

Received 10/29/26
2:40 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

Town of Durham
Board of Selectmen
Monday, July 20, 2026, at 7:00 p.m.
3rd floor, Town Hall, and Remote via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording

Passcode: e6.siKHf

1. Call to Order
First Selectman Rea called the Board of Selectmen meeting of Monday, July 20, 2026 to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present: Selectman Hennick. Absent: Selectman Chadd
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: 2 AYE
4. Public Comment (*Open to agenda items only*)
None.
5. Accept Resignation: Erica Fisher, Sustainable Durham
MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO ACCEPT WITH GRATITUDE THE RESIGNATION OF ERICA FISHER FROM SUSTAINABLE DURHAM VOTE: 2 AYE
6. Expiration of Terms (*per Charter Sec. 2.7*):
 - a. Ethics Commission, terms ending April 30, 2026 (1 regular, 1 alternate)
None.
7. Accept nominations and vote to fill the following vacancies (*per Charter 2.6*):
 - a. Building Code of Appeals, 2028
None.
 - b. Ethics Commission, Regular, 2028
None.
 - c. Ethics Commission, Alternate, 2028
None.
 - d. Sustainable Durham, Alternate, 2027
None.
8. Discuss request to adopt the local-option property tax exemption authorized under Connecticut General Statutes §12-81(83), as amended by Public Act 25-168 (2025)
First Selectman Rea explained a resident in town requested this item be discussed by Board of Selectmen for possible adoption. Assessor, John Philip was present to discuss.

J. Philip explained that the 2024 General Assembly expanded the disabled Veterans Tax Exemption to include 100% permanently and totally disabled Veterans to receive a full exemption on their residence. Public Act 25-168, being discussed tonight, allows municipalities the option to extend this exemption to cover the entire property.

The town also currently offers an exemption for 100% disabled Veterans, \$25,000 of the assessed value of what they own. J. Philip confirmed that the determination of disability comes from Veterans Affairs (VA).

J. Phillips estimated that adopting the full exemption could impact approximately \$124,000 on the Grand List (right now the impact is at about \$111,000). He noted there are only about 20 veterans in Durham currently eligible. The board wondered if there could be a high impact in the future if Durham approved this.

J. Philips noted this is new and will inquire about what other communities have considered and/or adopted this Public Act. The board would like to include Selectman Chadd in this discussion and asked J. Philip to return to another meeting.

9. Discuss and take action to approve the ninth amendment to the Middlesex Hospital Paramedic Services Agreement

First Selectman Rea noted the amended contract will extend us until next year, at that point the town will need to sit down with Middlesex to negotiate. He added the town is very happy with their services.

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO APPROVE THE NINTH AMENDMENT TO THE MIDDLESEX HOSPITAL PARAMEDIC SERVICES AGREEMENT. VOTE: 2 AYE

10. Discuss and take action to grant permission to Public Association of Library Supporters (PALS) for permission to serve alcohol at its Summer Celebration/Garden Party on Friday, August 21, 2026, from 5:30 p.m., until sunset at the Durham Public Library

MOTION BY SELECTMAN HENNICK, SECONDED BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA TO GRANT PERMISSION TO PUBLIC ASSOCIATION OF LIBRARY SUPPORTERS (PALS) FOR PERMISSION TO SERVE ALCOHOL AT ITS SUMMER CELEBRATION/GARDEN PARTY ON FRIDAY, AUGUST 21, 2026, FROM 5:30 P.M., UNTIL SUNSET AT THE DURHAM PUBLIC LIBRARY. VOTE: 2 AYE

11. Approval of Tax Refunds

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN HENNICK TO APPROVE (4) TAX REFUNDS FOR JUNE 2026 TOTALING \$661.40 AS PRESENTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR. VOTE: 2 AYE

MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY SELECTMAN TO APPROVE (7) TAX REFUNDS FOR JULY 2026 TOTALING \$4,989.38 AS PRESENTED BY THE TAX COLLECTOR. VOTE: 2 AYE

12. Old/New Business

- a. Charter Update: Commission meets on Wednesday 8/5/26 at 7pm
- b. First Selectman Rea gave a brief Water Commission Update
- c. America 250 Encampment Event: Saturday, October 17, 2026, at the Durham Fairgrounds.
- d. Camp Fund: Town Treasurer Thomas Peters is working with the Finance Department and CVEF on assisting with grant administration. Thomas to present to BOS at a future meeting
- e. Early Voting for the Democratic Primary this week at the Community Center. Running August 3rd to August 9th with hours listed on the town website. Curbside voting is available and absentee ballots are available in the Town Clerk's Office at Town Hall.
- f. Complete Streets Meeting with Leslie Update
- g. Chip Sealing: The Town of Durham Public Works Department will be starting the annual Chip Sealing project August 10, 2026, weather permitting. The chip sealing process involves the laying of oil and stone and is expected to take approximately one week. Residents are reminded to adhere to the posted 15 miles per hour speed limit on freshly sealed roads and to use alternate routes during working hours to avoid delays. The following roads are scheduled: Laurel Terrace, Ridge Road North, Cedar Drive, Creamery Road, Ridge Road South, Meeting House Hill Road, Anthony Terrace, Thody Drive, Augur Lane, Etzel Drive, and Pleasant Terrace. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact the Public Works.
- h. Conservation Commission:
 - i. Conservation has been discussing pursuing a grant from the state for some forestry practices at Curtis Woodlands. More coming on this

- ii. The Conservation Commission encourages the BOS to devise a plan for the Town of Durham to contribute \$150,000, being 10% of the purchase price, alongside the pledges of the State of Connecticut and private donors to the Trust for Public Land for the purchase of around 57 acres west of New Haven Road and around 20 acres east of New Haven Road, map blocks 123 01 and 133 09. This will be discussed at the August 17th BOS meeting.

13. Selectmen Comments

None.

14. Public Comments

Roger Kleeman: questioned Public Comment at upcoming Charter Workshops, disagreed with reasoning for Compensation Review revisions in the charter – felt comments were incorrect, divot at the corner of Tuttle Rd/Rt 68 still there, property rights question on Main St sidewalks.

Rick Parmelee: disagreed with changes to Compensation Review in the new Charter, questioned why Assessors Dept contractor will not do site visits, need a way to track hours for hourly employees, disagreed with hours of certain employees starting at 7am, disagreed with Elected Officials changing to Appointed in the Charter.

15. Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 7:27 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jaclyn Lehet