

TOWN OF WELD

23 MILL STREET

P. O. BOX 87

WELD, MAINE 04285-0087

Phone: 207-585-2348 Fax 207-585-2540

e-mail: townclerk@weld-maine.org

Website – weld-maine.org

Meeting Minutes

Board/Committee: Select Board

Date: April 21, 2026

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Town Hall Multi-Purpose Room

1. Call to Order

Meeting called to order by Lisa Miller with the Pledge of Allegiance.

2. Members Present

- Lisa Miller (Chair)
- Steve Conant
- Dina Walker

3. Members Absent

None

4. Others Present

- Robert Jackson (Buildings & Grounds)
- Corey Hutchinson (Fire Chief)
- Carol Conant (Planning Board)
- Barbi Castonguay (Website Administrator)
- Colleen Stewart (Treasurer)
- Lise Bofinger
- Becky Vining

- Laurie Pratt

5. Approval of Previous Minutes

March 17, 2026 Minutes:

- Motion: Steve Conant moved to accept the March 17 minutes as amended by Dina Walker
- Second: Dina Walker
- Vote: Approved unanimously

March 27, 2026 Minutes:

- Motion: Steve Conant moved to accept the March 27 minutes with changes as proposed
- Second: Dina Walker
- Vote: Approved unanimously

6. Old Business

Department Updates

- **Buildings & Grounds:** New employee Jacob hired; equipment pricing updated with one item down \$800, trailer price unchanged, mileage increased \$300
- **Fire Department:** Met with two architectural firms (WBRC and Plymouth Clement Engineering) regarding new fire station plans; received over \$10,000 in new radios with \$5,000 grant funding from Petersburg field grant; exploring EMS partnerships

Warrant Articles Update

- Draft articles circulated, sent to auditor Peter Hall and MMA for review
- Discussion tabled pending feedback from reviewers

7. New Business

Permit Fee Schedule Increase

- CEO and Planning Board proposed fee increases to reflect time spent on applications
- Fees will help offset town expenses and ensure CEO can visit all application sites
- Motion: Dina Walker moved to approve the permit fee schedule as proposed by Planning Board and CEO
- Second: Steve Conant
- Vote: Approved unanimously

Tree Removal - Town Hall Parking Lot

- Five trees leaning toward parking lot identified as safety concern

- Trees appear to be on town property based on survey markers
- Action item: Robert Jackson to contact neighboring property owner for confirmation
- Removal to proceed once boundary confirmed

Email Address Policy

- Currently 17 people with weld-maine.org addresses at \$8.40/month each (\$1,713/year)
- Proposed policy: Department heads and committee chairs retain municipal email addresses; committee members use numbered Gmail accounts for municipal business
- Gmail accounts subject to Freedom of Access Act requirements
- Dina Walker to draft formal policy

Website Improvements

Recording Links:

- Motion: Steve Conant moved to approve \$62.50 to add meeting recording links to current website
- Second: Dina Walker
- Vote: Approved unanimously

WordPress Migration:

- Proposal to migrate to WordPress: \$300 first year, \$330 second year (current cost ~\$700/year)
- Decision tabled pending review of current contract termination clauses

2024 Financial Audit

- Motion: Steve Conant to approve 2024 financial audit
- Second: Dina Walker
- Vote: Approved unanimously

Training Budget Policy

- Recommended policy discussion: Training must pertain to a person's job responsibilities
- General Government training budget of \$1,000 being quickly utilized.
- Volunteers and employees may pay personally for non-job-related training, but through the Town's MMA membership

Alcohol Permit - Town Hall Rental

- Request for beer and wine service at May 16 remembrance gathering
- Motion: Steve Conant to approve serving of beer and wine on May 16

- Second: Dina Walker
- Vote: Approved unanimously

8. Public Hearing / Public Comment

Comments received regarding transfer station services and concerns about service reliability.

9. Motions, Seconds, and Votes

All motions and votes documented in respective sections above.

10. Conditions of Approval

- Tree removal contingent on property boundary confirmation
- Website migration pending contract review

11. Action Items / Follow-Up

1. Robert Jackson: Contact neighbor regarding tree boundary confirmation
2. Dina Walker: Draft email address policy
3. Staff: Review the current website contract for termination clauses
4. Carol Cochran: Notify permit applicant of alcohol approval for May 16 event
5. Continue research on transfer station service alternatives
6. Barbi Castonguay: Track personal training expenses for budget planning

12. Select Board Liaison Appointments (2026-2027)

Motion:

Second:

Vote:

- **Fire Department & General Government:** Lisa Miller
- **Public Works & Transfer Station:** Steve Conant
- **General Assistance:** Dina Walker

13. Other Business

- RSU 9 budget warrant signed by Select Board
- Announcement: Debbie Smith resigning from RSU 9 School Board; Select Board will appoint replacement upon formal notification

14. Next Meeting

Date: May 19, 2026

Time: 5:30 PM

Location: Town Hall Multi-Purpose Room

15. Adjournment

- Motion: Steve Conant
- Second: Dina Walker
- Vote: Approved unanimously

Minutes prepared from meeting recording and by Otter.AI, reviewed for accuracy by the Town Clerk, and approved by the Select Board. Some specific details marked "to be confirmed" due to audio clarity.