

TOWN OF SCOTLAND

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Scotland Town Hall - 9 Devotion Road, P.O. Box 288 Scotland, CT 06264
(860) 456-7797 ext.1



BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

July 23rd, 2025 - 7:00pm

Location: Scotland Volunteer Community Hall

Meeting Minutes

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:06pm by First Selectman Dana Barrow Jr. Present: Selectman Michael Gurnack; Selectman Bart Laws; Treasurer David Zito and Executive Administrator Wendy O'Connor.
2. Additions to Agenda:
 - **MOTION:** Motion made by Bart Laws to add Invasive Plant Species Management discussion to agenda, seconded by Mike Gurnack. Motion carried.
3. Audience with Citizens: Jennifer Nelson asked how we are going to control trees etc. that are damaged by wildlife in reference to the draft blight ordinance. Discussion was held with audience members. Will continue discussion under Item 7.
4. Approval of previous BOS Meeting Minutes – June 25th, 2025
 - **MOTION:** Motion made by Mike Gurnack to approve the minutes of the June 5th, 2025 Board of Selectmen meeting, seconded by Bart Laws. Motion carried.
5. Treasurer's Report: Report presented by Treasurer David Zito (attached to minutes)
6. Approval of Budget Transfer request at the recommendation of the Treasurer
 - **MOTION:** Motion made by Mike Gurnack to approve the budget transfer requests as recommended by the Treasurer, seconded by Bart Law. Motion carried.
7. Review of Blight Ordinance: Discussion was held on the Blight Ordinance. Will remove Item 12 under blighted; Trees, shrubs, hedges, grass and plants, which physically hinder or interfere with the lawful use of abutting premises and/or private street or right-of-way or any road sign. The Board of Selectmen would like more time to review the ordinance and will continue the discussion at a later meeting.
8. Review of Bass Road Bridge – Have an offer from The Nature Conservancy of \$25,000 to purchase the Bass Road Bridge. They will come and remove the bridge and transport the bridge to the new location.
 - Motion: Motion made by Mike Gurnack to sell the Bass Road Bridge for \$25,000 to the Nature Conservancy, seconded by Bart Laws. Motion carried.

9. Invasive Plant Species Management – Bart Laws and some residents met with the Connecticut Invasive Species Working Group at the library and took a tour. The area is full of several invasive species. Rose Hiskes of Connecticut Invasive Plant Working Group (CIPWG) is willing to have an event on a Saturday to discuss and give a tour of what the invasive plant species are, how to recognize them and how to destroy them. Would have a group of volunteers to then “walk and cut” the identified invasive species. Discussion was held.

10. Report of Selectmen

- Budget: David gave a good update on where the Town finances stand as of today. I want to assure everyone the BOS understands how high the Budget is and will do everything in its power to save money where we can. Please know we question every expenditure.
- State Mandates: We are continuing to work through all of the new State Mandates to the best of our ability.
- Zip Code Issues: The Zip code Bill HR 672 passed the House of Representatives yesterday. I want to thank Representative Joe Courtney and his team for the hard work they put into getting the Bill passed. We will be having a joint press conference tomorrow. We are still waiting for Senator Murphy to introduce the Bill in the Senate. We met with Murphys staff last week trying to get the Bill moving forward in the Senate.
- NECCOG: Meeting this Friday.
- Council of Small Towns [COST]: Worked very hard to get the word out on the multiple bills before the State Legislators. Bringing to light many of the Bills that were very bad for small towns.
- Connecticut Conference of Municipalities [CCM]: The CCM continues to send out lots of Training opportunities for municipal leaders.
- Road Safety: We had a speed study done in the center of Town in case the Town want to move forward on a speed camera if the BOS and the Town chooses to do so. I shared the results of that study with the BOS. We also have received two more “This is your speed” They have been placed on Brookly Turnpike for now. We are trying to repair the speed sign we place on the west bound side of Rt 14 by the Post Office.
- The Town Hall Renovation Project.
The Civil Engineer has finished the Line of site and drainage study now waiting for the drawings to be finalized for costing.
- The Town had the existing Septic Tank tested on orders from EHHD and it showed the tank is starting to collapse. The existing tank is located 35 feet from the well and must be moved to be at least 75 feet from the well. We will have Civil 1 design the new location so we can send it out for a bid for replacement. This is required to be corrected not connected to the renovation project.
- Roads / Public Works. Our mowing machine has broken the old Town Tractor for the second time. We are waiting for repair parts. We need to look at a newer and larger tractor in the near future. We understand Hanover Road is in desperate need of mowing and will be the first to get done when the Tractor is repaired.
- Bridges: We are working on the Finances of the Bridge Grants now. We met DOT last week at the Gager Hill Bridge site and went over the concerns that we have. We are in the process of hiring a Bridge Inspection team for Bass Rd. Bridge. This too will be reimbursed by the Grant money, but they will work for the Town.

We met with the Kemp Rd. Bridge designers, and we may delay construction to 2028 since we have two bridges going in 2026 and two going in 2027.

We met with representatives of the Nature Conservator in Salem Ct. They are interested in purchasing the old Bass Rd Bridge.

- Fire Department: The Fire Department is looking for Volunteers if you have some time and would like to give back to the community please consider joining.
- The Town of Scotland: Diane Frink has agreed to be Republican registrar of Voters.
- Grants: The Town received STEAP for \$ 248,651 for Municipal Safety Complex and Community Hall repairs and upgrades. This will be matched by \$27,628 from the town. I have asked 2nd Selectman Michael Gurnack to oversee this Grant.
- Grange Hall: The Grange Hall has received an updated Electrical Service. The existing one was a shock and fire Hazard.
- Solar Project: No updates, if possible, I will be attending the permit at the Siting Commission hearing. From what I understand the project will most likely be approved.
- Cell Tower: They will be installing a cell tower on Bass Rd in Windham next to the Scotland Town line on Kemp Rd.
- Landfill Permit: Sticker are available for purchase at a cost of \$ 25.00 per household from the Town Clerk Monday and Thursday from 9-3 PM and Wednesday from 1-7 PM.
- Motor Vehicle Taxes: Please see attached.
- ***Scotland residents: My door is always open to discuss anything, and the BOS meets on the 4th Wednesdays, I encourage all residents to come to the meetings.***

11. Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:55pm made by Bart Laws, seconded by Michael Gurnack. Motion carried.