

Town of Colrain
Select Board/MLP Board Meeting
Colrain Highway Garage
9 Jacksonville Road
4:30PM

**MINUTES OF SELECT BOARD
May 13, 2025**

Present Emily Thurber, Chair; Katie Korby; Benjamin Eastman (remote)

Others Present: Martha Thurber, MTRSD; Bill Lataille, MTRSD (remote); Marjorie Smith, Administrative Assistant;
Diana Parsons, Town Administrator

Chair Emily Thurber called the meeting to order at 4:47pm.

Consent Items:

Warrant AP2545 in the amount of \$55,897.16

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to approve warrant AP2545.

Katie Korby seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Emily Thurber	<u>Aye</u>
Benjamin Eastman	<u>Aye</u>
Katie Korby	<u>Aye</u>

Approved unanimously.

Appointments and Resignations:
None

New Business:

Renew Lease with MTRSD for Colrain Central School; Martha Thurber, Chair, MTRSD School Committee and Sheryl Stanton, Superintendent, MTRSD

Martha Thurber explained the lease expires at the end of June and the District would like to renew it, however, some of the changes and updates to the language are needed. Discussion on who pays for grounds maintenance other than regular maintenance, i.e. storm damage. Martha and Bill Lataille will change the verbiage and send the revised document to Diana for the next meeting.

Vote to Sign Support Letter for Connecticut River Conservancy (CRC) (in partnership with Deerfield River Watershed Association (DRWA)) for application for a Woodlands Partnership Grant for their initiative to continue working toward a National Wild and Scenic River designation for the Deerfield River.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to sign the support letter for the Connecticut River Conservancy in partnership with Deerfield River Watershed Association for application for a Woodlands Partnership Grant.

Katie Korby seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Emily Thurber	<u>Aye</u>
Benjamin Eastman	<u>Aye</u>
Katie Korby	<u>Aye</u>

Approved unanimously.

Review and Accept MDAR notice re Scranton APR; Memo to ZBA re: Conditions of Special Permit to Operate Quarry

Diana Parsons briefly explained the letter received by MDAR and the APR requirement for the Scranton's to provide a bond. She recommended that the Select Board write to the ZBA to require the bond in the decision for the special permit at the hearing tomorrow evening as the Board has an interest in the APR.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to accept the MDAR notice regarding the Scranton farm and also that we ask the ZBA to require a bond as a condition for the special permit to operate the quarry.

Katie Korby seconded.

Roll Call Vote:	Emily Thurber	<u>Aye</u>
	Benjamin Eastman	<u>Aye</u>
	Katie Korby	<u>Aye</u>

Approved unanimously.

Notice of Substantial Completion – Colrain Heath Road Culvert Replacement

Diana Parsons updated the Board to say the job is complete and we owe them the retainage. The final site visit was completed a few weeks ago with a few punch list items, which have been finished. Diana further mentioned that funding came from the Barnhardt Acid Spill money and Chapter 90.

Vote to Adopt the Town of Colrain website as the Official Method of Posting Meeting Notices effective July 1, 2025

Diana Parsons explained the reasoning behind the 7/1 starting date and the bulletin board will be a backup. Discussion on why the article failed at the FY2024 annual town meeting.

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to adopt the Town of Colrain website as the Official Method of Posting Meeting Notices effective July 1, 2025.

Katie Korby seconded.

Roll Call Vote:	Emily Thurber	<u>Aye</u>
	Benjamin Eastman	<u>Aye</u>
	Katie Korby	<u>Aye</u>

Approved unanimously.

Old Business:

Review Town Meeting Results; Discuss Take-Aways and Suggestions for Future Meetings

Diana Parsons would like to start the budget process earlier, which will in part allow the finance committee more time to review and make recommendations. She would also like to have more data available to residents pertaining to the budget. Katie would like to have a pre-town meeting. Emily had a conversation with Chelsea regarding putting together a couple of workshops to explain the budget. Discussion on childcare and the possibility of paying the helpers next year.

Administrator Updates:

None

Public and Board Member Comments:

Flags for Telephone Poles

Maggie ordered 25 replacement flags. Diana will work on applying for the permit to move the brackets.

Requests for Future Agenda Items:

Updates from Wood Bank Ad-Hoc Committee

Diana met with Laurie Francis and the group would like to meet with the Board.

Personnel Policy Changes re: O/T Calculation & Reimbursement for Call-In, Other Misc.

No discussion.

Review Highway Superintendent Job Description & Advertisement

No discussion.

Updates re: Colrain Sewer District Treatment Options

No discussion.

End of Year Transfers

No discussion.

Select Board Meeting Time

No discussion.

Review Select Board Priorities for FY2025 and Priorities for FY2026

No discussion.

Draft Performance Review and Use for a Review of Town Administrator

No discussion.

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items:

None

Executive Session:

None

Dissolve Meeting:

MOVED: Emily Thurber moved to dissolve the meeting at 5:42pm.

Katie Korby seconded.

Roll Call Vote:	Emily Thurber	<u>Aye</u>
	Benjamin Eastman	<u>Aye</u>
	Katie Korby	<u>Aye</u>

Approved unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,



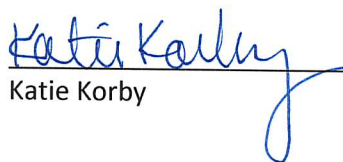
Marjorie Smith
Administrative Assistant

Accepted by the Select Board on 5/27/2025



Emily Thurber - Chair

Benjamin Eastman



Katie Korby

Documents Distributed to the Select Board Before the Meeting in a Packet or at the Meeting:

2015 Lease Agreement between Town of Colrain and Mohawk Trail Regional School District

Draft Letter of Support for Connecticut River Conservancy from Colrain Select Board dated 5/13/2025

Letter dated 5/1/2025 from MA Dept. of Agricultural Resources to Mark and Katherine Scranton re: APR Requirements

Letter dated 5/6/2025 from Western Earthworks, LLC to Town of Colrain Select Board re: Colrain Heath Road Culvert Replacement

2018 Open Meeting Law Guide pg. 8 re: filing and posting meeting notices for local public bodies