

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes
April 7, 2026
(Approved - April 28, 2026)

Chairman P. LaRochelle convened the meeting at 6:00 PM.

P. LaRochelle led the assembly in the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag and a Moment of Silence. The following staff members were present:

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Paul LaRochelle, Chairman
Drew Carter, Vice-Chairman
Andrew Morse, Selectman
Richard Shea, Selectman
Jack Sleeper, Selectmen
Ryan Heath, Town Administrator

Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle stated that he would like to add Fish & Game Dam Update under Old Business #2.

D. Carter made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and A. morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

Announcements

- The Public Participation Policy applies to all Selectmen meetings. A copy of it is on the back of each agenda, posted outside this meeting room, and on our website.

Public Input I (limited to 3 minutes per person on agenda items only)

None

Appointments

None

New Business

1. Solar Exemption Appeal - Loring Carr

L. Carr approached the table. On the second page of the application is states that it only includes photovoltaic cells. He stated that he received a letter dated June 25, 2025 and a copy of the RSA. The first sentence states that solar energy system means a system which utilizes solar energy to heat or cool the interior of a building. His system that he has used for 41 years has been heating his house. He has the collectors, the storage system which is the floor, the fan for the distribution, and had met all the federal requirements at that time. It was a log package that everything was included. Now they are saying that it has to be photovoltaic panels. That is not correct. They are denying his exemption. It is the definition of solar systems. He has not had any correspondence. He wrote a letter stating that he was going to be away and got no response. He submitted the application for the abatement and never received any communication. P. LaRochelle asked what year the home was built. L. Carr believes it was 1984 or 1985. He met the requirements for 41 years. D. Carter asked what the value of the exemption was. L. Carr stated that it was \$4,900.00. Two years ago, there was an article passed that stated that it was going to be by valuation. It stated that the Town was going to amend the 1985 solar system. There was no 1985 solar credit system. It was 1977. The original warrant article for solar exemption was in 1977. R. Heath stated that the Board has the option to table this until the next meeting if Mr. Carr would be willing to share a copy of his Passive Solar Guide. L. Carr said he was not because he has explained this to the Assessor twice. His point of view was not listened to. D. Carter asked if the Board could get a copy of his book.

P. LaRochelle stated that this will be continued until the next meeting on April 14, 2026 for more information and to speak to the Town Assessor.

Old Business

1. Timeline for Special Town Meeting

R. Heath stated that the timeline put on the table this evening was compiled after discussion with the Town Clerk's office and the Supervisor's of the Checklist. We wanted to do a Special Meeting update so that it can be advertised freely throughout the Town. These are key dates and times that the public needs to be aware of.

DATE & TIME	LOCATION	ACTION	RSA
<u>APRIL 8, 2026</u> 6:00 PM	Alton Town Hall 1 Monument Square 2 nd floor Conference Room	Budget Committee Public hearing on revised operating budget.	32:5, I
<u>April 25, 2026</u> 10:00 AM – 10:30 AM	Alton Town Hall Supervisor's Office Depot Street Entrance	Session to Correct Voter Checklist <i>meeting to correct the voter checklist prior to the deliberative session.</i>	654:27; 40:13, II-d
<u>May 5, 2026</u> 6:00 PM	Prospect Mtn. H.S. Auditorium 242 Suncook Valley Rd.	First Session of Special Town Meeting - Deliberative Meeting <i>voters can discuss and amend proposed budget.</i>	40:13, XVI
<u>May 30, 2026</u> 10:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Alton Town Hall Supervisor's Office Depot Street Entrance	Session to Correct Voter Checklist <i>LAST</i> Meeting to correct voter checklist prior to voting day.	654:27; 40:13, II-d
<u>June 6, 2026</u> 7:00 AM – 3:00 PM	Prospect Mtn. H.S. Gymnasium 242 Suncook Valley Rd.	Second Session of Special Town Meeting - Election Day <i>Vote by ballot.</i>	40:13, XVI

P. LaRochelle asked if all forms of communication are going to be used. R. Heath stated that it was. J. Sleeper asked about the hours of 7-3:00 pm. He asked is there was a reason this one was shorter. R. Heath stated that it was shortened up because there is only one item and it is being done on a Saturday.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to accept the Special Meeting Dates as presented tonight and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

D. Carter stated that he would like to clarify that this is all relative to the revised budget.

2. Fish & Game Dam Update

P. LaRochelle stated that he has some good news. We received some correspondence that came recently that the work has been postponed until September to review, look at, and for people to get involved. There have been numerous people reaching out to the State, DES, and Fish and Game. We have also reached out to Governor Ayotte's Office as well as some of the representatives. Thankfully our Water Department has reached out and spoke with people. A. Morse stated that he would like to thank C. Mitchell and S. Garland, and D. Huff for all they have done.

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that he only has one item tonight. The chairlift in the stairway has been decommissioned. He would like to ask the Board if they would like to try and auction it or sell it. He is not sure if there is any value left in it with the cables cut. It does not meet ADA requirements any more.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to take the old lift from the stairway that has just been removed that is in parts and to scrap the metal because it is not usable and there are no parts available to rebuild it and D. Carter seconded and added that any funds that might be obtained through the scrap process be put back into the General Fund with all in favor of the motion.

Selectmen Reports/Questions

J. Sleeper had nothing to report.

R. Shea asked if it was time to shake up the Mount Washington efforts in the Bay now that the ice is gone. He would like to know if they are going to follow through with the repairs and upgrades. The second this is the Swap Shop. It was allowed for a 6-month trial. He has a report that the group that operates the Swap Shop wrote. He would like to include that in next week's meeting along with perhaps a vote to extend the operation into the future.

A. Morse stated that he had a Parks & Recs meeting. They hosted the Easter egg hunt and it was a successful morning. They will be hosting a basketball program. On April 22, Earth Day, the Parks & Rec are sponsoring and Earth Day Park Cleanup at the B&M Park.

D. Carter had nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle stated that ZBA met on April 2. They have not met yet for the Water Bandstand Committee.

Approval of Minutes

March 24, 2026 - Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the minutes of March 24, 2026 - Non-Public Session releasing None and D. Carter seconded with four in favor of the motion and one abstention (AM).

Consent Agenda Approval

None

Discretionary Action on Requests for Appointments (No discussion, majority vote required to allow/not allow appointment)

None

Public Input II (limited to 5 minutes per person on any Governmental/Town Business)

P. Falzone approached the table. She thanked the Board for the elevator. She was wondering if she could get a copy of the dates for the Special Meeting. She appreciates the Selectmen, the Town Administrator, and all the Town workers. She thanked them for their time and efforts.

L. Carr approached the table again. He asked if he heard correctly that the Dam Drawdown is postponed for two months. He still thinks that a committee should be formed.

J. Houser approached the table. She would like to enter into the public record that a formal recognition and thank you to N. Buonopane for the years he spent on the Board. On the February 18th meeting he was asked by a member of the public what the purpose of this Board was. He said they had the responsibility of bringing what the taxpayers want and spending tax dollars in a responsible way. It is her opinion that he was absolutely correct on both of those points. She appreciates him for that. The issue of communication between the public and the Board in determining what the public wants continues to be relevant. There is a resource available on the Town website called the Alton Master Plan. That document was produced by sustained public comment and is nicely arranged. She highly recommends a brief review. She thanked them all for their service and look forward to working with them.

K. Sullivan approached the table. She likes the communication. She was at the Parks & Rec meeting and it had a lot of energy. She would also like to thank N. Buonopane for his time on the Board. Everybody gives to be in these positions and it is appreciated. She appreciates the question about the Mount Washington dock. Thank you for continuing that follow-up. She was Chair of the Master Plan Committee. They do need to meet. It is referenced throughout the Town.

Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle moved at 6:40 pm to enter nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II, I (Legal). D. Carter seconded.
Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes	J. Sleeper - yes	R. Shea - yes
D. Carter - yes	A. Morse - Yes	<u>Roll call vote carried unanimously.</u>

At 6:40 pm Chairman P. LaRochelle convened the nonpublic session with the following people present:

P. LaRochelle, Chairman
D. Carter, Vice-chairman
R. Shea, Selectmen
A. Morse, Selectmen
J. Sleeper, Selectmen
R. Heath, Town Administrator

P. LaRochelle moved at 7:26 pm to exit the nonpublic session. D. Carter seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes	J. Sleeper - yes	R. Shea - yes
D. Carter - yes	A. Morse - yes	<u>Roll call vote carried unanimously.</u>

P. LaRochelle moved to 'not divulge' item two of the minutes because divulgence of the information likely would adversely affect the reputation of any person other than a member of this board or render the proposed action of the board ineffective. D. Carter seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes	J. Sleeper - yes	R. Shea - yes
D. Carter - yes	A. Morse - yes	<u>Roll call vote carried unanimously.</u>

Public actions

The Board had a discussion regarding the way we should advertise the voting dates and disseminate the budget information to the public. The plan is to get information out online, in the newspaper, social media, and signage throughout town.

Adjournment

D. Carter moved at 7:33 pm to adjourn. A. Morse seconded. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy Bailey
Recording Secretary