

SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, July 1, 2025, 5:30 p.m, Old Schoolhouse Common and Zoom

Present: Selectboard members Justin Campbell, Richard Baker, and Christopher Whalen; Town Clerk Bobbi Brimblecombe; Assistant Town Clerk Brittany Chouinard; Andrew LaRosa

At 5:30 p.m. the meeting was called to order by Justin Campbell.

Changes or additions to the agenda: none

Minutes: Approved minutes of June 17, 2025.

Attorney Meeting: Justin moved to find that premature general public knowledge of the attorney-client communications to be discussed in executive session risks public disclosure of confidential attorney-client advice to the Selectboard and legal strategy. Rich seconded – all in favor. Justin moved to enter executive session to discuss confidential attorney-client communications for the purposes of rendering legal services to the Selectboard, inviting the Town attorney, Town Clerk and Assistant Town Clerk to join in the executive session.

The Board returned to open session at 5:40.

Old Schoolhouse Common: Andrew LaRosa addressed the Board about the progress of the two studies of the OSC.

He arranged with Kyle Bellavance to scope the drains around the building. He discussed the lift and potential work that could be done to the gym. The Board discussed various options for different aspects of the building repairs and projects. His emphasis is going to be getting the lift operational and doing further investigations of drainage.

He updated the Board on his progress on the facilities plan.

River Corridor Protections: Rich explained the river corridor and the purpose of river corridor protections. If we had enacted river corridor protections, we would be eligible for more reimbursement of flood damages. The state is taking over river corridor protection in 2028, regardless of what we do. We could take the model bylaw and adopt it through interim zoning. It will have a big impact on properties that are in the river corridor. He questioned whether it is worth doing, since it will become law in a couple of years anyway, and will restrict development on many properties in the village. Chris thinks it is good insurance. The Board decided to think about it and discuss it at another meeting.

Short-Term Rentals: Chris is concerned about the number of properties that are being used for short-term rentals. He has read about private equity firms purchasing property and either jacking up the rent or letting them sit empty as a tax deduction. Chris asked for the Board's permission to

do more research. Granted.

Planning Commission: Rich stated that there are only three members on the Planning Commission. It is a five-member board with two vacancies. He noted that the Town Plan runs out next year. The Board will spread the word to try to get more volunteers.

Tax Rate: Bobbi explained that when the budget was prepared in January, she made an error when estimating the amount of education tax that would be refunded by Twinfield after the state recalculates in the spring. The result of the error is that the town needs to raise \$31,943 less than anticipated in taxes. The Board set the town tax rates at 0.7421 (an increase of 5.8% over last year), and the local agreement rate was set at .0048 (a decrease of 2%). The state set the homestead rate for Marshfield at 1.5658 (an increase of 2.9%) and the non-homestead rate at 1.6594 (an increase of 3.8%).

Buyouts: Justin moved to approve a buyout application for Chet Pearson at 7702 US Route 2. Chris seconded – all in favor.

Fire Wardens: The Board reappointed Tom Maclay as Fire Warden and Tim Maclay as assistant Fire Warden, with great appreciation for their service.

Contracts: The Board executed the contract with Andrew LaRosa for the studies at the Old Schoolhouse Common. They approved a contract amendment with East Engineering for the Maple Hill culvert replacement.

Thompson Rd: Justin moved to have East Engineering design the new culvert, contingent upon FEMA approval. Chris seconded – all in favor.

Expenses, Permits & Payroll: Selectboard members read and approved reports for General Expenses and Payroll. They approved a curb cut permit for Karen Walker and Greg Barcomb.

The meeting adjourned at 8:35 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Bobbi Brimblecombe, Town Clerk

The foregoing is a true copy of the Minutes of the July 1, 2025 Selectboard Meeting.
A True Record. Attest, _____, Town Clerk
