TOWN OF LEYDEN
Meeting Minutes

Select Board

Where:	Leyden Town Offices – 7 Brattleboro Road
When:	May 4, 2026

In Attendance

Members:	Erica Jensen, Katherine DiMatteo, Jeff Baker
Audience:	Michele Giarusso, Danny and Rebecca Bald, Nan Rolstad, Morgan Thomas, Pam Brown, Liz Kidder via remote access

Time meeting called to order: 5:30: pm

Review of Minutes:

Motion: Katherine DiMatteo moved the minutes of 4/27 with the minor amendments

Second: Jeff with amendments

Vote: Unanimous

Discussions:

1. **Fire Department MOA with Bernardston**

Katherine reported the MOA has been reviewed by 2 lawyers with the recommendations by both incorporated into the final document.
Motion: Katherine moved to accept and sign the final Fire MOA with Bernardston. Second by Jeff. Unanimous vote.

2. **Woodland's Partnership Grant**

Katherine reported she heard back from the Conway School and they are willing to design a plan for the Herron Habitat parcel of land.
Motion: Katherine moved to apply for the Woodland's Partnership grant for the Avery Field/Herron Habitat property to design walking trails. Second by Jeff. Unanimous vote.
Action: Michele to ask Comerford and Blais offices for letter of support.

3 .Morgan Thomas and Nan Rolstad

Morgan would like to edit the brief history of Leyden that is on the front page of the town website, she would like to add indigenous people who lived in Leyden as well as famous daughters since we already have famous sons. Morgan will send a draft of the new language for review to the Select Board. Nan has been helping Morgan with some of the information.
Motion: Katherine moved to revise the brief history on the town's website to include daughters and indigenous people, black residents, orphans and other facts that have been excluded to date. Second by Jeff. Unanimous vote.

Henry Glabach's anvil-Nan reported she has had emails from Henry's son Ray who would like to donate the anvil to the town. He suggested putting on the town common. The Select Board is not so sure that is the best place. Nan has asked the Select Board to be the contact for this in the future. She sent Ray's emails and information to Michele.

4. ATM Warrant

Article 25-Discontnuance of road aka Couch Brook Road and North Bernardston Road. Discussion with Danny and Rebecca Bald about road naming and mapping issues, particularly regarding East Hill, Couch Brook, and North Bernardston roads. The group clarified that certain road sections had different historical names, so it was difficult to research what happened many years ago. Jim Brodeur helped with looking at deeds and found a deed where East Hill Road was rerouted and the property changed hands to reroute the road. He looked at correct documentation for the road abandonment process. It looks like the town meant to discontinue the portion of Couch Brook Road in the late1980s but never did.

Michele thinks she has the correct wording for the warrant article, but town counsel will have to review.

Katherine would like Michele to ask Donna if we need the verbiage at the end of each warrant article "or take any vote or votes in relation thereto." Katherine suggested we should look to see if we can modernize our warrant, if not this year maybe for next year.

The group discussed Select Board and Finance Committee reports at the beginning of the ATM meeting and a zoning bylaw explanation by the Planning Board.

Motion: Katherine moved to approve the Special Town Meeting warrant to post. Second by Jeff. Unanimous vote.

4. Town Coordinator Update:

Discussion:

- Michele sent a reply letter that town counsel composed to the individual who filed an appeal with the Sec. of State's office for public records for the police with a copy sent to the Public Records Officer at the Sec. of State's office. The individual responded he was appealing again.
- A copy of a letter was sent to the Select Board by the Building Inspector for the property at 581 West Leyden Road. If the building inspector does not hear back from the property owner, he may refer to the Select Board for further action.
- Ginny Rockwood has agreed to be constable for the special and annual town meetings.

6. Select Board Updates

Discussion:

- Jeff reported he watched the video of the Bernardston town meeting and noticed the superintendent did speak at Bernardston's town meeting. She stated it was the law, superintendents are allowed to speak at annual town meetings.
- Jeff questioned whether we would have paper ballots for our town meetings. The group decided, yes.
- Katherine had questions on how to handle the six-town report, what handouts we will have for the Medicare article and the planning board bylaws. Group decided to have handouts for all 3 at the town meeting.

- Katherine noticed in the budget there is only $900 for school committee stipends but this does not include FCTS school committee.

Action: Michele will call Jerry Levine and see if he ever received.

- Katherine asked Michele to write a letter to Eversource to tell them there has to be better communication on road closures and electrical outages.
- Katherine noticed Jo Comerford is visiting libraries, is she coming to ours?

Action: Michele will ask librarian.

Katherine spoke to town counsel about sharing a town clerk, tax collector and treasurer. Donna said no you cannot share. There must be checks and balances. The person must be employed by each town. You cannot have an IMA, the positions must be appointed or elected.

7. Public Comments

None

8. Agenda Planning

- Run through of town meetings with moderator at town hall.

Next Meeting: May 11, 2026, at 9:00 am

Meeting Adjournment

Motion: Jeff moved to adjourn at 7:01 pm **2nd** Katherine **Vote**:Unanimous

Submitted By: Michele Giarusso