Received 11/2/26
1:12 PM Jodi Moore, ATC

Town of Durham
Board of Selectmen
Monday, March 16, 2026, 7:00 p.m.
3rd Floor, 30 Town House Road, Remote via Zoom
Meeting Minutes

Meeting Recording
Passcode: D^R=bE+6

Joint Meeting of Boards, Commissions, Committees and Departments

1. Call meeting to order and roll call
   First Selectman Rea called the Joint Meeting of Boards, Commissions, Committees and Departments of Monday, March 16, 2026, to order at 7:00 p.m. Also present: Selectman Chadd, Selectman Hennick, Randy McLean, Robert Moore, Lynn Johnson, Lainey Melvin, Philip Muzio, William LaFlamme, Roger Kleeman, Laura Francis, Frank DeFelice, Martin Anderson, Nick Charest, Carolyn Havrda, Carol Kleeman, Lauren Redfield, Janet Morganti, Kristen Kleeman, Sarah Atwell, Leslie Bulion, Terry Wall, Eileen Buckheit and Norm Hicks

2. Approval of Agenda
   MOTION BY FIRST SELECTMAN REA, SECONDED BY FRANK DEFELICE, TO APPROVE THE AGENDA. VOTE: ALL AYE

3. Status Report from various Boards, Commissions, Committees and Departments

   Randy McLean, Chair, Agriculture Commission
   Spoke about the following: agriculture properties, maps and listings, updated Plan of Conservation and Development as required every 10 years, RiverCOG digitized the map and listings, presented to Planning and Zoning Commission, solicited farmers to inquire about a farm map, inquired about, applied for and was awarded the Agriculture Enhancement Grant for up to 75% of project cost, project estimated at $2,900 and grant will pay $2,200

   Robert Moore, Chair, Board of Education Regional District 13
   Spoke about the following: School budget proposal from superintendent was at 5.1%, had reduction in health insurance, 14% to 11%, current budget at 4.4% increase, about $44 million, noted upcoming budget process steps, Memorial School Project moving along, awarded demolition and abatement bids, $700,000 lower than expected, electrical bid awarded, a construction bid went out on March 4, expecting to come back first week of April, demolition work underway, awarded increase on percentage grant from 53% to 68.21%, an over $11 million cost reduction, $76 million project, looking to bond $24.2 million, ONG construction manager handling the project, architect is QA&M, handing design, furniture and equipment bid will be final step, meets every two weeks with Building Committee, formed a committee on naming buildings, the public can vote on the name including students

   Lynn Johnson, Vice President, Library Board of Trustees
   Spoke about the following: acknowledged the hard work staff has put into renovations, and use of outdoor areas, positive comments from patrons

   Lauren Redfield, Durham Public Library Director
   Spoke about the following: gate count up 5% compared to last year, noted Newsbank, an online resource allowing access to thousands of newspapers, over 1,200 articles viewed since launch, circulation of e-audiobooks and e-magazines is up, especially during snowstorms, children's room

refresh successful, much needed update, painting, staining, new carpets, and reorganization, noted other fun programs including National Take Your Child to the Library Day, book clubs, Padawan training, lectures and crafts, Cookbook Club, thanked PALS for their support, noted 3 America 250 programs, partnered with Historical Society and Town Hall to make America 250 front lobby display

Lainy Melvin, Chair, Senior Citizen Board
Spoke about the following: noted the successful collaboration between Social Services and Recreation, reported on an Irish Luncheon, over 60 people in attendance, noted Zoom recreation programs benefitting those who cannot attend Community Center, a new pain-management program, a collaboration with Readers Theater, Tai Chi class growth, will start an additional class, the public has responded positively to the programs held at Community Center

William LaFlamme, Secretary, Conservation Commission
Spoke about the following: one bidder for Howd Road project, awarded to local farmer, a successful hunting season, held lottery for Spring turkey season on March 10 meeting, season will start in May, working on Curtis Woodlands trails, working on obtaining grant money to improve forest health, one side yard variance request approved

Roger Kleeman, Member of Compensation Review of Personnel Policy Board
Spoke about the following: sent required letter to Board of Selectmen and Board of Finance, noted struggles of getting people to sit in the commission, 3 members, 2 vacancies

Eileen Buckhiet, Chair, Board of Finance, Member of Charter Review Commission
Spoke about the following: current status of budget cycle, budget will be finished April 7, Annual Budget Hearing on April 23, Annual Budget Meeting on May 11, appreciated joint meetings with Board of Selectmen, most homeowners faced an increase in their assessments, raising Grand List from roughly $700 million to $990 million, there will be a mill rate adjustment, too early to determine what it will fall to, long-term capital projects considerations for public works, mainly 2 truck purchases, Board attending Board of Education meetings, no findings in the audit

Laura Francis, Co-Chair, Charter Review Commission
Spoke about the following: making good progress and on target to finish by June 1, public hearing prior, main mission to modernize the charter, out of date, much have changed in culture and environment, mining language from other modern charters, addressing pain points from other Boards, Commission and Public, interested in combining departments and boards and commissions due to lack of ability to fill positions, aiming for transparency throughout process

Martin Anderson, Co-Chair, Charter Review Commission
Spoke about the following: reiterated Laura's points, meeting twice per month looking at language, Commission has interviewed town employees and others, filled out a questionnaire to gauge which points are of most importance, encouraging others to give feedback

Laura Francis, Member, Sustainable Durham
Spoke about the following: one year into recertification, received Bronze status, hoping for Silver or Gold next time, asking Boards and Commissions to collaborate to achieve recertification, encouraged members to respond and engage, some have already, waiting on others

Terry Wall, Fire Chief
Spoke about the following: department responded to over 80 calls year to date, membership good and training going well, 2 firefighters in Fire One program graduating shortly, 3 in Fire Two, 2 in the State of Connecticut Q endorsement class for driving apparatus

Frank DeFelice, Chair, Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Agency, Planning and Zoning Commission, LCRVCOG
Spoke about the following for Inland Wetlands and Water Courses Agency: Cease and Desist action filed against Mr. Caturano (Wallingford Road) on Route 68 for filling in wetlands, working together

with a mediation plan, should be finalized soon, Frank has been appointed to the Riparian Working Group providing protections of areas by streams and rivers, discussed language of bill HB5334 for Riparian protection and the progress and changes moving forward

Spoke about the following for Planning and Zoning Commission: working on plan of conservation and development that needs to be completed every ten years, developed chapters for housing, environment, agriculture, transportation and conservation, timeline should be June-July to go to public hearing, the commissioners have been receiving training on Public Act 25-1, the Omnibus Housing Bill, improving the situation for housing, attended a Hallaran and Sage presentation with 250 others across the state, worked through the FEMA map review and the National Hazards Mitigation Plan addressing natural hazards like flooding and collapsed roads

Spoke about the following for LCRVCOG: With Public Act 25-1, state of Connecticut will develop regions and indicate number of units of housing that should be, our region includes 17 towns, OPM is working on language clarification, a new housing plan will be put in place to support the Act as well

Sarah Atwell, Chair, America 250 Committee
Spoke about the following: highlighted some upcoming events, by end of year there will be six lectures, three town tours, a cemetery tour, a hike, and reading of the Declaration of Independence in July, and encampment in October, a colonial holiday, fundraising letters went out to 170 local businesses, there will be an open house at Historical Society, challenge coins, pins, stickers and magnets will be available for purchase, information available at dermhistory.com, collaboration with organizations and non-profits

Leslie Bulion, Chair, Complete Streets Committee
Spoke about the following: bike lane complete, organized celebratory ride with support from state troopers, more than 40 riders in attendance, working with Board of Selectmen to explore automated traffic cameras to assist in speed monitoring, encouraged support from the community, working to keep roads safe, coordinating with Middlefield on bike trail to connect two towns, participated in Durham Night Out, hopes to install bike racks funded by grant, work on pedestrian loop, painting crosswalks, making school zones safer, rapid flashing beacons, commuter rideshare parking, prioritizing sidewalks and sidewalk lighting

Carolyn Havrda, Office Manager, Community Center
Spoke about the following: hosting more community members, maximizing spaces, improving facility, generator functioning, lighting project complete, projects happening in ambulance bay, doing projects with American Legion and VFW, events such as youth basketball, special Olympics, line dancing, little league, indoor pickleball, utilizing the kitchen for the TUM community dinners, hosting many America 250 events including Town-wide Picnic on June 6, contact Carolyn to book the community center, 38 youth signed up for community center Monday through Friday from 2:15-4:00 p.m.

Brian Medeiros, Recreation Director
Spoke about the following: Winter Market came to a close, the last market had 25+ vendors with over 100 in attendance, thanked Dave for his service, youth Basketball came to a close, for first time, they played teams in surrounding towns to make it more engaging for the athletes, thanked Becky Finnerty, basketball director retiring after 17 years for her efforts, multi-task sports class led by Skyhawks, held a paint night, Men's basketball did not run this year, but held an open gym for basketball that sold out, held co-ed volleyball, Children's Happy Brain Yoga, line dancing with Brooke with 40 + participants, mini-decorating cake class, Easter Egg Hunt Saturday March 28, USA Tennis in the Park on Sundays April – June, STEAM Explorations after school program, many popular senior exercise programs, kids playground camp starting in June, Summer Concert Series, thanked Carolyn, Janet and Dave

Janet Morganti, Chair, Recreation Committee
Spoke about the following: Dave's departure from the Recreation Committee, thanked him for his service and said he will be missed, successful tree lighting on the green, discussed the need for a

better sound system for a future lighting, committee has been discussing a splash pad at the park, most of bands have been booked for Summer Concert Series, listing the bands and dates, Concert Series will also feature food trucks and ice cream and encouraged the public to attend

Kristen Kleeman, Chair, Fire Company Trustees
Spoke about the following: new furnace at fire house, spring projects include replacing lighting in parking lot, painting bays, upgrading the kitchen, hoping to fix roof the following fiscal year, hasn't been done in over 30 years

Nick Charest, Town Clerk
Spoke about the following: finished their Vital Records Index, organizing files, improving preservation practices, office efficiency, finished grant project taking boxes of thousands of pages of loose-leaf minutes, sorted, rescanned and reprinted with the vendor Adkins to put in binders and chronological and preserved for hundreds of years, working on another grant project where minutes can be searchable by keyword using AI to allow quick, efficient searching and reviewing, applied for National Archives grant surrounded by American Revolution and creation of democracy, wants to use funds to digitize records from 1600s to 1940s, scanning hand-written minutes, waiting on results, Assistant Town Clerk Jodi Moore working on disaster plan, considering working on educational series on civics and town voting

Carol Kleeman, Member of Economic Development Commission
Spoke about the following: enhancing town mapping for homes, businesses and commercial, putting together a campaign to spotlight local town businesses, 3 members joined Development Steering Committee within Middlesex County, discussing regional issues

Brendan Rea, First Selectman, Board of Selectmen
Spoke about the following: update on Shady Lane project, working on final steps between engineers and Public Works, hopefully going out to RFP shortly, received pushback from DOT on sidewalk project, engineer working with DOT, crosswalks were not ADA compliant, had public hearing on automated traffic cameras, will potentially go to town meeting around April 20, will apply again for connectivity grant for Alyn Brook Park loop sidewalk, had joint meeting with Board of Finance to revisit Public Works projects and building

4. Closing Comments
First Selectman Rea thanked everyone for participating as well as their hard work and volunteer time, he elaborated on pending legislation to raise the cost share that Connecticut has, he wrote and submitted testimony in support of Senate Bill 7, raising the cost share for the first time in 13 years

5. Adjourn
Meeting adjourned at 8:23 p.m.
Respectfully submitted,
Jason Beaudoin, Recording Secretary