

MINUTES
Board of Selectpersons
Tuesday, September 15, 2026 – 7:00 PM
Norma Drummer Room – Seymour Town Hall

Members Present: Annmarie Drugonis, Trisha Danka, Phil Wilhelmy, Brianna Girard and Al Bruno

Members Absent: Scott Andrews and Bob Findley

Others Present: Town Counsel, Richard Buturla; CAO, Kurt Miller; Blight Enforcement Officer, John McKenzie; Town Engineer, Bryan Nesteriak, Mike Kearney, and Jeff Baryla

ITEM #1: Call meeting to order

First Selectwoman, Annmarie Drugonis, called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM

ITEM #2: Pledge of Allegiance

Everyone saluted the flag and recited the Pledge of Allegiance.

ITEM #3: Public Comment

Mike Kearny, Commander of American Legion Post 10, discussed concerns regarding communication about upcoming Town events. He stated that he had been following various board and committee minutes and was concerned about reports that certain holiday events and parades had been canceled. He requested clarification regarding the Christmas parade, Santa's arrival, the Halloween parade, and Memorial Day parade, as well as the status of grant funding received for the Christmas parade. Kearny also offered a suggestion for transporting Santa downtown using a wagon.

Kearny also discussed American Legion Post 10's role as the Town's Flag Stewards and expressed concern regarding recent confusion over responsibility for replacing flags. He stated that Post 10 had previously been responsible for raising, lowering, and replacing Town flags and requested clarification regarding that responsibility. He also expressed concern that some flags purchased for the Town were manufactured outside of the United States and emphasized his preference that American-made flags be used, particularly in recognition of veterans.

First Selectwoman Annmarie Drugonis clarified that the Town events have not been canceled. She stated that the Christmas parade will be handled differently due to downtown construction and concerns for children's safety, and confirmed that there is a plan in place to bring Santa downtown. She also confirmed that grant funding was received for the Christmas parade and that the other planned events are still moving forward. Drugonis stated that she would follow up regarding the concerns raised about the Town flags.

ITEM #4: Approval of minutes

a. Regular Meeting September 1, 2026

Motion to approve minutes from the September 1, 2026 Regular Meeting

Motion: Al Bruno

Second: Trisha Danka

Vote: 5-Yes

0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Brianna Girard – Yes

ITEM #5: Appointments

None.

ITEM #6: Tax refunds/abatements

Motion to approve the tax refunds/abatements as presented.

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 5-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Brianna Girard – Yes

ITEM #7: Correspondence

- Quinn Levey resigned from the Board of Finance effective September 8, 2026. The Board of Finance will have 30 days to fill the vacancy. Typically, an alternate member is appointed to fill the vacant regular member position, and the resulting alternate vacancy is then filled.

ITEM #8: Discussion and possible action with NVCOG staff regarding the waiving of liens for the former Kinneytown Dam Hydro Facility

Craig Stevenson, Project Manager with NVCOG, provided an overview of the Kinneytown Dam removal and Naugatuck River restoration project. The estimated \$50–\$70 million project will be funded through state and federal sources, with no contribution requested from Seymour or Ansonia. The project will address the abandoned and blighted facility, restore fish passage, improve recreational access, and extend the Naugatuck River Greenway between downtown Seymour and Ansonia.

The project also includes approximately \$12 million to relocate and consolidate Seymour’s sewer siphons, avoiding a future expense to the Town/WPCA.

Stevenson explained that transfer of the property through the Connecticut Brownfield Land Bank requires the waiver of outstanding property taxes. Kinneytown Hydro owes Seymour \$157,270.11 in taxes, interest, and penalties dating back to 2020. He stated that the taxes are considered uncollectible and requested the waiver to allow the project to move forward.

The Board discussed the project and confirmed that there will be no cost to the Town or WPCA. In response to questions regarding flooding along Derby Avenue, Stevenson explained that removal of the dam will create additional land and floodplain, providing greater capacity to absorb excess water and offering additional protection for nearby residents.

Stevenson stated that engineering and structural issues are still being evaluated, with additional information expected in November. Dam removal is anticipated to begin in 2027, with the overall project expected to be completed by 2030.

Once remediation is complete and environmental liabilities have been addressed, the property will be transferred to the Town. The Town will determine its future use, although any plans beyond passive recreation would need to be identified in advance as they could affect the level of environmental remediation required.

Motion that the Connecticut Brownfield Land Bank is exempt from all municipal property taxes relating to the property effective October 10, 2025 the date the land bank acquired title to the property and waive the taxes in the amount of \$157,270.11.

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Brianna Griard

Vote: 5-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes
Brianna Girard – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

ITEM #9: Discussion with Town Engineer Bryan Nesteriak regarding the Town of Seymour Road Plan

Bryan Nesteriak, Town Engineer, explained that he maintains a report card and map for every road in Town based on inspections of conditions such as cracking and striping. Roads classified as A or B are operating as intended, while roads classified as C or D may require attention due to conditions such as potholes, cracking, or uneven surfaces. Roads receiving an F classification are considered hazardous; currently, no Town roads fall within this category. Approximately 70% of the Town's roads are classified as A or B, with the remaining 30% classified as C or D.

Bryan discussed the need for additional funding to complete necessary road repairs. While sufficient funding is not available to bring all Town roads to an A classification, he stated that an additional \$300,000 would significantly assist with road repairs and improvements.

Trisha discussed the importance of making the Board of Finance aware of the Town's strategic road plan during the budget process. First Selectwoman Drugonis noted that funding was reduced during the second and third budget referendums.

Phil discussed the recent improvements to Bungay-Botsford Road, a project totaling more than \$6 million for approximately two miles of roadway. It was noted that road improvement costs can range from approximately \$700,000 to \$1.5 million per mile, depending on the condition of the road and the extent of repairs required.

The Board also discussed the timing of road projects. Bryan explained that projects requiring Department of Transportation approval must proceed through five different departments. He also provided an overview of the Local Transportation Capital Improvement Program (LOTICIP) and explained the program's requirements.

ITEM #10: Discussion and possible action regarding the Town of Seymour Business Tax Incentive Plan

No action was taken. This item will be discussed at the October meeting.

ITEM #11: Discussion and possible action regarding an update from the Awards Committee and its recommendations for award recipients

Trisha discussed that Brianna will serve as the next Chairperson and that a replacement will be sought for Al Bruno. Trisha thanked Mr. Bruno for his years of service.

For the Frank and Anne Conroy Community Service Award, Tom Baklik was nominated. Fred Stanek was nominated for the Roberta M. King Excellence in Service Award.

Motion to approve award recipients as presented

Motion: Phil Wilhelmy

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 5-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes
Al Bruno – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes
Brianna Girard – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

ITEM #12: Ordinance

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

Refuse and Recycling Container: Following discussion, the Committee determined not to move forward with the Refuse and Recycling Ordinance.

Right to Farm Ordinance: The Ordinance Committee is waiting on the Town Attorney to provide additional guidance before making a decision.

Agricultural committee: The Board engaged in extensive discussion on the matter, which will continue at the October 6, 2026 meeting.

ITEM #13: Executive Session

a. Blight – 19 Chestnut Street

Motion to enter into executive session with members of the Board of the Selectpersons, Attorney Richard Burturla; CAO, Kurt Miller and Blight Enforcement Officer, John McKenzie regarding a matter pending litigation at 7:59 PM

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Brianna Girard

Vote: 5-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Brianna Girard – Yes

Motion to come out of executive session at 8:37 PM with no actions or motions taken

Motion: Trisha Danka

Second: Al Bruno

Vote: 5-Yes 0-No

0-Abstain

Annmarie Drugonis – Yes

Trisha Danka – Yes

Phil Wilhelmy – Yes

Al Bruno – Yes

Brianna Girard – Yes

ITEM #14: Discussion and possible action regarding the Blight case at 19 Chestnut Street

No action was taken.

ITEM #15: Public Comment

Mike Kearny, Commander of American Legion Post 10, asked why the FBI was present in the area of Bank Street and Swan Avenue. He also discussed the possibility of relocating a stone currently located at the Library to French Memorial Park, where the other monuments are located. Mr. Kearny then raised concerns regarding a proposed 150-unit development on Mountain Road in Oxford and its potential impact on traffic and safety in Seymour.

Jeff Baryl, 129 South Main Street, a member of the Beautification Commission, discussed the Commission's efforts to restore a local trail. With the assistance of volunteers, the trail was successfully restored.

ITEM #16: Selectperson's public comment

Trisha expressed concerns regarding the use of electric bicycles in and around Town.

Al discussed the housing crisis in the state and the need to balance the demand for housing with concerns regarding traffic.

Phil inquired about the status of the sale of 100 Prospect Street. The Town Attorney stated that the closing was in the process of being scheduled.

Brianna discussed her participation in the Citizens Golf Tournament and noted that there was a good turnout in support of a good cause.

ITEM #17: Comments from the First Selectwoman

The First Selectwoman announced several new businesses expected to open in the coming weeks, including Menagerie Mercantile at 32 Bank Street, Visser Reels and New Village Barber Shop at 100 South Main Street, and La Bonita Café at 28 Bank Street.

She reported that more than 50 applications were received for the Children Services position, with approximately 30 applicants meeting the qualifications. The Head Librarian and Human Resources will review approximately nine candidates to determine who will be interviewed.

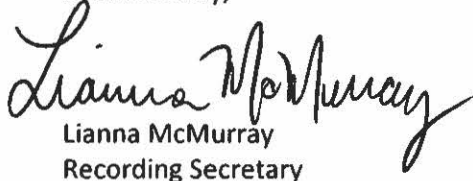
Downtown lights have been repaired, and the Town is aware of an outage in the public parking area adjacent to the Strand Theater. The new CodeRED system is also operational, and residents were encouraged to verify that their contact information is current.

Upcoming community events include Community Movie Night at Chatfield Park, the Beautification Commission work party, and the Emmett O'Brien Craft Fair on September 19; the 60th Annual Seymour Pumpkin Festival, Yankee Clipper's fundraiser for Toys for Team, and Dustin's Lemonade Stand fundraiser on September 20; and the Friends of the Library Book Sale and Household Hazardous Waste event on September 26.

ITEM #18: Adjournment

Annmarie Drugonis adjourned the meeting at 8:52PM.

Submitted by,


Lianna McMurray
Recording Secretary

Reviewed by,


Annmarie Drugonis
First Selectwoman