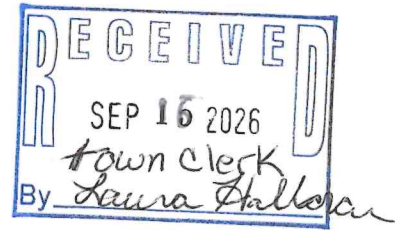


2

Town of Morris
Board of Selectmen
Hybrid Meeting
Regular Meeting Minutes



Tuesday, September 15, 2026

Morris Community Hall

Board Members Present: Tom Weik, Denise Weik, Laurey Weiner

- I. Call to Order by Tom Weik at 4:30 p.m.
- II. **Motion** made by Denise Weik to approve Regular Meeting Minutes of September 1, 2026. Laurey Weiner seconded. **Motion carried:** unanimous.
- III. **Motion** made by Denise Weik to approve Resolution for the Use of Program Income for the East Housing Project and to authorize the Town Clerk to execute document. Laurey Weiner seconded. **Motion carried:** unanimous.

Motion made by Laurey Weiner to authorize Tom Weik to execute the Program Income Reuse Plan, allowing funds in the amount of \$29,897 to be used for the East Street Housing project. Denise Weik seconded. **Motion carried:** unanimous.
- IV. USPS – see attached correspondence regarding the collection box
- V. **Motion** made by Denise Weik to approve the project proposal for pickleball court construction in the amount not to exceed \$179,000. Laurey Weiner seconded. **Motion carried:** unanimous
- VII. **Motion** made by Denise Weik to re-appoint Jennifer Munson, John Coyne and Del Knox to the Beach & Recreation Commission for a term 10/15/26 – 10/14/31. Laurey Weiner seconded. **Motion carried:** unanimous.

Motion made by Denise Weik to add 8a. 2025 Homeland Security Grant Program Memorandum of Agreement to addenda. Laurey Weiner seconded. **Motion carried:** unanimous.

Motion made by Denise Weik to allow Tom Weik to execute 2025 Homeland Security Grant Program MOA. Laurey Weiner seconded. **Motion carried:** unanimous.

Motion made by Denise Weik to add 8b. to agenda – Land Acquisition Fund. Laurey Weiner seconded. **Motion carried:** unanimous.

- IX. **Motion** made by Denise Weik to adjourn at 5:00 pm. Laurey Weiner seconded. **Motion carried:** unanimous.

Respectfully submitted,
Laurel Gillotti, Executive Assistant



September 3, 2026

The Honorable Christopher S. Murphy
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-0705

The Honorable Richard Blumenthal
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510-0704

The Honorable Jahana Hayes
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-0705

Dear Senator Murphy, Senator Blumenthal, and Congresswoman Hayes:

This responds to your August 12 letter to Postmaster General David P. Steiner, regarding postal operations in Morris.

Thank you for your letter. I understand your interest in assisting your constituents in Morris. First, I am pleased to report that the U.S. Postal Service will be installing a mail collection box in Morris within the next 30 days. Postal officials from the Connecticut District will communicate with town officials regarding the box's placement and installation date. The box will serve as a convenient collection point for stamped mail while we search for new permanent quarters for the suspended Morris Post Office.

As you know, the Postal Service necessarily suspended operations at the Morris Post Office facility in August 2025 because of a lease termination. We transferred retail, Post Office Box, and carrier operations to the Thomaston Post Office at 150 Main Street, which is 8.5 miles from the Morris Post Office, to provide uninterrupted access to services. We will continue this arrangement until we can open a new Post Office facility in Morris.

The Postal Service operates 313 facilities to serve Connecticut's 169 cities and towns. As with the Morris Post Office, 72 percent of these facilities are leased. We generally engage in long-term leases for our facilities, allowing us to remain in the same location for decades in most cases. Occasionally, we face a situation, like in Morris, where we are unable to continue operations in a facility because of a lease termination. Regardless of whether we lease or own a facility, we must suspend operations when facilities become unserviceable, such as from a natural disaster, a loss of utilities, or a structural issue. Whenever we initiate a suspension, we provide service immediately via alternative facilities and develop a plan for permanent operations.

Please see the responses to your questions below:

1. **Can you provide a specific timeline for when a new permanent location will be identified and when USPS expects postal services will be fully restored in Morris?**

Because the search for alternate quarters is ongoing, we unfortunately cannot provide a timeline for the opening of a new Post Office in Morris. There are many intervening steps required, including the identification of a suitable location and structure; the execution of a lease agreement after negotiation; and renovation of the interior, to include the installation of retail counters, Post Office Boxes, carrier sorting cases, and internet connectivity.

2. **How many potential sites for a new post office have been evaluated, and what criteria is the Postal Service using to determine whether a location is suitable?**

We shared the contact information of our contracted broker for property owners and town officials to relay potential sites for consideration. To date, our Facilities team has received one potential site to review. When evaluating the general suitability of a site, we require a facility that can house our operations sufficiently, accept delivery and collection of mail from trucks from the processing center, and provide acceptable customer access, including parking. Specifically, in Morris, project requirements call for 900 net square feet in a building within Morris (ZIP Code 06763).

3. **Can the Town of Morris receive a USPS blue collection mailbox while a new permanent post office location is being identified? If not, would the Postal Service consider waiving or modifying its standard criteria for installing a blue collection box given the extraordinary circumstance that the town currently has no postal facility or local mail collection point?**

Yes. As noted, we will be installing a collection box in Morris within the next 30 days.

4. **How frequently has the Postal Service communicated with the Town of Morris regarding the status of the site search, and what coordination is occurring with local officials to identify potential locations?**

We have shared the contact information of our contracted broker so that local officials can relay any potential properties for consideration as a new Post Office. First Selectman Tom Weik may contact Connecticut District Customer Relations Manager Rhonda Cunningham at rhonda.a.cunningham@usps.gov with any questions.

5. **What is the Postal Service doing to ensure that Morris residents, particularly seniors, individuals with disabilities, and residents without reliable transportation, continue to have reasonable access to postal services while the local facility remains closed? Residents have had to travel approximately 20 minutes to the Thomaston Post Office for retail services.**

Morris customers using a Post Office Box have been retrieving their mail at the Thomaston Post Office. It is important to keep in mind, however, that all Morris residents and businesses receive daily carrier delivery service, notwithstanding the Morris Post Office suspension. Our carriers collect any stamped, outgoing mail from mailboxes when they provide delivery. Customers who need to conduct an in-person retail transaction can go to the Thomaston Post Office or to the Bethlehem Post Office (3.4 miles from the former Morris facility), Bantam Post Office (4.8 miles), or Litchfield Post Office (5.3 miles). These locations also provide Post Office Boxes.

Additionally, the Postal Service has developed convenient offerings that can save customers a trip to the Post Office. For instance, customers can buy stamps online through our website at www.usps.com, by phone at 1-800-STAMP24, or by mail. Our Click-N-Ship service on usps.com enables customers to print shipping labels with postage for Priority Mail and Priority Mail Express and request that the items be picked up via our Package Pickup service. Customers also can place their mail on hold or request the redelivery of an item for which a notice was left by calling 1-800-ASK-USPS or visiting usps.com.

6. What resources has the Postal Service dedicated to expediting the reopening of the Morris Post Office, and are there any obstacles that Congress or local officials could help address?

Our Facilities team, which manages the acquisition and maintenance of our portfolio of 32,000 facilities, has been conducting the alternate quarters search with the help of its contracted broker. The difficulty in finding new Post Office quarters in small towns such as Morris stems from the lack of suitable, available properties, rather than from a lack of dedicated resources. We continue our search.

7. Can you commit to providing the Connecticut congressional delegation and the Town of Morris with regular updates until a permanent location is secured and the new post office is operational?

While we cannot provide details about properties under evaluation or the status of commercial negotiations, we will notify your office, town officials, and our customers when we have secured a new Post Office location. Moreover, postal officials will be in contact with town officials soon about the placement of the collection box.

In closing, we understand that town officials and many residents are eager for the restoration of a Post Office in Morris. As noted, our Facilities team is searching for a new site. In the meantime, the Thomaston Post Office will continue to provide the community with regular and effective retail service, and regular carrier delivery service to the town remains unaffected.

Please let me know if I can be of assistance in other postal matters.

Sincerely,



Scott R. Slusher
Director, Government Liaison

1
Town of Morris CDBG - East Street Housing Project Public Hearing

September 15, 2026, 4:00 p.m.

Morris Community Hall

3 East Street

Morris, CT 06763

The public hearing was started at 4:00 p.m. In attendance were Tom Weik, Denise Weik, Laurey Weiner, Laurel Gillotti, Jim Simoncelli Jr., Executive Director, MHA, Dave Berto, CDBG Consultant.

Tom Weik read public hearing notice.

Dave Berto made a presentation regarding the Program Income to be allocated for pre-development costs for the project.

Five members of the public asked questions which were answered by Dave Berto and Jim Simoncelli.

The hearing ended at 4:14 p.m.

Submitted by,

Laurel Gillotti
Executive Assistant

