

Received 12/18/25  
1:39 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

Town of Durham  
Board of Selectmen  
Monday, December 15, 2025 at 7:00 p.m.  
3<sup>rd</sup> floor, Town Hall, and Remote via Zoom

## Meeting Minutes

### [Meeting Recording](#)

Passcode: s&48X@eA

1. Call to Order  
First Selectman Rea called the Board of Selectmen meeting of Monday, December 15, 2025, to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present: Selectmen Chadd and Selectmen Hennick.
2. Pledge of Allegiance  
First Selectman Rea led with the Pledge of Allegiance
3. Approval of Agenda  
**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN CHADD, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOTE: ALL AYE**
4. Public Comment (*open to agenda items only*)  
None.
5. Accept nominations and vote to fill the following vacancies (per Charter Sec. 2.6):
  - a. Building Code of Appeals, Alternate, 2028  
None.
  - b. Ethics Commission, Regular, 2028  
None.
  - c. Ethics Commission, Alternate, 2028  
None.
  - d. Sustainable Durham, Alternate, 2027  
None.
  - e. Agriculture Commission, Regular, 2029  
None.
6. End of Year Appointments
  - a. Administering Board for Property Tax Relief for EMS Volunteers: 3 positions  
Tabled until the next regular meeting.
  - b. Agricultural Commission: 1 alternate  
**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO RE-APPOINT WARREN HERZIG AS ALTERNATE TO THE AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 2027. ALL AYES.**
  - c. Complete Streets: 1 position  
**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO APPOINT NOEL ROBERTS AS A REGULAR MEMBER TO THE COMPELTE**

**STREETS COMMISSION FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 2027.  
ALL AYES.**

- d. Economic Development Commission: 1 position

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO RE-APPOINT SARAH MURPHY AS A REGULAR MEMBER TO THE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 2027. ALL AYES**

- e. Historical District Commission: 1 regular, 1 alternate

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO RE-APPOINT BROOKS LARDARO AS A REGULAR MEMBER TO THE HISTORICAL DISTRICT COMMISSION FOR A FIVE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 2030. ALL AYES**

The alternate position is tabled until the next regular meeting.

- f. Sustainable Durham: 2 positions

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO APPOINT KRISTA BAUCHMAN AS A REGULAR MEMBER TO THE SUSTAINABLE DURHAM COMMISSION FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 2028. ALL AYES.**

Regular member position is tabled until the next regular meeting.

7. Approval of Tax Refund

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN TO APPROVE (11) TAX REFUNDS TOTALING \$3,803.16 AS PRESENTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR. VOTE: ALL AYE.**

8. Discuss and take possible action to discontinue 301' of Shunpike Road and authorize a lot line revision between the Town's ROW and property owned by James & Deborah Mesick as shown on a map entitled, "Property/Boundary Survey showing the Right of Way of Shunpike Road and individual properties of James A. & Deborah B. Mesick as-revised, Shunpike Road & Madison Road, Durham, CT, Scale 1"=40', February 14, 2025, Prepared by Bascom & Benjamin," as previously reviewed by the Planning & Zoning Commission and approved by special town meeting, and to authorize the First Selectman to take all actions necessary to consummate this transaction.

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO DISCONTINUE 301' OF SHUNPIKE ROAD AND AUTHORIZE A LOT LINE REVISION BETWEEN THE TOWNS RIGHT OF WAY (ROW) AND PROPERTY OWNED BY JAMES & DEBORAH MESICK. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION ON THE MATTER. VOTE: ALL AYES. MOTION PASSED.**

9. Local Traffic Authority:

A. Discuss and take possible action on request for new warning signage on Maiden Lane

First Selectman Rea explained that Jonathan Herzig came to him asking for a new tractor warning sign to be placed on Maiden Lane due to a recent speeding accident that had

occurred not long ago. First Selectman Rea noted that it was a similar request that was made on Micah Hill Road, for a sharp corner turn that was made about a year or so ago.  
**MOTION BY SELECTMAN CHADD, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO AUTHORIZE THE PLACING OF A NEW W11-5 TRACTOR CAUTION SIGNAGE ON MAIDEN LANE, NEAR HERZIG FARM. NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. VOTE: ALL AYES. MOTION PASSED.**

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

October 20, 2025

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF OCTOBER 20, 2025, AS PRESENTED. VOTE: ALL AYE**

November 5, 2025

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 5, 2025, AS PRESENTED. VOTE: ALL AYE**

November 17, 2025, regular

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2025, AS PRESENTED. VOTE: ALL AYE**

November 17, 2025, joint

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF NOVEMBER 17, 2025, AS PRESENTED. VOTE: ALL AYE**

December 3, 2025

**MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 3, 2025, AS PRESENTED. VOTE: ALL AYE**

11. Old/New Business

First Selectman Rea spoke about the following Old/New Business

- a. Birch Mill Road, improving the shoulder with gravel, by Planning and Zoning on an 8/24 review, and then was passed by Inland Wetlands, so that will allow permission for the business to add that at their own expense. No one spoke out against the surrounding neighbors had been notified, some called with a couple of questions, but overall, there wasn't much opposition.
- b. First Selectman Rea and Selectman Hennick attended a joint meeting with Board of Education, and the Town of Middlefield select board. Some items were discussed such as their budget. Selectman Hennick commented that they listened to what they had to say about some potential budget issues. Overall, First Selectman Rea believed it was a good conversation. Selectman Hennick made note on one of the items discussed at the meeting regarding the issue of Brewster Elementary School. First Selectman Rea was interested in trying to look ahead when the Board of Education finally closes Brewster and what the obstacles would be should the property end up back in the hands of the

Town of Durham. First Selectman Rea noted that there are deed restrictions on the property, and looking at the total picture what could be done if the Town of Durham received the property. He also commented on the packet that was given at the meeting, and how some of the information on the packet was redacted by the Board of Education due to attorney-client privilege. First Selectman Rea made a request to get the redacted information, and the Superintendent is going to relay that request to the Board of Education at their next board meeting. Selectman Hennick believed it [Brewster] is a fair matter to discuss as the Board of Selectman don't know where it's going to go, and whether they want to keep the building, or if they wish to give it back to the town. Selectman Hennick is concerned about not having a clear path and believes the board of selectman should have a seat at the table. Selectman Chadd asked what kind of client privilege there was in the redacted information. First Selectman Rea said he wasn't sure and that the board will vote on whether they waive the privilege and hopes that they do.

## 12. Selectmen Comments

- a. First Selectman Rea spoke about the tragic fire on Middlefield Road that happened on Friday, December 12<sup>th</sup> that resulted in the destruction of the home. First Selectman Rea thanked the Durham Fire Company for all their hard work. He also thanked the mutual aid towns who also helped contain the fire. Selectman Chadd listed the following towns who assisted in putting out the fire: Middlefield, North Branford, South Fire District of Middletown, Westfield of Middletown, North Madison, and Haddam. First Selectman Rea reiterated the thanks we give to the Durham Fire company and the mutual aid towns, noting that it was a dangerous fire, there were a lot of unknown elements, and that the fire companies were incredibly professional. First Selectman Rea also thanked the Durham Public Works Department, who also responded and provided fire watch throughout the night, as the fire did rekindle several times throughout the night. First Selectman Rea also thanked the town's social services coordinator Morgan Perry for all her help, and interim executive assistants Kim Garvis and Liam Fitzpatrick. It was noted that there is a GoFundMe page for the affected family. The Red Cross was involved, and First Selectman Rea spoke to the wife on Saturday. He once again thanked everyone that helped.
- b. Selectman Chadd spoke about the first day of the Santa Claus for the Kids. It is an event the fire company does for the kids. There were fire trucks all around town, and he noted that this year was their record year, with a total of 158 stops. They plan on doing it again on Sunday, December 21<sup>st</sup>.
- c. First Selectman Rea spoke about the special town meeting on Tuesday, December 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. at the community center and that the main item on the agenda is to move money from contingency to fund the Charter Revision Commission.

### d. Public Comment (open to non-agenda items)

Rick Parmelee: Fire company did an excellent job and has been doing an excellent job for years. He noted that they have never missed a call, and that they've done an outstanding job as firemen. He then commented on the Seward Road sign not being up. First Selectman Rea responded that the sign was ordered but he is holding off on putting it up as there are two homes on Seward Road that are known to the 911 dispatch as being addresses on Tri-Mountain Road, so he did not want to add confusion for potentially responding emergency vehicles, but the sign was ordered and they'll clear up the confusion with 911. Selectman Chadd added that they have to go through Google to clear that up so emergency vehicles don't get confused before putting up the new sign. Mr. Parmelee continued saying that there are signs up around town on private roads and believes that for safety reasons signs should be posted and that the town should post them as it is protection for the homeowners. Mr. Parmelee also noted that for safety reasons, emergency services could get confused with Tri-

Mountain extensions, as they have mailboxes on Tri-Mountain Road that is on the intersection of Tri-Mountain Road. First Selectman Rea countered that because it looks like a driveway, he doesn't want to confuse first responders, so once that is taken care of with 911 and Google, they will take care of the posting of the sign. Mr. Parmelee also asked for future meetings for First Selectman Rea to speak louder as Mr. Parmelee is hard of hearing.

e. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:18 p.m.,

Respectfully Submitted,  
Liam Fitzpatrick