

# Town of Londonderry, Vermont

## Selectboard Emergency\* Meeting Agenda

Tuesday, July 11, 2023 – 6:00 PM

Meeting is being held entirely remotely, with no physical presence, via Zoom meeting software

1. Call Meeting to Order
2. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda [1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A)]
3. New Business
  - a. Updates on storm damage
  - b. Discuss storm damage recovery
  - c. Approve emergency road access agreement
  - d. [Selectboard Pay Orders](#)
4. Adjourn

**Meeting may be attended remotely as follows:**

Via web: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85627300137>

Via telephone: (929) 205-6099 (Meeting ID: 856 2730 0137)

*It is strongly recommended that potential participants familiarize themselves with Zoom software (<https://zoom.us/>) prior to the meeting as the Board will not dedicate time to educating the public in its use.*

*\* This Emergency Meeting is being held pursuant to 1 VSA 312(c)(3) as necessary to respond to an unforeseen condition requiring immediate attention by the Selectboard, specifically the ongoing excessive rain and flooding event. While there is no requirement for public announcement, posting notice or provision of 24-hour notice to Board, this agenda shall serve to provide public notice of the meeting as soon as possible before any such meeting.*

**Amended at Meeting**

**Town of Londonderry, Vermont  
Selectboard**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Tuesday, July 11, 2023**

**Meeting held entirely remotely, with no physical presence, via Zoom meeting software**

**Board Members Present:** Thomas Cavanagh, Martha Dale, Melissa Brown, James Fleming, and Taylor Prouty.

**Board Members Absent:** None.

**Others in Attendance:** Town Officials – Town Administrator Shane O’Keefe; Town Treasurer Bettina Labeau; Emergency Management Director Richard Phelan; Recycling Coordinator Esther Fishman. Others – Windham Regional Commission representatives Chris Company and Alyssa Sabetto; Brattleboro Development Credit Corporation representative Adam Grinold; Phoenix Fire Company Capt. James Ameden, Jr.; Champion Fire Chief Jeff Duda; Londonderry Volunteer Rescue Squad President Pete Cobb; Residents Kevin Beattie, Natalie Boston, Bonny and Dwight Johnson, Barbara and Bob Wells; and GNAT representative Andrew McKeever and camera operator Bruce Frauman. Several others were in attendance that did not actively participate.

**1. Call meeting to order**

Selectboard Chair Tom Cavanagh called the emergency meeting to order at 6:01 PM.

**2. Additions or deletions to the agenda**

[1 VSA 312(d)(3)(A)]

*Martha Dale moved to add to the New Business part of the agenda the approval of pay orders, seconded by Tom Cavanagh. The motion passed unanimously.*

Due to the fact that the meeting was being held without a physical presence, the Selectboard members and others in attendance vocally identified themselves.

**3. New Business**

**a. Updates on storm damage**

Emergency Management Director Richard Phelan gave an overview of the status of emergency response to the excessive flooding that took place over the past day or so, noting that contractors have been brought on board to assist with road repairs. Efforts to help clean up houses and business was noted.

Cavanagh spoke to efforts to address properties that have been cut off to access by flood damage. In particular he spoke to the agreement from Chad and Jessica Landmon, to be addressed later in the meeting, allowing Cobble Ridge property owners access to Boynton Road due to the Cobble Ridge Road bridge having been washed out. The property owner’s desired limits on unnecessary traffic in and out was mentioned, and O’Keefe offered that the Town Office could be a parcel drop off spot for deliveries; there was no objection to that.

Road Commissioner Taylor Prouty and Cavanagh gave detailed updates on closures, completed and needed repairs on various roads. Prouty mentioned that the primary goal is to

get every road open at least for one lane of traffic, and that Chaves Excavation is providing most of the material for the road repair efforts for Londonderry and surrounding towns.

Prouty made clear that driveway culverts are the responsibility of property owners and not the Town, and that property owners should do their own repairs and keep good records in order to seek State or federal assistance. Phelan clarified that only loans would be available and not grants.

Alyssa Sabetto stated that private owners with property damage should report damage to 211 and the State will compile data in order and reach out to them. She noted that the State Office of Emergency Management had just sent out information to the public on this. Chris Champany mentioned that immediate response from the State should not be expected as it is in the information gathering stage at this time, except for emergency situations.

Prouty mentioned that no Town road is in good shape, and everyone should use extreme caution when driving. He added that the Town does not have enough warning cones for all the situations for where they're needed.

Means of improved public communication was discussed, and Melissa Brown stressed the need to update people on road conditions and maintain caution while driving. Kevin Beattie spoke to his willingness to compile and distribute public information to the community. Brown noted that there needs to be a diversity of communication means in the community in order to reach everyone in town.

Several members of the public spoke to individual road repair needs.

Bob Wells noted that Neighborhood Connections has a van that can be employed to assist people in need of transportation services. He added that the organization is available for assisting the public in a number of ways and serves 9 different towns. There was discussion on welfare checks that have been made for isolated individuals.

Esther Fishman spoke about solid waste disposal and the need to separate out hazardous waste, and mentioned she is looking to arrange for an additional hazard collection event to address flood-related waste. Cavanagh mentioned that the Transfer Station would be open the following day.

Adam Grinold spoke to efforts to address the needs of businesses, and mentioned that presently it's mostly a data collection process but that additional information would be forthcoming soon. He suggested that property owners keep good track of efforts and expenses.

It was noted that many people are trying to find out how to volunteer to provide assistance to property and business owners. Phelan stated that the Town cannot at this time address and coordinate volunteer efforts and suggested that churches can take a lead on this. Martha Dale offered to assist with coordinating the collection of volunteer information.

There was discussion on placing comprehensive information on the Town website.

**b. Discuss storm damage recovery**

O'Keefe noted that he and Cavanagh had met with a State stream engineer who concluded that the Cobble Ridge Road bridge is so damaged that it needs to be replaced, and he has connected with the VTrans District 2 office to try and qualify for an accelerated bridge

replacement program. Beattie noted that the bridge abutments and stringers may be salvageable for repairs, but mentioned that the bridge is very undersized.

He mentioned that the Williams Dam had scouring damage from flooding and engineering review is needed, as well as discussion by the Williams Dam Committee. A request to the State for inspection is forthcoming.

The Spring Hill Road culvert (#12), which is already in the process of design for its replacement, is in dire condition due to the flooding, he said. While it is now passable by vehicles, a project meeting with the project engineer is scheduled for later in the week, and there is the opportunity to close off the road near the culvert due to the availability of other roads on either side.

Brown mentioned that flood impacts on all of these locations have been in discussion for some time. She stated that funds set aside at Town Meeting for further exploration of dam alternatives should not be used for flood-related restoration efforts.

Jim Fleming stated that the community is very fortunate to have the local contractors who are working on emergency and recovery efforts, and called out the individual workers for their dedication. Board members lauded the contractors, and mentioned the efforts of Hunter Excavation, Chaves Excavating, Hart's All Seasons, Woodland Earthworks, TK Trucking and Raymond Smith.

Cavanagh called out the importance of business recovery in the villages, and there was discussion of the damage received by various businesses by the flooding.

The West River Farmers Market organization market will be meeting shortly, Crossman noted, and will likely cancel its market for this weekend and arrange volunteers for site cleanup.

The need for people in the villages to have water tested was mentioned. Fishman brought up the need for testing for others not necessarily directly affected by flood waters due to the potential for bacteria. It was noted that additional unsettled weather and rainfall is in the forecast, and people should be aware that waters can rise quickly due to saturated soils.

Brown noted that there needs to be a diversity of communication means in the community in order to reach everyone in the community.

Grinold offered to provide volunteer capacity to the community by BDCC. Champany suggested coordinating with Weston or other communities on recovery efforts. Natalie Boston spoke about Weston's efforts and the number of volunteers that she is working with; she will share this volunteer information. Prouty spoke about the great potential of working closely with surrounding towns.

Brown noted the amazing efforts of the town's first responders, staff, community members and volunteers who all came together to help the community in response to the flooding.

**c. Approve emergency road access agreement**

The Board reviewed and considered the proposed access agreement with Cobble Ridge Road property owners Jessica and Chad Landmon that allows for people in the Cobble Ridge neighborhood to traverse their property to gain access to Boynton Road. O'Keefe spoke about the Town's ongoing obligations under the agreement, and mentioned that the

agreement is based on the agreement with the prior owner from 2011 and has been reviewed by both the Town Attorney and the Town's insurer.

Hart's All Seasons is doing the road improvement work it was noted. And Prouty thanked the Harts for introducing him to the new property owners.

Brown raised the fact that there is at least one short-term rental in the neighborhood, and that the Landmon's should be made aware of this for the sake of transparency and that the agreement should be clear that their guests are included and that properties on Stone Hollow Road are included in the agreement.

*Martha Dale moved to approve the agreement between the Town and Chad and Jessica Landmon for emergency access to stranded Cobble Ridge Road and Stone Hollow Road residents and guests, and authorize the Selectboard Chair to execute the document on behalf of the Board, seconded by Taylor Prouty. The motion passed unanimously.*

**d. Selectboard Pay Orders [added to agenda]**

*Jim Fleming moved to approve the pay orders for payroll and accounts payable, seconded by Martha Dale. The motion passed unanimously.*

**4. Adjourn**

*Jim Fleming moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Taylor Prouty. The motion passed unanimously.*

The meeting adjourned at 7:20 PM. The next regular meeting of the Selectboard is scheduled for July 24, 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

  
Shane P. O'Keefe  
Town Administrator

*Approved July 17, 2023.*  
**LONDONDERRY SELECTBOARD**

  
Thomas Cavanagh, Chair