



**Town of Savoy
Massachusetts 01256**

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SAVOY SELECT BOARD MEETING

SAVOY TOWN HALL

February 10, 2025 5:00PM

MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 5:00pm by Justin Kaczowski, second by Marie Saucier.

The minutes of the January 28th selectboard meeting were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

DEPARTMENT REPORTS: None

COMMITTEE REPORTS: None

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Town Treasurer

- The interview committee for the Town Treasurer position reviewed the resumes of four potential candidates. Two of the candidates were asked to come in for an interview; one resume was received after the deadline; one had salary requirements significantly higher than all others.
- After vetting and interviewing each of the two candidates the interview committee selected Benjamin Gelb as their choice for Town Treasurer.
- Members of the selectboard asked questions of the interview committee that were answered as follows:
 - ❖ He will commit at least one full day in the office; he will also work remotely.
 - ❖ He will attend selectboard meetings on Tuesdays.
 - ❖ He can start immediately.
- He will have an annual salary of \$20,000; the selectboard discussed moving unused budgeted money from various accounts to the remaining amount in the treasurer's salary account to cover the \$20,000.

- Selectboard member Brenda Smith made a motion to appoint Benjamin Gelb as Town Treasurer; the motion was unanimously accepted.
- He will need to fill out bonding paperwork with the insurance company.

Highway Department

- Todd Krutiak resigned as Highway Superintendent; the selectboard accepted his resignation.
- Updates were given by Jon Choquette:
 - ❖ Work was done on one of the highway vehicles and was covered under warranty so there was no cost to the town.
 - ❖ The part time employees are being utilized very well to help cover the needs of the department.
 - ❖ Dave Stokes from MA DOT met with the highway department to review several highway items and get a status update on the culvert replacement project on Chapel Road. He indicated the Black Brook Road bridge may be closed before the current Scheduled repair date in 2028.
 - ❖ Dave Stokes provided a current spreadsheet of Chapter 90 usage which shows an available balance of \$220,000. The selectboard requested a copy of the spreadsheet.
 - ❖ Annual FRCOG paperwork is in the process of being filled out and needs to be filed by the end of February. A priority list of highway repairs is:
 - Portions of Center Road, Lower Loop and Upper Loop Road are in desperate need of repair and/or repaving. Analysis will be made on each road to determine the best course of action to take for the necessary repairs.
 - Guard rails and “sharp curve” signs for the Old Main Road #2 detour.
 - ❖ The Town Park driveway will need to be plowed by the highway department per insurance to allow the fire department to have access in case of emergency.
 - ❖ The highway department has two open positions:
 1. Highway Superintendent
 2. Full Time driver/operator/laborer
 - ❖ The selectboard discussed the need to form a hiring screening committee for the two positions. A motion was made and unanimously passed to appoint Bill Droehn, Stephanie Harris, and Justin Kaczowski to the screening committee.
 - ❖ The job openings will be posted until filled with a minimum of seven days in three locations.
 - ❖ A motion was made to make Jon Choquette interim Highway Superintendent and unanimously passed.
 - ❖ Highway department reported to the selectboard that there is a home on Tilton Road that needs to be looked at for building code violations. The selectboard instructed the highway department to contact the building inspector with any suspected building issues.
 - ❖ The highway department reported there are several places in town with telephone lines hanging down from the poles. The selectboard advised them to report it to Verizon.

Savoy Parks & Recreation Rental Agreement

- The Parks & Recreation Committee drafted a revised contract agreement for town park event usage.
- The contract agreement will be a “work in progress” and is subject to change if needed.

- Current parameters of the contract (attachment 1).
- The selectboard would like the agreement to include no alcohol, no illegal substances, or marijuana usage on property.

Railroad Ties-Horton Road

- The massive pile of railroad ties on Horton Road were put there by Blue Rock at the request of nearby landowner Dan Mazacco. The ties were dumped not on the landowner's property but on town property which is an issue.
- The pile is too massive for the landowner to relocate.
- The selectboard contacted DCR and they in turn contacted the environmental police. The environmental police stated the town would be better positioned to seek resolution through legal action.
- The assessors will provide the landowners address information.
- The selectboard will consult the town attorney to determine what legal action will be needed to rectify the situation.

Hilltown Community Development

- There is a public hearing March 10 in Chesterfield for input on planning the utilization of the 2025 block grant funds. Marie Saucier and Brenda Smith are planning on attending on behalf of the Town of Savoy.
- Selectboard chair, Justin Kaczowski, signed the Joint Application Authorization letter which will allow Savoy to be part of the FY25 CDBG grant application.

CORRESPONDENCE: None

SELECTBOARD ITEMS:

- A portable heater for the Town Clerk office was denied until budget financing is known.
- Selectboard member Marie Saucier suggested the finance committee look at raising the Tax Collector a salary to be in proportion with the amount of hours the position is requiring.
- The Tax Collector will need to seek quotes for a replacement Deputy Collector vendor that will interface with the VADAR platform. She is currently inputting data manually until the current vendor's contract ends on July 1st.
- Berkshire Public Health Emergency Preparedness is requiring towns to update emergency contact information quarterly; BRPC used to file for the town, but they are no longer allowed to do this. Justin Kaczowski has volunteered to update the information quarterly.
- Selectboard member Marie Saucier is working on the MIIA insurance renewal for the town.
- Selectboard member Marie Saucier proposed the selectboard have a joint meeting with the school committee, school superintendent, and finance committee. Recent legislation requires Savoy to pay the high school tuition for all enrolled students at Emma Miller Elementary School that are transitioning to high school including school choice students enrolled in Savoy. In the past the town was responsible for funding the tuition only for the town resident pupils. The selectboard needs to be appraised of the impact this funding will have on the town and would like to be informed of the schools budgeting goals for the upcoming year. Benda Smith suggested a study be done to determine the viability of having a school in town. The selectboard would also like an accounting of

the current school health insurance program. Meeting dates will be proposed and once confirmed an agenda will be posted.

- The Old Main Road #4 culvert project is in the engineering and permitting phase.
- Stephanie Harris alerted the selectboard that the DCR foresters are planning a timber cut in Savoy State Forest. She will be spearheading an initiative for the town to be reimbursed for the logging trucks use of town-maintained roadways. It will be a way for the town to recoup money from the state. Input was made that the cut trees can't be sold for profit by the state but perhaps can be utilized by town residents.

Meeting Adjourned: Brenda Smith adjourned the meeting at 6:30pm; Marie Saucier second.

DATE APPROVED: 2/25/25



Justin Kaczowski, chair



Marie Saucier



Brenda Smith

Savoy Town Park Commission
Savoy Town Park Rental Agreement

The Savoy Town Park is located on Main Street/Route 116 in Savoy. We offer the use of the building with 3 picnic tables and the surrounding park. The building is wired for power. The Town Park is open from dawn to dusk.

RENTAL FEE STRUCTURE:

- \$200 per event for Savoy Residents
 - This fee includes a *refundable* \$150 deposit, to be returned once a committee member has inspected the grounds after your event. Any trash left or damage to the building/grounds will nullify the refund
- Additional \$50 for inflatable structures, or other equipment with high energy demands
- Porta-john rental (you must let the committee know at least one month before your event)
 - \$170 for non-handicapped porta-john
 - \$270 for handicapped porta-john

The rental is on a first come first-serve basis. The committee must receive the rental fee before the day of the event. Checks can be made to: Savoy Town Park Commission

PARKING

Parking is allowed on the left-side of the building, between the building and the evergreen trees. If you require more parking, please park in the mowed area behind the building.

RULES AND REGULATIONS:

The Savoy Town Park is open from dawn to dusk.

No fires are permitted.

No loud music or congregating after dusk.

Animals are allowed but they must be on a leash, and the owner is responsible for collecting and removing excrement.

No overnight camping, or overnight vehicles are allowed.

No alcoholic beverages are allowed on site.

You must take all trash generated from your event.

You must leave the grounds and building in the condition they were found.

This contract is to be signed by the Savoy Town Resident responsible for the rental.

Upon signing, you agree to have read all of the above and understand the rules and regulations set forth by the Savoy Town Parks Commission. Any damages that may have occurred during your rental time, must be reported to the Commission and the person signing will be monetarily responsible. It is our hope that you will be respectful toward the property and its contents. The Savoy Parks Commission reserves the right to regulate, oversee, and/or refuse to rent any portion or part of the area to groups and individuals as they deem necessary.

First and last name (please print)

Street address and phone number

Date of event, type of event, approximate number of attendees

Your signature and today's date

Approved by: _____ Date: _____