

Received 10/29/26
12:00 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

Town of Durham
Board of Selectmen
Wednesday, September 2, 2026, at 8:30 a.m.
3rd floor, Town Hall, and Remote via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording

Passcode: 0*Vb3*aD

1. Call to Order
First Selectman Rea called the Board of Selectmen meeting of Wednesday, September 2, 2026, to order at 8:30 a.m. Also present: Selectman Chadd and Selectman 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*)
None.
5. Expiration of Terms (*per Charter Sec. 2.7*):
 - a. Ethics Commission, terms ending April 30, 2026 (1 regular, 1 alternate)
None.
6. Accept nominations and vote to fill the following vacancies (*per Charter 2.6*):
 - a. Building Code of Appeals, 2028
None.
 - b. Economic Development Commission, 2027
None.
 - c. Ethics Commission, Regular, 2028
None.
 - d. Ethics Commission, Alternate, 2028
None.
 - e. Sustainable Durham, Alternate, 2027
None.
 - f. Sustainable Durham, Regular, 2028
None.
7. 2026 Plan of Conservation and Development (POCD) Update
[Click here to view](#)

Frank DeFelice (Chair of Planning and Zoning) and Robin Newton, Town Planner, were present to discuss the 2026 Plan of Conservation and Development. The POCD was last updated in 2016 and is required to be updated every 10 years. The Commission met with every town board, commission and Town Hall/Public Works staff to get input on the ongoing town projects.

The plan is used in coordination with State and Regional Plans. Zoning amendments, regulations, applications should be consistent with the plan. The plan also has to consider future items, such as affordable housing, protection of preservation of drinking water supplies, economic and governmental trends, community needs, preservation of agricultural resources, technology needs etc. When applying for grants the applications will also ask if the plan supports the project being applied for. R. Newton noted there are many goals listed in the plan for review. They briefly reviewed the goals.

Planning and Zoning Commission was very much unanimous in their recommendations in the draft plan. The board thanked Frank and Robin and the Commission members for all the hard work and engagement they put in over the last 15 months. The board will continue to review and will vote at a future meeting.

The Planning and Zoning Commission of Durham, Connecticut will hold a public hearing at their regularly scheduled meeting on Wednesday, November 4, 2026, at 7:00 p.m. at Town Hall or via Zoom.

8. Discuss and take action to place the recommendations of the Durham Charter Revision Commission, as approved and revised by the Durham Board of Selectmen, on the November 3, 2026, ballot as three questions.

The board reviewed the resolution as approved by Town Attorney, below:

RESOLVED: TO PLACE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DURHAM CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION, AS APPROVED AND REVISED BY THE DURHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN, ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026, BALLOT AS THREE QUESTIONS.

THE FIRST QUESTION SHALL READ: "Shall the Durham Town Charter be amended to increase the number of members of the Board of Selectmen from three to five? YES OR NO."

THE SECOND QUESTION SHALL READ: "Shall the Durham Town Charter be amended to change the positions of Town Clerk and Tax Collector from elected positions to appointed positions? YES OR NO."

THE THIRD QUESTION SHALL READ: "Shall additional provisions of the Durham Town Charter be amended other than as provided in questions #1 and #2 above, all as recommended in the final report of the Charter Revision Commission dated August 5, 2026, as subsequently amended by the Board of Selectmen on August 24, 2026, and as on file with the Durham Town Clerk? YES OR NO."

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO PLACE THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE DURHAM CHARTER REVISION COMMISSION, AS APPROVED AND REVISED BY THE DURHAM BOARD OF SELECTMEN, ON THE NOVEMBER 3, 2026, BALLOT AS THREE QUESTIONS. VOTE: ALL AYE

9. Discuss and take action to enter into an agreement with Community Renewal Team for Connecticut Energy Program FY2026-2027

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO ENTER INTO AN AGREEMENT WITH COMMUNITY RENEWAL TEAM FOR CONNECTICUT ENERGY PROGRAM FY2026-2027. VOTE: ALL AYE

10. Local Traffic Authority:

- a. Project 0171-0517 - Pavement Markings and Sign Upgrades at Highway-Railway Grade Crossings in the Vicinity of District 1

Connecticut Department of Transportation (CTDOT) is developing plans to remove and install pavement markings and signs and perform selective vegetation trimming on roadways in advance of and at highway-railroad grade crossings in various municipalities. The Board agreed that a public informational meeting nor a public meeting is needed for the removal and installation of pavement markings and signs and selective vegetation trimming at highway-railroad grade crossings under State Project No. 0171-0517.

MOTION BY SELECTMAN CHADD, SECONDED BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA TO APPROVE PROJECT 0171-0517 - PAVEMENT MARKINGS AND SIGN UPGRADES AT HIGHWAY-RAILWAY GRADE CROSSINGS IN THE VICINITY OF DISTRICT 1 WITHOUT A PUBLIC MEETING. VOTE ALL AYE

- b. Request from the Durham Cemetery Company to Temporarily Close Old Cemetery Road on Saturday, October 3, 2026, from 10:30 a.m., to 12 noon for parking for General James Wadsworth Ceremony

First Selectman Rea explained the General James Wadsworth Ceremony will take place at Old Cemetery on Saturday, October 3 starting at 11:00 a.m. The request will allow for parking attending the ceremony to safely park on the road. Public Works will be on site.

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO APPROVE A REQUEST FROM THE DURHAM CEMETERY COMPANY TO TEMPORARILY CLOSE OLD CEMETERY ROAD ON SATURDAY, OCTOBER 3, 2026, FROM 10:30 A.M., TO 12 NOON FOR PARKING FOR GENERAL JAMES WADSWORTH CEREMONY. VOTE: ALL AYE

c. Discuss Speed Humps on Town House Road

First Selectman Rea explained there has been discussion around installing speed humps on Town House Road, similar to those on Pickett Lane. Public Works would like to install temporary speed humps after the Durham Fair for a trial period, then come back to discuss if they should be permanently installed.

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, TO INSTALL TEMPORARY SPEED HUMPS ON TOWN HOUSE ROAD. VOTE: ALL AYE

11. Old/New Business

First Selectman Rea spoke about the following:

- a. Chip Sealing on Creamery Road
- b. 51 Main St Demo bid opening has been pushed back to Sept 17th at 2pm. Many interested contractors are inquiring about the project.
- c. New Haven Road Property Discussion, waiting for follow up documentation from the consultant
- d. Remembrance of 9/11 will be held at the Town Green, on Friday, September 11, 2026, at 6:00pm (rain or shine) to honor the lives of those killed in the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks.
- e. Town offices closed on Monday, September 7th for Labor Day
- f. TUMMS Dinner – Towns United Thru Meals and Mentoring will be Thursday, September 3rd at 5:30pm at the Community Center. Durham and Middlefield town officials will be hosting this event.
- g. Correspondence from the Board of Education regarding Durham members who are chronically absent. The BOE has asked this board to send a letter to these individuals. The board agreed to send a letter to all members.

12. Selectmen Comments

None.

13. Public Comments

Rick Parmelee: spoke about access to agenda, minutes, recordings, Seward Road/Tri Mountain Road are not numbered correctly.

Frank DeFelice: asked if the revised proposed Charter still includes a Town Administrator. First Selectman Rea confirmed the Town Administrator was removed.

R. Parmelee: spoke about the proposed Charter, appreciate responses from the Town Planner, disagreed with morning meetings for the Board of Selectmen.

14. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 9:23 a.m.,
Respectfully submitted,
Jaclyn Lehet