

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A, Turners Falls and VIA ZOOM

Tuesday, March 16, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Matt Lord and Marina Goldman; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Executive Assistant Fern Smith; Planning Director Maureen Pollock; and RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto.

Selectboard Chair opens the meeting, including announcing that the meeting is being recorded and roll call taken

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meetings, March 2 and March 9, if available

- Approval for March 2 Minutes postponed
- Lord makes the motion to approve the March 9 minutes with the change to the last bullet. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye

Public Comment Period: Individuals will be limited to two (2) minutes each and the Selectboard will strictly adhere to time allotted for public comment

None

Use of Peskeompskut Park

Montague Community Band requests Use of Peskeompskut Park every Monday starting April 27; May 4, 11, 18; June 1, 8, 15, 22, 29; and July 6, 13, 20, 27, 2026 from 6:30 PM to 9:15 PM (includes set-up and clean-up). August 3, 2026 will be a concert rain date.

Goldman makes the motion to approve the Use of Peskeompskut Park as presented. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Maureen Pollock, Director of Planning (10 minutes)

- **Special Article Request for \$7,500 to fund Arts and Culture**
 - Pollock and LoManto present the Special Article Request for \$7,500 to fund Arts and Culture.
 - A vote will be taken at the Wednesday Finance Committee meeting.
- **Debrief of Farren Property Technical Assistance Panel, next steps**
 - Pollock gives an overview of the Farren Property Technical Assistance Panel.
 - The next steps include the following:
 - Pollock, Ramsey, and Nolan-Zeller are scheduled to meet with Mass Housing Partnership to understand what the Subdivision Technical Assistance Program looks like and when we can start.
 - We will look at Town grant funding for site infrastructure.
 - We need to look at two site parcels that would be for development and what the costs are.
 - We need to consider what the management of the commercial space is.
 - Pollock will be reaching out to businesses in the region that have successfully expanded locations to gain some insight.
 - Pollock is in the process of connecting with some local food truck owners to hear their considerations.
 - This topic will be added to Planning Board's March 24th and the EDIC's March 26th meeting agendas.
 - Pollock will be doing a follow-up email to Montague residents to share meeting recordings.
 - The Panel is writing a formal report that will be more detailed, which we should get in the next one to three months.

Marina Goldman

Request to reconsider vote from 2/23/26 regarding Selectboard's adoption of the IHRA's definition of "antisemitism" and related terms

Goldman makes the motion to rescind the Selectboard of February 23, 2026 regarding the adoption of the three requests from the JFWM and all related actions and items. Seconded by Lord, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Lord - Aye

Town Administrator's Business

- **Upcoming Steps in the FY27 Budget/Town Meeting Process**
 - This Wednesday there is a joint meeting with the Finance Committee where the Operating Budget will be reviewed.
 - The Draft Warrant will hopefully be ready for review on Monday, the 30th.
 - The Warrant will hopefully be adopted and finalized by April 6th.
- **Library Vote Financing Presentation 3/17/2026 at the Gill-Montague Senior Center**

There will be a meeting tomorrow at the Gill-Montague Senior Center at 6:00 PM regarding the proposed Library Project.
- **Town Administrator appointed to Mass Municipal Association Municipal and Regional Policy Committee for Calendar Year 2026**

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Ramsey has been appointed to the Mass Municipal Association Municipal and Regional Policy Committee for Calendar Year 2026.

- **Discuss Legislative priorities in advance of visit from Senator Comerford on 3/30/26**
 - Ramsey lists and reviews the priorities of Montague's needs from the State:
 - **Reform Chapter 70 and municipal contribution formulas to support regional and rural districts**
 - **Increase Rural School Aid and School Regionalization incentives**
 - **Reform and fully fund the PILOT Program for State-owned land (support H.3032 / S.1939)**
 - **Support Farren Site Development and geographic equity in housing funding (H.1471 / S.958)**
 - **Increase Core Municipal Aid Accounts (UGGA, Circuit Breaker, Transportation reimbursements)**
 - Lord would like to reduce the items to three. He suggests telling Comerford that we want to advance on rural school aid and the Farren Development Site; and with regard to a third item, asking her where she thinks the biggest difference can be made.
 - Ramsey states that Montague will be hosting a legislative breakfast this Friday.
- **Topics not anticipated within 48-hour posting requirements**
None

Next Meetings:

Montague Selectboard and Finance Committee: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 6:00 PM via ZOOM

Selectboard: Monday, March 23, 2026 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

Lord makes the motion to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Lord - Aye, Goldman - Aye