



**Town of Rowe
Board of Selectmen
Minutes**

Thursday, June 05, 2025 – 6:00 PM
Rowe Town Hall, Meeting Room #1

Position	Name	P	A
Chair	Joanne Semanie	x	
V-Chair	Marilyn Wilson	x	
Selectmen	William Baker	x	

IN-PERSON AUDIENCE: State Representative Natalie Blais, Loretta Dionne, Lori Ledger, Justine Krumm

ZOOM PARTICIPATION: Franklin Land Trust's Liam Creagan

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR: Brooke Shulda

Call to Order: Chair Semanie called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM

Announcement of recording devices: None.

Noteworthy Announcements: None.

Appointments:

6:00 PM – State Representative Natalie Blais

State Representative Natalie Blais joined the meeting at 6:00 PM and briefly discussed the following items with the Board of Selectmen (BOS):

1. Fire District between the Towns of Rowe and Charlemont, Legislation Process
2. Rep. Blais updated the BOS on new funding programs for the Public Safety Building/Municipal Building.
3. Rep. Blais noted that she is still collaborating with the Department of Public Utilities (DPU) on expenses related to the February power outage.
4. Chair Semanie discussed the 19W1/19W2 National Grid Project and the potential costs the Town may face.
5. Rep. Blais informed the BOS about the multi-year Chapter 90 formula based on roadway mileage.
6. Rep. Blais briefly outlined the House budget aimed at securing an unpaved road program.
7. Rep. Blais also mentioned rural school aid.
8. Vice-Chair Wilson questioned the \$5,000 school choice funding per pupil and whether the school choice is currently functioning as intended.
9. Vice-Chair Wilson inquired about the recently passed Drink Water Quality bill, particularly regarding Title 5 within the bill.
10. In-Person Participant Lori Ledger requested an update on the status of the Enough Abuse bill – note that Lori Ledger left the meeting at 6:21 PM

Rep. Blais will be joining the BOS and many other town officials on Tuesday, June 10, for a discussion on Tunnel Road Bridge. Please note that Rep. Blais departed the meeting at 6:23 PM.

6:30 PM – Franklin Land Trust Liam Creagan – joined the meeting at 6:24 PM

Liam Creagan attended the meeting to review the proposed easements between the Town of Rowe and Loretta Dionne, as well as between the Town of Rowe and the Shantigar Foundation Inc. on behalf of the Highland Through Trail. The purpose of these easements is to “make the Trail easement areas available for access by the public in perpetuity, for passive recreation, including hiking, snowshoeing, cross-country skiing, wildlife observation, and nature appreciation, and otherwise preserve such benefits.”

It should be noted that the signing of the easements will take place the following week with a public notary.

MOTION TO APPROVE: Chair Semanie motioned to approve and sign the easement between the Town of Rowe and Loretta Dionne, as well as the easement between the Town of Rowe and the Shantigar Foundation Inc., as written. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Wilson, was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

6:45 PM – Historic Commission Justine Krumm

Justine joined the meeting to discuss the historic commission's objective of establishing proposed bylaws in collaboration with the Board of Selectmen. She is seeking clear guidance from the Board on their expectations regarding the inclusion of these proposed bylaws in the upcoming Annual Town Meeting or, if necessary, a Special Town Meeting, whichever occurs first.

During the meeting, the Selectboard emphasized two important actions for the Historic Commission to undertake:

1. Public Hearings: The Historic Commission is encouraged to organize at least one public hearing and ideally two, allowing town voters the opportunity to express their opinions, ask questions, and voice any concerns regarding the proposed bylaws.
2. Petition Requirement: The commission must gather a minimum of 100 voter signatures or collect signatures totaling 10% of the registered voter base, whichever number is smaller, to validate the proposed changes and stimulate community support.

These steps are crucial for ensuring transparency and active participation in the decision-making process, fostering a sense of community involvement in shaping the town's regulations.

Ms. Krumm stressed that the commission aims to focus on the fundamentals, not to dictate homeowners' choices regarding their private residences.

Vice-Chair Wilson agreed to assist Ms. Krumm with this process.

Please note, Ms. Krumm left the meeting at 7:04 PM.

New Business:

1. Code of Conduct Violation Letter

The Town Administrator drafted a code of conduct violation letter to a part-time resident regarding an incident that occurred at the refuse garden on Sunday, May 25, 2025. The Selectmen agreed that the letter was well written and should be signed and sent immediately.

MOTION TO APPROVE AND SIGN: Chair Semanie motioned to approve and sign the Code of Conduct violation letter as written. The motion, seconded by Vice-Chair Wilson was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

2. Vacation Time Extension Request

Chair Semanie informed the TA that a written request to extend vacation time until September 01 is unnecessary. Any vacation days not used by June 30 of this fiscal year will automatically carry over to the next fiscal year, but any vacation not taken by September 01 will be forfeited.

3. Vacation Request(s)

Chair Semanie reviewed, approved, and signed the Town Administrator's vacation requests.

Old Business:

1. Fire Chief Succession Plan/Fire District – Chair Semanie briefed on the meeting between Rowe and the Town of Charlemont that was held on Tuesday, June 03, at 10:00 AM. She explained the minor changes proposed to the language of the article that will be submitted by the Town of Charlemont's Town Administrator, Sarah Reynolds, to Rep. Natalie Blais' office on Monday, June 09.
2. Personnel Policy Manual – TA handed out marked-up copies at the meeting for review and recommendations and explained to the Selectmen that this will be an ongoing process, with no immediate decisions required, but emphasized the importance of updating the current policy.

Ongoing Projects:

Yankee Road: no update.

Hazelton Road Culvert: no update.

Tunnel Road Bridge: Meeting with Rep. Blais' office on June 10, 2025, at 10:00 AM.

Cyrus Stage Bridge: no update.

Warrants/Contracts:

1. Chair Semanie Reviewed Warrants - FY25 Vendor, Payroll, & NBSU Warrants #25

Minutes:

1. April 23, 2025 – Meeting Minutes
2. May 02, 2025 – Meeting Minutes
3. May 08, 2025 – Meeting Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE & SIGN: Chair Semanie motioned to approve and sign the meeting minutes for April 23, 2025, May 02, 2025, and May 08, 2025, as written. The motion, seconded by Selectman Baker, was approved. (vote: 2-0-1)

4. May 23, 2025 – Meeting Minutes

MOTION TO APPROVE & SIGN: Chair Semanie motioned to approve and sign the meeting minutes for May 23, 2025, as written. The motion, seconded by Selectman Baker, was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

Future Meetings:

1. Tuesday, June 10, 2025 - 10:00 AM – Rep. Blais' Office RE: Tunnel Road Rd. Bridge
2. Monday, June 16, 2025 – Special Town Meeting at 6:30 PM
3. Thursday, June 26, 2025 – 6:00 PM
4. Thursday, July 03, 2025 – 6:00 PM

Mail: None.

Unforeseen Business: None.

Citizen Comments: None.

Adjournment: 7:35 PM

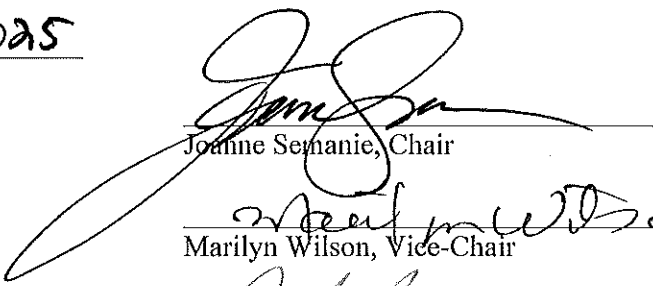
MOTION TO ADJOURN: Chair Semanie motioned to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 PM. The motion, seconded by Selectman Baker, was unanimously approved. (vote: 3-0-0)

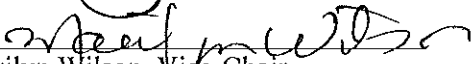
Respectfully Submitted,

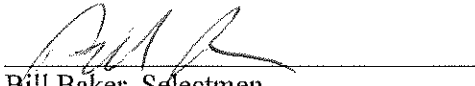
Brooke E. Shulda, Town Administrator

Approval Date: June 26, 2025

Approved by:


Joanne Semanie, Chair


Marilyn Wilson, Vice-Chair


Bill Baker, Selectmen

Documents:

1. Agenda for June 05, 2025
2. Franklin Land Trust - Dione Trail Easement
3. Franklin Land Trust - Shantigar Trail Easement
4. Code of Conduct Violation Letter
5. Vacation Time Extension Request
6. Vacation Request(s)
7. Personnel Policy
8. April 23, 2025 – Meeting Minutes
9. May 02, 2025 – Meeting Minutes
10. May 08, 2025 – Meeting Minutes
11. May 23, 2025 – Meeting Minutes