

Town of Frenchboro

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Select Board
Joe Lunt
Chris Hodgkins
Myron Lenfestey
Jackie Mitchell
Larry Smith

Town Administrator
Rick Erb

Select Board Meeting

February 9, 2026
5:00 pm

Chris Hodgkins, Jackie Mitchell, and Larry Smith were in attendance.

Meeting called to order at 5:05 pm

Minutes from Last Meeting: Motion to accept the 1/26/26 minutes by Jackie Mitchell and seconded by Larry Smith. Approved 3-0.

Next Meeting: The next regular meeting will be on 2/23/2026 at 5:00 pm

Treasurer's Report: Daniel Swain was not in attendance for the meeting. The warrant and checks were signed. Motion to approve the warrant by Larry Smith, seconded by Jackie Mitchell and approved 3-0.

Head of the Harbor: The recently approved \$419,000 in Congressional funding was discussed with Lauren Jennings, who had met on this with the town administrator and the town's engineering firm. Timelines were reviewed, including the likelihood that work would need to be carried out in winter for environmental reasons. This means that January and February 2027 may be a reasonable expectation. A meeting with MEMA will focus on approval to use FEMA disaster relief funds together with the Congressional funds. The town will also look into having the 20% local match forgiven due to economic hardship.

Budget: Daniel Swain wasn't available to discuss the first draft of the budget specifics, but there was discussion on budgeting goals and an understanding that the budget will be on the next meeting's agenda.

Information Sheet: The information is ready to be mailed and it was agreed that it should be sent from the Frenchboro post office, so Rick will have it ready to go when he comes out to the island.

Roads: Procedure for trimming tree branches that interfere with roads was discussed. March was suggested as a possible time frame for the work. Letters to abandoned vehicle owners are being sent out and will be followed up on if there is no action taken.

Teacher's House: It was agreed that if a contractor working on the island wishes to rent the house, the previously used \$500 per month would be reasonable.

Town Property Sale: Lauren Jennings reported on discussions with a bank official on issues that purchasers of the house lots will be facing. The deed restrictions required by the town meeting vote may not be an issue, but the usual challenges faced by first-time homebuyers may make it difficult for the target audience of young families that has been discussed. Mobile homes and modular homes were discussed as a potential quick solution to the housing shortage. Board members and others expressed skepticism about the real estate agent's estimated value of the town owned parcels, feeling that they are too high for the Frenchboro market. The Board concluded that the services of a licensed appraiser might be helpful and that the plan should still be to offer lots to island residents first, before opening up the opportunity to others in the spring.

At this point, the Board went into executive session. Motion by Larry Smith, seconded by Jackie Mitchell and unanimously approved. At the end of the executive session, there was nothing to report out to the public. Motion to adjourn by Larry Smith, seconded by Jackie Mitchell and unanimously approved at 6:45 pm.