

**TOWN OF BOLTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
TUESDAY, MARCH 4, 2025, 6:30 P.M.
TOWN HALL & ZOOM
MINUTES**

Board of Selectmen Present In-Person: First Selectman Rodney Fournier, Deputy First Selectman Robert Morra, Gwen Marrion, Amanda Gordon, Pamela Sawyer, Tim Sadler, Mather Clarke

Staff Present In-Person: Town Administrator James Rupert

Staff Present Via Zoom: Recording Secretary Kacie Cannon

Others Present In-Person: Dr. Ashley, Burkman, Eric Boone, Kevin Icart, Inge-Marie Eigsti, Lisa Holle, Karly Swanson, Sherrie Deveau, Cande Henry, John Toomey, Jr., Jon Lender, Kim Fofana, Cande Henry, Ellie King, Emily Morris, Sarah Torcello

Others Present Via Zoom: James Loersch, Krystal Belanger, Amanda Balboni, Brett Gotler, Leah Maroney

1. Call to Order: R. Fournier called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. Pledge of Allegiance

R. Fournier led the Pledge of Allegiance.

P. Sawyer MOVED to hear Item 4(a) as Item 2(a). R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

a. PTA BCS Playground

Dr. Ashley Burkman, Chair of the Bolton Center School Accessible Playground Project, shared a Powerpoint presentation on proposed changes to the school's playground to make it handicap accessible. She noted that her son uses a power wheelchair, and it is difficult for him to access the playground due to the wood chips and inaccessible playground equipment. Dr. Burkman shared a proposed design from the developer of the original playground that would include leveling the entrance to ground level, installing roller slides for children with cochlear implants, and installing handicap accessible swings, a merry-go-round, and a see-saw. The playground will also include musical equipment, monkey bars and parallel bars.

Dr. Burkman shared a quote for the project and explained that it includes new fencing and levelized flooring. She stated that Representative Weir and Representative Ackman are supportive of the project, and Senator Rahman has donated \$5,000.00 toward the costs. Fundraising efforts include a Go Fund Me account, t-shirt sales, business donations, and a state bond. Dr. Burkman provided a breakdown of the costs, which total \$565,434.00, and noted that she has raised approximately 10 percent of the total. Once funding is in place, it will take approximately seven weeks for the order and installation of the equipment.

A. Gordon asked for the amount of the bond request. Dr. Burkman replied that it is just over half a million dollars. J. Rupert asked how different the footprint will be and whether any leftover equipment could be repurposed. Dr. Burkman stated that the footprint will remain the same, and the only items that will remain are the apex structure, maypole, and swing set structure. She stated that she is not sure if the items could be repurposed; however, any leftover equipment or funding can be discussed at the bond meeting. G. Marrion asked if any ADA grants have been applied for. Dr. Burkman stated that she is trying to find local ADA grants. G. Marrion noted it would be good policy to reach out to the Senior Center about the musical equipment. P. Sawyer asked if the playground is on Town of Bolton land. J. Rupert replied that it is, and explained that Dr. Burkman is seeking approval from the Board to proceed with the changes.

P. Sawyer MOVED to add Item 3(a) to Consider and Act on PTA BCS Playground Proposal. R. Morra SECONDED.
P. Sawyer AMENDED the MOTION to add the item as Item 2(b). R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

b. Consider and Act on PTA BCS Playground Proposal

P. Sawyer MOVED to APPROVE the proposal and process of the Playground Rehabilitation to have it become an ADA accessible facility after procurement of the appropriate funding. M. Clarke SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

P. Sawyer MOVED to move Item No. 4 Public Comment up to Item 2(b). R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

Public Comment:

James Loersch appeared via Zoom and noted that he is alumni of the elementary school that is being demolished. He expressed concern over some of the comments that have been made about the project and suggested the demolition should be mourned rather than celebrated.

Jon Lender, 23 Colonial Road, stated that residents are still interested on updates on the tree removal on Colonial Road and thanked the Board for adding the item to the agenda.

Kim Fofana, 15 Vernon Road, stated that the roads in her neighborhood and in the town are unsafe and not conducive for walking and biking. She asked the Board to consider installing traffic-calming measures to slow down speeders and noted that she will be providing a more detailed presentation at the April BOS meeting.

Karly Swanson, 96 Loomis Road, requested that the tennis court lights be turned off at night as they are very blinding when driving up Loomis Road and shine on her and her neighbors' homes late at night.

Sherry DeVoe, 111 Vernon Road, echoed Kim Fofana's comments on street safety and noted that she frequently hears horns and is aware of a few accidents that have occurred at the intersection of Quarry and Vernon Roads. She stated that there is no sign on Vernon warning drivers that a road is coming up and many drivers speed through the area. She added that she spoke with Resident Trooper Contenda when he was clocking speeders in the area, and he stated that he pulls drivers over who are going twice the limit, which equates to 50 mph.

Carol Henry, 135 Vernon Road, resides in the last house before Bolton turns to Vernon Road on a dangerous corner. She stated that her fence and wall have been hit multiple times and she feels unsafe making repairs to her fence due to fear of being hit by a car. She asked the BOS to review the area for traffic-calming measures.

Inge-Marie Eigsti, 131 Vernon Road, stated that leaving her driveway is dangerous, especially on foot or on a bike.

Lisa Holle, 129 Vernon Road, explained that she is an avid runner and also commented on the dangers she faces when leaving her driveway to run, walk, or bike. She added that drivers go up to 50-60 miles per hour near the curve by Carol Henry's house.

Ellie King, 149 Brandy Street, stated that her street is very unsafe as well and she is unable to walk her baby and her dog without fear of being run over.

Emily Morris, address unknown, asked the Town to work on increasing bicycling opportunities and safety.

Sarah Torcello, address unknown, explained that over 20 accidents have occurred in her neighborhood near Clark Street. She expressed concerns about school buses traveling on the road with speeding cars and asked the Board to review this area as well.

G. Marrion shared her concerns about the change in policy to the Town e-bulletin. She read an e-mail response from the Town that was posted by a resident on Facebook stating that non-Town events and information are no longer allowed in the bulletin. G. Marrion expressed her disappointment with the new policy and asked who made the decision to change it. A. Gordon suggested adding the item to a future agenda.

3. NOVUS Presentation

NOVUS CEO Eric Boone and Manager of Professional Services Kevin Icart shared a Powerpoint presentation on the IT Services they provide to the Town which include managed services, private cloud services, backup and security services, and awareness training. Kevin Icart explained that NOVUS has been providing services to the Town since 2023 and highlighted projects that have been completed since that time including cybersecurity enhancements, domain migration to Boltonct.gov, and server consolidation to a private cloud which put the Town and school on the same network and saved the Town several thousand dollars in annual server maintenance costs.

Kevin Icart outlined the priorities and projects for 2025-2026 which include QDS replacements, firewall replacements, system replacements including Windows 11 upgrades, and hardware replacements for the Town Hall as well as wireless upgrades for the Senior Center. He also provided an overview of the cost of the projects, ongoing costs, and license fees. Eric Boone explained that the company is phasing in a cost correction over the next three years to reduce the impact of expenses they experienced during COVID and noted that the pricing realignment will have an impact on clients. He provided a budget planning spreadsheet highlighting the phased-in costs for the Town that will result in an increase from the current annual amount of \$58,107.60 to \$84,649.67 in 2027-2028.

The BOS asked about disaster recovery plans, anticipated upgrades over the next few years, and an overview of services that are provided during the four-hour scheduled service the company provides to the Town on a weekly basis. Mr. Boone noted that backup services are provided in the event of emergencies and suggested the Town may want to look into ITBR services in the future to enhance the security of the system. He added that only minor enhancements to the Town's system are anticipated over the next few years, and the weekly office hours are mainly spent on maintenance and addressing and resolving IT tickets.

J. Rupert noted that the NOVUS costs are covered in the budget for this year and next year. He added that he is working with Cam Larson, the onsite technician, to determine the focus of projects for that time period including replacing desktop computers with laptops.

T. Sadler MOVED to add Item 10(a) to Item 3(c). A. Gordon SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

****Board Clerk Note: An Amendment to the Motion is recommended when approving minutes as the motion should have been to move Item 10(b) to Item 2(c). R. Fournier recommended switching Item number 10(b) Discussion/Formation of Ad-Hoc Committee for U.S. 250th (Semi Quincentennial Celebration to Item number 10(a), which partially corrected the motion. A correction is still needed to move the Item to 2(c) as there is no Item 3 (a) or 3(b) for Item 3(c) to follow.***

c. Discussion/Formation of Ad-Hoc Committee for U.S. 250th (Semi Quincentennial) Celebration

John Toomey, 45 Heber Road, introduced himself and noted that he is available to help with planning the U.S. 250th Celebration. J. Rupert explained that Mr. Toomey and Arlene Fiano are the only two members that have volunteered to serve on the Ad-Hoc Committee and more people are needed. P. Sawyer asked if anyone from

the Historical Society would be willing to serve. Mr. Toomey explained that the members are elderly and suggested reaching out to non-profits, schools, and the public for volunteers.

R. Fournier asked if there was any framework available from the 300th Anniversary. Mr. Toomey replied that he has some information from the event and is also following state committees and conferences on the subject. The BOS discussed reaching out to Town departments for volunteers and other entities that have assisted with previous events.

R. Fournier recommended setting a date in April for the first meeting and reaching out to interested parties in the meantime. The Board agreed to forward any information they have from the 300th Anniversary to Mr. Toomey to help with planning and will advise him of the selected date for the April meeting.

4. Public Comment

a. PTA BCS Playground

The item was heard under Item 2(a) and acted on under Item 2(b).

Additional public comment was also heard under Item 2(b).

5. Appointments/Resignations

a. Anna Spencer (Appointment) to Senior Citizens Commission

R. Morra MOVED to APPOINT Anna Spencer to the Senior Citizens Commission. P. Sawyer SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

b. Paula Lynn (Appointment) to Conservation Commission

R. Morra MOVED to appoint Paula Lynn to the Conservation Commission. G. Marrion noted that there was an error in the agenda, and the motion needs to be corrected to appoint Paula Lynn to the Bolton Heritage Farm Commission.

P. Sawyer MOVED to appoint Paula Lynn to the Heritage Farm Commission as a full member. A. Gordon SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

c. Leslie Brand – Board Clerk Resignation

A Gordon MOVED to accept with regret the resignation of Leslie Brand as the Board Clerk from the Conservation Commission and the Zoning Board of Appeals. P. Sawyer SECONDED.

R. Fournier thanked Leslie Brand for her years of service.

MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

6. Correspondence

A Gordon stated that Amanda Balboni submitted a letter to the BOS requesting that the Board fulfill Stephanie Crane's budget request of \$15,892.00. R. Fournier thanked Ms. Balboni for her letter.

7. Approval of Minutes

a. February 4, 2025 – Regular Meeting

b. February 11, 2025 – Special A/P Meeting

c. February 25, 2025 – Special A/P Meeting

P. Sawyer MOVED to table Items 7(a), (b), and (c) for March 11, 2025. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

8. Reports and Updates

a. Budget and Tax Update

A Gordon noted that the taxes have not yet been adjusted for the corrections being carried over to next year.

b. Consider and Act on Approving Budget Transfers

A. Gordon MOVED to APPROVE the \$6,000.00 transfer from the Elections budget from the category of Office Supplies to the category of Professional Education and Training Elections. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

9. Ongoing Business

a. Update on Colonial Road:

J. Rupert reported that he continues to reach out to Eversource for updates but has not received a response. He noted that they removed three trees from Colonial Road but have not returned. A. Gordon suggested reaching out to legislators again to assist with getting the matter resolved. J. Rupert agreed it may be helpful.

10. New Business

**Board Clerk Note: Due to an error in the motion regarding Item 3(c), R. Fournier noted that Items 10(a) and 10(b) need to be switched. Item 10(a) and Item 10(b) have been renumbered accordingly.*

a. Discussion/Formation of Ad-Hoc Committee for U.S. 250th (Semi Quincentennial) Celebration

This item was heard under Item 3(c).

b. Discuss Appointment of Committee and Consider and Possibly act on Memorial Day Parade:

P. Sawyer stated that with the resignation of Kathy Walsh, she has been contacting potential replacements to serve on the committee but has not received any responses. She added that Recreation Director Stephanie Crane has agreed to spearhead the committee but volunteers are still needed. J. Toomey, P. Sawyer and R. Morra agreed to serve on the committee.

A. Gordon MOVED to appoint a Memorial Day Parade Committee spearheaded by Stephanie Crane with John Toomey, R. Morra, and P. Sawyer. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

P. Sawyer requested an Amendment to the Motion to include a volunteer from the community.

A. Gordon MOVED to AMEND the motion to include a volunteer from the community. R. Morra SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

11. Town Administrators Report

G. Marrison asked if there was any feedback on the Groundhog Road Race or any discussion on changing the month of the event. The BOS noted that the event had a successful turnout and discussed the polar plunge taking place on March 15, 2025.

R. Fournier announced that a \$75,000.00 Grant for a handicap accessible van is available that would require a 20% match from the Town. J. Rupert added that he just became aware of the 5310-grant last

week and noted that he does not believe the ARPA funding could be used for the match. He requested approval from the BOS to apply for the grant which must be submitted by April 1, 2025.

R. Morra MOVED to add Item 11(a) to Consider and Act on a \$75,000.00 grant for a Handicap Accessible Van. P. Sawyer SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

a. Consider and Act on Authorizing Town Administrator to Apply for a \$75,000.00 Grant for a Handicap Accessible Van.

A Gordon MOVED to authorize the Town Administrator to apply for the \$75,000.00 grant for a Handicap Accessible Van. P. Sawyer SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 7:0:0.

R. Fournier noted that Tighe & Bond has been asked to provide constant monitoring as the Notch Road building is being demolished. He stated that an increase of \$23,000.00 out of the Contingency Fund was approved to cover the costs. J. Rupert explained that Tighe & Bond are monitoring and reporting on the PCB remediation to the EPA and conducting air quality monitoring around the site.

J. Rupert provided a monthly report and highlighted the schematic plan for the Town Hall. He suggested putting out an RFQ rather than an RFP since it will provide an opportunity to assess the qualifications of interested bidders prior to putting the project out to bid. The BOS discussed the differences between putting out an RFP versus an RFQ and came to a consensus to issue an RFQ. G. Marrion asked how long the RFQ process would take. J. Rupert stated that he will attempt to have it completed within three weeks. G. Marrion suggested a goal of March 31, 2025 for completion so that interviews can be conducted by mid-April.

12. Adjournment

A. Gordon MOVED to Adjourn the Meeting at 8:38 p.m. A. Gordon SECONDED. MOTION CARRIED 6:0:1.

Respectfully submitted by Kacie Cannon

Kacie Cannon

Please see the minutes of subsequent meetings for the approval of these minutes and any corrections hereto.

Town of Bolton

Sign In Sheet

Meeting: B.O.S

Date: _____

Print Name	Print Address
1. Kevin Jett -Novus	49 Corrinne Drive Tolkus
2. Eric Boone -Novus	
3. Inge-marie EIGSTI	131 Vernon Rd 06043
4. Lisattolle	129 VERNON ROAD
5. Harley Swanson	90 Loomis Rd
6. Sherrie Deveau	111 Vernon Rd
7. John B. Toomey Jr	45 Hebron Rd
8. Jon Lender	23 Colonial Rd.
9. Kim Fotana	15 Vernon Rd
10. Candie Henry	135 Vernon
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