TOWN OF EASTON
Select Board Meeting – Draft Minutes
August 17, 2026

Select Board
Brian Suthoff (Chair) - Present
Toni Woodruff – Present
Dave Bogdziewicz – Present

Select Board Secretary
Kathy Ryan – Present

These minutes of the Town of Easton Select Board have been recorded by the Secretary or substitute. Though believed accurate and correct, they are subject to additions, deletions, and corrections by the Select Board at the next meeting when the Board votes its final approval of the minutes. These draft minutes are made available at this time to conform with RSA 91:A.

Meeting officially called to order at 4:03 pm by Brian Suthoff.
Google Meet enabled for remote attendees.

Public in Attendance: Zak Mei (remote), Kris Pastoriza, Becky DiChristopher

Minutes:
- Brian S noted a second draft of the August 3 minutes was published on the website.
- Toni Woodruff made a motion to approve the August 3, 2026 Select Board minutes as written. Dave Bogdziewicz seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Passed.

Treasurer's Report:
- All vouchers accounted for, accepted, and signed.
- 08/17/2026 report read by Brian Suthoff.
- Three members of the Board signed the report.

Bar Harbor Bank and Trust - Checking Account:	$501,088.17
Bar Harbor Bank and Trust - Money Market Account:	2,537.48
PDIP (Public Depository Investment Pool) Account	153,193.84
Conservation Commission CD	10,808.90
Escrow Account	2,023.40
Total	$669,651.79

Toni Woodruff made a motion, seconded by Dave Bogdziewicz to accept the treasurer's report as read. All in favor; none opposed. Passed.

Public:
X-178 (Eversource)
- Kris Pastoriza discussed intervener status with the SB. Kris P identified "wants" from Eversource in the event that the project continues through Easton; wetland matting and no construction pads and no new roads.

- Kris P argued that it was important for Easton to demonstrate a knowledge of “the rules” and hold Eversource accountable.
- The SB discussed the background of this issue, which started with the Town’s original concern was not the merits of the project but the absence of any review of it.
    - Eversource characterized the work as a “rebuild,” and for cost-recovery purposes as an “Asset Condition” project — a classification that has allowed substantial transmission spending to proceed without a determination of need by either state or federal regulators. At the Select Board’s meeting of March 18, 2024, the Board was asked to write to the New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee requesting that it take jurisdiction over the project, on the ground that no regulatory agency was overseeing it.
    - A letter drafted by Selectman Bob Thibault was approved and signed on May 6, 2024 and circulated to Sugar Hill and Bethlehem seeking their participation. Sugar Hill declined, citing ongoing conversations with Eversource; Bethlehem signed, and the letter was sent in early June 2024. The matter became SEC Docket No. 2024-02, the Petition Requesting Jurisdiction and Oversight of Eversource’s Proposed X-178 Transmission Line Replacement Project.
    - On April 7, 2025 the Board recorded that the petition had been granted. The Committee assumed jurisdiction over the X-178 project and a new docket was to be opened. Eversource filed its Application for a Certificate of Site and Facility on November 18, 2025, opening Docket No. SEC 25-072.
    - Winning jurisdiction, however, did not give Easton a voice in the proceeding that followed, and it carried a consequence the Board noted at the time: with the Committee exercising oversight, Town requirements became subservient to the State. Participating as a party required a separate petition to intervene. The Board voted on May 4, 2026 to direct the Chair to file an amended petition to intervene.
    - On August 13, 2026 the Presiding Officer issued an order denying mandatory intervention but granting the Town discretionary intervenor status under RSA 541-A:32, II, subject to six conditions. One of those conditions required the Town, by August 21, 2026, to designate an attorney or non-attorney representative empowered to act for the Town throughout the proceeding.
- The SB discussed the potential expense of appointing an attorney. It was also noted that the SB has not heard concerns over X-178 expressed from more than a couple of residents since the SEC assumed oversight, and therefore questioned if hiring an attorney for this was financially prudent. The SB then discussed options for a non-attorney representative. Kris P is already directly engaged with the SEC. Mike Kenney was suggested by Kris P and the SB as someone who is on the Conservation Commission and has the background, knowledge and interest in the project. Mike K previously expressed concerns over the time commitment, but Kris P suggested that the upcoming technical sessions may be where we focus efforts. The SB agreed to ask Mike to accept the role. To protect Mike and the Town, it was agreed that a Designation and Scope Authority document would be written to describe what authority is being granted, under what conditions, etc.
- Brian Suthoff moved that the Select Board designate Mike Kenney, Easton Conservation Commission member, as the Town of Easton’s authorized non-attorney representative in New Hampshire Site Evaluation Committee Docket No. SEC 25-072, pursuant to Ordering Clause C of the Presiding Officer’s Order dated August 13, 2026; that said representative is authorized and empowered to represent the Town throughout that proceeding, to file a notice of appearance on or before August 21, 2026, and to sign and file all pleadings on the Town’s behalf; that the representative shall report to the Board at each regular meeting on the status of the proceeding and shall obtain the Board’s authorization before taking any position on the merits on the Town’s behalf; and that this

designation may be modified or revoked by vote of the Board at any time. Brian Suthoff- yes, Dave Bogdziewicz - yes, Toni Woodruff - no. Passed.

Brian Suthoff made a motion to close the public session at 5:39 and move to closed session citing RSA 91-A:3 II c. Dave Bogdziewicz seconded. Roll call vote taken: Dave B - yes, Brian S - yes, Toni W - yes. All in favor; none opposed. Passed.

Public session reconvened at 6:15 pm. Brian Suthoff moved to seal the minutes from the closed session because it was determined that divulgence of this information likely would affect the reputation of a person other than a member of the Board. Dave Bogdziewicz seconded. Roll call vote taken. Brian S - yes, Dave B - yes, Toni W - yes. All in favor; none opposed. Passed.

Building Permits
- Ely electrical permit signed by SB.

Town Hall Siding
- Top Notch Contractors are scheduled to start in the next few weeks. Dave Bogdziewicz made a motion to approve the contract to replace all siding on the Town Hall for $97,622. Funds to come from Town Building Repairs ETF. Toni Woodruff seconded. All in favor; none opposed. Passed.

CIP
- Brian S reported on meeting with the PB on August 6. Spreadsheet for projecting project costs shared with relevant groups.

Town Ordinances
- Brian S described the procedure for updating and reorganizing ordinances, which were last updated in 2019 and have fallen out of legal compliance in areas, etc. The SB plans to review two revised articles at each meeting and then submit the revised Town Ordinances and question to town counsel for legal review. Brian S will ask DRA for advice on how to present the changes at Town Meeting.

Culvert/Road Work
- Paine culvert work this week or next (Presby)

Town Road Brush Removal
- Richard Vance confirmed at last year's cost. Work should happen this week or next week.

Sept 8 Election
- Ballots received, election volunteer recruitment ongoing.
- Toni W detailed issues with processing election materials.
- SB agreed to 3 pm set up on Labor day ahead of the scheduled SB meeting.

Town Hall Pest Problem
- Brian S - 5 mice "removed" so far and none trapped in the last week.

Abatements - Stever
- Noting the abatement decisions from June 30 on the original abatement documents, the SB signed the documents.

Brian Suthoff made a motion to close the public session at 7:12 pm and move to closed session citing RSA 91-A:3 II (e). Toni Woodruff seconded. Roll call vote taken: Dave B - yes, Brian S - yes, Toni W - yes. All in favor; none opposed. Passed.

Public session reconvened at 7:22 pm. Brian Suthoff moved to seal the minutes from the closed session due to the negotiation of pending claims or litigation filed against this board. Toni Woodruff seconded. Roll call vote taken. Brian S - yes, Dave B - yes, Toni W - yes. All in favor; none opposed. Passed.

Brian Suthoff made a motion, seconded by Dave Bogdziewicz to close the meeting at 7:23 pm. All in favor; none opposed. Passed.

Next Select Board Meeting – Monday, September 7, 2026, 4 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Kathy Ryan, Secretary