Board of Selectmen
Municipal Office Complex
Meeting Rooms 1 & 2
April 15, 2026
Regular Meeting Minutes

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

1. Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance: First Selectman Gelston called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and the attendees said the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Approval of Agenda: Mr. Gelston stated that he would like to add to Item 8.B. discussion regarding the Conservation Commission reappointments to the agenda.

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

3. Approval of Minutes: Regular Meeting of April 1, 2026 and Special Meeting of April 7, 2026

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

   Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Mr. Sevigny, to approve the minutes of the Regular Meeting of April 1, 2026 as written. Unanimous aye.

   Motion made by Mr. Sevigny, seconded by Mr. Dill, to approve the minutes of the Special Meeting of April 7, 2026 as written. Unanimous aye.

4. Correspondence: Ms. Zemienieski advised that the correspondence that had been received was related to other agenda items and will be brought up when those agenda items are discussed.

5. First Selectman's Report: Key updates included:
   - Public Works:
     - Paving delayed on several roads due to stormwater drainage issues.
     - New paving scheduled for Hemlock Valley, Bone Mill Road, Old Town Street, Hungerford, and Cold Spring Road.
     - Estimated paving cost: ~$1.2 million.
   - Public Safety:
     - Speed monitoring signs have been deployed around town; no data collection currently available.
     - There is continued police enforcement for speeding.
     - Ambulance service workshops to improve service and reduce cost are ongoing.
   - Revenue / Cell Towers:
     - Two companies have expressed interest in a cell tower site at 7 Hood Lane.
   - Economic Development:

- East Haddam Village redevelopment progressing.
- Black Birch Golf Course feasibility study ongoing.
- Four vacancies on the Economic Development Commission.

- Community Events:
  - Earth Day activities scheduled.
  - Planning underway for the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence.

6. Public Comment

- Tim Carr: Asked whether speed monitoring signs collect traffic data. Mr. Gelston advised that they do not currently record data.
- Evelyn Morgen (Library Director): Encouraged additional volunteers for the New Library Exploratory Committee to ensure political diversity.

7. Unfinished Business

A. Cell Tower Discussion – 440 Town Street or 7 Hood Lane: Mr. Gelston advised that two companies are evaluating the Hood Lane site. He stated that the next steps in the process would include a public hearing and lease negotiations.

B. Open Space Discussion – Sprecher Property Exchange Proposal – Shanaghan Road: Mr. Gelston advised that the next step is for the Land Use Administrator to present the proposal for the Sprecher Property to the Board of Finance for their consideration.

C. Open Space Discussion – Dale King Property – South Sheepskin Hollow Road: Mr. Gelston advised that the next step is for the Land Use Administrator to present the proposal for the Dale King property to the Board of Finance for their consideration.

D. Discussion of Potential Private Road Ordinance – Special BOS Meeting Scheduled for 4/29/26: Mr. Gelston reported that the updated draft ordinance had been emailed to residents in the affected communities and that an informational meeting to discuss the draft ordinance has been scheduled for April 29, 2026. He noted several possible public hearing dates in June.

E. Conservation Commission Ordinance Discussion – Membership Amendment: Discussion of this agenda item was postponed.

F. Sustainability Team Resolution Discussion – Membership Amendment: Mr. Gelston advised that the Sustainability Team is requesting a change to their membership. He noted that the committee is an ad hoc advisory committee and its membership can be amended by the Board of Selectmen.

Motion made by Mr. Sevigny, seconded by Mr. Dill, to amend the supporting resolution as follows:

WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is a comprehensive, statewide, action-oriented voluntary certification program, built by and for municipalities, with the vision that: *Sustainable CT communities strive to be thriving, resilient, collaborative and forward-looking. They build community and local economy. They equitably promote the health and well-being of current and future residents and they respect the finite capacity of the natural environment.*

WHEREAS, Sustainable CT is designed to boost local economies, help municipal operations become more efficient, reduce operating costs and provide grants and additional support to municipalities.

WHEREAS, East Haddam embraces an ongoing process of working toward greater sustainability, selecting which actions it chooses to pursue from the voluntary menu of actions provided by Sustainable CT.

RESOLVED, **that at their meeting held on January 16, 2019** ~~by~~ the Board of Selectmen of the Town of East Haddam ~~that we do hereby~~ authorize**d** Robert Smith, Selectman **(at that time),** to serve as East Haddam's Sustainable CT contact person for the Sustainable CT Municipal Certification process and authorize**d** him to complete the Municipal Registration on behalf of the Town of East Haddam.

RESOLVED, that to focus attention and effort within East Haddam on matters of sustainability, and in order to promote East Haddam's Board of Selectmen's local initiatives and actions toward Sustainable CT Municipal Certification, the Town of East Haddam Board of Selectmen establishe**d**~~s~~ an advisory Sustainability Team **consisting of 10 members**.

RESOLVED, that effective April 15, 2026 the membership of the advisory Sustainability Team will be comprised of seven (7) regular members and three (3) alternate members and the chairman or co-chairmen are authorized to serve as East Haddam's Sustainable CT contact persons.

RESOLVED, that the first meeting of the Sustainability Team **was** ~~must be~~ held within 90 days of passing **the January 16, 2019** ~~this~~ resolution and that the Sustainability Team shall meet as frequently as needed, but no less than quarterly.

RESOLVED, that the Sustainability Team shall report annually to the East Haddam Board of Selectmen on **its actions and efforts to promote sustainability within East Haddam and to educate residents on sustainable actions initiated by the municipality and to report** the progress of its activities **toward the appropriate** Sustainable CT certification **and awards**, with reports and presentations made publicly available.
Unanimous aye.

8. New Business

A. New Library Exploratory Committee – Potential Appointment of Committee Members: Mr. Gelston reported that ten applications for participation on the New Library Exploratory Committee had been received and the Board of Selectmen will conduct interviews before making appointments.

B. Board/Commission/Committee Changes

Recreation Commission
Mr. Gelston noted that all members of the Recreation Commission are behind on their membership reappointments, but they all wish to continue serving on the commission. He called the Board's attention to a copy of the minutes from the Recreation Commission included in their meeting packets indicating the Commission's recommendation for reappointment.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Mr. Sevigny, to reappoint Travis Goodie and Charles Grillo as regular members for terms expiring July 1, 2026, and an additional three-year term to expire July 1, 2029 on the Recreation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Sevigny, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint Barry Thiele as a regular member for a three-year term to expire July 1, 2029 on the Recreation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Mr. Sevigny, to reappoint Christine King, Patrick Laffan and James Kehlenbach as regular members for three-year terms to expire July 1, 2028 on the Recreation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Motion made by Mr. Sevigny, seconded by Mr. Dill, to reappoint Barbara Free, Fern Tremblay and Margy Roberts as regular members for three-year terms to expire July 1, 2027 on the Recreation Commission. Unanimous aye.

Ethics Commission

Mr. Gelston called the Selectmen's attention to an email, dated April 13, 2026, regarding a resignation from the Ethics Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Sevigny, seconded by Mr. Dill, to accept, with regret, the resignation of Paul Stuhlman from the Ethics Commission. Unanimous aye.

Conservation Commission

Mr. Gelston called the Selectmen's attention to an email from Conservation Commission chairman, Joe Sina, noting membership reappointments on the Conservation Commission.

Motion made by Mr. Dill, seconded by Mr. Sevigny, to reappoint Cameron Beard, Joseph Sina and John Olin as regular members and Barry Bernard as an alternate member for two-year terms expiring June 30, 2028 on the Conservation Commission. Unanimous aye.

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

9. Selectmen's Discussion

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

B. Other

1. Budget Town Meeting: April 21, 2026 (8:00 pm): Mr. Gelston called the Board's and public's attention to the scheduled Budget Town Meeting at 8:00 pm on April 21, 2026.
2. Drug Take Back Day: April 25, 2026 (10:00 am – 2:00 pm): Mr. Gelston called the Board's and public's attention to the scheduled Drug Take Back Day on April 25th during the hours of 10:00 am thru 2:00 pm.
3. Budget Referendum: May 5, 2026: Mr. Gelston called the Board's and public's attention to the scheduled May 5th budget referendum.

10. Public Comment

Tim Carr – Expressed his concern about potential interference between proposed cell towers and an existing ham radio repeater. Mr. Gelston stated he would discuss the issue with Emergency Management Director Mansfield.

11. Adjournment: There being no additional business to discuss, a motion was made by Mr. Sevigny, seconded by Mr. Dill, to adjourn the meeting at 7:48 p.m. Unanimous aye.

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Recorded

Respectfully submitted,
Erik Dill, Secretary