

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM

Monday, June 13, 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; Assistant Town Administrator Chris Nolan-Zeller; Police Chief Jason Haskins; and RiverCulture Director Suzanne LoManto.

Approve Minutes: June 29, 2026

Postponed until next meeting

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

A Montague City Resident protests two trees having been taken down without a hearing. Discussion is postponed until a further discussion with the Tree Warden can be scheduled.

RiverCulture with Suzanne LoManto

Unveiling of new RiverCulture.org website

LoManto displays and discusses plans for the new RiverCulture.org website.

Personnel Board

- **Appoint Sara-Evelyn Lane to Tree Committee for remainder of one-year term to end on June 30, 2027**
Goldman makes the motion to appoint Sara-Evelyn Lane to Tree Committee for remainder of one-year term to end on June 30, 2027. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
- **Appoint DPW Superintendent Sam Urkiel as Tree Warden effective July 14, 2026 for a 3-year term ending 6/30/2029**
 - Card expresses his concern regarding appointing the DPW Superintendent as the Tree Warden.
 - Goldman suggests reducing the term to three months.
 - Kuklewicz suggests appointing the Superintendent for a one-year term with three-month check-ins.
 - Card reads aloud the responsibilities of the Tree Warden from the bylaws.
 - Card expresses interest in being on the Tree Advisory Committee.
 - Several residents give their input regarding appointing the Tree Warden position without further discussion.
 - *Goldman makes the motion to appoint the DPW Superintendent Sam Urkiel as Tree Warden effective July 14, 2026 for a one-year term ending 6/30/2027. Seconded by Kuklewicz; unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye; Card - Aye*
- **Authorize the Tree Warden, the Town Administrator, and the Tree Advisory Committee to develop Written Operating Protocol for Public Shade Trees (not on agenda)**
Goldman makes the motion to direct the Tree Warden, the Town Administrator, and the Tree Advisory Committee to develop Written Operating Protocol for Public Shade Trees in 90 days. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Police Business with Chief Jason Haskins

- **Police Department Staff Restructuring Plan:**
 - **Review and approve Police Policy 4.32 to govern promotions within the Montague Police Department**
Goldman makes the motion to approve Police Policy 4.32 to govern promotions within the Montague Police Department. Seconded by Card, approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Abstain, Kuklewicz - Aye
 - **Review and approve employment description for Deputy Police Chief - contracted position Grade C (\$40.27-\$52.53 per hour)**
Goldman makes the motion to approve the employment description for Deputy Police Chief as presented. Seconded by Card, approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Abstain, Kuklewicz - Aye
 - **Review and approve employment description for Lieutenant - Grade SS7 (41.97-\$47.21 per hour)**
Richard Kuklewicz makes the motion to approve the employment description for Lieutenant as presented. Seconded by Goldman, approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Abstain, Kuklewicz - Aye
 - **Review and approve Police Policy 5.09 "Traffic Control Officers"**
Goldman makes the motion to approve the Police Policy 5.09 "Traffic Control Officers" as presented. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye
 - **Authorize Franklin County Special Response Team (FCSRT) Memorandum of Agreement with City of Greenfield and Franklin County Sheriff's Office**
Goldman makes the motion to authorize the Franklin County Special Response Team (FCSRT) Memorandum of Agreement with City of Greenfield and Franklin County Sheriff's Office. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM

Monday, June 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM

Assistant Town Administrator's Business

- **Request to transfer \$6,000.00 into CD Shea Theater from Community Discretionary Account**
Card makes the motion to transfer \$6,000.00 into CD Shea Theater from Community Discretionary Account. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Recuse
- **Request \$7,000 from Community Development Discretionary to fund planter maintenance program for FY27**
Goldman makes the motion to transfer \$7,000 from Community Development Discretionary to fund the Planter Maintenance Program for FY27. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Card - Recuse
- **Award Ave A Streetscape Planter Maintenance Contract to Abound Design Incorporated from June 1, 2026 through November 1, 2026. Contract value \$7,000.**
Goldman makes the motion to award the Ave A Streetscape Planter Maintenance Contract to Abound Design Incorporated from June 1, 2026 through November 1, 2026; contract value \$7,000. Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Goldman - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Card - Recuse
- **Issue Notice to Proceed with awarding Montague Center Complete Streets Improvements Project to Taylor Davis Landscape Company. Contract value \$492,986. Funding source is Complete Streets Grant**
Goldman makes the motion to Issue the Notice to Proceed with awarding the Montague Center Complete Streets Improvements Project to Taylor Davis Landscape Company; contract value \$492,986; funding source is Complete Streets Grant. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Town Administrator's Business

- **Authorize Town Administrator to execute Mass Public Libraries Construction Program Grant Agreement (\$10,957,709), next steps in Library Construction Project**
Card makes the motion to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the Mass Public Libraries Construction Program Grant Agreement (\$10,957,709). Seconded by Kuklewicz, approved. Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye, Goldman - Recuse
- **Topics not anticipated within 48 hours of meeting**
None

Executive Session under M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(1), to discuss the physical condition and/or mental health of a police officer as it relates to a request for injury leave under M.G.L. c. 41, §111F, and not to convene in open session.

Goldman makes the motion to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(1), to discuss the physical condition and/or mental health of a police officer as it relates to a request for injury leave under M.G.L. c. 41, §111F. Seconded by Card, unanimously approved. Goldman - Aye, Card - Aye, Kuklewicz - Aye

Next Meeting

Selectboard Meeting, Monday, July 27, 2026 at 6:30 PM via ZOOM

Walter Ramsey, AICP | Montague Town Administrator | (413) 863-3200
x 110 | walterr@montague-ma.gov

From: Nathanael Card Schiffbauer <natec@montague-ma.gov>

Sent: Monday, July 13, 2026 5:09 PM

To: Walter Ramsey <WalterR@montague-ma.gov>

Cc: Marina Goldman <MarinaG@montague-ma.gov>; Richard Kuklewicz Montague BOS <RichardK@montague-ma.gov>

Subject: Submitting for the Record, preceding tonight's meeting

Good evening,

I have attached some photos of paper documents I received from a member of the public on Friday. It is my understanding that all three of the selectboard members received the same documents, and the shown pages are not all of what was received.

MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM

Monday, June 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM

The documents received are largely anecdotal; however, they do include some notarized statements from witnesses to the various accounts expressed in the documents.

One account which I am entering into the record is written and signed by David Hodges, a certified arborist with "25+ years experience." He attests that in his personal professional opinion, the downed trunk of a large (21" DBH) Silver Maple shows no external signs of decay, and "this tree could have lived for another 10-20 years." Additional accounts in the documents received express concerns about the absence of notices for public hearings on the removal of town trees, and this incident is included as one of those examples.

I hope this account can serve as one point of discussion (of many) as we make our decision this evening regarding Walter's recommendation to appoint Sam Urkiel, DPW Superintendant, as Town Warden for 3 years.

Nate Card
Selectboard



MONTAGUE SELECTBOARD MEETING

1 Avenue A and VIA ZOOM

Monday, June 13, 2026 at 6:30 PM

I David Hodges being in the field of Arboriculture for over 34 years and former I.S.R. certified Arborist in my opinion of the trees on the corner of ~~West~~ Main St and Route 63 in the town of Millis Falls

Two trees were retained one Silver 73" ~~from~~ Maple 21" DBH with 4" center decay with no external indication of decay not being able to see the cavity and ~~judging~~ from stump and wood this tree could have been trimmed and lived for another 10-20 years

One Ash 11" DBH with minor decay 13' from white line of road but tree was being choked out from below street vine

07/04/26
(David 10/20/26)

Buckland MA Free Estimates

 TREE WORK
DAVID HODGES
413-625-8552

25+ years experience Certified Arborist