if she gets hit coming out of her driveway the town will be liable and she hates to say it. Joanne said she has requested it for at least 3 years.

**Diana Smith** – Internet installation on Charles Lane - See Email. Fred Smith (Diana's husband) and Diana Smith introduced themselves. Diana stated that her internet was better before than it is now. They did something to the lines. Diana said that she had Verizon before. Joe asked if she has contacted Verizon and she stated she has but they won't put lines on her poles. Diana said that Verizon told her that National grid owns the poles and National grid has stated that Verizon owns the poles. Joe explained that Spectrum would have to get a license for those poles so that could be one of the things holding up their service with Spectrum. Fred mentioned since the ice storm they have been 2 feet off the ground, they have made several complaints. Fred said he has had to cut the whole line off several times. Fred said the lines have been down since the ice storm 10 years ago. Joe asked if it was from the pole to the house. Fred said that they have several poles leading up to his home from in the woods. Joe asked how they access those poles. Fred and Diana said through the property and the woods. Fred said they can't pull trucks out there, so they must get a special crew. National grid said to Fred that the lines are down so Fred said to the representative that they came down from the storm and someone needs to come and physically put the lines back up. Fred said "trees come down all the time but" ... Joe said "we can call Verizon tomorrow to see what we can do because "that is something that should be able to get fixed but for as far as your internet goes, I am not going to give you a lot of hope". Joe said, "same as I told Joanne, we are waiting on some federal money". Joe stated that the last 4% to get internet would cost \$50,000 and the town cannot afford that \$50,000. Joe stated that "we have been trying to get a representative from the governor's office to

come out here and talk to us about it, but they have not gotten back to us". Joanne asked Fred if he had them come out to do a survey and Fred said, "they were supposed to but never showed up". Joe stated that "we will contact national grid to see if there is anything they can do about the wires and poles". Fred stated that "they want to put the poles on the road to get it off the easements and obviously for access". Joe said "it doesn't sound like they have a lot of access to these poles". Fred confirmed they don't, the poles start at Hunter's farm and cross a piece of the swamp. Fred said "general maintenance is not kept up with, they just let things go for years, it's like the roads not getting mowed". Joe also said "we will try to get a representative from national grid to talk about wires and poles because they were supposed to do leading up to the academy as well, we are running into the same problem with the wires being low". Joe said, "We are trying to get the whole town up but we just don't have the funds to get anything right now". Diana stated that they had Verizon but once they messed with the box at the top of the hill, sometimes they take it all away from her, so she has to call them to get it back. It messes up the internet and now they have nothing. Joe stated that "we will try to have a representative come to one of our next Select Board meetings", he said "we will try to get them to come the 8<sup>th</sup> but if not, maybe some later date". Bill suggested "maybe the following meeting if they can't make this one". Diana added "or at least new lines on those poles". Diana said she buys Verizon plus she buys AT&T mobile hotspot, it cost her about \$200. Joe stated "you can get a hotspot from the library. It is free. The library gives it to you like you are checking out a book. Joe said he thinks they have 4 of them. You can keep it for about 2 weeks, if no one wants it you can keep requesting it". Joe said "but the program ends in September, I think, it was government funding for those". Diana said her Verizon cell service only comes in the kitchen at her home. Mike recommended Trifecta, it's a hotspot, but it runs off the Verizon towers and it was unlimited \$150 a month but must have Verizon cell service. Mike and Joe recommended she ask to see if they can use their AT&T with it as a carrier because that's what works at her home. Joe said "if we get a notification for when the rep. is coming, we will call you" (Diana and Fred Smith), so they know to come to the meeting with questions.

Joe and Mike stated that they did not think that they could do what the Postmaster (Matti) is requesting. They stated that they have heard the complaint a lot but there's nothing they can do because mirrors are not allowed to be put on the roads. Joe said he talked to Richard and Richard told him "No way because then the town is liable if something were to happen". Mike noted she (Postmaster) has reached out to Kevin (LT. of Hardwick Police). Joe said to give Jim (Chief James Ayotte), the letter from the Postmaster and mentioned that he did not think there was much we could do. Mike stated highway can't put up a mirror because then the town is liable. Chief Ayotte inquired about Hardwick Highway just putting a mirror up to alleviate some of the same issues. Joe stated that Richard was told that he had to take down a mirror off a road because if the sun shines on it, it could shine in their eyes and cause an accident then the town is liable. Chief Ayotte asked if Richard could make it a little wider there or mow back more. Mike stated it's mostly yard there and it would have to be dug out. Joe said the person that lives there probably wouldn't want that. Mike stated it is town property so they wouldn't have a choice.

Diana Smith asked what roads are listed for not getting internet service. Joe stated 3 houses on Uritas Road, there's Joanne Harder's house (1), 5 on Mcevoy Road, 1 on Webb Road, 1 on Goodfield Road, 2 on Ware Road, and 3 on Mara Road.

**Appoint Additional Special Police Officers for FY 2023.** Mike McQuestion made a motion to accept the additional Special Police Officer appointments of Matthew Ryle and Paul Magierowski for the FY2023 as written, C. Bill Howland seconded, all-in favor. Passed unanimously.

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:**

**Town Clerk:** Not present. No report was given.

**Treasurer:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Board of Health:** Not present. No report was given.

**Auditor:** Not present. No report was given.

**Finance Committee:** Not Present. Nothing to report.

**Police Department:** Chief Ayotte was present. See report.

**Fire Department:** Not Present. Nothing to report.

**Highway Department:** Not Present. Submitted a report.

**Council on Aging:** Not Present. No report given.

**School Committee:** Not Present. No report given.

**Veterans' Agent:** Not present. No report given.

**Assessors:** Not Present. No Report Given.

**Executive Secretary Report:**

Received email from Anne Gobi regarding the \$115,000 grant, she is still waiting for approval. It is sitting on the Governor's desk waiting for the approval. She said this typically takes until early Fall before the funds go out the door. Joe mentioned "this is for the hall repairs" to the audience. Susie Mulliken was wondering what the difference between fixing the hall or taking it down was, "what is the cost of taking it down"? Joe said according to our structural engineer, this is just for the repairs, it is between \$250,000 and \$350,000, estimated in order to tear it down. Joe said they would need to do the roof structure because all of the roofs are tied in together. They would need to make the wall an outside wall, plumbing, heating, then you would have nothing, no hall, and you just spent between \$250,000 and \$350,000 and you have nothing. Susie mentioned about the vote coming up on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, and asked, "will you have the total price of the difference out there at the meeting, so people know the difference of the cost of tearing it down and the cost to fix it"? Joe reminded again that it would be estimates and we went with the highest estimates. Susie asked, "Tearing it down will be higher right"? Joe said "Yes, if it does not get approved, we do not have the money to tear it down, it will fall, but we won't have any insurance and that's the whole building not just the hall. Mike said and the money from the state is only to repair it. It is not to tear it down because they will not give us any money to tear it down. Fred Smith asked for confirmation that it was the trusses in this building. Mike explained to Fred Smith that the trusses are failing. Fred asked how old the building is. Joe said around 1986. Fred said so it's not that old. Fred asked if the repair was to take all the trusses out, but Joe and Mike said the repair is to repair the trusses already there. Joe said the Structural engineer can fix it without having to take everything out. Fred asked if the roof is sagging. Joe explained that there are places in there where you can stick your hand in between the roof and the trusses. Mike explained "a lot of the plates have popped so we would need the plates to be re-plated". Joes explained "we have to have it

done by October”. Joe explained “we have a temporary structure but if it doesn’t pass, we will have to put 2 more temporary walls in there because if we get a snowstorm, the temporary structure won’t hold”. Joe said “it should add probably between \$75 and \$100 per year on your taxes”. Joe said “either way it’s going to have to be added because we would have to tear it down”. Joanne asked that “if the grant is for \$115,000 but the repairs are \$250,000-\$350,000”? Joe said “no the total cost will be \$532,000, the \$250,000-\$350,000 is strictly the repairs of the trusses, you’d have to fix the insulation, the ceiling, it’s going to be painted, the whole nine yards. These are just estimates, high estimates”. Joanne stated, “you should just do it, we voted you people in to make these decisions.” Mike and Joe stated, “we cannot do that because it changes the taxes”.

Library Green Community Grant –Follow-up with Green Community – The Library Grant is still under review. Kelly Brown is hoping that the grant announcements will be made early next month (August).

MIIA Grant – We received a quote from Calvin Perkins regarding cameras for the Highway/Fire Barn. He has quoted \$2,467.80. After speaking with Debra Williams of MIIA, she said camera systems would not be able to be fund on this grant. She said this sounded like it is a town maintenance installment, not a safety concern. However, we can still submit and see what happens. Joe said “I don’t understand how it’s not a town safety concern, it would be to their benefit if we had cameras down there and if somebody broke in, we’d have it on tape. How are they going to say it’s not to our benefit”?

Salt Shed bid packages have been sent out. Opening bids is scheduled for August 10, 2022, at 3:00 pm.

Town Hall Trusses – We received the Emergency Waiver Request approval. We wait for the residence approval of the debt exclusion on August 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2022. Robert Leet and Philip Warbasse are scheduled to come tomorrow to take measurements for drawings for the bid package.

Renee Gregoire is looking to possibly create an “outside of our town resource area” on our website for vendors to post items regarding their services. Please see the email from Kristina Reid. Center for Living & Working, it describes what the program does for community members.

Erin asking if Lori could stay on the next few weeks at 20 hours and then drop down to 10 hours a week because I was hired into many open projects that require a lot of attention. Joe said he talked to Lori about this, and we went over the budget and there is money in that budget to do this. I think it’s a great idea. She is up to speed on the salt shed, on the hall, and she has all the contacts so if she is willing to that, I think it’s a great idea. I stated any new projects coming in now, I am taking. Mike made a motion and Bill seconded. All in favor.

Charter update - Lori suggested that we notify the Residence that are on the list that will not be able to get Charter service. Have them contact Charter and request a survey. Let Selectboard office know, and we will follow-up with our contact at Charter. To see what we can do.

Who will the 2022 Annual Report book be dedicated to?  
Joe said the Select Board needs to think about it.

Received Award documentation for the Winter Recovery Assistance Program (WRAP)

### **Select Board Reports:**

## ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:

Out of District School bus Transportation. Van Pool, AA Transportation, and McCarthy Transportation were sent emails for bid request. Joe said McCarthy is the only one that replied, and they are at \$42,250 a year. Only McCarthy Transport replied with a rate of \$262.50/day for 180 days = \$47,250/year. All vendors were sent two emails requesting bids. – Joe said we don't really have a choice, last year we were scrambling at the very last minute to find someone for these 2 students. This year we were actually lucky enough to put it in the budget. The previous year we were only allotted \$15,000. This year we allocated \$47,000 and that's for 2 students. Joanne Harder asked why are we paying for them to go to Smith? Joes said we have no choice. Joe said if the district doesn't offer that program... Mike added the student has the choice. Joe said in the past years it wasn't as much of an impact because there were students going from Oakham and Hardwick all going on the same bus. Now the only 2 students going are from New Braintree, so we have to pay the whole amount. Mike McQuestion made motion to accept the quote and hire McCarthy Transportation. Bill Seconded - vote unanimously passed. Obligation is 2 more years to pay for Smith bus transportation with McCarthy.

Discussion of updated school assessment received on July 21, 2022 – Joe said we are going to have to schedule a special town meeting because the school came back and offered us \$8,000 less than we previously wanted, we were short about \$34,000. Susie Mulliken asked what happens if we do not accept that? Joe said we are not the only ones both Hardwick and Hubbardston have set their meetings for August 22<sup>nd</sup>. Finance Committee thinks we should have it on the same night. Susie Mulliken said she thinks that's a good idea because that's a slap on the hand to only give us \$8,000. Joe said 37 million dollars, \$8,000 is a slap in the face. Joe said they still want \$75,000 from Hardwick and Hubbardston is even more. Joe said ours is \$29,057.10. Mike made a motion and Bill Seconded.

Discussion of 1 day liquor license fee and review all fees (Joe stated that they want to table all other fees for now) – vote is required. Signed both of Farmer Matt's one day pouring licenses.

Joe said Tina De Vries (Town Auditor) wants to know if the 3 people still have their credit cards for Lowes. Les Miller said he still has one. Bill (Vice Chair) said he will need to check because he does not know if he still has one. Richard Ayer (Highway Superintendent) has the 3<sup>rd</sup> one. Les Miller said Bill's and Richard's are here or they used to be.

Joe read KP Law-Senate has passed a bill that of July 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022, all meetings have to be in person.

Joe stated we got our approval for CH 90 project, Hardwick and Ravine Road. Joanne asked is there a timetable? Joe said "yes, we have been trying since 2011". When we started it was about \$300,000 to do it now it's about \$5 million. Fred Smith "what was the hang-up about it"? Joe said "we do not fall into their categories; they have updated their categories and 2 of their categories are you have to have a bicycle path and a sidewalk. "We have neither, so those 2 categories already knocked us down". Joanne asked, "So what's holding it up now"? Joe said "Nothing, it's coming". Joe said that he is thinking the Spring because their fiscal starts in October. Kelly Adomaitis asked, "does that mean they will put a crosswalk at the rail trail". Mike and Joes stated, "that's a good question they probably should". Diana Smith said, "they should have a blinking light there".

## ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:

- Signing of 1 day liquor licenses for Farm Matt – July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, and August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Approved and signed.
- Discussion – Update Highway Salt Shed – Waiting for August 10<sup>th</sup>, 2022, for opening of Bid Packages.
- Discussion of - Planning Board looking for appointing a Barre Hills Airport Subcommittee – vote is required. No one from the Planning Committee came to the meeting.
- Discussion of Town Hall Trusses. – As mentioned in Executive Secretary report – we received the Emergency Waiver. Robert and Philip due in tomorrow to take measurements for the design for the bid package.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mike McQuestion made a motion to adjourn, C. William Howland seconded, and it unanimously passed. Meeting closed at 8:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Ballard  
Executive Secretary

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## Select Board

Monday, July 18, 2022  
Held at the Office of the Select Board  
20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531

**Present at Meeting:** Chairman of Selectmen, Joseph A. Chenevert and C. William Howland and Michael McQueston were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:00 p.m.

**GATHERING:** Jen Pollard and Lori Hoffman and Erin Ballard as secretary.

**OPEN BIDS:** Fuel FY23 Bids opened.

EP Wine:

Propane Price per unit: \$2.00 fixed  
Propane Maintenance Services: cleaning \$175 per unit, repairs \$125 per hour  
(Highway barn, fire station, library, and town hall)

RJ McDonald, Inc:

Low Sulfur Diesel Fuel:  
\$1.91 fixed or (+36 mark-up) Summer Blend  
\$4.19 fixed plus tax and .24cents mark-up Winter Blend  
No. 2 Fuel (Heating Oil): \$3.93 fixed or 34 cent mark-up  
\$150.00 per unit  
\$115 per hour regular business hours  
\$172.50 nights and weekends

Dennis Burke:

Unleaded Plus (89 Octane) Gasoline: State Bid Price

Santa Buckley Energy sent in a request on 7/14/22 for the bid package. No Bid package was received from them.

Motion to close bidding at 7:15 pm. Michael McQueston made a motion, Joseph A. Chenevert seconded. - all in favor

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

A motion was made by Michael to accept and Sign of Special Town Election Warrant, Bill seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mike McQueston made a motion to adjourn, C. William Howland seconded the motion, passed unanimously. Meeting closed at 7:18 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Erin Ballard  
Executive Secretary

# MINUTES OF MEETING

## Select Board

Monday, July 11, 2022

Held at the Office of the Select Board

20 Memorial Drive  
New Braintree, MA 01531

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** Chairman of Selectmen, Joseph A. Chenevert and C. William Howland and Michael McQuestion were present. The Chair opened the meeting at 7:04 p.m. with Pledge of Allegiance.

**GATHERING:** Les Miller, Tina DeVries, Sue Mulliken, Joanne Harder, Kelly Harder, Jennifer Pollard, Matthew Koziol (Farmer Matt), Lori Hoffman and Erin Ballard as secretary.

**APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:** Motion made by Mr. Michael McQuestion, to approve the Select Board minutes of June 24, 2022 - ballot question scheduled for August 2<sup>nd</sup> 2022; June 27, 2022 – as no meeting was held; also meeting minutes of Tree Hearing – Moore Road held on July 6, 2022, seconded by C. William Howland and it was unanimously passed.

### **PUBLIC FORUM:**

**Introduced** -Erin Ballard, Executive Secretary. All welcomed her.

**Matthew Koziol of Farmer Matt** – Requesting a one day pouring license for Lost Town Brewing Company Event, BBQ and band, at his location for July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, he stated that it was a great success last time. Looking to have the same type of event on July 28<sup>th</sup>, 2022, food from his restaurant will be served at 4:30 pm – band will be done by 8:30 pm. Asked for advice for a Farmer Matt Sign to be put up where Prouty Road and West Brookfield Road meet, that says “Welcome to New Braintree”, but sponsored by Farmer Matt. Farmer Matt stated, “I want to be respectful; I own three parcels of land, can I have one sign per parcel?” Farmer Matt wants to do a nice sign and welcome people to our town. Joe indicated that there is a bylaw for size for signs. Joe and Mike stated that they do not think there is a limit of signs you can have. Joe said he would have to go to zoning board for approval if sign is larger. Matthew is also looking for August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, for a one-day pouring license. Would like this event to be with Exhibit “A” Brewing Company. Joe will look into how many licenses can be awarded. – Mike McQuestion made a motion for the one-day pouring license for July 28<sup>th</sup> 2022, Bill Howland seconded, all in favor. Mike McQuestion made a motion for a one-day pouring license for August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022, if number of licenses allows. Bill Howland seconded. Both July 28 and August 25 passed unanimously.

**Joanne Harder** – Internet installation on Hardwick Road. Here tonight, because one of 16 people that don't have internet in town. Hardwick/West Road intersection to the end of her address of 1610 Hardwick Rd. New Braintree, Ma. Spectrum is saying her driveway is a road, not driveway. ¼ mile away from Glidden. Lori mentioned they might take time as they will need to get pole licenses. Joanne will get number of poles to Erin to give to Spectrum. Lori will make phone calls. Joe – they said only 96% of the town was to get internet. Hopefully there will be Federal grant money for Broadband to complete the town. Joanne stated, “We all pay taxes so we should all get it.”

**Appoint Police Officers for FY 2023.** Chief James Ayotte, Lieutenant Kevin Landine, Sergeant Robert Toupin, Officer Ryan Gentile, Officer/Detective Kyle Lareau, Officer Patrick Almstrom, Officer Stephen Houle. Intermittent Police Officers 1 year appointment – Peter Ribaud; Police Matrons one-year appointments – Mary Ann Regin, Lori Hoffman, Erin Ballard. No Civilian



Detention Officer listed. Police Clerk – one year appointment Lori Hoffman, Police Chaplin – Father Richard Lembo; Designated Infectious Control Officer – Lt Kevin Landine and Officer Kyle Lareau, Special Police Officers – 1 year appointment – Adam Williamson, Philip Kearns, Edward Pollock, Michael Sweet, Andrew Ronnau, Hector Melendez, Jonathan Driskell, Ryan Daley, Shawn Crevier, Stephen P. Lebrun, Diana Gliniecki (Ware Police K-9 Sampson), Matthew Letendre, Richard Cooley, Jr., John Bell, John Agnew, William Gregoire, Michael Blanchard, Peter Buck. Mike McQuestion made a motion to accept the list of police officer appointment FY2023 as written, Bill Howland seconded, all in favor. Passed unanimously.

**REPORTS OF DEPARTMENT HEADS, BOARDS, COMMITTEES:**

**Town Clerk:** Not present. No report was given.

**Treasurer:** Not Present. No report was given.

**Board of Health:** Not present. No report was given.

**Auditor:** Present. Looking for Annual FYE 6/30/22 Transfers as submitted in accordance with MGL Chapter 44 section 33(b). Mike McQuestion made motion to accept transfer Total \$36,216.63 as presented, Bill Howland seconded, All in Favor. Passed unanimously.

**Finance Committee:** Not Present. Nothing to report.

**Police Department:** Not Present. Nothing to report.

**Fire Department:** Not Present. Nothing to report.

**Highway Department:** Not Present. Nothing to report.

**Council on Aging:** Not Present. No report given.

**School Committee:** Not Present. No report given.

**Veterans' Agent:** Not present. No report given.

**Assessors:** Not Present. No Report Given.

**Executive Secretary Report:**

Welcome Erin Ballard to replace Lori.

The \$50,000 Town Hall Repair grant has been completed and submitted for reimbursement.

Library Green Community Grant – I have heard nothing on. Will Follow-up with Erin this week.

Fuel bids – We are open for Fuel bids. The closing date is July 18<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 pm.

Salt Shed bid package needs to be put together. I (Lori) have found a sample of bid package to new salt shed for review. Please review and make any changes as needed. We need to send out the bid soon, to have a new salt shed installed before the first snowstorm. Bids need to go out for two weeks.

Town Hall Trusses – Received the instructions for the Emergency Waiver Request – I have drafted a letter for your review. Would like to get out next week to see if we can get waiver. We are still waiting for the \$115,000 from Anne Gobi’s office, and the vote on the debt exclusion before we can do anything. This Emergency waiver will shorten the period of the bid processing protocol if the residence approves the debt exclusion on August 2<sup>nd</sup>. It will cost more to take down then to repair.

Winter Recovery Assistance Program – It is after July 1<sup>st</sup>, so Richard can proceed on his project for these funds, per Eddie Bates at DOT. The amount of this award is: \$166,417, which Richard want to use on Guardrails.

**Select Board Reports:**

**ITEMS OF NEW BUSINESS:**

Discussion of - Planning Board looking for appointing a Barre Hills Airport Subcommittee – vote is required. Joe – was hoping a planning board member to attend the meeting. No one present. They want to set up a subcommittee, for on property for sale. They cannot appoint people and ask for subcommittee. Only the Select Board can. Joe said he would not approve this committee. They are overstepping their bounds. We cannot put restrictions on personal property with no plans presented to us. They are a planning board period. Sue asked if we are going to send a letter. Mike McQuestion made a motion to turn down the planning board to have the Barre Hills Airport Subcommittee, Bill Howland seconded, voted in favor, unanimously. Subcommittee was not approved.

Transfer of funds – See above in Town Auditor Report.

- Items for signature
  - MIIA FY23 Agreement Signed by Joseph A. Chenevert.
  - Chapter 90 project reimbursement to sign for the last CHA invoice processed in FY22. Signed by all Select Board.

**ITEMS OF OLD BUSINESS:**

- Discussion – Update Highway Salt Shed – as noted above.

**CORRESPONDENCE:**

**ADJOURNMENT:** Mike McQuestion made a motion to adjourn, C. William Howland seconded, and it unanimously passed. Meeting closed at 7:51 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Hoffman  
Executive Secretary

# **TREE HEARING**

**Moore Road**

**Held at New Braintree Town Hall**

**20 Memorial Drive**

**New Braintree, MA 01531**

July 6, 2022

The tree hearing was posted for twelve noon. It was attended by the Tree Warden, Richard Ayer, and Joseph Chenevert along with Lori Hoffman as secretary.

Richard indicated that there are 30 plus trees that are either dead or declining, safety hazard that will be removed. Some will be taken down that will affect the road surface in the near future.

No one appeared to offer any objections to removal of said trees on Moore Road

The tree hearing ended at 12:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lori Hoffman  
Executive Secretary