Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
July 16, 2025
Special Meeting Minutes

Selectmen Present: I. Haines; T. Bourgoin; E. Dill
Also Present: S. Denya; M. DiLuzio: J. Gowac; S. Jezek; S. Jezek; R. Lecrenier; J. Ventres; L. Zemienieski and other members of the public

1. First Selectman Haines called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Haines, to approve the agenda as written. Unanimous aye. Ms. Haines advised that she would be recessing the Board of Selectmen's meeting at 7:00 p.m. to facilitate a Capital Projects Public Information Meeting in these meeting rooms.

3. Approval of Minutes – Regular Meeting of June 18, 2025 and Special Meeting of June 24, 2025

   Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to draft minutes in their meeting packets.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Haines, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of June 18, 2025 as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Haines, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of June 24, 2025 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Ms. Haines stated that all the correspondence she had in her meeting packet related to the agenda item 7.A. and she would read them at that time in the meeting.

5. First Selectmen's Report: The First Selectmen's report was postponed.

6. Public Comment: There were no public comments made at this time in the meeting.

7. Unfinished Business

   A. Bashan Lake/Moodus Reservoir – Wake Surfing Potential Ordinance Discussion: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to material in their packets regarding a potential ordinance to prohibit wake surfing in Bashan Lake. She advised that Bashan Lake Association President Bill Denya had provided a sample ordinance, from a lake in Wisconsin which was experiencing similar problems, that was sent to DEEP Boating Division for review. She stated that DEEP provided suggestions for simplifying the

ordinance which had been shared with Mr. Denya. She said that the Bashan Lake Association is in agreement with the suggestions and requested the Selectmen move the proposed ordinance forward.

Ms. Haines also noted that Moodus Reservoir has requested to be included in the ordinance. She stated that the next steps are to have the Town Attorney review the draft and then schedule a Public Hearing prior to the Board sending the ordinance to Town Meeting for a vote.

Ms. Haines stated that a Public Hearing on this topic was held on June 25, 2025, where citizens expressed their opinion about the potential ordinance, and noted that additional correspondence that was received has been added to the board's packets.

Ms. Haines read correspondence from the following citizens:

- **Gary Laskowski** – wrote that he does not support an ordinance banning wake-surf boats on Bashan Lake.

- **Dave Shelberg** – President of Moodus Reservoir Preservation Group expressed the desire that, due to the extreme shallow nature of their lake, the Town conduct an evaluation of an ordinance for Moodus Reservoir separate from the discussions about establishing an ordinance for Bashan Lake.

- **Mary Milewski –** expressed her support of establishing an ordinance banning wake-surf boats from Bashan Lake.

- **Dave Denya** – thanked the Selectmen for running a well-organized Public Hearing regarding this issue on June 25th. He also thanked the public for engaging is a civilized discussion of the issue.

- **Martha Santoemma** – wrote in support of an ordinance banning wake-surf boats from Bashan Lake.

- **Sharon & Gary Trombley** – supported a statement made by Scott Jezek at the June 25th Public Hearing that Selectman Dill recuse himself from any vote on an ordinance banning wake-surfing boats from Bashan Lake and Moodus Reservoir due to his declared predetermination on the issue.

- **Brian & Linda Wagner** – wrote in support of an ordinance banning wake-surf boats from Bashan Lake

The following citizens in attendance provided comments regarding this agenda item:

- **Bill Denya** – expressed his opinion that wake-surf boats are the current biggest threat to Bashan Lake. He reviewed the damage the such boats have caused to the lake and responded to questions from Ms. Bourgoin.

- **Mary Ellen DiLuzio** – stated she is the President of the Sunset Acres Association and provided her background as a chemist and water quality expert. She discussed the impact of wake boats on a lake's thermocline and how that affects the organisms that live in the lake. She stated the Board of Selectmen should not "take a chance" by not passing an ordinance banning wake-surf boats.

- **Larry McClure** – spoke in favor of adopting an ordinance banning wake-surf boats.

- **Mary Schirduan** – questioned the severability between Moodus Reservoir and Bashan Lake and encouraged the Board to pass an ordinance banning wake-surf boats at both lakes.

Ms. Haines advised that Land Use Administrator Ventres had researched wake-surf boats and created a first draft of an ordinance for the Town.

Mr. Ventres distributed copies of the draft ordinance and provided some history about previous efforts, in the early 1970's, to legislate the use of watercraft on the Town's lakes. He stated that it is clear that the use of wake-surf boats on Moodus Reservoir should not be allowed due to the extremely shallow depth of the lake. Mr. Ventres offered to work with a group of volunteers from both sides to enhance his draft and Ms. Bourgoin volunteered to participate in the working group. Mr. Ventres responded to several questions.

There was a general discussion about whether it was in the best interest of the lakes for the Board of Selectmen to delay implementing an ordinance any further.

Ms. Haines recessed the meeting at 6:58 p.m. to facilitate a Capital Projects Public Information Meeting.

The Board of Selectmen's meeting reconvened at 8:35 p.m.

Ms. Haines advised that the Board of Selectmen had been invited out to Bashan Lake to witness a wake-surf boat in operation and the Board had accepted the invitation. She also confirmed that none of the Selectmen live on any of the Town's lakes and, therefore, there is no benefit to them to support one side of the issue over the other; further, that all of the Town's boards and commissions care about all of the Town's assets, including the lakes.

Ms. Haines also confirmed that a draft ordinance will go before the public for a vote and that the Board of Selectmen's primary goal is, to the best of their ability, to ensure that appropriate language is drafted for the final ordinance. To that end, she stated that she would like to take Mr. Ventres up on his offer to put together a working group to collaborate on drafting the language for the ordinance. She noted several qualified individuals would be invited to participate as advisors for the group.

Ms. Haines reopened the comment period for agenda item 7A.

- **Roberta & Stephanie Denya** - questioned the appointment of Mr. Ventres to head up the ordinance drafting group, stating her opinion that he may not be unbiased and is too willing to compromise on the language in the ordinance. She expressed concern that the process is moving forward too slowly.

- **Mary Ellen DiLuzio** - stated that there can be no compromise in the draft ordinance; there must be a 100% ban on wake-surf boats.

There was a general discussion on the process that needs to be adhered to to ensure DEEP's acceptance of the language in a proposed ordinance and next steps. Ms. Haines stated that working group will convene on August 20th and begin its work on crafting appropriate language for the draft ordinance.

- **Nancy Bordick** – expressed her dismay at being accused of being entitled by the Bashan Lake Association members and stated that she was frustrated that her offers to work with the Association on this issue had been rebuffed. She stated that she is a paying member of the Association and appreciates the work they do; however, she does not appreciate being slandered in front of the Town.

8. New Business

A. Mullazi Open Space Property DEEP Grant Resolution: Ms. Haines provided background information on this agenda item. Ms. Zemienieski advised that, even though the new resolution is redundant to the resolutions passed by BOS, BOF, and ultimately approved at Town Meeting and a referendum in 2021, the new one contains specific language required by DEEP to pay out the grant funds.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to adopt the following resolution and send to Town Meeting for approval:

Whereas, the Town of East Haddam has applied for and received a grant, for financial assistance under the Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Program (OSWA), established and administered by the State of Connecticut Department of Energy and Environmental Protection ("DEEP") pursuant to Section 7-131d of the Connecticut General Statutes.

RESOLVED, that Irene M. Haines, First Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam, is hereby authorized to execute on behalf of the Town of East Haddam an Open Space and Watershed Land Acquisition Grant Agreement and a Conservation and Public Recreation Easement and Agreement for property known as Hayward Property (OSWA#608) with the Department of Energy and Environmental Protection, and to manage said land as open space land pursuant to Section 7-131d of the Connecticut General Statutes.

BE IT FURTHER KNOWN, that Irene M. Haines, was elected as First Selectman on November 2, 2021, and her term of office began on November 3, 2021 and will continue until November 17, 2025. As the First Selectmen, Irene M. Haines serves as the Chief

Executive Officer for the Town of East Haddam and is duly authorized to enter into agreements and contracts on behalf of the Town of East Haddam.
Unanimous aye.

B. Grant Acceptance – M. Jones Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding notification of a grant to the Recreation Department.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to accept a grant in the amount of $1,000.00 from the M. Jones Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, for the purpose of supporting summer 2025 camp programs, and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval.
Unanimous aye.

C. Grant Acceptance – Ellen D'Oench Fund and Whelen Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to materials in their meeting packets regarding notification of a grant to the Recreation Department.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to accept a grant in the amount of $5,000.00 from the Ellen D'Oench Fund and Whelen Family Fund at the Community Foundation of Middlesex County, for the purpose of supporting summer 2025 camp programs, and send acceptance of said grant to the Board of Finance and then to Town Meeting for approval.

In response to an inquiry from Ms. Bourgoin, Ms. Zemienieski provided clarification on the need for the motion. Unanimous aye.

D. Board, Commission and Committee Changes (CEM, CC)

Cemetery Committee
Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to correspondence in their meeting packets regarding a reappointment to the Cemetery Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to reappoint Alison Guinness as a regular member for a two-year term to expire June 30, 2027 on the Cemetery Committee.
Unanimous aye.

Ms. Haines noted that the correspondence also advises that Rich Pettinelli does not wish to be reappointed. The Board thanked Mr. Pettinelli for his work on the Cemetery Committee.

Conservation Commission
Ms. Haines called the Selectmen's attention to correspondence in their meeting packets advising of a resignation on the Conservation Commission.

Motion made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Gary Wilson as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

E. Tax Refunds: Ms. Haines called the Board's attention to one tax refund.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to award a tax refund in the amount as presented.

- $127.38 to Toyota Lease Trust.

Unanimous aye.

9. Selectmen's Discussion

A. Liaison's Reports: Ms. Bourgoin reported that the Sustainability Committee is on track to be awarded its Gold certification by the end of the summer. Ms. Haines complimented the Committee on their achievements.

B. Other

1. Executive Session – Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement Discussion

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to enter into executive session at 9:12 p.m. to discuss the East Haddam Police Department (International Brotherhood of Police Officers Local 394) Collective Bargaining Agreement and to invite Ms. Zemienieski into this session. Unanimous aye.

Selectmen returned to regular session at 9:30 p.m. No motions or decisions were made

2. Vote on Police Department Collective Bargaining Agreement

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Ms. Bourgoin, to accept the Collective Bargaining Agreement between the Town of East Haddam and International Brotherhood of Police Officers Local 394 for the period from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2028. Unanimous aye.

10. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Ms. Bourgoin, seconded by Mr. Dill, to adjourn the meeting at 9:32 p.m.

Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary