

Town of Lunenburg
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Town Hall, 17 Main Street and via Zoom
Monday, June 15, 2026

Members Present: Chair Renee Emkey, Vice-Chair Brian Lehtinen (remote via Zoom), and Clerk Glenn McLeod

Members Absent: None

Also Present: Jennifer Warren-Dyment, Town Manager
Public Comment Participants are listed in the minutes

CALL TO ORDER AND PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Chair Renee Emkey called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Chair Emkey advised those present that the meeting was being recorded and broadcast live over the Lunenburg Public Access Channel, on Facebook Live, and would be uploaded to the Lunenburg Access YouTube Channel following the meeting. She explained that the agenda listed topics that may be discussed, but not all items may be addressed and other items not listed could be brought up as permitted by open meeting law.

NEW BUSINESS

Interviews With New Applicants and Applicants Seeking Re-Appointment to Boards, Committees, and Commissions

Chair Emkey noted that the sole agenda item for the evening was the annual appointments and reappointments to boards, committees, and commissions. She stated her intention to proceed alphabetically and encouraged the evening to be approached as a conversation rather than a formal interview. She asked each applicant to address whether they had observed or attended meetings of the committees of interest, whether they had spoken with current members, and to clarify their ranked preferences where multiple committees had been indicated.

Architectural Preservation District Committee (APDC)

Two seats were available due to expiring terms. Current members Nathan Lockwood and Andrew Gillis had both sought reappointment; new applicant Mali Wagner also expressed interest in the APDC.

Nathan Lockwood, a long-standing member who helped draft the APDC bylaw in 2015, voluntarily stepped back from seeking reappointment upon learning of the qualifications of the incoming applicants. He noted that having "a structural engineer to my left and structural engineer to my right with passions for historical preservation" represented an ideal transition and stated he would remain available for consultation.

Mali Wagner, a structural engineer and architectural designer who holds a degree from MIT's architecture department, expressed strong passion for historic preservation and the built environment. She acknowledged being new to town volunteering and stated she wished to learn before taking an active lead. She noted she also serves on several school booster organizations but confirmed that the APDC aligned most with her professional passions.

Vice-Chair Brian Lehtinen expressed support for Ms. Wagner's appointment, noting her engineering background as a significant asset to the committee. Clerk Glenn McLeod agreed, noting that while residency within the Architectural Preservation District is desirable, it is not disqualifying, and that the committee can compensate through proactive community outreach. Mr. Lockwood concurred

that the committee can operate effectively without direct APD residency so long as district residents are regularly consulted.

The Board appointed Andrew Gillis and Mali Wagner to the APDC for three-year terms expiring June 30, 2029. Both appointees were directed to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Motion to appoint Andrew Gillis and Mali Wagner to the Architectural Preservation District Committee for terms expiring June 30, 2029, was made by Clerk McLeod and seconded by Vice-Chair Lehtinen. Roll call vote: Vice-Chair Lehtinen – aye; Clerk McLeod – aye; Chair Emkey - aye. The motion passed unanimously (3–0–0).

Americans with Disabilities Committee

Town Manager Jennifer Warren-Dymont advised the Board that the Americans with Disabilities Committee had been in a largely defunct status since prior to her arrival in February 2025, with no meetings held and former members no longer serving. She characterized the appointments as a reinvigoration of the committee, noting that while the bylaws remain in place, the appointees would effectively be reconstituting the body.

Richard Taylor, a lifelong Lunenburg resident attending remotely, expressed his desire to give back to his community. He noted his background in biology, experience in social work with children with autism, and that he himself has a disability, which he cited as personal motivation for his interest. After being appointed, Mr. Taylor indicated he preferred to focus solely on this one committee given the level of energy it would require to restart.

Heather Gleason, a retired state employee with 28 years of residency in Lunenburg who works part-time in memory care, expressed interest in multiple committees and stated she had no strong preference among them. The Board and Town Manager identified the Americans with Disabilities Committee as a fitting placement given her background in care services.

Town Manager Warren-Dymont recommended the appointment of both Richard Taylor and Heather Gleason, and the Board ratified that recommendation unanimously. Both appointees were directed to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Motion to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Richard Taylor and Heather Gleason to the Americans with Disabilities Committee was made by Chair Emkey and seconded by Clerk McLeod. Roll call vote: Vice-Chair Lehtinen – aye; Clerk McLeod – aye; Chair Emkey - aye. The motion passed unanimously (3–0–0).

Council on Aging

Three seats were available: one reappointment and two open vacancies. The following applicants were considered: Elena Christopher (seeking reappointment), Christopher Johnson, David Bartlett, Pauline Roy, and Heather Gleason.

Elena Christopher, a resident with ties to Lunenburg dating back to 1965 and a holder of a master's degree in public administration, spoke to her two years of service on the Council on Aging, her involvement in subcommittees, and her desire to continue ongoing projects.

Christopher Johnson, a 32-year Lunenburg resident and retired 47-year computer professional, described being introduced to the Adult Activity Center through the SHINE program and expressed a personal interest in the center's fitness programming, as well as a desire to be helpful to others.

Pauline Roy, a 24-year resident and former Council on Aging outreach coordinator, emphasized her passion for the older adult community in Lunenburg and her familiarity with the Board, having attended and taken minutes at its meetings in the latter part of her employment. She confirmed with the Board that she had clearance from her current employer to attend daytime meetings.

David Bartlett, a five-year Lunenburg resident with four years of prior Council on Aging experience in the Town of Lancaster as an outsource manager, expressed interest in continuing to support seniors and veterans.

Heather Gleason was ultimately directed toward the Americans with Disabilities Committee, as discussed above.

Vice-Chair Lehtinen and Clerk McLeod noted the high level of interest in this committee, and both expressed a preference for directing David Bartlett and Pauline Roy toward the Personnel Committee, where their respective backgrounds in hotel management and town employment were seen as a stronger fit.

The Board filled two of the three vacancies in the first motion and the third in a subsequent motion, appointing Elena Christopher (reappointment), Christopher Johnson, and Pauline Roy. All three terms expire June 30, 2029. All appointees were directed to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Motion to reappoint Elena Christopher and to appoint Christopher Johnson to the Council on Aging for terms expiring June 30, 2029, was made by Vice-Chair Lehtinen and seconded by Clerk McLeod. Roll call vote: Vice-Chair Lehtinen – aye; Clerk McLeod – aye; Chair Emkey -aye. The motion passed unanimously (3–0–0).

Motion to appoint Pauline Roy to the Council on Aging for a term expiring June 30, 2029, was made by Clerk McLeod and seconded by Vice-Chair Lehtinen. Roll call vote: Vice-Chair Lehtinen – aye; Clerk McLeod – aye; Chair Emkey - aye. The motion passed unanimously (3–0–0).

Conservation Committee

Two seats were available: one expiring term held by Richard Bursch (not seeking reappointment was in question) and one open vacancy. Vincent Acito, a six-year Lunenburg resident working in HVAC for Johnson Controls and a former volunteer firefighter, presented as the primary new applicant for the committee.

After discussion, it was determined that several committees Mr. Acito had indicated interest in were either elected or at full capacity. Chair Emkey and Town Manager Warren-Dyment identified the Green Communities Committee as a potentially better fit given his professional background in HVAC and energy systems. Vice-Chair Lehtinen offered to connect Mr. Acito with Green Communities Chair David Blatt. Mr. Acito expressed strong interest in pursuing that avenue and agreed to submit a formal application for Green Communities.

The Board reappointed Richard Bursch to the Conservation Committee for a three-year term. The second vacancy remains open; Chair Emkey noted that the Conservation Commission Chair had indicated additional interested parties may be forthcoming.

Motion to reappoint Richard Birch to the Conservation Committee for a three-year term was made by Clerk McLeod and seconded by Select Board Member Lehtinen. Roll call vote: Vice-Chair Lehtinen – aye; Clerk McLeod – aye; Chair Emkey - aye. The motion passed unanimously (3–0–0).

Cultural Council

One vacancy was presented. Karla Velazquez, a nearly one-year Lunenburg resident originally from Puerto Rico, presented her background as a forensic scientist at the State Police Crime Lab in Maynard with 12 years of experience, and as an active alumna and chapter adviser for a multicultural sorority at Dartmouth College. She described the Cultural Council as a natural

intersection of her passion for STEM and her multicultural background. She indicated she was seeking appointment to one committee, noting she is expecting a child in December. Vice-Chair Lehtinen expressed full support. The Board appointed Ms. Velazquez to the Cultural Council for a three-year term. She was directed to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Motion to appoint Karla Velazquez to the Cultural Council for a term of three years was made by Clerk McLeod and seconded by Vice-Chair Lehtinen. Roll call vote: Vice-Chair Lehtinen – aye; Clerk McLeod – aye; Chair Emkey - aye. The motion passed unanimously (3–0–0).

Green Communities Committee

One full member vacancy and two associate member vacancies were identified. Town Manager Warren-Dymont advised the Board that David Blatt, the current committee chair, would be relocating out of Lunenburg in the fall and had expressed a willingness to continue serving in whatever capacity the Board found useful, given his institutional knowledge of the committee's ongoing projects.

Dave Passios, whose full membership term was expiring, was confirmed to have expressed willingness to continue serving. The Board agreed to reappoint Mr. Passios as a full member. Vice-Chair Lehtinen noted that Vincent Acito, once he submits a formal application, would be a strong candidate for an associate member position.

The two associate member seats and the anticipated vacancy following David Blatt's departure were noted as items to be addressed in the coming months.

Motion to appoint Dave Pasios as a full member to the Green Communities Committee for a term expiring June 30, 2029, was made by Vice-Chair Lehtinen and seconded by Chair Emkey. Roll call vote: Vice-Chair Lehtinen – aye; Clerk McLeod – aye; Chair Emkey - aye. The motion passed unanimously (3–0–0).

Historical Commission

Two vacancies were identified: one expiring term where the incumbent is not seeking reappointment, and one pre-existing open seat. No applicants had submitted forms for the Historical Commission without having already accepted appointments to other committees. Chair Emkey noted that with these two vacancies, the commission would be at its minimum membership for quorum with only three members. The Board encouraged public interest in these open seats.

PACC

One vacancy exists on PACC. No applicants had submitted forms for this position. The vacancy remains open.

Personnel Committee

The Personnel Committee had not been active since sometime in 2024. Three applicants, David Bartlett, Pauline Roy, and Tanya Dall, were considered to reconstitute the committee, which per the town bylaw consists of five members.

Tanya Dall, a Lunenburg resident employed at Harvard University's Bloomberg Center for Cities, described her role as HR liaison for her center and union representative for the Harvard Kennedy School, and noted that through her work she has supported more than 100 municipalities in talent management and public service workforce development. She is also continuing education in public policy and law. Ms. Dall expressed enthusiasm for the committee and acknowledged prior concerns

she had raised about certain bylaw provisions, noting that the committee itself could review those provisions and make recommendations to the Select Board and Town Manager in collaboration. Pauline Roy described her interest as rooted in her time as a town employee, during which she became acutely aware of the importance of the Personnel Committee for staff wellbeing and retention. She acknowledged she lacks a formal HR background but expressed strong commitment to the town's workforce.

David Bartlett drew on 40 years of hotel management experience, overseeing staff of 300–400 employees in properties with up to 1,000 rooms, as the basis for his interest. Town Manager Warren-Dyment clarified for the record that the Personnel Committee does not have a role in staff discipline or individual coaching, and that the bylaw does not contemplate that function.

Vice-Chair Lehtinen and Clerk McLeod both expressed strong support for all three appointees, emphasizing the diversity and complementarity of their backgrounds.

Per the town bylaw, the initial members of a reconstituted committee must be staggered: one member serving a one-year term, two serving two-year terms, and two serving three-year terms. The Board assigned terms as follows: David Bartlett to a one-year term, Pauline Roy to a two-year term, and Tanya Dall to a three-year term. All terms begin upon swearing in. The Board noted that the remaining two seats on the five-member committee remain open, and encouraged the newly appointed members to recruit additional volunteers. All appointees were directed to be sworn in by the Town Clerk.

Motion to appoint David Bartlett for a one-year term, Pauline Roy for a two-year term, and Tanya Dall for a three-year term to the Personnel Committee was made by Vice-Chair Lehtinen and seconded by Clerk McLeod. Roll call vote: Vice-Chair Lehtinen – aye; Clerk McLeod – aye; Chair Emkey - aye. The motion passed unanimously (3–0–0).

Remaining Vacancies

At the conclusion of appointments, the following vacancies were noted as still open:

- Conservation Committee: 1 vacancy (full member)
- Historical Commission: 2 vacancies
- PACC: 1 vacancy
- Green Communities Committee: 2 associate member vacancies
- Americans with Disabilities Committee: Committee being reconstituted; quorum requires a staff member and a Select Board representative in addition to the two newly appointed members; first meeting anticipated no earlier than August.
- Cultural Council: An additional applicant was expected to come before the Board in July.

The Board encouraged residents interested in any of these openings to submit applications.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 8:15 PM was made by Vice-Chair Lehtinen and seconded by Clerk McLeod. Call for Vote: Three-Aye. The motion passed unanimously (3–0–0).

Respectfully Submitted,
Renee Emkey

These Minutes were reviewed and approved by the Select Board on: Tuesday, October 20, 2026