

ALTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes

May 12, 2026

Approved - June 9, 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

R. Heath stated that he would like to add under Old Business #1 Hidden Springs, #2 Town Hall Roof Bid, #3 Roberts Cove Bridge Replacement and R. Shea would like to add under New Business #6 Deliberative Session.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the agenda as amended and D. Carter 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.
- The Town of Alton is holding a Special Voting Day on June 6, 2026, 7 am to 7 pm at Prospect Mountain High School, 242 Suncook Valley Road, Alton, NH

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

K. Sullivan approached the table. She wanted to say how impressed she was with their choice of where what they're doing for upgrades down at the field. They really put some thought and effort into it. It's quite substantial and we're very appreciative. And I just wanted to make that known.

Appointments

None

New Business

1. Cemetery Department - Old Riverside Repairs

S. Garland, DPW Director, approached the table. He stated that R. Luponi had noticed a couple of the headstones in the old Riverside had been toppled by what appeared to be frost water ice, picking them up in and overturning them. A couple of those sites, the one of those sites had perpetual care and the other one did not. So we're looking to ask to see if we could use the Cemetery Trust Cemetery expendable trust for a portion of the repairs to the headstones she did reach out to Granite State Monument. They have quarters of price of \$700.00 to fix both headstones. Again, one of them has will be professional care. One of them isn't. The grounds of maintenance staff has already fix the bases of them, so they're just coming to reassemble the stones. They are multi piece stones that need to be re epoxied back together. They're not broken, luckily they're just separated the pieces.

R. Shea made a motion to authorize the Public Works Director to engage the contractor's listed in his letter for the purpose of repairing damaged stones and cracked masonry at both cemeteries for the total amount of \$1,850.00 and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

2. Parks & Recreation - Alton Garden Club - Donation

J. Houser approached the table. She stated that the Alton Garden Club received a donation from Ginny Douglas's granddaughter, who's been following the progress and continues to donate annually, and we are almost done with major planting there. This will be enough to cover two more azaleas that will go around Cedric the Cedar, who you may or may not know personally, but this will complete. She has a check here to cover the cost of those two azaleas. K. Troendle will be managing the purchase order for those.

D. Carter made a motion to accept the donation of \$132.00 for the purchase of the two azaleas at Ginny Douglas Park and R. Shea seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. Alton Youth League - Request for Public Hearing - Donation

C. Wood, Alton Youth League treasurer, approached the table. The Alton Youth League is proud to bring a project before you that has been in the works for quite some time, taking many hours of planning and funding. One that will continue to bring pride to our small town over 30 years ago, a committed group of volunteers raised the money for and built a wooden fence replica of the famed Green Monster Fenway Park at Jones Field. Since then, kids have aspired to hit, went over the green monster and out of the park. We've had a couple. Successful kids do that, but unfortunately time and environmental exposure has taken its toll on the fence. Rather than opt for a chain link fence replacement, it was important to the Alton Youth League to keep the spirit of the original Green Monster replica alive and keep our ball field unique for locals and visitors alike. Our choice because of the 50 year lifespan on material of five year limited warranty, ease of panel maintenance and replacement, the iconic green color and the company also provides everything from fabrication through delivery to installation. We did run into some problems. All she needs is the Board's authority to move forward with the public hearing because we have to schedule this for a public hearing and post it appropriate.

It is the consensus of the Board to hold a Public Hearing on May 26, 2026.

4. Winnepesaukee Pet Company, LLC - Retail Table Wine License Request

R. Heath stated that this is a retail table wine license. It does mean they're not serving wine, but they're going to sell bottles of wine. It will be on a table display, it's not like a pouring established room like a bar, retail, retail sale.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the request for the Liquor Commission for the Winnepesaukee Pet Company, LLC and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

5. Tax Collector/Town Clerk - Warrant for 2026 Period 1

J. Collins, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, approached the table. She stated it's pretty straightforward. It's the first installment that has to be done by statute, and it's an estimated tax. The warrant has to be in the Tax Collector's hand by the 15th. So today is our board meeting.

D. Carter made a motion to approve the Warrant for 2026 Period 1 Taxes and J. Sleeper seconded with all in favor of the motion.

6. Deliberative Discussion

R. Shea stated that he wanted to poll the Board and see what the reaction was to the deliberative session on the 5th in terms of anything that we heard that we should put more emphasis into or pay particular attention to. He was pleased that generally the reaction of the public was positive. He was particularly impressed with the comments that Cydney Shapleigh made concerning our average tax increase, the last 10 years, which he thinks is quite remarkable and hopes we make the public well aware of that because it speaks well of. 10 years, which I think is quite remarkable and I hope we make the public well of how the Town staff has managed public funds.

Old Business

1. Hidden Springs

R. Heath stated that for those who have been following Hidden Springs and the property we have reached at this point and it's prudent to seek town council. Ty and Bond and all parties will not be here at this meeting. Not until we actually sit down and talk with Town Council at this time.

2. Town Hall Roof Bid

TR. Heath stated that this is the draft of bid specs. There was some discussion that he wasn't available for, so he is bringing it back forward to help answer any further questions the Board has maybe discuss any changes or clarification so that we can go out to bid. Discussion ensued on different material that can be used.

P. LaRochelle made a motion to accept the bid process for the Alton Town Hall New Roof System and J. Sleeper seconded with all in favor of the motion.

3. Robert's Cove Bridge Bid

S. Garland, DPW Director, approached the table again.

He stated that he did put together the request for proposal. This is for a design build bridge replacement for the Roberts Cove Bridge over Beaver Brook. Following the last meeting which he was unable to attend, he did speak with Mike from MA Bean Associates and he did inform me that he will not be bidding if it goes out to bid. He just finished up a bridge in Gilmanton. He has another one to do for Gilmanton. He has two more to do for I think it was, I forget the other town. It was another town that

he that he works with, his hopes and intentions were to come here next. So obviously he knew that it did have to come in front of the Board before he could do anything D. Carter asked if he would bid on it at all. S. Garland stated that he would not. He only works for a select handful of communities and people he likes to do work with. I worked with him previously in another town.

R. Shea made a motion to waive the bid process for the Robert's Cove Bridge replacement to get this bridge #1903/289 over Beaver Brook in Alton for the sum of \$400,000.00 to get the bridge replaced and P. LaRochelle seconded with 4 in favor and 1 against (DC).

Town Administrator Report

R. Heath stated that the first thing he had for the Board is looking to get a little bit of feedback. I was contacted by a resident in the area about the seaplane base here in Alton Bay. We do not have a docking system or anywhere for them to stop or park or utilize our resources. What he looking for is the gentleman who reached out is very active in the seaplane community and he wanted to know if the Town or the Board would support an endeavor if the docking system was fully funded through organizations.

R. Heath stated that the next thing he has is just an informational piece from the Trustees of the Trust Funds. The Trustees of the Trust Funds are going to be looking and moving to sell a piece of town land, that's 52 acres off of Fort Point Rd. The Trustees control this piece of land through the Clough Morril Fund. It was land that was left in a last will and trust testament and there are a couple pieces of land. With the sale of the 52 acres, they're going to be looking to list it with a realtor and put it out there. So obviously before it goes public and it hits, they wanted to keep the board apprised of their activities. And this was also brought. They had asked me to bring their plans through council as well.

R. Heath stated that R. Shea a couple other items.

The first one is the intersection of Route 11 and Rand Hill Rd. in front of the old former JP China now Fosters. So where that was left is the state only offered up one solution that they would consider that they would fund and that's a four way stop sign. We concluded through the meetings that day unless I misinterpreted that we were not a fan of the four way stop and that the town was not going to support that. Nor did we wish them to proceed with that.

The other thing was the Porta Potty issue down at Downings Landing. As you recall, we went back and forth with Fish and Game. Had to get some of the representatives involved in a local Senator. We did have a sit down with the Executive Director of Fish and Game. Some ideas were the moving of the Porta Potty. They're not a fan. They basically said there's no other area in the parking lot that will support the portajohn. We came back and we said, well, we're more than happy to let you use the let the public restrooms are Cross Street. They said that's and we said it was really not that far. What if we created an access a direct access? So the way things were left is the only thing that they would consider out of that conversation was the elimination of the Porta Johns and at the town's expense, we could create a handicapped access to the restrooms across the street. Then we need to make sure that our restrooms.

Selectmen Reports/Questions

J. Sleeper stated that he had a Planning Board meeting.

R. Shea stated that the Swap Shop will be opening up this coming Friday.

A. Morse stated that he had a Parks and Rec meeting.

D. Carter had nothing to report.

P. LaRochelle stated that he had a ZBA meeting and a Water Bandstand meeting.

Approval of Minutes

None

Consent Agenda Approval

P. LaRochelle made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for May 15, 2026 with the condition that the Roberts Cove Parade coordinate with the Alton Police Department and A. Morse seconded with all in favor of the motion.

1. Solid Waste Department

Foley, James, Resignation, Effective May 18, 2026

2. Milfoil Committee

Barsanti, Gregory, 3 year term, Expires 3/2029

3. Special Event Application

4. **Raffle Application/Permit**

American Legion Post 72, May 1, 2026 – April 30, 2027, Fundraising Raffles

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)

J. Houser approached the table. She stated that the Girls Scouts will be doing the planting at Ginny Douglas Park and people are concerned about the budget.

D. Richardson approached the table. She stated that possibly they could coordinate with the seaplane base or the dock for the Mount Washington.

K. Roberts approached the table. He stated that whoever designed the landing owned by Fish and game did it improperly. Alton Youth League should be publicly recognized for the contributions that they have made.

L. Carr approached the table. He stated that the Deliberative Session was awful. The Board should have done more.

K. Sullivan approached the table. She agreed with L. Carr.

R. Finethy approached the table. He stated that he put in a request on March 24 and wants an update.

Non-Public Session

P. LaRochelle moved at 8:09 pm to enter nonpublic Session under RSA 91-A: 3, II, a (personnel), b (hiring), and l (legal advice).

D. Carter seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes J. Sleeper - yes

R. Shea - yes

D. Carter - yes

A. Morse - yes

Roll call vote carried unanimously.

At 8:09 pm Chairman P. LaRochelle convened the nonpublic session with the following people present:

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

D. Carter recused himself from item #1 and left the room

Police Chief A. Painchaud and Drew Carter entered the meeting room.

Police Chief A. Painchaud left the room and DPW Director S. Garland entered the meeting room.

DPW Director S. Garland left the meeting room.

Drew Carter recused himself for the rest of the meeting while the Board deliberated.

P. LaRochelle moved at 10:32 pm to exit the nonpublic session. J. Sleeper seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes J. Sleeper - yes

R. Shea - yes

D. Carter - Recused

A. Morse - yes

Roll call vote carried unanimously.

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. A. Morse seconded. Roll call vote:

P. LaRochelle - yes J. Sleeper - yes R. Shea - yes
D. Carter - Recused A. Morse -yes Roll call vote carried unanimously.

Public actions

P. LaRochelle made a motion to promote Officer Kyle Donahue to Detective Sergeant at a rate of \$40.28 per hour. A. Morse seconded. **Motion carried 4-0.** (D. Carter had recused himself and left the meeting relating to items 1, 4, and 5 therefore was not present for the vote)

Adjournment

P. LaRochelle moved at 10:34 pm to adjourn. J. Sleeper seconded. **Motion carried.**

Respectfully Submitted,

Stacy L. Bailey
Recording Secretary