

TOWN OF ACWORTH, NEW HAMPSHIRE
Select Board
Approved Minutes for Business Meeting of September 21, 2026
Town Hall, 13 Town Hall Rd, Acworth, NH 03601

SELECT BOARD PRESENT: Kathi Bradt; Ryanne Schoonover; Katy Haas

STAFF PRESENT: Jennifer Bland, Hwy Admin; Charlotte Comeau, Town Administrator; Melinda Loiselle, Treasurer

OTHERS PRESENT: Glenn Elsesser; Peggy Starks; John Tuthill

CALL TO ORDER: Kathi called the meeting to order at 6:30.

MINUTES: Minutes of August 31: On a motion by Katy, seconded by Kathi; *the Board voted to approve with Ryanne abstaining. Passed.*

Minutes of September 10: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Kathi; *the Board voted to approve. Passed.*

BILL MANIFEST: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Katy; *the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.*

PAYROLL MANIFEST: On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Katy; *the Board voted to approve and sign. Passed.*

HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT:

Work report/plan: <https://www.acworthnh.net/highway>

- Ryanne asked how many roads were mowed this year. Jennifer said all the roads have been mowed except Polly Hill Rd. They can mow them more than once a year, if necessary, due to owning a mower. Last year we paid \$15k to rent a mower and had only 8 roads mowed.
- Grout Hill Bridge will start at the beginning of October.
- The culvert that was installed on Allen Rd has been paved over.
- CPR is complete.
- CBR is ongoing.
- Derry Hill is a work in progress. Due to asphalt price increases this project may be an additional \$11k above FEMAs allocation. Consensus from the Board previously and tonight was that we are able to use some of the savings from CPR to cover this rather than not being able to complete the project and having to budget for it next year.
- DMS Quarry support letter: On the 29th of this month DES, a Surveyor, Attorney General, AoT and others will be attending a meeting with DMS Quarry at the quarry location. Jennifer didn't know the reason for the visit, but her and Collin will be there to represent the town. DMS Quarry has gone above and beyond to support the town and has saved us a lot of money. The permit they received last year was a 4-year permit. Jennifer noted that DES doesn't bother other quarries in the area as they do with this one, she called around to confirm this. The letter is in support of all that DMS Quarry has done for the town.
- The signs have come in for Polly Hill. Highway will install these. They need to go to Keene to get the Dodge Brook Rd sign.
- Update on the 4-way stop signs in the village. The stop signs will be required to have blinking lights on them because they are new. This is so they are clearly visible to drivers. Our zoning ordinance states no flashing lights in any district. Jennifer will speak with the State about this again. The signs would need to stay up for about a year for people to get used to the stop and then regular stop signs would be installed. The speed study has been done, just waiting for results.

PLANNING BOARD: None

CONSERVATION COMMISSION: Kathi.

- Discussion on the beaver dam question in East Acworth. They discussed that the highway dept must act when there is a public safety or infrastructure concern. Jennifer said it is being monitored and there is no reason to act on it right now.

- Discussed timber harvest in town forest. Mark Goodwin attended the meeting. He questioned whether they want to harvest in the So Acworth forest or leave it in a natural state. He cited some information he's come across on wild land which is preserving land that might still be in its original state. Kathi stated that the harvest will probably take place in Gove Forest and not So Acworth Forest.
- Land conservation form for property owners is still being worked out.
- Gregg gave an update on Keyes Hollow. They've entered into contracts and have people to do the work.

PUBLIC: Glenn asked why the CRFs weren't deposited into the CIP earlier in the year as it would get better return. Charlotte said that it usually is due to cash flow and is typically when it's been done in the past. She will look into it further to see about making the deposits sooner.

ACTION ITEMS:

Building Apps: Acworth Historical Society M246 L12. Kathi pointed out that the side boundary that is adjacent to the Lord's property is less than the required setback so this would be referred to ZBA for a variance. On a motion by Ryanne, seconded by Katy; ***the Board voted to send this to ZBA with Kathi abstaining. Passed.***

DISCUSSION: None

On a motion by Ryanne and seconded by Katy; ***the Board voted to adjourn at 7:02 p.m. Passed.***

Respectfully submitted,
Charlotte Comeau,
Town Administrator