

SELECTMEN'S MEETING– April 6, 2026

Present: Chris Ellms, Richard Bielefield, Rusty Talbot

Guests: Kathy Jablonski, Larry & Judy Sawyer, Fred & Claire Von Karls, Brian Beaulieu
Jonah Hanowitz, Hugh Hawkins

MR. BIELEFIELD made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of March 30, 2026, seconded by MR. TALBOT. The motion passed unanimously.

Correspondence was read and acted upon.

Patrick Morgan submitted an email requesting information on the possible paving of Blake Road. Jennifer shared with the road committee. Mr. Ellms wondered about the possibility of doing a portion. The Road Committee reviews all roads and works with the Road Agent on recommendations. The cost of just that road could be over 500,000.00.

CHIEF CLARK submitted letters to the board regarding dry hydrants. The first was Coffin Pond and repairing the hydrant that was damaged when NHDES drained the pond. The board thought it was best to go ahead and make those repairs as requested by Chief Clark. The second request was regarding monies from Split Rock Partners for installation of a dry hydrant on Hadley Road. Mr. Talbot noted that having the water source in that area would be beneficial and the board wanted to ask Chief Clark a few questions. He will be in next week for his 1st quarter review.

MR. TALBOT reported on meeting with the Franconia and Easton Select board members at Cannon Mountain with Jace Wirth the mountain manager. He updated the group on the progress of the new Tramway. Bids will be going out next month. Franconia discussed the Fire/EMS/Police responsibilities at Cannon. Jace noted that additional lodging in the area would benefit the mountain.

COFFIN POND: The board reviewed the timeline of the dam being removed and that notification was sent less than 24 hours before the dismantling began. The inspector was at the dam in January and not problem and return visit in March saw eroding of the slope and the corroded pipe had water spraying. The town and SHCC felt there was no imminent danger as water would just go down the Gale River. The State Dam Bureau has no money and are taking non-essential dams out limiting their liability. Chairman Chris Ellms made immediate calls to NHDES and while they were sympathetic said could be years for replacement as no money available. The board and SHCC want to recreate a simple spillway and the town will control the inlet. Currently the SHCC owns the south side of the pond where the inlet is. The NH Fish & Game owns the north side, including the dam site and all the islands. The pond itself is owned by the State of NH. The NH Dam Bureau oversees maintaining the dam. The Town would like to have control of all the land and the dam thus taking the liability off the State. Hugh Hawkins presented the board with a list of questions; most answered in the above briefing but wondered about the State bypassing several RSA's when dismantling the dam. The current timeline is the board hopes to have a meeting the week of the 20th with the NH DES, NH Fish & Game, the Dam Bureau, the SHCC, the town engineer and representative from the Select Board.

It is the town's intention to work diligently and provide a plan to replace the dam and figure out where funding is available. The town feels that the work can be done with town personnel and local contractors.

With no more public business before the Board, MR. TALBOT made a motion to adjourn, seconded by MR. ELLMS the meeting was adjourned at 6:05 PM. The next regular scheduled meeting is Monday April 13, 2026, at 5:00 pm at the Crapo Building.

Respectfully submitted:

Jennifer Gaudette
Town Administrator