



**Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen
Minutes**

Thursday, January 30, 2025 – 4:30 p.m.
Rowe Town Hall, Meeting Room #1

Board of Selectmen Attendance

<u>Position</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>A</u>
Chair	Joanne Semanie	x	
V-Chair	Edward Silva		x
Selectmen	William Baker	x	

IN-PERSON AUDIENCE: None
ZOOM PARTICIPATION: None
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Brooke Shulda

Call to Order: Chair Semanie called the meeting to order at 4:33 p.m.
Announcement of recording devices: None.
Noteworthy Announcements: None.

New Business:

1. Library Trustee Appointment –

The Library Trustees have asked the Board of Selectmen to appoint Dianne Parrington as a Library Trustee to fill an unexpected vacancy until the town election in May.

MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Semanie motioned to appoint Dianne Parrington to the Library Board of Trustees effective immediately, appointment ending Saturday, May 17, 2025. The motion, seconded by Selectmen Baker was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

2. Deerfield River Watershed – Representative Appointment – Park Manager Briel Gibson

Watershed Information: “A watershed can provide a framework for understanding the interconnectedness of natural systems and the built environment as well as how climate change stressors can affect several towns simultaneously. FRCOG’s report provides the 14 towns of the Deerfield River Watershed with information about how the climate change stressors (changes in precipitation, rising temperatures, and extreme weather) will likely impact three important sectors: Natural Resources & Habitat, Human Health & Welfare, and Local Economy & Infrastructure.” Park Manager Briel Gibson has expressed her interest in being appointed as the town representative for the Resilient Deerfield River Watershed Coalition. The park commission has granted permission for the Board of Selectmen to appoint her to this position on behalf of the town of Rowe.

MOTION TO APPOINT: Chair Semanie motioned to appoint Park Manager Briel Gibson as the town’s “Resilient Deerfield Watershed Coalition” representative. The motion, seconded by Selectmen Baker was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

3. Review Draft Complaint Policy – **TABLED**

4. Request to Reschedule April 24, 2025, Meeting – **TABLED**

Old Business:

1. Fire Chief Succession Plan – Chair Semanie requested the TA to check in with Charlemont about scheduling a meeting to discuss the proposed fire district bylaws.
2. Personnel Policy Manual Review – No update. Not Discussed

Road/Bridge Projects:

Yankee Road: No update.

Hazelton Road Bridge: The TA informed the BOS that Gill Engineering strongly recommends the traditional galvanized guardrail. Due to bedrock elevations, the wooden guardrail system necessitates significantly more excavation work, resulting in a much higher cost for the culvert project.

Tunnel Road Bridge: No update.

Cyrus Stage Bridge: No update.

Warrants/Contracts:

1. Chair Semanie was unable to review FY25 Vendor & Payroll Warrants #16

UNFORESEEN BUSINESS:

1. Assessors – Tax Map Maintenance Contract

MOTION TO APPROVE AND SIGN CONTRACT: Chair Semanie motioned to approve and sign the Tax Map Maintenance Contract on behalf of the Board of Assessors as written. The motion, seconded by Selectmen Baker was approved. (vote: 2-0-0)

2. Selectman Baker expressed his regret about how his words were conveyed during the meeting with the Highway Department on January 30, 2025. He acknowledged that his statements were poorly articulated and did not reflect his true intentions. Over the past week, he has reflected on this incident and plans to reach out to Lance to apologize for what was said during the meeting.

Mail:

1. K.P. Law – increase in costs.

Minutes:

1. January 16, 2025 – Meeting Minutes - TABLED

Citizen Comments:

None

Future Meetings:

1. Joint BOS & Fin Com Meeting – Thursday, February 06, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
2. Joint BOS & Fin Com Meeting – Thursday, February 13, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
3. Joint BOS & Fin Com Meeting – Thursday, February 20, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.
4. Joint BOS & Fin Com Meeting – Thursday, February 27, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

Adjournment: 3:19 PM

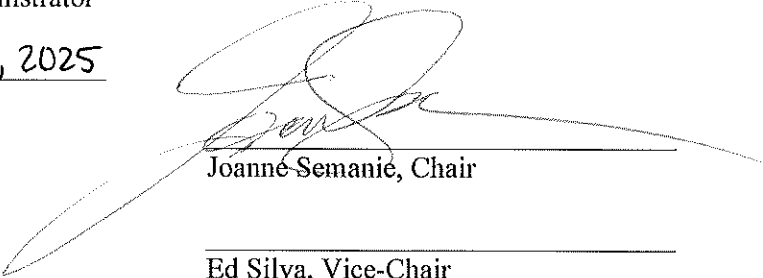
MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Semanie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 3:19 PM. The motion, seconded by Selectmen Baker, was unanimously approved. (Vote: 3-0-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Brooke E. Shulda, Town Administrator


Approval Date: February 27, 2025

Approved by:



Joanne Semanie, Chair

Ed Silva, Vice-Chair



Bill Baker, Selectmen

Documents:

1. Agenda for January 30, 2025
2. Complaint Policy - Draft
3. January 16, 2025, Minutes