Minutes of November 12, 2025 Meeting
Warren Select Board
6:30 PM
-draft-

Members Present: Camilla Behn, Harvey Blake, Devin Klein Corrigan, Joel Taplin, Kalee Whitehouse
Staff Present: Brent Adams, Town Clerk; Rebecca Campbell, Town Administrator; Dayna Lisaius, Town Treasurer; Ruth Robbins, Zoning Administrator; Marie Schmukal, Library Director
Others Present: Laura Arnesen, Perry Bigelow, Michael Bridgewater, Jim Crafts, Craig Eilers, Sam Krotinger, Renate, Jen Watkins, Peter Oliver

Ms. Klein Corrigan called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm. The meeting was held in person at the Warren Town Offices and online via Zoom.

Public Comment
Nobody requested time to address the Board.

Agenda Changes
No changes were made to the agenda.

Road Access Permit
Ruth presented information about the application, explaining that the slope as the driveway leaves the road will be leveled.

The logistics of Access Permit approvals were discussed, including whether a Selectboard site visit is required before Selectboard approval and how post installation inspection is completed. Ms. Campbell will look into this matter

MOTION: *Ms. Whitehouse moved to approve the Road Access Permit for 845 Cider Hill Road, subject to the condition that the driveway be leveled as outlined. The motion was seconded by Ms. Behn, and passed unanimously.*

Lincoln Gap Traffic Calming Follow-up
Ms. Klein Corrigan apologized to the Lincoln Gap residents present for not having the agreed upon signs installed yet.

Mr. Krotinger indicated that he believes the signage would not be much of a deterrent to speeders, and noted that the work that has been undertaken has not noticeably decreased the amount of speeding that occurs on the Road. He advocated for the installation of speed bumps as the best solution.

Ms. Arnesen voiced her opposition to speed bumps, indicating that she prefers the electronic speed signs, and suggesting a textured road surface as a compromise solution. Mr. Bigelow concurred that the electronic radar signs are effective to some degree, and spoke of too much signage being 'visual pollution,' although he noted that creative signage may have more of an effect than that containing standard wording.

Mr. Bridgwater spoke of the increased traffic on the Road, and noted that 70% of the drivers reach excessive speeds, both local residents and visitors. He also outlined the narrowness of the roadway and lack of space for pedestrians. Mr. Bridgewater indicated that the Road's residents have been working to have this matter addressed for seven years, that signage is ineffective, and that police presence would need to be consistent in order to cause any reduction in speeding. He then outlined the use of speed decks and rumble strips which he had experienced as effective measures, in areas where regular snowplowing was required.

Board members spoke of their preference to have more data related to the effectiveness of speed bumps/tables, which will not be available for Warren until next year when the Village speed controls are reinstalled. They also spoke of speeding being a problem on multiple roads in Town, and that what is decided as an approach must be used uniformly where there are speeding issues. It was also explained that more information is needed related to the impacts of speed bumps on snow plowing. Increasing the number of Sheriff Department patrol hours is likely not possible, as that Department does not have additional hours to provide; ticketing by a constable was raised as a potential solution, although it was noted that there are drawbacks to that as well.

It was agreed to install the signage as planned at this point, those interested in participating in determining appropriate locations were asked to contact Ms. Campbell.

It was also agreed that further data would be helpful, and suggested that a task force potentially be formed to work on addressing this issue.

Health Insurance Discussion

Ms. Campbell outlined that the premiums for the current employee health coverage are increasing significantly (12.1%), and that the other options being discussed call for joining the health insurance exchange and opting for either a BCBS gold plan or an MVP plan, which would mean a 4.8% increase or a $10K decrease in premiums respectively. Mr. Eilers later explained that the savings for the latter are based upon the Town's costs, including the deductible amounts to be placed in the related HRA.

Mr. Eilers joined the meeting, and confirmed that the plans presented all provide the same level of coverage as is currently in place, and that the cost to employees will remain the same, with the Town covering increased deductibles and copays through the HRA. He explained that the impacts of joining the exchange and opting for MVP are primarily associated with chiropractic, physical therapy, and mental health visits, as those practitioners are able to bill individually rather than through a hospital with which they are affiliated. Mr. Eilers also noted that the ACA outlines coverage, and that the Town can opt to keep employee out of pocket costs at $0 by ensuring that enough is placed in the HRA.

It was pointed out that Dartmouth-Hitchcock will no longer be accepting MVP's Medicare Advantage after April 2026, Mr. Eilers noted he would look into this, and explained that MVP coverage for out of state visits is covered through Cigna.

Silver plan options were briefly reviewed, with it being outlined that there would be additional savings on the fixed costs, but with what would need to be placed in the HRA, expenditures would actually increase.

Ms. Lisaius noted that past experience points to the entire HRA amount not being used annually.

The Board asked that employees reach out to their providers for chiropractic, physical therapy, and mental health care to determine if they are in the MVP network.

The timing of the decision was discussed, and Mr. Eilers noted that mid-December would allow for ensuring that all logistics and paperwork are completed before the beginning of 2026.

Blueberry Lake Cross Country Pedestrian Signs

Jen Watkins explained that when she was recently at a DRB hearing regarding offering food and beverages at the Cross Country Center, it was discussed that some signage be put in place to provide for better safety when visitors are crossing the road between the parking and the Center's building.

Board members explained that a crosswalk is needed in order to install pedestrian crossing signs, and that it is too late in the year to have that work completed. They indicated that Ms. Watkins is able to install signage on her property as suitable. The option of installing a flag crossing system was suggested as well.

Tax Sale Payment Request

Ms. Lisaius explained that, by statute, attorneys who work on tax sale proceedings are compensated at a rate of 15% of the outstanding principle tax amount owned on the property. However, Alpine Village tax sales are often due to very small amounts owed, an example this year of being less than $10. This would only allow for a minimal amount of compensation for the title search, potential probate logistics, and other work involved in a holding a tax sale for a property. Due to a recent such situation, the attorney working for Warren on tax sales has requested compensation in the $3500 - $5000 range. Ms. Lisaius explained that half of the penalty charged for delinquent taxes goes into the General Fund, and that this would be a suitable use of some of those monies. She noted that in the past, an amount to cover these expenses was budgeted for, but that this has not been the case recently.

Board members agreed that this compensation should be provided, but indicated that an agreement/engagement letter should be in place prior to any payment being made. Mr. Lisaius will communicate with the attorney and ensure that the necessary paperwork is provided, which should include outlining the tax due amount below which a sale is proposed to be compensated for at an hourly rate.

Town Administrator Update

Ms. Campbell reported on the following:

- The Regional Economic Development Grant, to cover energy upgrades for the East Warren Schoolhouse, was submitted last week, along with the wonderful letters of support which were provided.
- She has scheduled a budget kick-off meeting with all Department Heads on November 17, and will be emphasizing the need to keep costs in check.
- The scope of work for property management has been published in several venues, and emails sent to property managers.
- Work continues on setting up the NEMRC Planning and Zoning module.
- A site walk had been scheduled to take place early the following week at the intersection of Route 100 and North Main Street; this was discussed, and it was agreed to change the meeting to sometime in early December, and to arrange for its being held in mid-morning on a weekday or possibly on a weekend day.
- She is working on a form to handle requests from various parties for things they are seeking from the Town; she would like to have a discussion with the Board regarding a process to follow to determine how the submissions might be processed and to help prioritize requests.
- Some recent edits to the MOU with the School are being reviewed.
- Requests for Town Hall use are increasing, an update to the rental agreement is being drafted and a Board discussion of the vision for use of that building would be beneficial.

Town Garage Update

Ms. Behn reported that a meeting with Wiemann-Lamphere Architects and ReArch had taken place following the successful bond vote, and that they will primarily be working with Andrew Bombard to finalize the design of the garage. An updated timeline is being compiled, and the Board will be more actively involved in the process again once bids start coming in. Ms. Behn noted that she had emphasized at the meeting that the bond being passed does not mean that the full amount is to be spent, and that costs should be kept down where possible.

Other Business

Ms. Behn provided an update on the progress of LUDR revisions, indicating that the document will likely be ready for final editing in December and a Public Hearing in January.

Administrative Items

Ms. Schmukal answered some questions related to obtaining a permit for wine tasting at the Library.

MOTION: *A motion to approve the Single-use Library Malt Beverage Serving Permit for a wine tasting for Saturday December 6, 2025 passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve a First and Third Class Liquor License for The Reks passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve a Second Class Liquor License for The Reks passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve the payroll warrant in the amount of $30,234.30 passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve the accounts payable warrant in the amount of $163,690.73 passed unanimously.*

MOTION: *A motion to approve the minutes of October 28, 2025 passed unanimously.*

Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,
Carol Chamberlin

The Warren Selectboard

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Devin Klein Corrigan, Chair

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Camilla Behn, Vice Chair

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Kalee Whitehouse

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Joel Taplin

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Harvey Blake