

**Town of Nelson  
Selectmen's Meeting  
3:00 PM**

January 14, 2026

Executive Board Attending: Brenna Kucinski, Mike Blaudschun, Don Carlisle, Edie Drinkwater, Admin. Assist.

Others attending: Anne Ames

*Absent:*

Brenna called the January 14, 2026 meeting of the Nelson Select Board to order at 3:05 PM.

- Mike made a motion to approve the minutes for January 7, 2026 as recorded.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Mike made a motion to approve the manifest for January 14, 2026 as presented.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- Mike made a motion to approve a Report of Cut and Certification for S. Giffin.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- The IT contractor returned the annual service agreements for each department with his signature.

Brenna signed each of the agreements as previously approved. Each agreement now has both signatures.

- Following the resignation of W. Kassotis as Health Officer, the position is now open. Mike made a motion to nominate Jonathan Pfister as Health Officer and to submit the appropriate paperwork to the State Department of Health for their approval and appointment.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- With concern mounting over the Peterbilt truck repairs that are still incomplete, the need for repairs to the Bailey Brook bridge, and the uncertain direction of repair or replacement of the Granite Lake Dam, the Board feels that this year's deposit into the Renewable/Green Energy project Capital Reserve should be reduced.

Brenna then made a motion to enter \$5,000 into the annual Warrant article for this fund.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

- A request to use the Library Lower Level for private use (with a donation to the Library) was briefly considered. The Board agreed that the Library Lower Level meeting room is for use only for meetings of Town Boards or public programs sponsored by the Library, as previously designated, and is not rental space. The Board offered rental of the Town Hall as an option.

● A petition Warrant article was delivered to the Town Office by G. Robinson, meeting the February 3<sup>rd</sup> deadline, and presenting with 43 signatures. The petition article reads as follows: *To see if the town will vote to return the Nelson Police Department to part-time status at the end of the current police contract, and further direct the Selectboard to begin negotiations before the close of this year, with the Cheshire County Sheriff's Department and/or a part-time police officer to provide police service to Nelson. A majority vote is required.*

● At this time, A. Ames entered the meeting to present her concerns over the condition of the Bailey Brook Bridge and to discuss how best to make the needed repairs that can keep the bridge open. Ames presented a letter to the Board, read by Brenna, which is attached to these minutes. All agreed that the culvert is in an extreme state of deterioration. Everyone has faith that the Road Agent will be able to develop and execute a plan to repair the bridge that will be far more cost effective than a full replacement. Ames worries that even a brief closure will cause critical delays for response by Police, Fire and Rescue personnel. Posting a weight limit was at the top of everyone's thoughts as they all recalled the large trucks making daily use of the bridge during logging operations in that area. Ames urged quick action and expressed her hope for something to begin as early as this spring. Ames suggested that the Board determine the weight of each of the fire trucks that may be called upon during emergencies in that area.

● On another note, Ames expressed a grievance over the dumping of "Free items" that are left beside the road for long periods, in all weather conditions, and seem to grow in volume and decline in condition. The area she references is on Tolman Pond Road. The Board agreed, with her, that these locations are unsightly but are often well within the landowner's property boundary. She suggested that an ordinance should be considered.

● Agreeing that action on the Bailey Brook bridge needs to start soon, Brenna made a motion to increase the 2026 deposit into the Bridge Expendable Trust account to \$25,000. (Up \$15,000 from the usual amount of \$10,000).

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● M. Tarr will be asked to attend the next meeting of the Selectmen on January 21, 2026.

● The Board returned to their discussion regarding the petition Warrant article they were just presented. They feel success of this article would be a step backward and would not provide the town with the multi-faceted service they are now receiving, including a qualified EMT right in town during the day. It is even uncertain that the Sheriff's department could take on coverage for Nelson and the likelihood of finding a part-time officer is small. Brenna will call Sheriff Rivera to discuss their department's current officer status to see if this is even possible.

● The Board then discussed their closing presentation for the end of the 2026 Town Meeting. Don will continue to work on this.

● With nothing further, Mike made a motion to adjourn the meeting.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned 4:48 PM

Next regular meeting January 21, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Minutes for January 14, 2026

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Brenna Kucinski, Chair

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Michael Blaudschun, Selectman

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Don Carlisle, Selectman

1/14/26

To: Selectboard Town of Nelson, NH

From: Anne Ames

Re: Bailey Brook bridge

As a resident/property owner 50+ years I am expressing concern over the potential closure of the bridge over Bailey Brook. Old Stoddard Rd dissects my property [000007-000014-000001].

Old Stoddard Rd (City Hill Rd/Bailey Brook Rd) serves as an important link between the Town of Nelson and Town of Stoddard. Closing this road to thru traffic would have multiple consequences.

(1) Economic hardships to residents

(2) delayed response time from fire department, emergency services and police

(3) Eliminate popular alternate route for when Rte 9 is shut down due to accident

(4) difficulty and added expense providing road maintenance and winter plowing/sanding operations

(5) Cultural impact

Monday night square dance patrons (8-10 cars)

"SS road" bike enthusiasts

I personally have contracted to remove beaver from the swamp with approval from Fish & Game NH. This provides an empty reservoir for flood waters to collect and be expressed at a slower rate, thus protecting the abutments for the bridge from scouring flood waters.

Questions:

How much money is currently in the escrow fund?

What is the current weight limit?

What alternative measures, repairs could be approved by the state?

Please notify me of any developments in this matter and include me in the process

Anne Arner

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Sullivan, NH

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