

Received 1/20/2026
1:12 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

Town of Durham
Board of Selectmen
Monday, January 5, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
3rd Floor, Town Hall, and Remote via Zoom

Meeting Minutes
(produced from Zoom recording)

Meeting Recording

Passcode: atE1r*f*B

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 HENNICK, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA AS PRESENTED. VOTE: ALL AYE.

4. Public Comment (Open to agenda items only)

Rick Parmelee: Regards to Item 6, he was not sure why it was being done. For Item 9 he was not sure what it was about.

5. Accept nominations and vote to fill the following vacancies (per Charter 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

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO APPOINT HILLARY MILLER TO FILL THE VACANCY AS A REGULAR MEMBER ON THE AGRICULTURE COMMISSION FOR A THREE-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 2029. NO DISCUSSION. ALL AYES.

6. Discuss and take possible action to rename the Administering Board for Property Tax Relief for EMS Volunteers to the "Administering Board for Property Tax Relief for Public Safety Volunteers"

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO RENAME THE ADMINISTERING BOARD FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR EMS VOLUNTEERS TO THE “ADMINISTERING BOARD FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR PUBLIC SAFETY VOLUNTEERS”. VOTE: ALL AYES. MOTION PASSED.

7. End of Year Appointments:

a. Administering Board for Property Tax Relief for Public Safety Volunteers: 3 positions

MOTION BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, SECONDED BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, TO RE-APPOINT BRENDAN REA AS A REGULAR MEMBER TO THE ADMINISTERING BOARD FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR PUBLIC SAFETY VOLUNTEERS FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 2027. ALL AYES.

MOTION BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, SECONDED BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, TO APPOINT WILL CASTRO AS A REGULAR MEMBER TO THE ADMINISTERING BOARD FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR PUBLIC SAFETY VOLUNTEERS FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 2027. ALL AYES.

MOTION BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, SECONDED BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, TO RE-APPOINT KATIE SMITH AS A REGULAR MEMBER TO THE ADMINISTERING BOARD FOR PROPERTY TAX RELIEF FOR PUBLIC SAFETY VOLUNTEERS FOR A TWO-YEAR TERM TO EXPIRE DECEMBER 2027. ALL AYES.

b. Historic District Commission: 1 Alternate

The alternate position is tabled until the next regular meeting.

c. Sustainable Durham: 1 Position

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

8. Discuss and take possible action on the Historic Documents Preservation Grant Contract #038-OI-26

MOTION BY SELECTMAN CHADD, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO APPROVE THE HISTORIC DOCUMENTS PRESERVATION GRANT CONTRACT #038-OI-26 . VOTE: ALL AYES. MOTION PASSED.

9. Discuss and take possible action on the change order for the emergency exit lights at the Community Center with Resource Lighting and Energy with financing through Eversource

MOTION BY SELECTMAN CHADD, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO APPROVE THE CHANGE ORDER FOR THE EMERGENCY EXIT LIGHTS AT THE COMMUNITY CENTER WITH RESEOURCE LIGHTING AND ENERGY WITH FINANCING THROUGH EVERSOURCE. VOTE: ALL AYE. MOTION PASSED.

10. Approval of Meeting Minutes:

a. December 15, 2025, regular

MOTION BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, SECONDED BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2025, AS PRESENTED. VOTE: ALL AYE.

b. December 15, 2025, joint

MOTION BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, SECONDED BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA TO APPROVE THE MEETING MINUTES OF DECEMBER 15, 2025, AS PRESENTED. VOTE: ALL AYE.

11. Old/New Business

FIRST SELECTMAN REA DISCUSSED THE FOLLOWING OLD/NEW BUSINESS:

- Bear Rock Road work is complete. The work was completed just before the weather turned bad.
- Meeting with the Historic District Commission to discuss 51 Main Street on 2/2/26.
- Meeting tomorrow with the Town Planner and Town Counsel to discuss the inadequate bridge at the Stone Bridge development on Johnson Lane that poses a danger as it does not allow emergency vehicles to cross over it. Part of the plan is to expand it. First Selectman Rea noted that some towns, like Hebron, have ordinances that allow the contractor who is putting in the subdivision to pay to have the review of the engineering rather than making it a cost of the town. According to the Town Engineer it is a good idea to have an ordinance like that. First Selectman Rea will discuss with the Town Counsel on a potential ordinance. Selectman Chadd referenced that there was an ordinance that would require a certain amount of water supply in a tank in the ground for fire suppression that it appears that they have not been placed at any new developments.

12. Selectmen Comments

First Selectman Rea, Selectman Chadd, and Selectman Hennick thanked the Public Works department for all their hard work this December. Selectman Hennick noted that Durham roads looked more cleared from snow and ice than the Middletown roads.

13. Public Comments (Open to non-agenda items)

Carol Kleeman expressed concern about the sidewalks not being cleared during the last few storms. Are residents still fined for not cleaning the walks? First Selectman Rea stated a reminder will be sent.

Rick Parmelee also expressed concerns about the sidewalks; Compensation Review not being utilized; solar panels on Johnson Lane providing revenue to the school and does the town get a credit on their assessment; DMIAAB rates should be the same for both communities.

Roger Kleeman asked for clarification of the emergency lighting at Korn. He expressed disappointment that only one vendor came forward for the garage door bid for Public Works. He complimented the intern, Liam Fitzpatrick, on the minutes for the last meeting.

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:31 p.m.