

TOWN OF LYME
Select Board Regular Meeting
Town Office Conference Room & Zoom
1 High Street
Lyme NH 03768
Tuesday June 23rd, 2026
10:00 AM

Approved: July 7th, 2026

The following people were present for part or all of the meeting: Select Board members Benjamin Kilham, David Kahn and Michael Hinsley; Administrator Dina Cutting. Select Board/Assessing Clerk Jordan Gray, Road Agent Scott Bailey
Public: Rich Brown, Phil Kinsler, John Biglow, Pat Pippin

1. At 10:00 AM Mr. Kilham opened the public meeting.
2. Public comment:
 - Mr. Biglow stated that Judy Russell (Library Director) has been very public with her plan to retire and is asking for community input on her replacement. Mr. Biglow hopes the Board is open to public input when hiring other Town employees as well.
 - Mr. Kinsler reported on a conversation he had with Mr. Don Elder about the use of Town funds to pave and place aprons on certain Town roads/Town buildings. Mr. Kinsler stated that Mr. Elder feels that block grant money should not have gone towards these projects.
3. Mr. Kahn moved to approve the minutes from the meeting of Tuesday June 9th 2026. Mr. Hinsley seconded. Voted unanimously in favor.
4. Mr. Kahn moved to approve the manifest totaling \$416,805.10. Mr. Kilham seconded. Voted unanimously in favor.
5. The Board reviewed a pole license application from New Hampshire Electric Cooperative, (the NHEC). Road Agent, Scott Bailey, has reached out to the NHEC asking for additional information and requesting that an NHEC representative meet with him. Mr. Bailey asks the Board to defer this matter to a later meeting.
6. Mrs. Cutting reported that the NHEC will be doing vegetation control on scenic roads in accordance with New Hampshire RSA 231:157.
7. The Board briefly spoke about beaver dams affecting Town culverts and roads. The following information was provided to the Board:
 - **Failure to Act on a Known Nuisance:** If the Town or neighbors formally notify a landowner that a beaver dam on their property poses an imminent flooding risk, and the landowner fails to monitor or manage it, they can be held liable for any resulting property damage
 - **Emergency Removal:** Landowners, municipal employees, and state officials generally have the legal right to alter or remove beaver dams—or install flow-control "beaver deceivers"—on property under their control to protect public highways, bridges, or private structures from submersion.
 - **The Exception (Negligence):** If a private landowner has been formally notified by the Town of Lyme, neighbors, or the State that a beaver dam on their property has become a severe, structurally unsafe hazard to public infrastructure, and the

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landowner blocks efforts to remedy it, they face the possibility of litigation for a private or public nuisance.

Mr. Bailey would like to notify certain residents impacted by this issue, as he has already had to fix roads/culverts multiple times. Mr. Kahn moved to notify the land owners. Mr. Hinsley seconded. Voted unanimously in favor.

8. The Board reviewed and signed a contract to amend the clean-up contract for 116 Dorchester Road.
9. At 10:43 AM Mr. Hinsley moved to entered non-public session under RSA 91A:3 II (*l*) Legal. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted unanimously in favor by a roll call vote. Present for this nonpublic session were Mr. Kilham, Mr. Hinsley, Mr. Kahn and Mrs. Cutting.
10. At 11:58AM The Select Board returned to public session having taken no votes.
11. At 12:04AM Mr. Hinsley moved to adjourn. Seconded by Mr. Kilham. Voted unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted, Jordan Gray