



TOWN OF LEYDEN

Meeting Minutes

Select Board

Where : Leyden Town Offices – 7 Brattleboro Road

When: March 2, 2026 at 5:00 PM

In Attendance

Members: Erica Jensen, Katherine DiMatteo, Jeff Baker

Audience: Michele Giarusso, Jim Brodeur

Time meeting called to order: 5:01 PM

The Select Board signed the payroll and accounts payable warrants.

Review of Minutes:

Motion: Katherine moved the minutes of 02/9/26 be approved with minor amendments
Second: Jeff
Vote: Unanimous

Discussions:

1. Caucus Warrant

Motion: Katherine moved the March 23, 2026 Town Caucus warrant to post.

Second: Jeff **Vote:** Unanimous

Motion: Katherine moved that Digital Equity grant (through DLS IT grant) and have the FRCOG apply for on Leyden's behalf be approved.

Second: Jeff **Vote:** Unanimous

2. E&R Advisory Committee Update

Discussion: Katherine, as chair of this committee, reported she attended the Bernardston Select Board meeting on February 18. She presented the areas that the E&R committee is pursuing to continue working on to share services. The Bernardston Select Board agreed with moving forward on investigating sharing Leyden and Bernardston's Fire dept, Town Clerk and Treasurer position. It is agreed that Leyden will have to have a fire substation for homeowner's insurance purposes.

Next steps: Liz will be interviewing fire personnel and Katherine will speak to the Town Clerk and Treasurer in Leyden and Bernardston.

3. Town Coordinator Update

- Appointment of Jenny Campbell to COA.

Motion: Katherine moved to appoint Jenny Campbell to the COA for 3 years, until June 30, 2028. **Second:** Jeff **Vote:** Unanimous

- Snows and Sons contract renewal for Avery Field, town common and Library.

Motion: Katherine moved to renew the Avery Field, town common and Library contract for \$5,390 per year. **Second:** Jeff **Vote:** Unanimous.

The renewal of the town office contract renewal for mowing is not very clear.

Action: Michele will investigate the monthly amount proposed vs. paid for this year and report back to the board.

- Rental of town common for Easter egg hunt on April 4th. Party renting would like to make sure the common is cleared from brush and has had a spring cleanup.

Action: Michele to ask Snow and Sons for a quote for spring cleanup. Also speak with Jeff Miller. A new list of projects for Jeff and priorities to be developed prior to his review.

- Candidates for MA House of Representative seat- discussion on whether the Select Board would like to hear from candidates running in November election. Since there are many candidates running for this seat, the board decided not to have candidates come to Select Board meetings.
- (DLTA) District Local Technical Assistant through the FRCOG -Michele shared the email from the FRCOG on areas that they could help Leyden this coming year. The Select Board appreciated they could help our Open Space Committee and FEMA floodplain maps this year as well as other areas Leyden has asked for assistance with.
- Eden trail construction-The Select Board would like to wait until a survey is done and Bill Brooks presents a plan on the construction of the slope before they approach our town counsel with questions for a warrant article for the annual town meeting.
- Met with FRCOG about Complete Streets project. They wish to meet with Leyden citizens for input and also will attend the Open Space Listening Session at the end of March. Michele will contact citizens who would be interested in meeting about Complete Streets.
- Request for \$650,000 from MVP for bog. MA DOT asked that we take out inflation estimates.
- Green Communities: There is nothing we can apply for so the \$60-80,000 in funds that we have will not get used. Katherine suggested that if it is a question of cost, could a project be broken down into smaller pieces. For instance, windows in only some of the rooms in the town office rather than the whole office.

4. Select Board Updates

Discussion:

- Jeff-property behind Avery Field and marking of trees-Jeff reported abutters contacted him that the trees that were marked were trees on their property. Jim Brodeur explained that when he and Katherine walked the town owned property last fall they both saw the abutter's pins from a previous survey. The trees that Jim marked were within the town owned property line and away from the abutter's property. Katherine confirmed. There is no plan at this time to construct trails, this was a preliminary step to know where the property lines are.
- Katherine reported she attended the Regional Planning Advisory Committee meeting. Leyden does not qualify for MA Housing Choice designation. Only 5 towns in Franklin County do. Maria Kurtz is the new housing coordinator at the FRCOG to help towns. If a town qualifies, they get extra bonus points for other MA grant programs. The meeting also talked about data centers and to make sure town planning bylaws address them, so they do not creep up in towns. Another topic was that DOER is

streamlining to consolidate permits for clean energy projects. Towns will have to have a designated coordinator by next year. SB to add to a future agenda.

- Katherine talked to a person from Bernardston who is looking to put a warrant article for single payer health insurance. Katherine will email her to get in touch with Susan Bobe and Michele for further information.
- Erica has received emails on battery storage systems from concerned citizens. Jim stated we have a new bylaw that was approved by the Attorney General that speaks to battery storage and companies will need to get a special permit to install. Our bylaw also covers the decommissioning of the storage units.
- Katherine asked about the flag on the Right To Farm sign – has Jim be contacted to remove it? Jim was away, Michele will contact.

8. Public Comments-none

8. Agenda Planning

- March 9 meeting -Rick Martin FCTS and Donna Dusell from GCC.

Next Meeting: March 9, 2026, at 9:00 am

Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Katherine moved
to adjourn at 6:52 pm

Second: Jeff

Vote: Unanimous

Submitted By: Michele Giarusso