

MINUTES
Board of Selectpersons
Tuesday, September 1, 2026 – 7:00 PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

COPY RECEIVED
DATE: 9/9/26
TIME: 8:00 AM
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Members Present: Annmarie Drugonis, Trisha Danka, Phil Wilhelmy, Scott Andrews, Brianna Girard, Al Bruno and Bob Findley

Others Present: Town Counsel, Richard Buturla; CAO, Kurt Miller, Bob Koskelowski, Kim Dulka, John McKenzie, Attorney Marini, Kristen Bruno, Jean Sosnovich, Dave Bitso, Theresa Conroy, Josh Beaupre

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order

First Selectwoman, Annmarie Drugonis, called the meeting to order at 7:05 PM

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

A moment of silence was observed in memory of the individuals who recently lost their lives in Seymour.

Motion to add Pedal Up to the agenda

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Bob Findley

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Brianna Girard – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Motion to add Public Works Surplus to the agenda

Motion: Scott Andrews

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Brianna Girard – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

ITEM #3: Public Comment

Bob Koskelowski, Pearl Street, expressed concern regarding the proposed cell tower and its potential impact on surrounding neighborhoods. He also discussed the proposed farm ordinance, referencing Connecticut's Right to Farm law, and commented on pending litigation involving a farm in Seymour.

Mr. Koskelowski also expressed concern regarding the condition of Town roads and the amount of funding available for road improvements. He discussed the percentage of roads completed and the use of the armor coating process.

ITEM #4: Approval of minutes

a. Special Meeting August 11, 2026

Motion to approve minutes from the August 11, 2026 Special Meeting

Motion: Phil Wilhelmy

Second: Bob Findley

Vote: 5-Yes 0-No

2-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Brianna Girard – Abstain

Bob Findley – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Al Bruno – Abstain

Pedal Up:

Christina Lovec and her sons spoke about their idea for a children's bicycle exchange program called "Pedal Up," which would allow families to donate bicycles their children have outgrown so they can be reused by other children. Participants could also exchange an outgrown bicycle for a larger one as needed.

Christina explained that the idea developed after she began biking to school with her sons this spring. While discussing how to safely navigate areas without sidewalks, she heard other children express an interest in biking to school as well. A nine-year-old neighbor later asked to join them but did not have a properly sized bicycle. This prompted Christina to consider a program where outgrown bicycles could be donated and recycled for other children. She asked the Board and the Town for support in helping make the program possible.

Phil asked how the Board could assist. Christina stated that the program would need storage space, assistance spreading the word, and donations of bicycles, helmets, reflectors, and other safety equipment.

Annmarie noted that Christina had spoken with Lee at Seymour Ambulance regarding bicycle safety training and stated that some storage may be available at the Community Center. She also discussed reaching out to local businesses and larger retailers, including Walmart, Amazon, Thule, and Target, for possible support or donations. All seven Board members support the idea and would be happy to assist in sharing information about the program.

Phil and Brianna stated that they thought it was a great idea and would be happy to assist in any way possible.

The Board expressed its support for the "Pedal Up" program and discussed promoting the initiative through the school system as well.

Public Works Surplus:

Public Works held a special meeting to review items at its facility that the department is looking to surplus. In accordance with the Town Charter, the items must first be posted internally before being offered to the public through auction.

Motion to post these internally and then if no other departments are interested then they move forward with auctioning surplus machines/equipment

Motion: Scott Andrews

Second: Bob Findley

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danko – Yes

Brianna Girard – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

ITEM #5: Appointments

BOE appointed Casey Grenier to the Board of Education and replaced Jay Hatfield and her term will expire in December 2027.

Motion to appoint Scott Andrews to the Awards Committee to replace Al Bruno with a term expiring December 1, 2027

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Phil Wilhelmy

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Brianna Girard – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

ITEM #6: Tax refunds/abatelements

Motion to approve the tax refunds/abatelements as presented.

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Bob Findley

Vote: 7-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Brianna Girard – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

ITEM #7: Correspondence

- Letter from Mr. Lanza regarding his blighted property. He has a fine for \$17,000 and he is asking for the Board of Selectpersons to give him to the end of September to get rid of the blighted vehicle to forego the fine.

Motion to give him to September 30th the last day to get car off his property and if he does not, then fines will remain

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Bob Findley

Discussion: If the matter is not addressed, he will be responsible for the \$17,000 in fines, in addition to the fines that continue to accrue. John McKenzie noted that the accrued fines are significantly higher and stated that the individual was first notified of the issue in October 2025.

Vote: 7-Yes 0 No

0 Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Brianna Girard – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

ITEM #8: Discussion and possible action regarding the property at 23A Partridge Drive

23A Partridge Drive consists of approximately .13 acres. Taxes have not been paid on the property since 2010, with approximately \$1,164.39 currently owed. An individual has expressed interest in acquiring the property; however, the Town cannot simply transfer ownership.

Attorney Richard Buturla explained that the three property owners are deceased and discussed the Town's options. The Town could pursue foreclosure to obtain title; however, the cost of the foreclosure process would likely exceed the amount of taxes owed and would not be financially beneficial to the Town. Alternatively, pursuant to C.G.S. § 12-195h, the Town could sell and assign the tax liens to the interested party in exchange for payment of the outstanding taxes. The interested party would then be responsible for pursuing foreclosure and any associated costs in order to obtain title to the property.

The Board agreed that selling the tax liens would be the preferred option. The First Selectwoman will contact the interested party to discuss proceeding. No formal action was required at this time.

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

421 that was signed into law by the President of the United States on November 30, 2004, designating the Highlands as a significant national conservation priority region; and

WHEREAS, the Highlands Conservation Act authorizes the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to provide financial assistance to Highlands States to preserve and protect high priority conservation land in the Highlands region; and

WHEREAS, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service manages a voluntary grant program to assist Highlands States, local units of government, and private forest and farm landowners in the conservation of land and natural resources in the Highlands region in coordination with willing sellers; and

WHEREAS, land preservation efforts in the Highlands region should link the parks, historic sites, wetlands, wildlife habitats, streams, rivers, reservoirs, watershed, trails, scenic and natural lands and other protected areas unique to the region for the enjoyment of future generations; and

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Town of Seymour supports being officially included in the federal Highlands boundary, as maintained by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for the Highlands Conservation Act grant program, thereby qualifying for financial and technical assistance provided by the U.S. Congress.

Motion to approve resolution

Motion: Scott Andrews

Second: Phil Wilhelmy

Discussion: It was explained that participation in the program would provide the Town with an opportunity to access potential grant funding for the acquisition of open space. Participation would not guarantee funding or impose restrictions on how the Town uses its property.

Annmarie stated that the program allows Seymour to collaborate with non-bordering municipalities and become eligible for potential funding opportunities. She emphasized that participation does not guarantee funding, but provides the Town with access to apply for available funds.

Vote: 7-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Brianna Girard – Yes

Bob Findley – Yes

Scott Andrews – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

ITEM #14: Ordinance

- a) Refuse and Recycling Container
- b) Right to Farm
- c) Agricultural Committee

Refuse and Recycling Container: Blight Enforcement Officer John McKenzie briefly reviewed the ordinance and the proposed changes. Annmarie noted that the Town has received complaints regarding garbage bins being left in roadways and on sidewalks, primarily due to safety concerns.

Motion to move Refuse and Recycling Container to the Ordinance Committee

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Phil Wilhelmy

Discussion: Brianna and Bob expressed concern that enforcement regarding garbage cans could be viewed as overly restrictive. Phil stated that he would view the matter differently if it were being addressed specifically as a safety concern. Following discussion, the Board agreed that a reminder should be sent to residents encouraging them to bring their garbage cans in after collection.

0-Abstain

Brianna Girard – Yes
Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Right to Farm Ordinance: It was discussed that Connecticut's Right to Farm law was enacted in 1981. The Town is considering a local Right to Farm ordinance based on the existing state statute. The proposed ordinance will be referred to the Ordinance Committee for review to ensure that it is consistent with state requirements before moving forward.

Motion to move to Right to Farm to the Ordinance Committee

Second: Phil Wilhelmy

1-Abstain

Brianna Girard – Yes
Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Agricultural committee: Annmarie stated that she has been approached by several residents interested in establishing an Agricultural Committee to promote, preserve, support and strengthen agriculture in the Town of Seymour. The committee would also serve as an advisory resource to the Board of Selectpersons, other Town boards, commissions and departments, as well as local farmers, agricultural landowners and residents. The proposed committee would consist of seven members serving staggered three-year terms.

Motion to send Agricultural Committee to the Ordinance Committee

Second: Trisha Danka

Discussion: It was noted that by referring the matter to the Ordinance Committee and formally adopting it as an ordinance, it would become a permanent part of the Town's Code of Ordinances.

0-Abstain

Brianna Girard – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

ITEM #15: Executive Session

a. **Blight – 74 New Street**

Motion to enter into executive session those present shall include members of the Board of the Selectpersons, Attorney Richard Burturla, Attorney Marini; CAO, Kurt Miller and John MCKenzine regarding a matter pending litigation at 7:59 PM

Second: Scott Andrews

0-Abstain

Brianna Girard – Yes
Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Motion to come out of executive session at 8:25 PM with no actions or motions

Motion: Bob Findley
Vote: 7-Yes 0-No
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Bob Findley – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes

Second: Brianna Girard
0-Abstain
Trisha Danka – Yes
Scott Andrews – Yes
Brianna Girard – Yes
Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

ITEM #16: Discussion and possible action regarding the Blight case at 74 New Street

Motion to allow Land Use Counsel to settle the case as discussed in executive session.

Motion: Trisha Danka Second: Bob Findley
Vote: 7-Yes 0 No 0 Abstain
Annmarie Drugonis – Yes Trisha Danka – Yes Brianna Girard – Yes
Bob Findley – Yes Scott Andrews – Yes Phil Wilhelmy – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes

ITEM #17: Public Comment

Tom Bennett, Fairway Lane, asked the Board to consider holding a public hearing to allow residents an opportunity to voice their concerns regarding the location of the proposed cell tower. He also referenced concerns and issues that arose during a previous cell tower proposal in the Great Hill Road area.

Theresa Conroy, 177 Skokorat Street, commended Christina and her sons for their proposed bicycle exchange program. She recalled that, following the death of a young bicyclist on Skokorat Street in the 1990s, the Town held a bicycle safety program with support from local businesses. She expressed support for the idea of recycling and reusing bicycles and stated that she believes the program would be a great initiative for the community moving forward.

ITEM #18: Selectperson's public comment

Brianna echoed Theresa's comments and expressed her support for the Pedal Up program. She stated that encouraging children to get outside and ride bicycles is a great initiative and offered to assist with the program in any way she can.

Phil also expressed his support for Pedal Up, noting that it provides a great opportunity for the community to share resources. He volunteered to assist with the program as needed.

Al commended Christina and her sons for developing the Pedal Up program and for encouraging children to learn safe and responsible bicycling practices.

Trisha agreed with the comments made by the other Board members and expressed her support for the Pedal Up program.

Bob emphasized the importance of maintaining clear and consistent communication with residents.

Scott noted that paving work on Mountain Road has been completed, which will provide a smoother roadway for bicyclists.

ITEM #19: Comments from the First Selectwoman

A moment of silence was observed for the families and loved ones affected by the recent tragedies in the community earlier in the meeting. Residents were asked to respect the privacy of those involved and refrain from spreading rumors, assumptions, or speculation.

School began on August 26, 2026. Residents were reminded to allow additional travel time near the schools, particularly on Skokorat Street, Bungay Road, Mountain Road, and Botsford Road, and to use caution around students, bus stops, and school buses.

Seymour Train Station/Downtown Construction: Trees were removed along the rail line. Construction on the tracks and surrounding areas is expected to take place from October 2026 through July 2027, with the overall project anticipated to be completed by December 2027.

Economic Development: Kerite/Marmon continues to invest in Seymour and plans to expand its facility and equipment. Microboard Processing also continues to expand its operations and employee base in town. The property at 95 Silvermine Road was sold by RAF Real Estate to 95 Silvermine LLC for \$11.75 million; RAF Electronic Hardware will remain at the location.

Phase One of the Spring Street development is nearing completion. Soil removal from the Phase Two area is expected to take approximately eight months. Development of apartments on Cogwheel Lane is expected to begin this fall. La Bonita's CT Café and Eatery, a new breakfast and lunch establishment, will also be opening

Economic Development: The Assessor provided a list of Seymour's top 20 taxpayers, which was shared with the Board. Kerite LLC was identified as the town's largest real estate taxpayer, followed by Connecticut Light & Power

Grants: An update was provided on Katharine Matthies Foundation grants awarded to various Town departments and community organizations. Funding was received for Fire Department training, senior and recreation programming, library equipment and services, Community Center improvements and programs, animal control initiatives, American Legion supplies, school-zone traffic signs, and the annual Christmas Parade. It was noted that purchases must first be paid for by the Town and are then reimbursed, while funding for programming is sent directly to the applicable program.

The October 20 meeting will need to be rescheduled due to Early Voting, which runs from October 19 through November 1.

Spotted Lanternflies: The Town has received inquiries regarding spotted lanternflies. Residents were advised to report sightings to DEEP. Recommendations also include spraying affected plants with soapy water and removing Tree of Heaven, which attracts the insects.

Solar Panels: Solar panels have begun arriving for the JCI project. Solar carports are planned for Seymour Middle School, Chatfield-LoPresti School, Bungay School, and additional areas at Seymour High School.

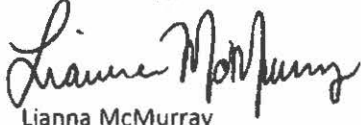
Events: The Community Pep Rally was well attended, and appreciation was expressed to everyone who assisted with the event. Upcoming events on September 2 and September 20, 2026, were also noted, with residents advised to review the new parking arrangements.

Scott offered his thoughts to the first responders and their families.

ITEM #20: Adjournment

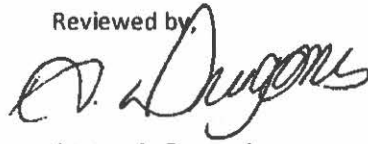
Annmarie Drugonis adjourned the meeting at 8:39 PM

Submitted by,



Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,



Annmarie Drugonis
First Selectwoman