

TOWN OF GREENSBORO, VERMONT
MARCH 3, 2026 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING – MINUTES

MacNeil, Chair of the Selectboard, asked the audience to stand and give Tim Nisbet, our Moderator for 47 years, a Standing Ovation.

The legal voters of the Town of Greensboro are hereby warned and notified to meet at the Highland Center for the Arts in said Town, on March 3, 2026, at 10:00 a.m. to transact the following business:

Article 1 will be voted by Australian ballot on Tuesday, March 3, 2026, at the Highland Center for the Arts. Polls will be open from 10 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Article 1: To elect the following Town Officers (**VOTED BY AUSTRALIAN BALLOT**):

Moderator for a term of 1 year
Town Clerk for a term of 3 years
Selectboard Member for a term of 3 years
Selectboard Member for a term of 2 years
Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of 1 year
Cemetery Commissioner for a term of 3 years
Library Trustee for a period of 1 year
Library Trustee for a period of 3 years

The Moderator noted that Article 1 will be voted on by Australian Ballot.

Article 2: To take action on the Town of Greensboro annual printed report.

Larry Lumsden moved to accept the printed report. Mike Metcalf seconded.
Jennifer Ranz asked if accepting the article meant accepting as written or correcting the errors.
Penny Bretschneider asked if we were agreeing to take action or accepting.
Tim Brennan stated that we were accepting it with typos, etc.
MacNeil noted that the two Library Trustees being voted on were for a period of 3 years.
Gary Circosta stated that there were too many errors to correct, we should vote down all money articles, including the HERF, Capital Budget and hold a special town meeting after errors are corrected.
Tim Brennan stated that we vote on each of the financials separately.
Davis Barnett stated that the Audit was made public on February 26, 2026. Since we did not know the financials, the board should re-work the budget so all knew where the money was going and coming from.
Tim Nisbet stated that the budget should be discussed under Article 9. At this time, we're considering corrections to the town report.
Jennifer Ranz stated she agreed with Gary. Who changed the accounting methods, and why? With the discrepancies, the financials are meaningless.
Nancy Reige asked who did the audit.
Tim Brennan stated that Pace & Hawley had done the previous audits but would not be able to continue doing this for the town.
Tim Brennan stated the Board searched for a new auditor since August of 2025, many were contacted and not available, but finally the town came to an agreement with Sullivan & Powers. They advised the town to switch from accrual to a modified cash basis.
Karl Stein called the question.

Tim Nisbet read the question. Article passed on a voice vote.

Mike Metcalf proceeded with the Greensboro Award. Mike read his tribute to Nat and Cilla Smith noting that Nat has been a member of the DRB and the Greensboro Fire Dist. #1 Board for many years and Cilla is the “sparkplug” for the Ladies Walking Group.

Article 3: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro authorize property a tax exemption for the “Ballfield” property identified as parcel ID 005-0002 for a one-year period (1). This will eliminate the municipal property tax due. However, the amount due for education taxes will still need to be raised and will be included in our Local Agreement Rate.

Nanomi Ranz-Schleifer moved and Ellen Celnik seconded.

Article passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Article 4: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro appropriate the following sums to the agencies listed below?	
NEK Council on Aging	\$1,000
AWARE	\$2,000
Cabot Neighbors in Action	\$650
Caledonia Home Health	\$1,350
Clarina Howard Nichols Center	\$1,500
Craftsbury Community Care Center	\$10,500
Craftsbury Saplings	\$500
4 Seasons of Early Learning	\$9,500
Greensboro Nursing Home	\$25,951.98
Greensboro Swim Program	\$4,000
Hardwick Area Food Pantry	\$2,500
Lamoille Family Center	\$1,000
NEK Human Services	\$1,524
NEK Learning Services	\$300
North Country Animal League	\$600
Orleans County Historical Society	\$700
Orleans County Citizens Advocacy	\$800
Red Cross	\$250
Rural Community Transit	\$1,431
Salvation Farms	\$750
Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$210
Rural Arts Collaborative	\$3,500
Vermont Center for Rural Development	\$500
Total	\$71,016.98

NEK Agency on Aging: Question was what do they do? Janny Johnston reported that they run the meals on wheels and offer services to people in need.

Clarina Howard Nichols Center. Lise Armstrong asked what they do for Greensboro. Mavis offered that they work with AWARE for domestic violence. Christine Armstrong moved to rescind this \$1,500 appropriation. Andy Hunt seconded.

Penny Bretschneider stated that since AWARE does not have a shelter they rely on the Clarina Howard Nichols Center.

Bobbie Nisbet agrees with Penny, Clarina Howard Nichols Center offers different services than AWARE, such as cell phones, etc. They work together because of the large need.

Peter Romans stated they were an amazing service, if only one person is served it's a small price to pay.

Tim Nisbet noted that the motion was to drop from \$1,500 to \$0, so a no vote would be to keep the appropriation at \$1,500.

The motion failed unanimously on a voice vote.

Craftsbury Saplings. Andy Hunt asked what it did.

Judy Carpenter stated it was a community operated preschool/daycare serving Greensboro families near Craftsbury.

Jed Feffer asked why the large difference in the appropriation for Craftsbury Saplings and the 4 Seasons of Early Learning.

Judy said that Saplings asks for much more funding from Town of Craftsbury. The 4 Seasons cares for babies, Saplings does not.

Michelle LaFlam stated that they have asked for the same amount for 15 years to help supplement the property taxes and the food program.

Greensboro Nursing Home. Bill Rogers, President of the GNH Board stated that the appropriation funds were usually equal to the property taxes the amount from the previous year.

Bobbie Nisbet stated that the Greensboro Nursing Home pays the taxes and the support they care for our elders on a thin budget.

Mike Metcalf stated that it is structured this way because if they paid the taxes, they can pass the cost on to Medicare.

Alice Perron stated our highest needs are for children and elderly.

Penny Bretschneider offered that it was a non-profit nursing home.

Swim Program. Liz Baum stated that this is a 3-generation swim program that is free to town residents.

Stephanie Cravedi stated that it is crucial that everyone learn how to swim.

Liz Baum said the adult swim program had lower enrollment, please get the word out so more can come.

Food Pantry: Alice Fleeer thanked the Town for their continued support.

Liz Baum stated that it was a tough winter for people and choices between food and heat make these donations important.

Tim Brennan stated he had volunteered for the Food Pantry if there is a need, he recommended that others volunteer.

Orleans County Advocacy. Stephanie Cravedi asked who could speak to this.

Janney Johnston offered that they assist individuals with disabilities.

Tim Brennan reminded folks that all appropriation applications have been available on the town website.

Rural Community Transit. Jennifer Lucas asked why the increase.

Tim Brennan said that it was adjusted for the level of use the previous year.

Salvation Farms. Kim stated that they delivered many pounds of veggies and cheese to the Giving Closet and it was well received.

Judy Carpenter explained that it was not an actual farm, but a gleaning program on area farms.

Rural Arts Collaborative. Nancy Riege asked what does it serve in Greensboro?

Beth Meacham stated that Rural Arts serves across the school district, puts on summer children's programs, intergenerational programs, art-based instruction.

Moderator asked for vote. Article approved by unanimous voice vote.

Article 5: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro approve the following Special Appropriation requests listed below?	
Greensboro Conservation Commission	\$3,000
Greensboro Free Library	\$50,000
Greensboro Historical Society	\$6,000
Caspian Lake Beach	\$4,750
Greensboro Recreation Committee	\$2,000
Total	\$65,750

Chris Steel explained that the conservation commission planted the pollinator bed at the Greensboro Trail head, does wildlife programs and a wildlife watch.

Carol Fairbank asked if their appropriation will be used to pay for glyphosate treatment of knotweed.

Questions on the recommendation of stem injection of knotweed. Glyphosate should not be applied next to waterways.

Nancy Riege expressed that the use of glyphosate could cause erosion, needs further discussion and research.

Ellen Celnk said the injections are localized.

Karl Stein stated he supports the Conservation Commission and would like to hear if they are willing to have more discussion about glyphosate.

Penny Bretschneider added she applauds people who are serving on the commission, but we need more research.

Mateo Kehler stated there were 94,000 acres of GMO crops sprayed with glyphosate, this knotweed stem injection is an extremely minor amount. We are fighting knotweed also and it's a relentless war.

Dave Kelley and Jed Feffer noted that they've seen damage to fisheries and waterways.

Will Marlier said they have spent years looking into invasive species, they are not easy to remove, can be managed by hand pulling, but is a year's long process. We should support a wide range of management practices.

Greensboro Free Library: Jennifer Lucas acknowledged this is a \$6,000 increase, with an overall \$21,000 payroll increase including a bookkeeper and more paid persons because volunteers are down.

Greensboro Historical Society: BJ Gray thanked the town of continued support for our history. This year's exhibit is "The Home Front".

Caspian Lake Beach: John Schweizer explained that the beach is owned by the Town of Hardwick utilizing a joint commission with Hardwick. He moved to increase the appropriation amount to match Hardwick's \$4,700, it should be increased by \$150. Mark Snyder seconded. Amendment passed by unanimous voice vote.

Nancy Reige asked why no trash cans at the beach. John Schweizer explained they are matching what the State parks do: carry in, carry out.

Ken Johnston asked about the dam at the beach. John Schweizer stated that Hardwick wants to get rid of the dam. If Greensboro was to take the dam over, Hardwick might throw in the beach. But there is liability issue that would come with dam ownership. The State of Vermont declared the dam unsafe and inadequate.

Judy Carpenter offered that Stew Arnold came to the Selectboard to set up a task force to look into the dam.

Recreation Committee: Tracy Collier asked what was the difference between the regular appropriations and the Special Appropriations. MacNeil offered that the groups in the 5 Special appropriations serve Greensboro directly.

Vote called, \$65,600 as amended passed unanimously on a voice vote.

Article 6: Shall the voters approve an Appropriation request from the Greensboro Energy & Climate Action Committee for \$1,000 (One Thousand Dollars)?

Naomi Ranz-Schleifer moved, Beth Meacham seconded.

Naomi felt the committee brings lots of grant money into town. Beth offered that they brought experts in energy and educational programs and will use some of these funds to create a lending library for energy efficiency tools.

Passed by unanimous voice vote.

Article 7: Shall the voters approve an Appropriation request from the Greensboro Community Meals program for \$4,800 (Four Thousand Eight Hundred Dollars)?

Ed Sunday-Winters stated that this meal has become a robust gathering, made possible with strong leadership and volunteers. If you've not been, go, it's a beautiful thing. It's like town meeting but with no podium. You meet people you may not know. It benefits the fabric of our community. A place to talk with neighbors.

Ellen Celnik thought it was a wonderful idea, but not clear as to what the mission was. Food insecurity? Get people together? Also, maybe the group cannot afford weekly meals, you could have two meals a month instead of weekly. The Food Pantry only gets \$2,500 vs. this \$4,800, kind of an imbalance.

Liz Steel stated that the Community Garden donates produce to the meals.

Nichole Mann asked if it was a non-profit to accept donations. The answer was no.

Michael Malick offered that it was a great way to build community and heal.

Nancy Reige said she supports the meal but asking the taxpayers to fund \$4,800 is hard. The meal should be

funded by private donations and grants.

Alice Perron seconded Nancy's remarks. This is a rough year, but who is coming to the dinners? We have people in town who have to go to the food pantry, that's where the need is.

Valdine Hall called the question, Karl Stein seconded.

A ballot vote was requested. The Article was voted down (102 votes cast. Yes 50, No 51, blank ballot 1).

Lunch at 12:15 p.m., reconvened at 1:15 p.m.

Tim Nisbet asked for a round of applause for Annalise for the fabulous lunch.

Tim Nisbet introduced Leanne Harple, our state representative.

Leanne explained what she was doing for her constituents in the Legislature, she is on the House Education Committee. She is working to protect small elementary schools. She supports a bill making it illegal for law enforcement officials to make arrests wearing masks and supports vaccinations being recommended on a medical basis, not political.

Rosann Hickey stated that we need our local school boards, not huge staff at the supervisory unions.

Consolidate supervisory unions. Save the school lunch program. Mental health services for kids should come from the general budget, not school budgets. Health care costs are high, should pass universal health care.

Article 8: Shall the voters approve an Appropriation request from Caspian Arts for \$1,000 (One Thousand Dollars)?

Judy Carpenter moved, Chris Steel seconded.

Isa Oehry represented Caspian Arts. She explained that it was started by Judy Dales. They redid the Grange, a town owned building. They held the first Greensboro Community Arts Fest on the Village Green. This funding will help bring it back this summer, just asking for a little help.

Jed Feffer asked if they got outside help, a sponsor.

Isa said they would not be opposed to an outside sponsor!

Article 8 passed on a voice vote.

Article 9: Shall the voters approve the proposed town expenditures budget in the amount of \$2,492,999.29 for the fiscal year July 1, 2026, to June 30, 2027? This amount contains the necessary amounts required by law and includes the appropriations listed in Article 4 and Article 5 above.

Tim Nisbet stated the final adjustments to the budget amount:

\$2,492,999.27

- 4,800.00 Community Meals Appropriation that failed

+ 150.00 Caspian Beach Appropriation increased by this amount

\$2,488,349.27 is the final amount for Article 9.

Davis Barnet stated he wanted an accountant involved with the budget, he felt there was no solid footing on this budget.

Ellen stated they had budget meetings and informational meetings open to the public.

Penny Bretschneider called the question. Hands were counted and 74 voted. 50 voted in favor, 24 against. Motion to call the question passed.

Vote on Article 9: Tim Nisbet announced 81 paper ballots cast: Yes 55, No 26. Article 9 passed.

Article 10: Shall the voters approve transferring the surplus, if any, from the current fiscal year (2026) Highway Fund into the Highway Equipment Reserve Fund (HERF)?

Judy Carpenter Moved, MacNeil seconded. Article passed by voice vote

Article 11: Shall the voters authorize a municipal property tax exemption for the Caspian Beach property, owned by the Town of Hardwick, for a period of 5 years, including an exemption for the FY25 municipal taxes?

Judy Carpenter moved, MacNeil seconded.

Peter Romans asked if Hardwick paid 2025 property taxes. Answer was yes, and this is to reimburse them.

Greensboro has never billed Hardwick for municipal taxes, but we had to this year due to a technicality. We are not intending for them to pay municipal taxes on the beach property.

Davis Barnet asked if this could instead approved in 1-year increments.

MacNeil stated it is for 5-year increments only, not yearly.

Jennifer Lucas asked if it should be FY26, not 25. It was decided that it should be FY26.

Karl Stein moved to amend the FY25 to FY26, John Schweizer seconded. Unanimously approved.

Larry Lumsden called the question, Lynette Courtney seconded.

Article 11 passed on voice vote.

Article 12: Shall the voters allow individuals who are residents of the State to be elected to the office of Town Clerk as provided in 17 V.S.A. § 246(a)(1)?

John Schweizer moved, MacNeil seconded.

Gary Circosta stated that he was not a fan, why are we doing this now?

Karl Stein stated that by going to someone from another town, we would lose historic knowledge.

Judy Carpenter stated that we had had difficulties finding an assistant town clerk who might want the job eventually.

Voice vote: Yes 31, No 23. Article 12 passed

Sheriff Harlow spoke and thanked residents for their continued support and said she was always open to communications.

Article 13: Shall the voters establish an Emergency Reserve Fund to be used for unanticipated operational and emergency situations in accordance with 24 V.S.A. § 2804? (Such a fund is consistent with sound financial management practices by sustaining the stability of the Town tax rate and reducing the need for short-term borrowing. Any expenditure from the Emergency Reserve Fund shall require approval of a majority of selectboard members at a duly warned selectboard meeting. Expenditure of the Emergency Reserve Fund for any other purpose shall require the authorization of a majority of the voters present at an annual or special town meeting.)

MacNeil moved, Tim Brennan seconded.

Davis Barnett asked, if we already have cash in the fund why do we need a second slush fund.

Ellen objected to the word 'slush'.

Tim Brennan explained that this language came from VLCT and gives the selectboard flexibility to act quickly in an emergency. But new legislation has given selectboards more discretion to spend fund balances in case of an emergency, so this Article is not really necessary now.

Judy Carpenter stated that the excess FEMA money would be used to start the fund, so not to impact taxpayers.

Nicole Mann asked if the funds would be in an interest-bearing account.

Ellen Celnik stated it was fiscally good to identify what the money is for, in this case it is for emergencies.

Gary Circosta stated the language is important. He felt that 3 members of the Selectboard could use it for anything because the Selectboard has a lot of flexibility.

Renee Circosta stated that if Tim Brennan was indifferent, residents should vote no. It adds complexity to the finances.

Jeffrey Frankel asked if it is being established with money available now, if we expect to maintain it going forward?

Tim Brennan stated that if, in the future, this was funded with a transfer from the general fund, it would impact the tax rate.

Judy Carpenter thanked Josh for his work on getting the FEMA funds which may not be available in the future.

Mike Metcalf stated we could table Article 13 and 14.

Larry Lumsden called the question, Peter Romans seconded. Unanimous voice vote.

Vote: Yes 4, the rest against by a show of hands. Article 13 defeated.

Article 14: (If Article 13 above passes) Shall the Town of Greensboro move \$50,000 from the 2023 FEMA grant funds to the Emergency Reserve Fund?

Article 14 not considered due to the voting down of Article 13.

Article 15: Shall the Town provide notice of availability of the annual audit report by publishing notice in a locally circulated newspaper at least 30 days before the annual meeting instead of distributing the audit report to the voters of the town pursuant to 24 V.S.A. §1692(a)?

Tim Brennan moved, MacNeil seconded

Tim stated that printing and sending to all voters is expensive. The State allows this provision, to distribute the audit in a contemporary way such as electronically.

Karl asked if it would be available on request to be send out. Kim said it would be.

Gary Circosta stated he wanted the audit sent to all taxpayers.

Jennifer Lucas asked if the FY26 audit would be available before next year's budget is complete.

Tim Brennan stated he would do his best to work with the auditor to make it available. The auditor was complementary to the staff for their work on the FY25 audit. Nathan was late on the FY24 audit, which delayed the FY25 audit by Sullivan & Powers.

Lorelei Wheeler asked if a postcard could be sent out notifying voters of availability, could be an economical

way to get the word out.

Tim Brennan replied yes, this could be done.

Article 15 passed on a voice vote.

Article 16: Shall the voters approve changing the term of the Collector of Delinquent Taxes from a 1 year to a 3-year term to begin on Town Meeting Day 2027?

Will Marlier moved, MacNeil seconded.

Article 16 passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Article 17: Shall the voters of the Town of Greensboro approve having the Town Treasurer serve as collector of current taxes and set the tax due date of November 5, 2026? Taxes shall be delinquent if not received in the office of the Town Treasurer by Thursday, November 5, 2026, by 4:00 p.m.

MacNeil Moved, Judy Carpenter seconded.

Article 17 passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Article 18: Shall the Town approve the following resolution:

RESOLUTION DECLARING THE TOWN OF GREENSBORO TO BE A WILDLIFE FRIENDLY/ANTI-COAGULANT RODENTICIDE FREE COMMUNITY

WHEREAS, wildlife is a necessary component of a healthy ecosystem, and

WHEREAS, extensive research has documented that Anti-Coagulant Rodenticide causes the cruel and unnecessary suffering and death of non-target wildlife and such as Raptors, Fishers and Bobcats, and

WHEREAS, alternative effective deterrents which are safe for wildlife exist and are readily available, and

WHEREAS, the monetary cost of maintaining Wildlife Friendly landscapes may be less expensive than costs associated with use of Anti-Coagulant Rodenticides.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE ITs RESOLVED by the Town Meeting of the Town of Greensboro, Vermont, that the Town of Greensboro is hereby declared a Wildlife Friendly Community by encouraging the adoption of policies and practices that protect and support Wildlife by minimizing the sale and use of Anti-Coagulant Rodenticides.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Town of Greensboro urges all Greensboro property owners, property renters, residents, businesses, institutions, and neighborhoods to become more Wildlife friendly by committing to the following practices:

1. Stopping the sale of Anti-Coagulant Rodenticides by local businesses,
2. Avoiding use of Anti-Coagulant Rodenticides on Greensboro properties whenever possible
3. Using alternative rodent control solutions such as:
 - a. Non-toxic fertility control products to decrease mice and rat numbers,
 - b. Electric traps,
 - c. Covered snap traps as uncovered snap traps can main and harm other non-target animals,
 - d. Non-toxic rodent repelling pouches.
4. Avoiding the use of sticky traps or glue traps as they cause unnecessary suffering and other non-target animals get caught in them such as songbirds and pets,
5. Creating habitat friendly to native predators that predate on vermin, for example, by installing raptor perches and owl boxes,

6. Securing metal feed and garbage containers and cleaning up any spillage that might attract vermin. This resolution is proposed by the Greensboro Conservation Commission, is non-binding, and acts as a guide for the Town of Greensboro to promote practices and activities that create a Wildlife Friendly and Anti-Coagulant Rodenticide Free Community.

Karl Stein moved, Penny Bretschneider seconded.

Karl stated that yes, rodenticide kills mice but also harms animals that eat the mouse.

Penny Bretschneider recommended using a product called VAMOOSE instead.

Karl said the way we determine the tick population is based on carriers of the tick population such as mice. You want the population low but not gone so the predators can be fed. There are some non-rodenticide coagulants out there, look for those. They do kill mice, yet are safe for predators.

Mark Snyder stated that poisoning mice is a bad answer to a problem. If things are kept clean, neat and tidy, mice will not invade your house, they'll have nothing to eat.

Article 18 passed on a unanimous voice vote.

Article 19: To transact any other business that may legally come before the meeting.

Tim Nisbet thanked the taxpayers for the 47 years he has been moderator, it has been fun.

John Schweizer stated the Funky Fourth will be hopefully a 3-day event, Friday July 3, Saturday July 4th for the parade and events on the green, and Sunday July 4th. It will be a celebration of democracy. Bread & Puppet may not be able to be there.

Karl Stein stated there was going to be meetings on cyanobacteria in May, with a panel to discuss it. Especially important for people with ponds. It will be advertised on Front Porch Forum, the Gazette and the town website. Also, rabies is an issue, people can report sightings to himself and animal control officer Kevin Rich. Also, please write to your legislators asking them to support the vaccination of wildlife.

Tim Nisbet said that Hardwick Rescue Squad has a task force for their new facility. Accepting donations of all amounts.

Dave Kelley asked if anyone had old photos for the Historical Society to use.


Mary Metcalf informed all of NEK Broadband and it coming further into Greensboro

Rob Brigham stated that the pickleball group had to leave the elementary school gym, the group is wanting to use the 3rd floor of the Town Hall.

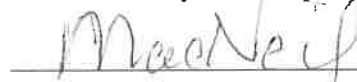
Karl Stein stated that we need to speak to the Fire Marshal. There was a report for the RuralEdge group indicating several violations. Also need inspection from an architect, ADA, and a structural analysis.

MacNeil stated that he has been in touch with an engineer that is working with the Rescue Squad on their facility.

Larry Lumsden moved to Adjourn. Town Meeting adjourned unanimously at 3:50 p.m.



Tim Nisbet, Moderator



Selectboard member



Kim Greaves, Town Clerk