Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
March 4, 2026
Regular Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: T. Gelston; E Dill; T. Sevigny
Also Present: L. Zemienieski and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Gelston called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:01 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Gelston reviewed the meeting agenda.

   Motion made by Mr. Sevigny, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye.

3. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of February 18, 2026, , and Special Meeting of February 19, 2026

   Mr. Gelston called the Board's attention to draft minutes in their meeting packets.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Mr. Sevigny, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of February 18, 2026 as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Sevigny, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of February 19, 2026 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: There was no correspondence discussed at the meeting.

5. First Selectmen's Report

   Mr. Gelston reported the following:

   - The Board of Selectmen adopted a resolution at their Budget Workshop earlier in the day to approve the Town government's FY 2026-2027 budget and forward it to the Board of Finance.
   - Public Works, the Fire Department, Ambulance Association, and Facilities all worked together last week to clear roads, sidewalks, and parking lots, allowing the schools to reopen after having been closed for three days as a consequence of the February 23rd blizzard
   - The Town is continuing its efforts to reduce speeding on its roads.
   - Four workshops with the EHAA and EHFD were completed and a final draft agreement was forwarded to the Town's attorney for review. A fifth workshop will be held, before the next Board of Selectmen meeting, to approve the draft agreement.

- Interest in constructing a cell tower in the Town seems to have cooled down.
- The Black Birch Golf Course Feasibility Study Committee has been established and will begin its work shortly.
- The Town's planning for America 250 will be discussed later in this meeting.
- The library supporters plan to attend the next Board of Selectmen meeting and make a presentation on building a new library.

6. Public Comment: There were no public comments raised at the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Cell Tower Discussion – 440 Town Street or 7 Hood Lane: Mr. Gelston advised that he is planning to confirm whether either of the companies still have any interest in building a cell tower on Town property.

B. Open Space Discussion – Sprecher Property Exchange Proposal – Shanaghan Road: There was no update on this agenda item.

C. Open Space Discussion – Dale King Property – South Sheepskin Hollow Road: There was no update on this agenda item.

D. America 250 Discussion, Charge Approval and Committee Appointments: Mr. Gelston advised that eleven volunteers have expressed interest in serving on a steering committee for Town's America 250 celebration.

Motion made by Mr. Sevigny, seconded by Mr. Dill, to recommend the adoption of the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Board of Selectmen shall appoint a committee of eleven (11) persons, effective March 4, 2026, to create, plan, and perform the Events for East Haddam's Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The work required for creation, planning, and performance of these events will start immediately after the appointment of the committee and continue until the end of the year (2026). Members shall appoint a Chairperson and Secretary at their first meeting. Members shall serve with no compensation. The Committee shall meet on a regular basis and their meetings shall be open to the public. The Committee will not be given an initial budget. Any budget provided will be on as needed basis and subject to the approval of the Board of Selectmen.

The East Haddam USA 250 Celebration Committee will work with all town and state Departments, Boards, Agencies including, but not limited to, local organizations and adjacent towns to create, plan, and perform the various events for East Haddam's Celebration of the 250th Anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence.

The East Haddam USA 250 Celebration Committee will determine the funding requirements and take steps to secure funding through grants, donations and sponsorships as much as possible.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the following persons are appointed to said committee: Forrest Anderson, Terry Anderson-Murray, Pamela Champlin, Todd Gelston, Alison Guinness, Deborah Langdon, Patrick Murray, Alan Ponanski, Lauren Pszczolkowski, Karl Stofko, and Susan Waide.
Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

A. Beer & Wine Request – Grange Hall – Moodus Drum & Fife: Mr. Gelston called the Board's attention to an email in their meeting packet from Patrick Murray, dated March 2, 2026, requesting the serving of beer and wine at a group dinner of the Drum & Fife Corps at the Grange Hall.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Mr. Sevigny, to approve the serving of beer and wine at the Grange Hall for the "Moodus Drum & Fife Dinner Meeting" on March 7, 2026. Unanimous aye.

B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes (AG, ZBA) – The following Board, Commission or Committee changes were considered at the meeting:

Agriculture Commission
Mr. Gelston called the Selectmen's attention to an email dated March 3, 2026 from Aaron Taylor, Chairman of the Agriculture Commission noting recommendations on membership appointments for the Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Sevigny, seconded by Mr. Gelston, to appoint Patrick Capel to fill a vacant two-year alternate member term to expire January 1, 2028 and Denise Dill to fill a vacant two-year alternate member term to expire January 1, 2027 on the Agriculture Commission. Mr. Dill abstained from the vote and the motion passed by a majority of ayes.

Zoning Board of Appeals
Mr. Gelston called the Selectmen's attention to a letter dated March 4, 2026 from James Fennema, Chairman of the Zoning Board of Appeals noting recommendations on membership appointments for the Board.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Mr. Sevigny, to appoint Samuel Wytas to fill a vacant five-year alternate member term to expire January 1, 2031 on the Zoning Board of Appeals. Unanimous aye.

C. Tax Refunds: There were no tax refunds considered at the meeting.

9. Selectmen's Discussion

   A. Liaison Reports: There were no liaison reports provided at the meeting.

   B. Other: There was no additional Selectmen discussion.

10. Public Comment: There were no public comments raised at the meeting.

11. Executive Session - Potential Litigation Discussion

    Motion made by Mr. Sevigny, seconded by Mr. Dill, to enter into executive session at 7:20 p.m. to discuss potential litigation and to invite Ms. Zemienieski into this session. Unanimous aye.

    Selectmen returned to regular session at 8:27 p.m. No motions or decisions were made.

12. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Sevigny, seconded by Mr. Dill, to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. .

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary