

Town of Pomfret Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
August 5, 2026

Present: Benjamin Brickner, John Peters, Eric Chase, Emily Grube

Public: Frank Rogers, Cynthia Hewitt, Neil Lamson, Lauren Lavoro, Caleb Hawley, AJ Steven, Doug Tuthill, John Moore, John Morley, Katherine Wimmer, Tom Sander, Steve Chamberlin, Evan Giniger, Cyrus Benoit, Quinn Uva, Michael Miller, Arminda King, Michelle Massa, Tony O'Meara, Greg Hartford

1. **Call to Order** – Ben called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm.
2. **Agenda Review** – Emily moved and Eric seconded that Item 5G (Replacement of Engine 1) be deleted and postponed to the August 19 meeting. Unanimous.
3. **Public Comment** – Steve Chamberlin suggested that D&D be considered for sand purchases, noting they have been supportive of the town over the years.
4. **Road Foreman Report** – Frank reported that grant-funded culvert replacement work will begin next week on Allen Hill and the following week on Bartlett Brook Road; both projects will require road closures. AJ has been grading. Engineers for the paving grant walked the six-mile stretch of Pomfret Road to identify improvements and will begin the boring process. Greg Olmstead is scheduled to paint the garage roof soon. Frank investigated reports of rubbish on Joe Ranger Road and removed an air conditioner; he noted the vandalism did not occur within the right-of-way.
5. **Items for Discussion or Vote**
 - a. **Wild Apple Road/ Legal Trail 2 Access** – Caleb Hawley (GMP) and property owners Lauren Lavoro and Evan Giniger presented three related requests: a GMP notification of pole and wire locations, an application for a permit to operate a motor vehicle on Legal Trail 2, and an application for a highway access permit. Caleb explained that GMP proposes an underground line extension of approximately 4,900 feet from the existing pole near the Reese property, within the town highway limit, installed by vibratory plowing, with three short overhead crossings at the wetland locations shown on the submitted plan. Caleb stated that the two overhead crossings along the Class 4 highway and Legal Trail 2 would fall on the applicants' own property, and that Lauren had expressed a preference for keeping the line underground throughout. Mr. Giniger stated that a civil engineer will be retained to address the power line impact and the driveway road base.

Tom Sander, a co-owner and management group member of All This LLC, asked how the applicants intend to address winter access to the Class 4 highway. Frank stated that the town will continue to plow and sand to its present limit and that access beyond that point would be the landowners' responsibility. Neil noted that the previous owner had obtained Selectboard permission to improve the legal trail from the stone pillars to the driveway, including a stream crossing.

Tom Sander referenced a letter from Michael Reese received three hours before the meeting. The Selectboard confirmed that nothing approved would reclassify the Class 4 highway or Legal Trail 2 or commit the town to plowing either, that neither would be widened, straightened or otherwise physically improved beyond what the

application strictly requires, and that vehicular use of Legal Trail 2 remains subject to the Ordinance Pertaining to Travel on Trails. Evan confirmed that overhead line work would be limited to the three crossings shown on the plan. The remaining questions in the Reese letter will be addressed at the August 19 meeting.

Eric moved and John seconded approval of the notification of pole and wire locations, subject to two conditions: (1) that all underground options through the wetland areas first be explored, including vibratory plowing in the road base and directional drilling; and (2) that no major upgrade be made to the road or trail without prior authorization of the Selectboard, excluding minor grading and resurfacing that does not change the road configuration. The motion carried with 3 ayes (Brickner, Peters, Chase) and 1 nay (Grube).

Eric moved and John seconded approval of the application for a permit to operate a motor vehicle on Legal Trail 2. Unanimous.

Regarding the application for a highway access permit, the Selectboard noted its determination at the May 6 meeting that the permit issued in 2012 to Tim Smith remains in effect so long as the driveway specifications and grade remain unchanged. Frank reported that he had visited the site and that the existing access was serviceable, though some brush would need to be cut back. Steve confirmed that the access had been reviewed earlier in the year and required only finishing grading, with no culvert necessary because the grade slopes away from the legal trail. No action was taken on the application, and Ellen will be asked to refund the application fee.

- b. **Public Highway Permit Application (WAMBA)** – John moved and Emily seconded approval for the Woodstock Area Mountain Bike Association to hold an event on a public highway, contingent on road signs and insurance. Unanimous.
- c. **Town Garage Land Acquisition** – A purchase and sale agreement will be sent to the seller for approval, and the land is to be surveyed. Discussion will continue at a future meeting.
- d. **Fall Foliage Traffic Management** – John Morley attended in Mike Doten’s absence. John moved and Emily seconded the closure of Cloudland Road and Barber Hill from September 26 to October 13, 2026. Unanimous.
- e. **Aggregate Hauling Proposal** – Sheldrick Trucking submitted a bid to truck loads of aggregate at \$130 per load, which is expected to save the town several thousand dollars. Eric moved and Emily seconded approval. Unanimous.
- f. **Employee Overtime Policy** – Neil Lamson requested clarification on the overtime pay policy for the road crew. The Selectboard will research the matter and continue the discussion on August 19, 2026.
- g. **Replacement for Engine 1 (RFP)** – Postponed during Agenda Review.
- h. **Pomfret Town Plan** – Emily moved and John seconded approval of the Town Plan. Unanimous.
- i. **Brattleboro Resolution** – Brattleboro Memorial Hospital requested a recommendation for the continuation of their Birthing Center. A motion to support the resolution did not carry.

- j. **Regional Plan Comment Letter** – Following discussion, the Selectboard approved the letter with an additional comment requesting that, outside of the South Pomfret area, the “Rural General” classification be assigned to all property.
 - k. **Selectboard Vacancy Update** – This matter was deferred to Executive Session.
 - l. **Warrants** – Eric moved and Emily seconded approval of the following warrants for payment:

27007	\$ 9,447.09	Payroll
27010	11,071.35	Payroll
27011	484.60	A/P (Tax Refund)
27012	52,572.43	A/P

Unanimous.

Notes: Allyn Ricker’s payments should not be via payroll; the Fairfield invoice was for York Rake teeth, not excavator parts.
 - m. **Approval of July 15, July 28 and July 29, 2026 Minutes** – Emily moved and Eric seconded approval of the minutes as presented. Unanimous.
6. **Meeting Wrap Up**
- a. **Correspondence** – The Selectboard received the letter from Michael Reese regarding the Wild Apple Road permits.
 - b. **Review of Assignments** – Ben will send the WAMBA permit PDF, submit the Town Plan letter to TRORC, send the Permit to Operate a Motor Vehicle on a Pomfret Trail. Cynthia will renew help-wanted ads for two weeks, inform Ellen of the warrant issues, and ask Ellen to refund the Lavoro fee.
 - c. **Agenda for Next Meeting** – Fire Truck RFP, Reese letter, land acquisition, overtime policy, and salt contract.
7. **Executive Session**
- a. Ben moved and Eric seconded that the Selectboard enter executive session pursuant to 1 V.S.A. 313(a)(3) to discuss the employment of public employees and the appointment of public officers. Unanimous. The Selectboard entered executive session at 9:35 pm.
 - b. Ben moved and Emily seconded that the Selectboard exit executive session. Unanimous. The Selectboard exited executive session at 10:24 pm.
8. **Offer of Employment (Town Administrator)** – Ben moved and Eric seconded that the town issue an offer letter to Candidate A as discussed in executive session. Unanimous.
9. **Adjournment** – Emily moved and Eric seconded adjournment. Unanimous. The meeting was adjourned at 10:25 pm.