Town of Johnson Selectboard
Meeting Municipal Building
Monday, July 20, 2026; 6:30 pm

6:30 p.m. Call to order and Standing Items

1. 6:30-6:35pm Consider Additions or Adjustments
2. 6:35pm Review Invoices and Orders
3. 6:35-6:40pm Public Comment and Public Announcements
4. 6:40-6:45pm Selectboard Updates and/or Concerns
5. 6:45-6:50pm Consent Agenda
   a. Consider Approving Minutes of July 6, 2026
   b. Consider Approving Minutes of July 9, 2026
   c. Appoint Dan Noyes- Jullian Scott House Task Force

6:50 p.m. Clerk and Treasurer's Report: warrants, licenses and any action items

7:00 p.m. Work Session

6. 6:50-7:10pm CEDS Discussion | Discussion and Consider Vote
7. 7:10-7:20pm Industrial Park Update |Discussion and Consider Vote
8. 7:20-7:30pm Tasha Wallis Updates Selectboard on LCPC Services | Discussion
9. 7:30-7:40pm Events Committee | Discussion and Consider Vote
10. 7:40-7:50pm Library Update | Discussion and Consider Vote
11. 7:50-8:00pm Sinclair Road Extension| Review and Consider Vote
12. 8:00-8:10pm Community Trust| Discussion and Consider Vote
13. 8:10-8:20pm Lowe Lecture Hall / Old Town Hall Task Force | Discussion and Possible Vote
14. 8:20-8:30pm Public Works Insulation Bids | Discussion and Consider Vote
15. 8:30-8:40pm Discussion of Future Bid Opening Process | Discussion and Consider Vote
16. 8:40-8:50pm RERC Grant Proposal Update | Discussion
17. 8:50-9:00pm Monroe Brook Request| Discussion and Consider Vote
18. 9:00-9:10pm On-Call Pay| Discussion and Consider Vote
19. 9:10- 9:20pm Update Personnel Policy | Discussion and Consider Vote
20. Old Business: Capital Budget and Plan, Joint Properties, Scribner Bridge Grants, Buyout Property Planning/Old Library location, Gravel Pit, Speed and Stop Sign Ordinance, Speeding, Discussion on creating revenue for the Town,

Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313 Section 3 Personnel Matters
Public Works Supervisor Candidates

Executive Session 1 V.S.A. § 313 Section 3 Personnel Matters
Town Administrator's Evaluation

Adjourn

Option to join by Zoom*: https://us02web.zoom.us/j/3446522544?pwd=VkNZZE5tMW5PaEhidVpnUjRxSkxGdz09
+1 646 558 8656 US (New York)

Meeting ID: 344 652 2544
Passcode: 15531

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
MONDAY, JULY 6, 2026

Present: Selectboard members: Mike Dunham, Peter Hammond, Adrienne Parker, Eben Patch, Paul Warden
Others: John Sutherland, Lydia Putvain, Carl Rogers (remote), Diana Osborn, Charles Gallanter, Doug Molde, Eric Nuse, Casey Romero, Michael Green, Lois Frey, Morna Flaum, Jessica Bickford, Charles Flaum

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. ***Call to Order***
   Paul called the meeting to order at 6:30.
2. ***Consider Additions or Adjustments to Agenda***
   It was agreed to add a noise ordinance waiver request to the consent agenda. The request is from Carri Ferrari for a wedding at 2218 Rte 100C from 7:00 p.m. to 11:59 p.m. They will have a DJ who is hired until 11:00 p.m. but may stay later.
3. ***Public Comment***
   No members of the public wished to comment.
4. ***Selectboard Updates and/or Concerns***
   Paul said a meeting with VTSU leadership is tentatively scheduled for this Thursday at 6:00 p.m. if a space conflict can be resolved. If it cannot be resolved, the meeting will be postponed. The meeting is to discuss their plans for buildings at the college. They have asked for at least part of the meeting to be in executive session because some of the information is not public yet.

   Paul said at the joint meeting with the village trustees last week, they suggested that the selectboard mention the Hometown Hero banners they have put up. They suggested some committees or individuals may want to contribute to help pay for the banners. They are not being paid for with tax dollars. If anyone in town wants to honor someone who served in the military, they can apply to the village.

   Adrienne said the first Tuesday Night Live of the summer is this Tuesday and the first pizza oven bake is this Thursday.

   Adrienne said the article in the News & Citizen about the joint meeting with the trustees was mostly fine, but the author described the mill house as unoccupied space and said the food shelf might purchase it. The food shelf is currently using the building. They provide free food and services to people. She personally feels the food shelf deserves a better space than the mill house. She recommends adding the food shelf to the next agenda and inviting them to come and speak about their situation and possible solutions. Doug noted that the article had incorrect information about village and town jurisdiction regarding roads.

   Adrienne said Kyle Nuse was planning to run the Holiday Jubilee this year. She posted for volunteers and Adrienne and Lauren Philie volunteered, but Kyle has not been able to get any other volunteers. So currently her decision is not to run the Jubilee this year. Adrienne thinks the board's inaction in not creating an events committee is leading us to not have a Jubilee. She would like the board to take action on that and other committees. There might not be a Jubilee if we don't take action. Diana Osborn said the Holiday Jubilee was originally started by local business owners in order to get people shopping. Maybe that would be an alternative model and source of volunteers

5. ***Consent Agenda***

The consent agenda consisted of the minutes of June 15 and June 24, 2026, a liquor license renewal for Butternut Mountain Farm, a Johnson EATS appointment, a Planning Commission appointment, and Carri Ferrari's noise ordinance waiver.

The consent agenda was approved by consent.

Eben clarified that the consent agenda included accepting the resignation of Gregor Novakowski from Johnson EATS, appointing Liz Kauffman to Johnson EATS, and appointing Mike King to the Planning Commission.

Clerk/Treasurer's Report: Warrants, Licenses and Any Action Items

Lydia said she doesn't have year-end financials yet. Hopefully she will have them for the first meeting in August. Right now revenue is at 103% of budget and expenses are at 94% of budget.

Eben asked if we will be able to have the audit for FY26 done by November when the board starts working on the budget. John said the auditors are finishing up the FY25 audit and then we will start pushing them for FY26

Lydia said the library got a $60,000 donation today for the building project.

Eben asked if Lydia is working with Rosemary and/or John to make sure we receive grant reimbursements for the VEC project. John said he will be working on getting the grantor's questions answered so we can get reimbursement.

Eben said he thinks the revenue and expense for the Holmes Meadow project should both be in the same year, so the reimbursement should be shown in FY26.

6. ***Welcome and Appoint Lydia Beach Putvain***

Eben moved to appoint Lydia Putvain as tax collector, delinquent tax collector and trustee of public money, Peter seconded and the motion was passed.

7. ***RERC Steering Committee Grant Request***

John said the Recreation Economy for Rural Communities steering committee wants to apply for a grant that is available to communities participating in the RERC process. It would be a $15,000 grant with no community match. The grant is for outdoor recreation and public health. The intent is to use grant funds to be to purchase bikes to be lent out.

Eric Nuse said the steering committee is hoping to get about 25 bikes with the grant. The elementary school will run a learn to bike program and that will be enough to allow the entire class to participate. The majority of the grant funds will go towards bikes, helmets, bike locks, and a multi-bike rack to go on the school truck to transport bikes. People will be able to take a voucher from the library to Lamoille Valley Bike Tours to check out a bike. The bikes will primarily be at the school during the week. The steering committee learned that the Morrisville library had a bike loan program and they had trouble getting their bikes back. At first it will just be kids in the learn to bike program at the elementary school who will be able to check out the bikes. They will be motivated to return them because if their bike is not there they will not be able to ride. Some of the grant funds will be allocated for maintenance on the bikes and some for library staff who will be administering the grant and spending some time checking out the bikes. This fits the grant purpose because it is good for public health. It will encourage kids to get outside. Healthy Lamoille Valley knows of studies showing benefits to youth from this type of activity.

Jessica Bickford said it is helpful to get youth engaged in good leisure activities. This also promotes lifelong skills and perhaps access to work. Learning to ride a bike gives kids a sense of pride and self-efficacy which makes them less likely to use substances.

Doug Molde said the elementary school principal was involved in the discussions. The school will use these bikes in PE classes. It helps make the school more attractive. This is a good partnership between the elementary school, the library and Lamoille Valley Bike Tours. Lamoille Valley Bike Tours offered to house and maintain the bikes. The library trustees still need to vote on being the applicant for the grant but Aurora River feels sure they will approve it.

Paul asked if the request is for the town to be the fiscal agent. Doug said no, the library will do that. Eben said the RERC steering committee is a town group, but the library board could apply without town approval. **Eben moved to approve the grant application request from the RERC steering committee, with either the town or the library acting as the fiscal agent and the motion was seconded and passed.**

8. ***Suspension Bridge Offer***

Paul said Tom Galinat has offered the town a suspension bridge that is being removed in the town where he works. We have to decide if we want to accept it. Peter said he believes it is scheduled to be moved on July 9. He thinks we have a clear understanding that it will not work over the Lamoille River. He tried to find the research from 2003 that mentioned bridges over the Gihon, but could not.

Paul said the location previously identified for a footbridge was from the old co-op property across to Maplefields. Doug said he was pushing that idea back then. The genesis of the idea was that it would have been a connection to the college to be used by the student population. We don't have that problem anymore.

Peter said he thinks this was a wonderful offer and it was worth taking a look to see if there was any possibility we could use it. We still have concerns over things like liability, insurance and whether it will pass inspection. Eben said he thinks using the bridge would be a logistical nightmare. Adrienne said there are a lot of unanswered questions. Paul said his question about this was whether it fits into the 2026 priorities of the board. He is not sure we have time to look into this. Mike said the bridge looks old. He feels it would be a logistical nightmare to get it here. And what are we going to do with it when it gets here? He is not in favor of accepting it.

Eben moved to deny the offer of the suspension bridge with thanks. Eben said he feels like if we accepted it, we would be trying to build a project around a gift that might not fit the needs of the community. **Mike seconded and the motion was passed.**

9. ***Gomo Forest Harvest Follow Up***

John said forester Mike Green is here to answer questions. A proposed RFP for forestry services was included in the board packet.

Eben said his biggest question was whether the town would be liable for any costs to repair the road to access the site to harvest timber. Mike Green said it will probably be the logger who will bear the cost. It would be helpful if the town could provide some gravel. The spot that will be used as a landing area will be smoothed, seeded and mulched. When the logging is done, it could then be used as a parking area. The logging probably will not happen until this fall.

Eben asked if Mike Green has a sense of how many yards of gravel would be needed. Mike said someone would have to estimate it.

John asked what the estimate is of the income from the logging. Mike Green said he does not know.

Mike Green said there will be a $2,000 bond in case something happens. The work will probably start sometime in the fall.

Mike Green said he has some doubts about the Green Mountain Club's easement request for the Gomo lot. He suggested selling a piece of the property to the Green Mountain Club.

Mike Green said the land on the Gomo lot is poor wildlife habitat now. It is mature hardwood with little food for wildlife. Logging would help wildlife. It would be great to have a parking area. That would make it more accessible to residents.

Paul said when this was described previously, he understood that improving the road would be part of the work the logger would be doing. Now Mike is asking for town help with road improvements? Does this proposal include fixing the road to get access? Mike Green said yes, right now it is up to them to do it. There is nothing in there saying the town will do it. It is usually up to the contractor, not the landowner, to fix roads. Paul asked if we are going to see something in writing to that effect. Mike said we could.

Mike Green explained that the logger will go to the mill offering the best price. Paul asked, Mike will take 20% for his services and 80% will go to the town to pay the trucker, etc? Mike said yes.

John asked Mike to explain stumpage. His understanding is that if the wood sold for $100/cord the stumpage might be $30/cord, and Mike would get 20% of that $30 and the town would get the other 80%. Mike explained that stumpage is the value of the tree before it is cut. Stumpage is what the logger pays to buy the tree.

Paul said he thinks the selectboard would like to see more details written down about the financial breakdown and who is responsible for developing the road.

Eben noted that if we put more gravel down, it improves our MRGP compliance. He would like to see an explanation of stumpage and what the town will get. It would be helpful to see the breakdown of where the money would go for an example $100 tree. And it would be helpful to know if there is anything we would need to buy, like a large culvert. Paul said he wants details on what will be done with the road.

10. *Form Based Code Administrator*

Eben moved and Peter seconded to appoint John Sutherland as form-based code administrator pending a Planning Commission nomination.

Charlie Gallanter said the administrative officer is nominated by the Planning Commission according to form-based code and state statute. Paul said he understands that they did not have a quorum at their last meeting and could not make a nomination. He is hopeful they will do it at their next meeting. Eben said the motion makes the appointment pending a Planning Commission recommendation.

The motion was passed with Mike opposed.

11. Industrial Park Update

Carl said he is hoping for direction from the selectboard on proceeding with bidding on the industrial park project. The information sheet provided to the voters for the bond vote stated that the cost of the project would be $2,075,902. The bond question itself stated that the project would not exceed $2,085,903. This year as we were getting ready for bidding, we asked Mumley to provide an updated cost estimate. Their updated estimate with a 10% contingency was $3,014,448. They agreed that that is probably a high estimate and that a contractor who really wanted the job could bid quite a bit less. Carl sought a second opinion. The person who gave the second opinion came up with an estimate of $2,078,103 with a 10% contingency. John spoke with Luke from Mumley, who agreed that was a reasonable estimate. That estimate is still more than the amount of money the town has available. Eliminating paving would reduce the cost by about $150K. Eliminating the work on Road B would reduce it by about $182,862. Reducing the number of street lights from 9 to 4 would also reduce cost. Doing all those things would reduce the project cost to $2,091,549 or $2.3 million with a 10% contingency. Carl asked if NBRC could supply additional funds and the answer was that we would have to apply for an additional grant.

If we eliminate road paving we would have to pave the road as we sold lots and if the first lot sold was all the way at the end of Road A, we might have to pave all of Road A. We could do the paving through town general operating budget. The cost estimate without paving does allow for putting down 4-inch thick gravel and paving an apron at Route 15. If we eliminate paving and later want to use NBRC money for the work we would have to follow NBRC bidding and contracting requirements for paving, so it might be better to keep paving in the main contract so we do not have to go through those hoops. If we eliminated Road B, we would lose three lots totaling 1.36 acres. Considering the grade in that area, it is not a big loss. That might be our first choice to try to reduce cost.

Carl suggests putting the whole project out to bid but making it clear in the bidding documents that the town has the option of scratching Road B improvements or paving from the contract. The advice we are hearing is that we should get out to bid as quickly as we can and let the contract start this year but be flexible about the construction period, so the contractor has the option to wait until next spring. He has been told that 60 to 90 days, depending on the size of the firm, is a reasonable amount of time for the construction.

Mike said because of the industrial park going up in Morrisville, he questions if we will fill this park. If we could cut and run and not lose a lot of money he thinks we would be better off. Peter asked, isn't the Morrisville park held up right now? Mike said he doesn't think it will be held up for long.

Eben suggested including add alternates in the bidding instead of possible deducts. The town would have the option to add in paving and Road B. Carl asked, what about street lights? Eben suggested keeping the number at four. Other board members agreed with Eben's suggestion for having add alternates.

Diana Osborn asked if there has been any interest in the lots. The option to swap with the Pomerleau property was mentioned in the municipal plan. That is the only interest she is aware of that has been announced publicly. If there are people interested in locating there, maybe this would be a good time to get their input about lights, etc. And perhaps they could share the cost. Why is the town paying for infrastructure for private business?

Mike said a lot of towns have done that in the past. He noted that the Morrisville business park was not on the table when this project was first discussed. The price goes up every year but we are too far into it now to cut and run.

Diana said there are ongoing challenges regarding working with the village. There will be village infrastructure in the industrial park. Based on history, she thinks it would benefit the town to clearly delineate village and town responsibilities for each type of infrastructure before it goes in.

Paul said regarding the Sterling Market conversation, Ernie Pomerleau's interest in building on a site that was not on the main drag was very low.

Paul said at the last meeting we talked about getting a needs assessment from someone like Pat Ripley. Have we put in a request for a needs assessment? Carl said the needs assessment he recalls was regarding the RIDP program. To be eligible to apply for that program we would need such a study. But LEDC would have to be the applicant and they would have to have a stake in the project, so it seems like that won't fit what we are trying to do. Paul said he wonders if the Lamoille County Planning Commission might have any information.

Adrienne asked when we would reach the phase of reaching out to businesses that might be interested in being tenants at the industrial park. Could that happen now? Eben said it could happen at any time. He has spoken to business about their interest. John said it would be hard for them to make a commitment when the project could be two years out. If we were further along and we had lots available there might be more interest. Paul said he thinks it is not too early to start thinking about people we might approach.

Carl said bidding documents will be prepared based on direction from the board and the board can review them before they go out. The board needs to agree on the basis for the decision on making an award. We might want to consider qualifications and time needed to complete the work in addition to the bid amount.

Peter said if we choose not to develop Road B then there is a question of whether the lots on Road B are absorbed into the neighboring lots. Carl said if we choose not to develop Road B we could redo the subdivision to eliminate those lots and increase the size of the two lots that front on Road A. Or we could just say that the road B lots are on hold and that we will develop Road B at some point in the future. Peter asked, we don't need to decide that now? Carl said he doesn't think we do.

The board agreed to request bids on a smaller project with 4 street lights and add alternates for road paving and Road B.

Mike said when this project was sold to the public it was going to be a lot cheaper. He would like to cut and run. He believes the majority of the board will choose to go forward, but he is having second thoughts and he may vote in the negative on any more votes on the industrial park.

Carl said Tom Galinat called him today and asked him to relay to the selectboard that on Wednesday after the pre-construction meeting, he will have more information on the suspension bridge being offered to Johnson, specifically the tie-ins where the bridge cables connect to the abutments. Peter said he already relayed the board's decision regarding the bridge to Tom.

12. Julian Scott Task Force

John named people who are interested in being on the Julian Scott House Task Force. **Eben moved to appoint Duncan Hastings, Doug Molde, Mary Jane Smith and Mike Mahnke to the Julian Scott House Task Force, Adrienne seconded and the motion was passed.** Adrienne asked John to let the committee members know that they can invite other people to join their task force.

13. Liquor License Renewal Process

John said a previous board agreed that liquor license renewal for businesses with no known issues or violations could be approved by the town clerk and added to the consent agenda. A letter would go out to license holders advising them that the selectboard retains the right to revoke their license if violations occur. All new liquor licenses would go to the selectboard for approval.

Eben moved and Peter seconded that any liquor license renewal applications for businesses without violations can be signed by the town clerk and to approve the letter to be sent to license holders as presented.

Jessica Bickford asked what the threshold is for an issue. Eben said any issue would count. Jessica said the Department of Liquor and Lottery tracks any stores that don't pass compliance checks, but she doesn't know if they automatically send out that information. The town may need to manually check it. Adrienne asked if we can ask Susan to check that before she approves the licenses. Jessica said Healthy Lamoille Valley can do a training on how to check those records. She will clarify how the town can get that information.

Mike said he got a text from someone saying the meeting does not appear to be live. Adrienne said it isn't. It is on Zoom but it is not streaming live on YouTube. She texted GMATV but didn't get an answer from them yet. It will be on YouTube later.

The motion was passed.

14. Review Bicycle Rack Agreement

John said the Rail Trail Committee purchased bike racks with grant funds and wants to install them at businesses around town. He put an agreement in the selectboard packet that could be used with businesses that have the bike racks on their property. The town attorney reviewed it and marked it up and John updated it as recommended. The agreement spells out who is responsible for maintenance and installation. Paul asked if the agreement has been run by any businesses or Rail Trail Committee members. John said he has talked to Doug Molde about it. He hasn't had a chance to reach out to businesses.

Adrienne asked if the Rail Trail Committee is hand picking the businesses. John said he thinks they reached out to businesses. Adrienne said she doesn't want them to favor some businesses over others.

Eben moved to approve the Town of Johnson Agreement to Install Bicycle Racks on Private Property, Peter seconded and the motion was passed.

15. Award the Skate Park Upgrade Project

John said at a previous meeting it was discussed that the Skatepark Committee is short about $14,000 of the money that will be needed for the concrete bowl project. The selectboard voted to spend up to $14,000 from the town budget. The board also reviewed two proposals to do the project. Both vendors were asked to reduce their pricing. Rampage asked the town to do more of the work in order to reduce the budget. Catamount offered to donate $28,000 worth of concrete and to help us fundraise up to $5,000. So the selectboard elected to use Catamount, pending funding. Now that funding is in place, the Skatepark Committee would like the board to award the contract to Catamount.

Casey Romero said today was the last day of the public notice period for the Act 250 permit. John said we will reach out tomorrow and see if any issues came up during the public notice period.

Eben moved and Peter seconded to award the flat bottom bowl project at the skatepark to Catamount Skate Parks for a total project cost of $200,155.

Adrienne said she has mixed feelings on this project. She doesn't want to hold it up but she doesn't want to see town funds going into properties in the flood zone for projects that do not have flooding in mind. Eben said there were features at the skatepark that were damaged in the flooding. This new concrete feature won't be damaged in future flooding. This is flood proofing the skate park. It does not involve adding material to the floodplain. Casey said structures like concrete bowls help increase resilience and the construction method, which involves taking dirt from elsewhere on the site for grass berms, lowers the grade in the sections where flood planners say it would be good to lower it. The project will increase flood resilience.

Mike asked if the motion should include where the money to make up the deficit is going to come from. Eben said the discussion on that will be in the minutes. The skatepark committee is committed to fundraising a decent chunk of money. Casey said she sees that as a goal. The format of the fundraiser hasn't been determined yet. Catamount has given us a lot of value so far by providing sketches to help with the Act 250 process. She is confident and comfortable about fundraising.

The motion was passed with Mike opposed. Mike said he thought it would be cleaner to have in the motion where money to fill the funding gap will come from.

Eben said we are allocating up to $14,000. In his opinion that should be shown in the 2025-26 budget

16. Set Municipal Tax Rate for 2026-2027

Lydia handed out a sheet explaining how the amount to be raised by taxes was calculated. She also showed a sample tax bill showing the industrial park amount as a separate line item.

Eben moved to set a municipal tax rate of 0.9953 for fiscal year 2026-27, Peter seconded and the motion was passed.

17. Public Works Supervisor Job Description

John said he looked at the previous public works supervisor job description. He changed the font and added a bullet point about fostering a safe work environment. Mike suggested that “preferred” should be stricken from “High school education or equivalent preferred.” The board agreed to that.

Mike said he thinks we should go back to calling this department the highway department instead of the public works department. Calling it the highway department instead of the public works department would reduce the expectation that the department would do work for committees. Adrienne said she prefers calling it the public works department. Committees are volunteers for the town. They are helping the town with things. Without the Skatepark Committee, the work it is doing would fall to the public works department anyway. Mike said calling it the public works department gives committees a blank check to haul the employees away from working on roads.

Paul said he thinks the name of the department is a bigger conversation. Right now, we need to get the job description finalized and put out. It says both "public works" and "highway foreman," so we are covered whatever the department is called. If we want to discuss what the department is doing, that is a separate larger issue.

Adrienne moved and Eben seconded to accept the public works supervisor/highway foreman job description as written.

Eben said he agrees that committees should budget for the work they need town employees to do. That just reduces the highway budget and increases committee budgets. The overall budget for the taxpayers is the same but it provides more accuracy.

Adrienne said if we had no committees, the selectboard would be discussing how to bring people to the rail trail, do beautification, etc. Committees are helping us by doing that work. Mike said committees can come up with all kinds of ideas and we have to pay for them. Adrienne said we have to approve any expenditures. She feels the system is working as it is.

The motion was passed.

18. Part Time Public Works Employee

John said Mark Lehouillier has applied to be a part-time employee. He worked for the Johnson public works department in the past and is an exceptional grader operator. He is now working for the Hyde Park public works department. He would like to come in one day a week to do grading. That would allow the public works crew to focus on other areas.

Eben asked if we have received any other applications. John said one person expressed interest but never applied.

John said Mark works for Hyde Park Monday through Thursday and would like to come to Johnson on Fridays to do grading.

Mike moved and Peter seconded to hire Mark Lehouillier to work part-time for the public works department.

Eben asked how long we had this position posted for. John said we didn't advertise for the position; Mark just applied.

Mike and Peter agreed to amend the motion to include that Mark will be paid $35/hour with no benefits, with the number of hours not to exceed 20 per week.

Adrienne said she has never met him so she will not vote in favor. **<u>The motion was passed with Adrienne abstaining</u>**

Eben said we talked about not exceeding 20 hours, but he wants to make sure we don't exceed the budget line he will be paid from. He suggested we could possibly hire a second part-time worker for 8 hours a week.

19. Kennel Agreement

<u>Eben moved to enter into the Municipal Town Operations Agreement with Hyde Park for the amount of $375 per month, authorizing the board chair, vice chair or town administrator to sign the agreement on behalf of the town. Adrienne seconded.</u>

Eben said under this agreement NCAL will provide kennel service, food, water and exercise. We budgeted $5,250 for kenneling expenses.

<u>The motion was passed.</u>

20. Update Personnel Policy

Eben said he likes the proposed update to the personnel policy. He asked board members; thoughts on eliminating the leave banks. He wouldn't support doing that unless we paid everyone for what they currently have in their banks. The bank system was put in place because short-term disability insurance was very expensive and this was a way of providing the equivalent. We have employees who have accrued large amounts of time. It is a liability that we have talked about budgeting for. Employees can accrue hours at one rate of pay and then if they get a pay increase they get paid for the hours at a higher rate of pay. He thinks the banks are too complicated and lead to too much expense for a future board not to know about.

Mike said he was sick during union negotiations. He doesn't know why the negotiation team from the board included the personnel policy in the union contract. He feels when people want to join a union the union contract should start from scratch. One employee recently got done and the town had to come up with $15K for accrued time. He thinks we need to change our system. He thinks we need to get rid of CTO time. We have had difficulty with the public works crew taking every Friday off using their CTO time.

Paul said we need to know what the costs are for getting out of the current system. This seems like a budget conversation. Eben said one possible solution would be to budget for paying for accrued time and put money into a fund for it. He thinks Paul is right that we need to know the cost implications. He would also like feedback from employees.

The board agreed to add a line saying that employees will be in VMERS Plan B as currently offered by the town.

Adrienne said she thinks the sexual harassment section needs some work. John said he eliminated language that requires the employee to be told certain behavior is unwanted, forbidding the behaviors in all cases instead. Adrienne said she thinks the sexual harassment section is confusing in places.

Paul asked if the personnel policy has been reviewed by an attorney. John said no. Eben suggested that VLCT may have standardized language for personnel policies. Paul said he thinks it would be good to check with VLCT.

Mike said he thinks it should be stated in the policy that whistleblowers are protected by the federal Whistleblower Protection Act.

The board agreed that we should check with VLCT.

Eben said he is interested in Lydia figuring out what it would mean financially to get rid of the leave bank system.

21. Executive Session – Personnel Matters

Eben moved to go into executive session as allowed by 1 V.S.A. § 313 Section 3 for personnel matters, inviting John to remain, Adrienne seconded and the motion was passed at 9:03. The board consented out of executive session at 9:13.

22. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:13.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths

JOHNSON SELECTBOARD MEETING MINUTES
JOHNSON MUNICIPAL BUILDING
THURSDAY, JULY 9, 2026

Present: Selectboard members: Mike Dunham, Peter Hammond, Adrienne Parker, Eben Patch, Paul Warden
Others: John Sutherland, Erik Bailey, Ken Tourangeau, BJ Putvain, Rich Westman, Beth Mauch, Sherry Kollmann, Art Klugo, Patricia Turley, Barry Harte

Note: All votes taken are unanimous unless otherwise noted.

1. ***Call to Order***
   Paul called the meeting to order at 6:30.
2. ***Consider Additions or Adjustments to Agenda***
   Paul said the statute reference for the executive session will be corrected and a second executive session will be added for the selectboard to discuss contract negotiations.
3. ***Public Comment and Public Announcements***
   Those present introduced themselves.
4. ***Selectboard Updates and/or Concerns***
   Selectboard members had no updates or concerns.
5. ***Work Session***
   Vermont State University Chancellor Beth Mauch said the purpose of this meeting is for Vermont State Colleges and VTSU leadership to provide updates on exciting ideas they have for the Johnson campus. She introduced Sherry Kollmann, the new VTSU president. Sherry said she grew up in a small town and rural communities in Vermont are important to her.

   Beth said there are some investments already being made on the Johnson campus that are public. One is the senior housing that will be in McClelland Hall. VTSU has been working with Downstreet on that for the last couple of years. The nursing expansion on the Johnson campus is complete. They will have a cohort of nursing students on campus this fall. That cohort is full already. There is tremendous interest in it. The VSC and VTSU representatives are asking to go into executive session to discuss some other ideas. They want the selectboard and village trustees to have an opportunity to see what they are doing and provide feedback.

   BJ Putvain asked if the nursing program is online or in person or both. Beth said they are building nursing classrooms to have students on campus. They have online nursing programs throughout the state as well.

   Erik Bailey suggested VTSU could consider a mountaineering leadership certificate program. There is a climbing wall on the Johnson campus. The nearby Army Mountain Warfare School is a great resource for climbing instructors. He feels there must be a need in the area. There is also a very large need for education and training for the next generation of wastewater treatment facility operators. It is a very technical field. The training hasn't traditionally been at the college level, but as it gets more complicated it needs to be. The test passing rate is low. The average age of wastewater treatment facility operators in Vermont is 53.

   Paul moved to go into executive session under 1 VSA § 313(a)(2) and 1 VSA § 313(a)(6) to discuss Vermont State University real property planning and its related confidential business

planning records, protected from public disclosure under 1 VSA 317(c)(9), and/or 1 VSA 317(c)(13), inviting selectboard and village trustee members, the town administrator and village manager, Beth Mauch, Sherry Kollmann, Art Klugo, Patricia Turley, Barry Harte, Rich Westman, and Donna Griffiths. Eben seconded and the motion was passed at 6:14.

The board consented out of executive session at 7:35.

6. ***Executive Session – Contract Negotiations***
   Paul moved to go into executive session as allowed by 1 VSA § 313(a)(1)(A) for contract negotiations, inviting John to remain, Adrienne seconded and the motion was passed at 7:39.

   The board consented out of executive session at 8:13.

7. ***Adjourn***
   The meeting was adjourned at 8:13.

Minutes submitted by Donna Griffiths

CEDS REPORT

July 20, 2026

NBRC – Industrial Park – As reported at the July 6 Selectboard meeting, the consulting engineer's cost estimate was analyzed, and a second opinion (from a contractor's perspective) was obtained. Based on that report, the board gave direction on formatting the bid documents, especially the bid form. Work is now underway to assure Mumley Engineering's draft bid documents and contract satisfy NBRC requirements.

The first grant reimbursement request was submitted to NBRC on June 24. No response from the Commission yet.

There was follow-up to the board's questions about additional funding for the project. NBRC replied it could not increase the award under the current grant; to receive more money from NBRC, the Town would have to apply for a new grant. A lead about a state grant was not useful because the LCDC would have to be the applicant and own the asset (industrial park).

Johnson Visioning Project – Project complete. Vermont Community Foundation will be asked what it needs for a final report. (See Visioning Project Funding Gap under VCF grants further down this CEDS Report.)

Building Communities Grant (Recreation) – Welcome Center – On July 10, Back Forty Builders stated the work at the Welcome Center is complete. Back Forty has been paid its contract amount of $14,250. Next step for me is requesting the grant ($6,425) reimbursement and filing the report with the Department of Buildings and General Services, the grantor.

The kiosk structure (non-grant work) has been erected. As of July 14, the sign board was not installed.

Preservation Trust of Vermont- Historical Society – No change.

VOREC- Rail Trail Connection Scoping Study – Project complete.

Recreation Economy for Rural Communities – The Community Self-Assessment (CS-A) completed by the Steering Committee was submitted before Call #2 with the EPA's planning assistance team (PAT). Call #2 was conducted on June 25 as planned. Priorities for the Community Workshop are coming together. Next, Call #3 with the PAT is scheduled for August 6. For that call the Steering Committee needs to draft an itinerary (a plan) for the PAT's August 27 tour of recreation facilities and sites. Gathering the Steering Committee's thoughts about that tour is in progress.

Publicizing the Community Workshop to encourage attendance, inviting specific individuals and organizations continues. LCDC was invited to participate, but due to prior plans Pat Ripley is unable to attend. Tori Hellwig from LCPC will join the tour and participate in the Workshop. Doug Molde contacted Local Motion (a cycling organization). A rep from Local Motion will attend. A notice about the grant and Community Workshop was posted on Front Porch Forum on July 15. The same day a letter of invitation was hand delivered to 14 businesses (all along Rt 15) and emailed to one business.

A group of residents, primarily from the Steering Committee, submitted the Outdoor Recreation Roundtable grant application to start a bike loaner program. They requested the maximum $15,000 plus in-kind assistance. There is no match. I attended a meeting with the group. When asked I reviewed their initial plans and later drafts of the application. In case you haven't heard, at the last minute the applicant was changed from the Library to the Town due to the Trustees' decision.

Last month it was reported that information about an NBRC grant program for outdoor recreation was forwarded to LCPC and LCDC because the grant program required a multi-town or regional proposal. There is no news to indicate a grant application involving Johnson was submitted.

<u>LVRT Community Grant – Stone Steps at Welcome Center</u> – The Act 250 permit application was submitted on July 13. On July 14 the Act 250 District 5 office emailed a Notice of Initial Act 250 Application Filing to Susan Tinker and asked that she post it at the town office. It is expected the application will be considered a minor application with no hearing, unless requested by an abutter. It could take 60 days to receive the permit.

<u>Vermont Community Foundation Grants</u>

a) Playground ($25,000) – Isabelle Sullivan acquired more playground equipment and cost information. As follow-up to a Selectboard member's comment on June 15, Isabelle and I plan to gather more exact information about the playground placement at Legion Field, when that area is cleared of library construction materials and equipment.
b) Skatepark ($3,300) – Most of the VCF grant will be used for the capital improvement project recently awarded.
c) Rail Trail ($20,000)- See notes about the Welcome Center above.

d) Legion Field ($30,000) – This project is overseen by Howard Romero. There doesn't appear to be any progress.
e) Library ($20,000) – Two $10,000 grants are the Trustees' responsibility.
f) Visioning Funding Gap ($1,500) – See note about Johnson Visioning Project above.

Holmes Meadow – On June 26 SLR (consulting engineer) submitted an email stating, "Construction has wrapped up and the floodplain restoration is complete." All five punch list items reported at the June 15 Selectboard meeting have been completed, per the latest report from SLR. Redstart, the landscaping sub-contractor, is watering plants as needed. VEM's Hazard Mitigation Section Chief visited the site and said by email, "great job by everyone."

On June 18 the Town received the $149,101 reimbursement mentioned in last month's CEDS Report.

Although SLR reports construction is completed, it seems there is at least one more round of knotweed treatment to be done by Redstart.

T-Mobile Hometown Grant – Library – No change; no more action expected on this assignment.

University Students' Community Service – As reported last month a message from the university's Upward Bound program was forwarded to various Town and Village officials. There was some follow up. The Tree Board requested the students' help with work on invasive species removal at the arboretum on July 2. According to Sue Lovering and Lois Frey the students canceled that plan due to the heat that day but did re-schedule for July 9. On that day the five Upward Bound students removed 19 bags of knotweed. The Conservation Commission also plans to use their help with work at Journey's End on July 16 and 23. The students will spread wood chips (from the industrial park) on the path from the parking lot to the swimming area.

I don't expect any more involvement with this matter. Town and Village officials should keep this labor help resource in mind for other work.

###

John,

Thank you for speaking with me yesterday. As we discussed, LCPC is dedicated to serving the ten towns and five villages in Lamoille County. For Towns and Villages without professional planning staff we often assist Planning Commissions with work on Town Plans and bylaws. This work is driven by the community and we provide technical expertise and support. We have worked with the Jonhson Planning Commission on many occasions in the past. I understand LCPC Deputy Director has been in touch with the chair of the planning commission and will be providing assistance regarding Form Based code going forward.
Please do not hesitate to contact us if you have any questions or need assistance on planning matters going forward. We look forward to continuing to work with you.

Tasha Wallis
Executive Director
Lamoille County Planning Commission
52 Portland Street | 2nd Floor | PO Box 1637 | Morrisville, VT 05661
email: Tasha@lcpcvt.org | **website**: www.lcpcvt.org
direct dial: 802-851-6346 | **main number**: 802-888-4548

Johnson Community Events Inventory

Prepared as a discussion document for the Selectboard — July 2026. Purpose: identify which event-holding bodies could consolidate into a single Events Committee or Arts & Culture Committee. Dates are 2026 unless noted.

1. Current Events & Who Runs Them

Event	Current Organizer	2026 Dates	Location	Type	Town-Run?
Green Up Day	Town-appointed Green Up Day Organizer (A. Parker). Formerly Conservation Commission.	Sat, May 2	Town-wide	Civic / stewardship	Yes
Plant Swap	Beautification Committee (Chair: K. Nuse; Vice: A. Parker)	Sat, May 30 (last Sat. in May)	Village Green	Community / horticulture	Yes
Touch a Truck	Recreation + Johnson Public Library	Sat, June 27 (first year)	Sterling Market parking lot	Family programming	Yes
Tuesday Night Live	Tuesday Night Live Committee (Chair: H. Romero)	Jul 7 — Switchel Jul 14 — Hammerlane Jul 21 — Los Songoros Jul 28 — The Wormdogs Aug 4 — The Thunderballs Aug 11 — Seth Yacovone (Neil Young tribute)	Legion Field, 55 School St. 5:30–9:00pm	Arts / live music	Yes
Pizza Oven Bakes	Johnson EATS Committee (Chairs: J. Yuris, J. Whitworth). Absorbed the former Community Pizza Oven Committee.	Every Thursday in July & Aug: Jul 2, 9, 16, 23, 30 Aug 6, 13, 20, 27	Community Oven	Community / food	Yes
Let's Roll (learn-to-skate)	Skate Park Committee + Recreation	Jul 11, 18, 25 Aug 1 10am–12pm	Johnson Sk8Park	Recreation program ($30/child, ages 6–12)	Yes
Brazilian United Soccer Camp	Recreation (outside vendor)	Jul 20 – Jul 24	Tim Sullivan Fields, Old Mill Park	Recreation program (paid, vendor-run)	Yes
Swim Lessons + Community Swim	Recreation	Seasonal — no fixed dates	College pool (VTSU Johnson)	Recreation program	Yes
Blueberry Festival	Discover Johnson (Board incl. C. & M. Flaum; Beth Foy)	Sat, Aug 1 (first year)	Legion Field	Community festival	**No** — outside org.
Johnson Jubilee	**Currently unstaffed.** Formerly Johnson Works, then K. Nuse independently.	Sat, Dec 5 (first Sat. in Dec., if revived)	Main Street	Arts / seasonal festival	Historically informal

Shaded rows at bottom are not Town-run committees. Blueberry Festival sits with Discover Johnson, an independent organization, though it uses Town land. Johnson Jubilee has no current organizer.

2. Precedent: Consolidation Already Worked Here

The Community Pizza Oven Committee was a single-asset committee: one oven, one narrow charge. It was absorbed into **Johnson EATS**, a committee with a broader food-and-community mission. The results so far:

- **The volunteer pool widened.** Bakes now draw on the full EATS roster instead of the oven committee's own small list. Nine bakes are scheduled this summer — every Thursday in July and August.
- **Fundraising and grant power went up.** A broader mission committee can make a bigger ask and fits more funders' criteria than a single-asset committee could on its own.
- **The oven gained a permanent programming home** rather than depending on its own volunteer roster staying intact year to year.

What that proves: a narrow single-purpose committee folded into a broader mission committee gains capacity instead of losing identity. The oven didn't get buried — it got more bakes, more hands, and more money.

The condition that made it work: the receiving committee had a mission the absorbed function actually fit inside, and the receiving committee was healthy. That is the test to apply to the models below. It is also why **Johnson EATS should not itself be absorbed** — it is the successful example, not a candidate.

3. What the Rest of the Inventory Shows

- **Nine of ten events are Town-run, spread across six separate bodies.** Beautification, TNL, Johnson EATS, Skate Park, Recreation, and a standalone Green Up Day appointee each hold events independently.
- **Single-purpose committees are the fragile ones.** The TNL Committee exists to run TNL. The Green Up Day Organizer is one appointee running one day. These are the same shape the Pizza Oven Committee was in before it was absorbed.
- **The Jubilee is the cost of not consolidating.** It went from Johnson Works, to one volunteer, to nobody. It had no committee to fall back on. Main Street loses its December event because the event was attached to a person instead of a body.
- **Membership already overlaps.** Kyle Nuse chairs Beautification and formerly ran the Jubilee personally. Adrienne Parker is Beautification Vice Chair and the Green Up Day appointee. The volunteer pool is shared; the committee structure doesn't reflect that.
- **The calendar is unmanaged.** Blueberry Festival and the final Let's Roll session are both Aug 1. Blueberry Festival and TNL both use Legion Field. Nothing currently deconflicts dates or venues.
- **The Recreation Coordinator has no standing counterpart on the events side.** Recreation co-produces with whoever it can find — the Library, the Skate Park Committee — one partnership at a time, negotiated from scratch.

4. Two Options

Model A — Consolidated Arts & Culture Committee

Combines existing groups into one body

GROUPS COMBINED

- Tuesday Night Live Committee *(absorbed whole)*
- Green Up Day Organizer *(appointee absorbed whole)*
- Johnson Jubilee *(orphaned — no group left to absorb)*
- Beautification — *Plant Swap only; committee survives for plantings and streetscape*

Six event-holding bodies become four.

EVENTS IT WOULD RUN

- Green Up Day — May 2 *(town-wide)*
- Plant Swap — May 30 *(Village Green)*
- TNL — Jul 7, 14, 21, 28; Aug 4, 11 *(Legion Field)*
- Johnson Jubilee — Dec 5 *(Main Street)*

9 event days, May through December.

PLUS A STANDING CHARGE FOR

- Public art, murals, and the streetscape's cultural side
- Year-round culture-building programming, not just event days
- Arts and culture grant applications
- **A direct counterpart for the Johnson Recreation Coordinator** to work with on events and culture programs — one standing partner instead of a new ad-hoc pairing every time

STAYS PUT

Johnson EATS. Recreation's fee-based programs (swim, soccer camp, Let's Roll). Skate Park Committee. Beautification keeps plantings and streetscape.

LOGIC

This is the EATS move, applied at scale. The lesson from the oven was that folding a narrow group into a broader mission is what widened the volunteer pool and unlocked bigger asks. That result came from *combining*, not from adding a coordinator alongside.

GETS YOU

Fewer bodies, not more. The Jubilee comes back with a permanent home. One shared volunteer roster instead of four small ones. One body owns Johnson's arts and culture calendar and can credibly chase arts funding — the same fundraising lift EATS saw. The Recreation Coordinator gains a real partner.

COSTS YOU

Biggest ask of the two. TNL is working and did not ask for this — needs the current committee to want a wider charge, not have one imposed. Green Up Day is stewardship, and Plant Swap sits inside Beautification's actual mission; both are a stretch under an arts banner and would need an honest charge written around them.

Model B — Events Committee

Combines nothing — adds one more body

GROUPS COMBINED

- **None.** TNL Committee, Beautification, the Green Up Day Organizer, Skate Park, Recreation, and Johnson EATS all stay exactly as they are.

Six event-holding bodies become seven.

EVENTS IT WOULD RUN

- Johnson Jubilee — Dec 5 *(Main Street)*

The orphan only. Every other event stays with the group that runs it today.

WHAT ELSE IT WOULD DO

- Hold the shared Town events calendar
- Deconflict dates and venues before they collide
- Be the landing spot for future orphaned events
- Serve as one front door for residents and new volunteers

STAYS PUT

Everything. No committee gives anything up.

LOGIC

Most of the observed friction is calendar and venue collisions, plus one homeless event. Fix those directly without asking any committee to give anything up.

GETS YOU

Easiest sell by far — nobody loses anything, so there is no fight. The Jubilee comes back. The Aug 1 collision and the Legion Field double-booking get caught structurally instead of by luck. Reversible if it doesn't work.

COSTS YOU

It is a seventh body in a town that already struggles to staff six. Adds overhead rather than removing it, and needs its own volunteers to do it. Consolidates nothing, so single-purpose fragility stays exactly where it is — the next orphaned event is orphaned the same way. Does not repeat the EATS result, because that result came from combining. Volunteer pools stay small and separate; the grant story stays thin.

If neither option moves forward, the Johnson Jubilee will not happen this year. There is no organizer and no committee positioned to pick it up.

Draft for discussion. Dates for Plant Swap, Green Up Day, and Johnson Jubilee are derived from stated recurrence rules and should be confirmed with each organizer before publication.

TOJ Administrator

From: Kelly Vandorn <kellysuesflowers@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, July 14, 2026 1:44 PM
To: TOJ Administrator
Subject: Re: Library Update

Yes, and I plan to ask the Selectboard to add the copula and the granite steps back into the contract. It will be a quick update. Maybe we will hear about the amount we can expect from the Department of Libraries before then. 😊

On Tue, Jul 14, 2026 at 12:51 PM TOJ Administrator <tojadministrator@townofjohnson.com> wrote:

> Good afternoon, Kelly. I am working on the agenda for the July 20, 2026, Selectboard meeting. I have you lists for giving an update.
>
> Are you still able to provide one?
>
> John Sutherland
>
> Town Administrator
>
> Johnson, Vermont
>
> 802.635.2611 o
>
> 802.793.8480 c
>
> townofjohnson.com

TOJ Administrator

From: Aubrey Wagner <aubzstrawb@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, July 12, 2026 1:37 PM
To: TOJ Administrator; Eben Patch
Subject: Request for agenda item-- Sinclair Rd. Extension

Hello John and Eben,
Residents of the Sinclair Rd extension would like to request a discussion of maintenance for our road at the upcoming selectboard meeting. The rains have caused our road much erosion this summer. With a few more downpours we fear it could be impassable to ourselves and vital services we need or may need such as propane deliveries and ambulance/firetruck services. Could this topic be added to the meeting?
A representative from each household plans to be there.
Thank you for considering,
Sincerely,
Aubrey Wagner

Community Trust

Diana Osborn

Hello All,

At a recent meeting I mentioned the concept of a "Johnson Community Trust." Several people have reached out to me for more information. It is a conversation that is both timely and also doesn't have to happen right away. I'd love to get it on an agenda when it's convenient. This nimble, flexible, community driven model is well suited for addressing several situations that our town currently faces (Mill House, Julian Scott House, Lowe Lecture Hall, Town Forests, Talc Mine brownfield, etc.) A Johnson Community Trust could form with or without the support of the select board; however, the reach and effectiveness of each would improve with cooperation and mutual respect. It would be a real boost to the nascent trust movement if the board endorsed the concept, without having to finance or oversee it in anyway. A complete overview of the model, including a several examples, is on the Preservation Trust of Vermont website: https://ptvermont.org/what-is-a-community-trust/

A Community Trust could address many of the so-called "optional" projects, those things that may be very important to a community but are outside the budget or exceed the budget and therefore require outside funding or outside resources to happen. Trusts operate outside of the municipal governance structure, so the board would then to positioned to manage fewer grants, fewer projects, fewer committees, and could return to focusing on the non-optional, "essential" town functions of 1) policy and plans (which trusts usually strictly aim to fulfill as representative of the will of the people) and 2) budget (which trusts are independent of- no cost to the town unless the town chooses to contribute.) With a Community Trust, the select board would have a structure in place to "unload" some of its diverse holdings and responsibilities, while keeping places and land in the public domain.

A Johnson Community Trust wouldn't be required to take on land, or a building, or a project but they could chose to, thereby setting community revitalization into action, while preserving the community's best interests. The Community Trust structure would empower volunteers to unshelve plans, find grants, make the application, match the grant if necessary, raise additional funds, manage their own funds, and do the work of implementation- all things that are challenging for people like me to do currently without overburdening the board and the town employees.

Obviously, town projects on town land with town committees could continue operating as usual, no change necessary. If there was interest or necessity, the door could be open someday to change. Maybe a Johnson Community Trust that owned and managed several historical buildings (JHS, Julian Scott, Lowe Lecture) along with the collections, artifacts, and events- a bigger job than either the select board or the dwindling numbers of committee members may want to tackle now. Think Oread Club of the past- in a way that operated more like a community trust than a municipal body. The Oread Club was instrumental in Johnson community development and yet was independent of the select board. Compare that to the Johnson Historical Society of today, a recognized municipal committee, with board oversight and board responsibility for the building, group, and activities; also doing going works for the benefit of the town, but under a different model, one that greatly involves the select board.

A Johnson Community Trust could be as expansive or as focused as their founding board chose. Perhaps they could start small with one building (Mill House) or lot (Gomo Forest)? Perhaps, in the future, a Johnson Community Trust could be instrumental in revitalizing another downtown housing project to complement the other trust-driven housing projects in town? In Hardwick, the people came together first to form the Civic Standard in a donated space, then some events, then a capital campaign, and now they have their own building, have received national acclaim in major publications, and have truly set the standard for civic engagement- all independent of the local government, but with respect to it.

For better or for worse, the select board would give up direct oversight of things controlled by a community trust. In exchange, the select board would gain a partner in responsibility and a redistribution of the workload. Instead of having sole responsibility and sole accountability, the trust would responsibly relieve the board of some of their burden. It is possible that the trust could purchase buildings or properties from the town. That would mean that the town wouldn't lose the value of the asset, they could be paid for it, but it would still exist as a community asset instead of being sold on the open market. Maybe you could say that the relationship would become more like we have with VSC, or VTSU, or even any of the larger business owners in town. In those examples, the other party and the select board first mind their own business and then secondarily look out for the other. The relationship is one of mutual interest, interdependence, and collaboration, as appropriate and necessary, but it is primarily driven by individual accountability, freedom, and independence and as a result the whole town benefits.

I think it is called a "Trust" for good reason. It requires trust to happen, trust to work, and trust to succeed. While I'm sure there are many questions, there are also many success stories. Would the board be willing discuss the concept and consider trusting the community to form a Johnson Community Trust?

Respectfully,
Diana Osborn

Lowe Lecture Hall / Old Town Hall Task Force

Public Works Garage Insulation Bids

Contractor Name	Bid Price