

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

June 17, 2026

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

Others attending: E. Williams, A. Whitney, G. Robinson, L. Redfern-Smith, J. Smith, M. Collins, K. Castelli, P. Castelli, M. Tarr, J. Cucchi, J. Sarcione, T. McEachern, M. Nunnemaker, R. Thomas, L. Bergeron,

*Absent:*

Brenna called the June 17, 2026 meeting of the Nelson Select Board to order at 3:00 PM.

● Brenna made a motion to approve the Public and Non-Public meeting minutes for June 3, 2026 as recorded.

Don seconded.

The motion carried 2-0. Mike was absent

● Mike made a motion to approve the manifest for June 10, 2026 as presented.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve the manifest for June 17, 2026 as presented.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● J. Sarcione came before the Board with a Fire Dept. update:

- He has met with S. Monahan to check the water level at Center Pond to determine if there is enough depth for dry hydrant installation. Monahan will meet with M. Tarr to see if dredging needs to be considered. The water level is in question due to beaver activity.

Tarr has already done some work on the access, such as waterbar placement, in preparation for the installation. Fish and Game still needs to provide a Memorandum of Understanding.

- Sarcione brought forward two Purchase Requests 1. Medical equipment designed to "Push" medication at a cost of \$1,000.94 2. Life safety equipment at a cost of \$741.45.

● Mike made a motion to approve the purchase of the "Push" medical equipment for \$1,000.94 as requested.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Mike made a motion to approve the purchase of the Life Safety equipment in the amount of \$741.45 as requested.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Sarcione went on to report that the department received information on an AFG through FEMA and is working with Edie and department members on putting together the application. Their priority is Personal Protective Equipment, SCBA air packs, and portable radios and pagers. All of this equipment is out of date and needs replacement soon. Sarcione is seeking 6 complete sets of protective clothing, 6 SCBA air packs, 6 portable radios, 6 pagers, and a unit for suctioning fluids from patients. The total cost is approximately \$137,417 with 95% to come from the grant and 5% cost to the town (\$6,870). There will be no advance funding required by the town.

● Mike made a motion to approve the Fire Department applying for the FEMA grant.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

● Sarcione reported that he will be seeking an updated quote for the dry hydrant parts to be ready once all permitting is complete.

● M. Tarr will meet with S. Monahan to see if the dry hydrant installation may need to be extended into deeper water. Tarr is concerned that drafting water would not be sufficient close to shore. The water is high now due to beaver activity but that could change. All options will be considered. Tarr has done some tree trimming and reports that one abutter is not pleased with the project. Tarr also reported that the State Bridge inspector will be here on July 21, 2026 to inspect the Bailey Brook Bridge. The Selectmen will plan to attend the inspection with Tarr. Tarr doesn't anticipate closure by the State but they may put a weight limit restriction on use. Don suggested contacting Cold River for engineering advise. Tarr said that is usually the company he would go to in this area.

● The Board called Sexton, T. McEachern forward to discuss maintenance of the riding mower. They asked that McEachern become more familiar with the full care and maintenance, keep it clean and change the oil. Mike asked if a larger mower is needed but McEachern said that due to the tight turns around the Library and Town Hall the smaller mower is best. The Board asked that the common be sprayed of bees again this year to make sure it is safe for Old Home Day festivities.

● L. Bergeron came before the Board, representing her family, with an amended Building Permit Application. It had been noticed that construction taking place on the property was not in accordance with a previously issued permit contingent upon the new building to be on the existing footprint with no increase. An addition was added that was not permitted at all and upon inspection and checking the measurement it was determined that the footprint was now larger than the original structure. The applicant states that the original permit was approved per her submitted plans rather than the existing footprint contingency. Mike was concerned that there was no DES statement clearly showing approval of construction within a foot of the water and requested photos and a letter of agreement to remove the addition. The Board decided to take the matter under advisement and if necessary call a short meeting during the next week with a decision. Bergeron left the meeting indicating she would try to find photos of the building as it existed. The Board continued discussion with concern focusing on the structure's close proximity to the water. The plans previously submitted show an existing deck to be removed by hand and the existing deck foundation to be abandoned in place. An additional issue is the expansion of the foundation. All information within the property file indicate the existing footprint was smaller than the structure is measuring now by about 3 feet. Due to the lot size, an addition of three feet increases the non-conformity of the lot and would therefore need a variance to be allowed. Mike is concerned that the exact location of the existing footprint needs to be determined. Edie will pull all maps and property information to search for these details. A diagram of the structure that was brought forward today by L. Bergeron was not previously presented for comparison when considering either application. This is on hold for now.

- Edie reported that a letter has arrived from the US Treasury indicating their final review for the SLFRF grant is now complete and meets all Federal approvals. The review included 5 years of annual reports as well as closeout documentation. This grant is now finalized.
- FYI: Eversource will be doing R.O.W. service along lines in Nelson, Keene, Antrim and Stoddard.
- FYI: NHDOT will soon begin work on the collapsed culvert on Nelson Road.
- L. Smith requested that the Board take some action to remove the hazardous trees at the parking area behind the library. One very large tree poses a real danger if it falls. M. Tarr will be asked to evaluate the situation and remove what he can and arrange for a tree service if needed for the large tree. (1 ash, 1 maple, 1 birch)
- R. Thomas came before the Board and read a statement he had prepared and it is attached at the end of these minutes. After he read his statement, Brenna advised that as his comments concern personnel the Select Board may not discuss the matter in public.
- M. Collins asked that Thomas's statement be in the record.
- K. Castelli reported that she has received speeding complaints from Apple Hill Road, Murdough Hill Road and Brickyard Road. She played a recording of one of the calls. This will be passed on to the Police Chief. It was suggested that the speed monitor be moved to some different sites now that school is closed.
- Several complaints have come in regarding the dumping spot at the corner of Tolman Pond Road and Nelson Road. People are leaving items such as old furniture indicated as free. This is an eye-sore and believed is being dumped by people who are not necessarily the landowner. There is no ordinance limiting a landowner from placing things on their own property. Mike suggested that residents attend a Planning Board meeting and ask that they consider an ordinance to prohibit this activity. The landowner of this particular property will be contacted to see if he is even aware of the problem or would remove the items.
- Mike read the notice from SWRPC that they will be placing traffic monitors in Nelson from June 29<sup>th</sup> thru July 10<sup>th</sup> to record the number of vehicles and speeds.
  - During this time, they will cover:
    - Murdough Hill Road north of Nelson Road
    - Henderson Road south of Nelson Road
    - West Shore Road north of Mill Pond Road
    - Old Stoddard Road east of Nelson Road
    - Tolman Pond east of Nelson Road
    - Lead Mine Road west of Cemetery Road
    - Tolman Pond Road between Nelson Road and Piper Lane (Harrisville)
- Notice from Hancock of a Public Hearing for the addition of a cell tower on Rt 123 and Lee Farm Road. The Hearing is on this date at 7:00 PM in the Hancock Town Office.
- Brenna opened further discussion of a new Town website. A. Ames wondered if items such as the town maps will be available on the site. Brenna said that items can be added at additional cost going forward. Brenna noted that Hancock had chosen "Thomas City" as their theme. Mike and Don offered no preference so Brenna made a motion to select "Thomas City" as the banner theme for the new Town website.
  - Mike seconded.
  - The motion carried 3-0.
- The Board decided to table discussion of amendments to a current Town administrative form at this time.
- G. Robinson stated support of R. Thomas's comments and in addition expressed praise for the amount of work done by the Town Buildings Committee and feels they saved work and costs and he feels the Select Board was

“arbitrary” in its decision and insulted the members and their work and presented in a “divisive” manner when dissolving the committee. He said that manner of dealing with people is the reason why no one wants to volunteer for those positions. Brenna thanked him and said that if people come forward a committee could be appointed in the future.

- Edie reported that on Thursday June 25<sup>th</sup> the Schillemat Family will be gathering at the Town Ballfield following the funeral for Duane.

- M. Collins also requests that comments by G. Robinson be in the minutes.

- All in attendance were informed that the Board will be going in Non-Public session at this time.

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4:48 PM

- Brenna made a motion to go into Non-Public in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 II (a) Personnel.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0 by roll call vote. Mike – yes, Don – yes, Brenna – yes

5:09 PM

- Upon returning to Public session, Brenna made a motion to seal the minutes.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0 by roll call vote. Mike – yes, Don – yes, Brenna – yes

- With nothing further Brenna made a motion to adjourn.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

Meeting Adjourned 5:10 PM

Next regular meeting July 1, 2026 at 6:00 PM

Following the July 1<sup>st</sup> meeting, the regular Select Board meetings will be at 3:00 PM

5:30 PM

- Upon viewing some files in the Bergeron Building Permit application, the Board reconvened the meeting regarding this matter. Upon a closer look at all documents in the file and the measurements taken by Mike and Don at the site, it appears that this should be referred to the Zoning Board.

Mike made a motion to deny the Building Permit and refer the Bergeron’s to the ZBA to seek a variance.

Brenna seconded.

The motion carried 2-0. Don abstained from voting on this matter. L. Bergeron will be notified.

- With nothing further Brenna made a motion to adjourn.

Mike seconded.

The motion carried 3-0.

Reconvened Meeting adjourned 5:35 PM

Minutes for June 17, 2026

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Brenna Kucinski, Chair

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Michael Blaudschun, Selectman

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Don Carlisle, Selectman

Statement from Russ Thomas attached on next page

## **Edie Drinkwater**

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**From:** Russell Thomas <russindawoods@gmail.com>  
**Sent:** Wednesday, June 17, 2026 5:22 PM  
**To:** Edie Drinkwater  
**Subject:** My tirade

Hi Edie, here's a copy of the thing I read.

I'd like to establish first that Edie Drinkwater is the best thing the government of Nelson has had going for it in over 50 years. I'm sure that most of Nelson's residents share this estimation, as well as many officials she deals with throughout the state. Given this, I don't understand the Select board's treatment of her. She is demeaned at every turn. She has been ordered to work a schedule that is ideal neither for her nor for the town. Any worker in a position like Edie's will tell you that if they can manage to find an hour or two before or after normal hours, a lot more gets accomplished.

Calling Edie "not trustworthy" is a serious slur on her character and is certainly undeserved. If you are looking for loyalty instead of competence, you are in the wrong town or the wrong position.

Showing up at work at 6 am has nothing to do with transparency nor does it in any way look "suspicious". What is suspicious about it?

Her hours and benefits have been threatened.

How does any of this benefit the town?

I think if I was being treated this way, I would consider it a hostile workplace.

While I'm at it, why have you disbanded or discouraged three of the most useful and money-saving town groups? The Buildings Committee, the Agricultural Commission and the solar group?

The buildings committee saved the Selectboard and Administrative Assistant tons of time, energy and money. They could be figuring out what to do about the town barn right now so you would have all the information at your fingertips, ready to make decisions.

Thank you.

Russ