

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

VIA ZOOM

Monday, June 29, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Meeting was opened at 6:30 PM. Present were Selectboard members Rich Kuklewicz, Marina Goldman, and Nate Card; Town Administrator Walter Ramsey; Executive Assistant Fern Smith; RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto; Airport Director Bryan Camden; Planning Director Maureen Pollock; Council on Aging Director Roberta Potter; FCRHA Director of Community Development Brian McHugh; Tree Committee Chair David Detmold; Tree Committee Secretary Jeff Warren; and Farmers Market Coordinator Jenny Vanderbilt.

Approve Minutes: Selectboard Meeting of June 15, 2026

Goldman makes the motion to approve the Minutes of June 15, 2026. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

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

• School Building Vote

Resident Aiden Paseek shares his perspective as a TF student on the School Building Vote.

• Debt Exclusion Vote

- Kuklewicz reads aloud a statement regarding the Debt Exclusion Vote.
- *Goldman makes the motion to authorize the statement from the Selectboard. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye*

Liquor License Hearing

Shiv Holdings Corp, d/b/a Food City, Nishantkumar Patel as manager has applied for a transfer of Section 15, package store Wine and Malt Beverages from Crooked River Corp, d/b/a Food City located at 250 Avenue A, Turners Falls, MA. Pledge of License/Inventory to the applicant's lender. No alterations to premise.

Goldman makes the motion to transfer the license as proposed, including the Pledge of Inventory and collateral as is noted on the application. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Licenses

• RiverCulture

- Suzanne LoManto seeks signatures on contracts between the Town of Montague and FirstLight Power for land use related to the following events co-sponsored by RiverCulture
 - 13th annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival: July 31 and August 1-2, 2026
 - Northeast Unity Car Show: Sunday, September 20, 2026
 - Seeks permission to close First Street between L Street and Unity Street to facilitate the same events sponsored by RiverCulture. Maps have been provided

Goldman makes the motion to approve the agreement with FirstLight Power for the 13th annual Pocumtuck Homelands Festival on July 31 and August 1-2, 2026; the permit for the Northeast Unity Car Show on Sunday, September 20, 2026; and the request for permission to close First Street between L Street and Unity Street to facilitate the same events sponsored by RiverCulture. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- RiverCulture requests the closure of the Shea parking lot from Avenue A to Cutlery parking lot from 4:00 to 10:00 PM for the purpose of projecting fireworks during the First Friday, July 3

Goldman makes the motion to approve the closure of the Shea parking lot from Avenue A to Cutlery parking lot from 4:00 to 10:00 PM for the purpose of projecting fireworks during the First Friday, July 3. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

• Montague Center Fire Department Association

Request to close Station Street from Main Street to School Street for the annual bonfire taking place at Montague Center Park on July 3, 2026 from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM

Goldman makes the motion to approve the request to close Station Street from Main Street to School Street for the annual bonfire taking place at Montague Center Park on July 3, 2026 from 3:00 PM to 9:00 PM. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

• Brian Westbrook, RPM Fest

Overview of RPM Fest, September 4-6, 2026 at the Millers Falls Rod and Gun Club

- Westbrook gives an overview of the RPM Fest.
- In response to a question by a resident regarding noise levels, Westbrook states that he will regularly be monitoring the decibel level at the perimeter around the Rod and Gun Club throughout the weekend.

• Montague Retreat Center, One Day Liquor License

- Request for One Day Beer & Wine Liquor License for Saturday, June 27, 2026 for a wedding

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Goldman makes the motion to approve the request for a One Day Beer & Wine Liquor License for Saturday, June 27, 2026 for a wedding. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Request for One Day Beer & Wine Liquor License for Saturday, July 4, 2026 (not on agenda)**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the request for a One Day Beer & Wine Liquor License for Saturday, July 4, 2026 pending the office receiving the appropriate certificates of insurance for the event. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Card, Goldman - Aye

Personnel Board

- **Airport**

Appoint Matthew Durham, FCTS Aviation Program, to Grounds Maintenance effective 7/1/2026, 40 hours per week, 3 months at \$15.50/hour

Goldman makes the motion to appoint Matthew Durham, FCTS Aviation Program, to Grounds Maintenance effective 7/1/2026, 40 hours per week, 3 months at \$15.50/hour. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Council on Aging**

Appoint Diana Pedrosa to Council on Aging Administrative Assistant, effective 7/7/2026, Grade H, Step 1, 15 hours per week at \$22.56/hour

Goldman makes the motion to appoint Diana Pedrosa to Council on Aging Administrative Assistant, effective 7/7/2026, Grade H, Step 1, 15 hours per week at \$22.56/hour. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Police Department**

- **Approve Updated Status Change Form 111F, for Cody Wells to return to work on 6/8/2026**

Card makes the motion to approve the Updated Status Change Form 111F, for Cody Wells to return to work on 6/8/2026. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye

- **Appoint Chief Jason Haskins to Constable for the Town of Montague, effective 7/1/2026 for a 1-year term, ending on 6/30/2027**

Card makes the motion to appoint Chief Jason Haskins to Constable for the Town of Montague, effective 7/1/2026 for a 1-year term, ending on 6/30/2027. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Card - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Department of Public Works**

Accept resignation of Tree Warden Jason Kingsbury, effective 7/1/2026

Goldman makes the motion to accept the resignation of Tree Warden Jason Kingsbury, effective 7/1/2026. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Committee Appointments**

- **Appoint Ashley Gough to Mass in Motion Initiative, effective 7/1/2026 for a 1-year term, ending on 6/30/2027**

Goldman makes the motion to appoint Ashley Gough to Mass in Motion Initiative, effective 7/1/2026 for a 1-year term, ending on 6/30/2027. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Appoint Walter Ramsey as Alternate to Franklin Regional Planning Advisory Board (FRPAB) effective 7/1/2026 for the remainder of the vacant term to expire 06/30/2027**

Goldman makes the motion to appoint Walter Ramsey as Alternate to Franklin Regional Planning Advisory Board (FRPAB) effective 7/1/2026 for the remainder of the vacant term to expire 06/30/2027. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

- **Nominate and Appoint Selectboard Member to Franklin Regional Council of Governments - Councilor, effective 7/1/2026 for a 1-year term, ending on 6/30/2027**

Kuklewicz makes the motion to nominate and appoint Nate Card to the Franklin Regional Council of Governments - Councilor, effective 7/1/2026 for a 1-year term, ending on 6/30/2027. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye

- **Nominate and Appoint Selectboard Member to Franklin Regional Transit Advisory Board, effective 7/1/2026 for 1 year term, ending on 6/20/2027**

Singleton clarifies that by law, the Selectboard Chair is automatically the representative to the FRTA.

- **To Approve Annual Appointments as set forth in the attached list**

- Kuklewicz reads aloud the Town of Montague 2026 Appointments.

- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the 1-year Annual Appointments as set forth in the attached list. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye*

- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the 3-year Annual Appointments as set forth in the attached list. Seconded by Goldman, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye.*

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- *Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the 5-year Annual Appointment as set forth in the attached list. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Kuklewicz - Aye, Card - Aye, Goldman - Aye,*

Brian McHugh, Director of Community Development

Review Final Quarterly Report for FY22.23 MONT CDBG Program activities and sign cover letter confirming approval of the Final Quarterly Report; and approve Final Grant Draw in the amount of \$87,203.60, and sign cover letter confirming that the amount of \$198.00 in uncommitted grant funds will not be drawn

Goldman makes the motion to accept the Final Quarterly Report for FY22.23 MONT CDBG Program activities and the sign cover letter confirming approval of the Final Quarterly Report; and to approve the Final Grant Draw in the amount of \$87,203.60, and to sign cover letter confirming that the amount of \$198.00 in uncommitted grant funds will not be drawn. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Maureen Pollock, Planning Director

Presentation of Turners Falls Wayfinding/Signage design concepts

- Jess Marsh from Hard Hand Signs reviews the Turners Falls Wayfinding/Signage design concepts.
- Pollock states that these are draft concepts, pending receiving a grant.
- There have been two public meetings; Pollock states they will continue with those, then come back to the Selectboard with the final design.
- Card suggests involving the Tech School in fabrication of the signs.
- Card expresses some concerns about the colors and makes some suggestions.
- Card suggests some auditory ways of wayfinding for folks that are visually impaired.

Tree Committee Business

- **Proposal for the Town to Seek Level 1 Designation for the Arbnet Arboretum Accreditation Program**
 - Millers Falls Resident and Tree Committee Secretary Jeff Warren states he feels it is appropriate to inventory the trees and present and recognize them as an arboretum.
 - The Tree Committee would like to develop a brochure that labels five trees in each of the Five Villages that are especially noteworthy to become iconic trees. We would be celebrating these species.
 - Card suggests looking into QGIS as well as putting together a plan for the street trees of the Town to encapsulate everything and make sure "everything is working together towards an ultimate goal."
- **Tree Committee recommendations regarding the Tree Warden Budget and Stipend**

Detmold summarizes the Tree Committee's recommendations:

 - The Tree Warden Stipend needs to be increased to be more realistic.
 - The Committee needs software for inventory purposes.
 - Two ash trees on Avenue A were taken down. One more needs to come out.
 - Trees by law cannot be taken down until after public is made aware via post.
 - The Tree Committee Budget needs to be increased.
 - The Tree Committee would like to be kept in the loop regarding construction projects that may affect the trees close to the working site.

Town Administrator's Business

- **Accept \$2,000 donation from Brickhouse Community Resources Center for the purpose of operating and improving the Great Falls Farmers Market, establish gift fund**

Goldman makes the motion to accept the \$2,000 donation from Brickhouse Community Resources Center for the purpose of operating and improving the Great Falls Farmers Market, and to establish a gift fund for said donation. Seconded by Kuklewicz, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Card - Aye
- **Execution of Payment Requisition No. 2 to Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Resources for Asset Management Grant**

Goldman makes the motion to execute Payment Requisition No. 2 to the Department of Environmental Protection Bureau of Water Resources for Asset Management Grant, and authorize the Chair to sign it. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Selectboard Strategic Planning Session (6/23/26) Recap**

Ramsey gives an overview of the Selectboard Strategic Planning Session, including reviewing a Draft of the FY27 Selectboard Priority Set:

 - 1) Coordinate Major Capital Building Decisions
 - 2) Move Transformative Redevelopment into Implementation
 - 3) Protect Long-Term Fiscal Sustainability

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- 4) Lead on Regional Services and Governance
- 5) Improve Public Communication and Resident Trust
- **Discussion of process for evaluating potential consolidation and shared service opportunities with Special Districts in Montague**
 - Ramsey suggests we set up a working group to discuss shared service opportunities with Special Districts in Montague.
 - Marina Goldman volunteers to be the Selectboard representative.
 - Ramsey will work on convening the group and identifying the scope.
- **Announcement: FirstLight - Turners Falls Power Canal service outage will begin on Sunday, 9/20/26 at 6:00 AM and end Saturday, 9/26/26 at 6:00 PM**

Ramsey makes an announcement from FirstLight: The annual Turners Falls Power Canal service outage will begin on Sunday, 9/20/26 at 6:00 AM and end Saturday, 9/26/26 at 6:00 PM.
- **Topics not anticipated within the 48-hour posting (*not on agenda*)**
 - **Room Tax**

We received our first payment from the Room Tax in the amount of \$3,263 (for the first quarter).
 - **Heat Wave**

We have an announcement on the website listing different facilities where residents can come in, get some water, and cool off.
 - **Lawn Sign Removal**

Ramsey gives a reminder that any temporary signs need to be removed five days after the event.

Next Meeting:

Selectboard Meeting: Monday, July 13, 2026 at 6:00 PM - HYBRID

Town offices closed Thursday, July 2, 2026 in observance of Independence Day

Goldman makes the motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 PM. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye