

Select Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 15, 2025
7:00 PM
Select Board Hearing Room

Select Board Members: Daniel Brosgol; Shawn Hanegan; Bopha Malone; Paul Mortenson; Terrence Parker

Attendees: Matt Hanson, Town Manager; Autumn Ledgister-Cummins, Executive Assistant; Amy Fidalgo, Assistant Town Manager; Joanne Callendar, Eversource Representative; Mike Sprague, DPW Town Engineer; Ben Thomas, Finance Committee Chair; Aletha Yates, Historic Preservation Commission Chair; Adam Schwartz, 34 Glenridge Dr; Sue Schwartz, 34 Glenridge Dr; Jim Katz, 4 Cider Ridge Ter ; Piper Pavelich, Bedford Citizen Reporter; Patricia Fabian, 33 Anthony Rd; Lucille Wilson, 50 Hancock St; John McClain, 8 Maple St; Ron Scaltreto, Facilities Director; Beatrice Brunkhorst, 135 Page Rd. Pamela Brown, Brown & Brown .P.C Attorney; Amarjit Singh, Holi Representative

1. Public Comment

Adam Schwartz, 34 Glenridge Dr, spoke on the pedestrian fatalities in Bedford. Mr. Schwartz would like to see more signage, pedestrian safety corridors, and stronger prevention against distracted driving.

Patricia Fabian, 33 Anthony Rd, spoke in opposition to the proposed elimination of the Energy and Sustainability Manager position.

Stewart Trout, 35 Riverside Ave, wrote a letter to the Select Board in favor of the proposed private development expansion on the Hansom Air Force Field.

2. Public Hearing – Eversource – Grant of Location Request

1. Parker Road W.O. #22453779 to install 21 feet of conduit in Parker Road.

Ms. Malone moved the Board to open the Public Hearing for Parker Road W.O. #22453779 to install 21 feet of conduit in Parker Road. Mr. Hanegan seconded. The motion passed. 5-0-0.

Joanne Callendar, Eversource Representative, and Mike Sprague, DPW Town Engineer, presented the grant of location request to the Board.

Eversource seeks a grant location to install 21 feet of conduit onto the private property of #6 Parker Road. This is to provide underground service to an all-electric home.

Mr. Sprague stated that the DPW had no issues with the request and doesn't believe public utilities would be impacted.

Mr. Brosgol moved to close the Public Hearing for Parker Road. Ms. Malone seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Ms. Malone moved that the Town approve the petition to construct the utility as described and shown on the Order and Plans, dated August 27, 2025, for 6 Parker Road on behalf of NSTAR Electric Company DBA Eversource Energy. Mr. Hanegan seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Materials: SB Cover Memo for Gol WO#22453779_6 Parker Rd; Parker Rd Bed Abutters List; Parker Rd Bed Cover letter; Parker Rd Bed Order; Parker Rd Bed Petition; Parker Rd Bed Plan; Assessors – Abutters List Park Road; Parker Road Abutters Notice

3. Alcohol License Change of Manager – Holi

Pameal Brown, Brown & Brown P.C. Attorney, and Amarjit Singh, Holi Representative, presented the alcohol license change of manager to the Board. The restaurant Holi, located at 20 North Rd, seeks to change their manager on their alcohol license.

Matt Hanson, Town Manager, stated that there were no adverse comments from the Fire, Health, Code, and Police Department. The license would be contingent upon the outstanding water and sewer bill being paid in full to the Finance Department.

Ms. Brown stated that there was a change in ownership. The previous manager is no longer involved in the company, and the establishment seeks to instate Amarjit Singh as Holi's manager. Additionally, Gurnam Singh transferred interest to Sukhwinder Singh.

Mr. Mortenson inquired about Holi's age verification procedures and whether there have been any infractions. Mr. Singh answered he cards everyone and has never had an infraction.

Ms. Malone praised Holi's food and good standing reputation in surrounding communities.

Ms. Malone moved the Board to approve Holi's license change of manager, change of officer, and change of ownership request contingent upon all utility bills being paid in full. Mr. Parker seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Materials: Holi Memo; Liquor License Change of Manager – Redacted

4. Board and Committee Interviews

1. Jim Katz – Transportation Advisory Committee

Jim Katz introduced himself to the Board. Mr. Katz has previous experience working on the 2022 bike path expansion and sought to continue contributing his time to similar matters. Mr. Katz is an avid bicyclist who would like to see more bike paths on the road and sidewalks. Mr. Katz acknowledges that Bedford is a very settled town but believes it would be worth putting effort into.

Mr. Mortenson asked if Mr. Katz would be interested in a leadership role once becoming acquitanced with the committee. Mr. Katz answered yes.

Mr. Parker thanked Mr. Katz for applying and highlighted his background and resume.

Mr. Brosgol asked Mr. Katz if he had attended any of the previous TAC meetings. Mr. Katz answered yes, he has attended 3 over the last couple of months. Mr. Brosgol asked about Mr. Katz's perspective on target speeds. Mr. Katz answered that the target speeds seemed technical and didn't delve too much into the details.

Mr. Hanegan asked how Mr. Katz would go about generating consensus around changes that need to be proposed. Mr. Katz answered the focus should be on the causes rather than implementing measures to reduce accidents.

Mr. Brosgol moved that the Select Board appoint JAMES KATZ to the Transportation Advisory Committee for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2028, and authorize the Town Manager to sign letters on behalf of the Select Board to this effect.

Ms. Malone seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0

2. Heather Coopriider – Cultural Council

Heather Coopriider introduced herself to the Board. Ms. Coopriider grew up in an artistic family which propelled a deep respect for it. Ms. Coopriider enjoys embracing the community through different artistic avenues and finds that the Cultural Council shares the same objective.

Mr. Parker asked if there were certain areas with the council that Ms. Coopriider believes could be dealt with differently or better. Ms. Coopriider answered that community outreach could be improved.

Ms. Malone asked if there were any projects that Ms. Coopriider would like to see. Ms. Coopriider answered she would like to see more children or senior citizens involved in projects.

Mr. Brosgol asked Ms. Coopriider if there were any prospective field trips that she would like to see the council take. Ms. Coopriider answered the council could visit museums.

Mr. Hanegan thanked Ms. Coopriider for applying to the Cultural Council.

Mr. Parker moved that the Select Board appoint HEATHER COOPRIDER to the Bedford Cultural Council for a 3-year term ending June 30, 2028, and authorize the Town Manager to sign letters on behalf of the Select Board to this effect.

Ms. Malone seconded. The motion 5-0-0

Materials: Appointments 9.15.25; Heather Coopriider Application; Heath Coopriider Resume; James Katz Application; Jim Katz Resume 2025

5. Facilities– Discuss Select Board Meeting Room Second Egress for Capital Budget

The Board continued the discussion from the 9.2.25 Select Board meeting regarding the second egress for the Select Board meeting room.

Ron Scaltreto, Facilities Department Director, proposed the additional funds needed for the second egress to the Board. During the fall of 2023 due to security concerns from the Select Board, the Facilities Department was asked to explore a second egress from the Select Board Room at Town Hall.

Mr. Hanegan believes there is a concern regarding safety; however, he would like to see a comprehensive emergency plan first before implementing a door. The second egress wouldn't address an emergency in the other conference rooms, such as the second floor and lower level.

Mr. Mortenson asked the Board if police presence was needed. The Board was split on whether a police detail was needed. Mr. Brosgol and Mr. Hanegan were in favor of having a deterrent be present; especially, when a controversial topic is on the agenda.

Ms. Malone inquired about the emergency plan. Matt Hanson, Town Manager, answered that the Police have a comprehensive emergency plan. Mr. Hanegan further inquired if the plan detailed Board members' actions during an event. Mr. Hanson answered that the current plan doesn't have that level of detail. The Board and Committee handbook would have to be updated to include designated responsibilities to each member. Ms. Malone added that it would be beneficial to practice emergency drills.

Mr. Hanson stated that anyone can reach out to the Town Manager's Office to request police presence if there is an immediate feeling of threat or a highly controversial topic.

The Board agreed that safety is a concern, but a second egress is not needed. A police detail can be requested when dealing with controversial topics.

Mr. Mortenson inquired if Mr. Hanson requested a police detail in his prior position. Mr. Hanson answered that he has several times and would usually discuss it with the Board.

The Board agreed to resume the discussion at a subsequent Select Board meeting.

Materials: Bedford SelectBoard MTG RM Stair_Bid_122124; Select Board 2nd Egress Memo

6. Historic District Committee Updates- Karen Brown, Chair

Ms. Brown was absent.

7. **Public Hearing-** Updates to Town Charter & Town Bylaw

Mr. Hanegan moved the Board to open a Public Hearing to discuss the potential updates to the Town Charter and Town Bylaw. Mr. Brosgol seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Mortenson highlighted the Charter and Bylaw committee's and town moderator's work.

Mr. Hanegan inquired about why Article 5.2 was still present on the warrant. Mr. Hanson answered it was discussed at the prior Select Board meeting to pull it out at the Public Hearing.

Mr. Mortenson stated Article 23 was edited to reflect Housing and Economic Development Director Eric Salerno's changes.

Mr. Hanson stated Article 39.7 was a new addition. The Zoning Board came across an issue where numerous sections in the bylaws, zoning bylaws, and general bylaws needed a waiver regarding signs. A business requested a variance from the sign bylaw, but there wasn't anything in the bylaws on getting a waiver. The article adds language that the Board of Appeals may consider a waiver at their discretion.

Mr. Hanson spoke on Article 15. The Capital Expenditure Committee (CPC) shall review projects through the general fund opposed to also looking at CPC projects. This clarifies that the committee does not need to make recommendations on capital projects solely funded through an alternate source. The article doesn't preclude reviewing other projects but clarifies it does not have to be part of their official charge. Mr. Mortenson inquired if the 5-year capital plan had anything from the CPC or other non-general funds. Mr. Hanson answered no.

Mr. Mortenson read the new edits to Article 26. The Community Media Committee may provide assistance or facilitation but doesn't have the expertise or formal authority to investigate and resolve consumer problems related to cable television services.

Lucille Wilson, 50 Hancock St, inquired about Article 39.7. Mr. Hanson answered it was added to the section of the bylaw regarding sign bylaws and a new section regarding waivers. Ms. Wilson and Mr. Hanson reviewed section 39.4 and concluded that Ms. Wilson would like more advice from Town Council regarding the article.

Alethea Yates, Historic Preservation Commission Chair, states that the Commission has seven seats, but decided to request a reduction to five. Ms. Yates stated that the number rose to seven due to the heavy workload years ago, but a seven-seat commission is no longer needed. Mr. Mortenson added the Commission has a difficult time meeting quorum and it should be copacetic to reduce the number of chairs. This change will be reflected in the proposed charter changes at a subsequent Public Hearing.

Mr. Mortenson stated that the Library of Trustees was removed from Article 5.1. In addition, Mr. Mortenson suggested extending the Public Hearing.

Mr. Hanegan moved the Board to continue the Public Hearing on September 29, 2025, at 7:00 PM. Ms. Malone seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Materials: Charter & Bylaw Notice 2025.09.15

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8. Vote to Open Special Town Meeting Warrant
 1. Review Draft Special Town Meeting Warrant

Matt Hanson, Town Manager, presented the Special Town Meeting Warrant draft to the Select Board.

Mr. Hanegan moved the Board to vote to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant. Ms. Malone seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Materials: Draft Postcard STM '25 Mailing; Prelim Solar Options (CANOPY)

9. Discuss Potential Establishment of a Human Rights Committee

Matt Hanson, Town Manager, discussed the potential establishment of a Human Rights Committee, proposed by Mike Rosenberg, with the Board. Mr. Hanson reviewed some of the proposed edits, which have not been approved by the public or Board but were presented to create some dialogue regarding the potential establishment. The language regarding authority was softened. The previous section regarding the Commission being available when issues arose was modified to state that the commission would be available to offer support and guidance when issues related to equity and human rights arose. Mr. Hanson proposed that the Commission serve as a community resource and point of contact for issues of hate, bias, and discrimination. This would help facilitate community-based solutions and dialogue and work with town officials to address mistreatment and harassment concerns.

Mr. Hanson and the Board had a lengthy discussion regarding the committee's purpose and the nuances of the wording reflected in the *Human Rights Commission Draft Change*.

The Board decided Ms. Malone would correspond with neighboring towns on their Human Rights Committee's operations and report back to the Board at a subsequent Select Board meeting.

Materials: Human Rights Commissions Draft Change; Human Rights Commissions in Neighboring Communities

10. Consent

1. 20(b)s – Daniel Nathan
2. September 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes

Mr. Brosgol moved to approve the 20(b). Ms. Malone seconded. The motion passed 5-0-0.

Mr. Brosgol moved to approve the September 2, 2025, meeting minutes. Ms. Malone seconded. The motion passed 4-0-1.

Materials: Daniel Nathan; 9.2.25 Minutes

11. Town Manager's Report

Matt Hanson, Town Manager, presented the Town Manager's report.

Materials: 9.25.25 TM Report

12. Liaison Report

Bopha Malone- Ms. Malone had no new updates.

Paul Mortenson- Mr. Mortenson met with the Historic Preservation Commission, Council on Aging, the Finance Committee, and the Wilson Park Committee. In addition, Mr. Mortenson met with the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager, Mike Sprague (Town Engineer), and Chief Fisher to discuss road safety in Bedford.

Dan Brosgol- Mr. Brosgol will attend a Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC), Energy and Sustainability Committee, and Hansom Area Towns Committee (HATS) meeting. The Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Report (SDEIR) will be reviewed at the end of the year.

Shawn Hanegan- Mr. Hanegan met with Depot Park Advisory Committee and Bedford Housing Partnership. Additionally, Mr. Hanegan will attend an Affordable Housing Trust meeting.

Terrence Parker- Mr. Parker, attended a Disability Commission and Library Trustees meeting. Mr. Parker will meet with the Cultural Council and Hansom Field Advisory Commission.

13. Executive Session

1. Executive Session- G.L. c. 30A, § 21, Exemption 3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining as an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares: IAFF Local 2310

Mr. Brosgol moved to enter **Executive Session**, not return to Regular Session. **Ms. Malone** seconded.

The Select Board members were polled individually: **Mr. Hanegan, aye; Mr. Brosgol, aye; Mr. Mortenson, aye; Ms. Malone, aye; Mr. Parker, aye**

The motion passed 5-0-0

Regular session adjourned at 9:15 PM.
