

Town of Nelson
Selectmen's Meeting
3:00 PM

July 29, 2026

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

Others attending: L. Smith, E. Giacomo, A. Stoops, M. Collins, A. Ames, M. Nunnemaker,
Representatives for the Game of Village Amy Shuffelton and M. Iselin

Absent: Michael Blaudschun

Brenna called the July 29, 2026 meeting of the Nelson Select Board to order at 3:00 PM.

- Brenna made a motion to approve the minutes for July 15, 2026 as recorded.

Don seconded.

The motion carried 2-0.

- Brenna made a motion to approve the Non-Public minutes for July 15, 2026 as recorded.

Don seconded.

The motion carried 2-0.

- Brenna made a motion to approve the manifest for July 22, 2026 as presented.

Don seconded.

The motion carried 2-0.

- Brenna made a motion to approve the manifest for July 29, 2026 as presented.

Don seconded.

The motion carried 2-0.

- Brenna made a motion to approve a letter to NH Dot, attention Kevin Russell, formally advising that the Town of Nelson will not seek the 80/20 Bridge grant but will be consulting with an engineering firm for consideration of a repair plan for Bailey Brook Bridge.

Don seconded.

The motion carried 2-0.

- Brenna made a motion to approve a letter to NH Fish and Game advising them that the Town of Nelson will not be moving forward with a dry hydrant at Center Pond due to a lack of sufficient water depth in the area designated as it is controlled by the beaver dam and not predictable.

Don seconded.

The motion carried 2-0.

- Brenna made a motion to approve a letter to landowners K. & L. Dahmen, advising them of the decision not to go forward with the dry hydrant and thanking them for their support of the project.

Don seconded.

The motion carried 2-0.

- Brenna made a motion to approve a letter of support for a SEED Grant for the Nelson School that Nicole Gordon is applying for.

Don seconded.

The motion carried 2-0.

- The Board received a bid from T. McEachern in the amount of \$700 to carve a new weathervane for the Old Brick Schoolhouse. This to be in a shape similar to the existing (Whale/Fish?) weathervane. McEachern will be asked to meet with the Selectmen to discuss the details of the project before final approval. Brenna thanked M. Collins for his offer of a weathervane that his father had made but the Board decided to stay with the original theme. Don noted that there will be a cost for the lift to install the new weathervane on top of the cupola. A cost estimate will be sought.

- Edie reported that the final Fidium installation is complete in the town office.

- M. Tarr is still waiting to hear from D. Eckman to set up a time to view the Bailey Brook Bridge and offer recommendations for repair and continued use. The options presented during the state inspection were briefly reviewed but all choices are on hold until a review is completed by the engineer and his recommendations are presented. Any option choice will need State review and approval to implement. Making the bridge smaller could remove it from State control but that will still come with repair costs. While this may be considered, there are factors, such as "150 year" flood mitigation, that could limit any size reduction. This will all be determined during the engineering review.

- At the last Selectmen's meeting discussion opened regarding the trucking needs for the Town Highway Dept. This included what each truck is used for, what sizes will be needed, is enough money put in Capital Reserve each year given the rising costs of equipment, and would short term lease or hiring out trucking be more cost effective. M. Tarr agreed to sit with the Selectmen to review each question and suggestion and then meet with the Highway Equipment committee for their thoughts. As requested, Tarr will seek pricing options for a 12- wheeler vs. a 6-wheeler truck. One option to consider is to haul gravel with the Peterbilt and then park it in the winter. Don wondered why other towns don't use the large trucks and don't haul gravel. Tarr noted that a CDL license is required for the large truck and there are limited people who hold a CDL today. For municipalities, not needing a CDL increases the employment pool. Don would like the town to look at the option of leasing and getting a new truck every 5-6 years. He feels this would avoid costly repairs as the trucks age. This would not be a lease to purchase as contracted in the past.

- A. Ames questioned the accounting of the Bridge Expendable Trust Fund as reported by the Trustees in the Town Report. Edie will track the deposits and withdrawals and send her a spreadsheet. Ames also voiced concern over the use of a "Bailey Bridge" that was one suggestion by the State inspectors for the Bailey Brook Bridge. A "Bailey Bridge" is a temporary bridge to go over the span of an existing bridge that is in-need of repair. Don noted that a "Bailey Bridge" would be his last choice. When Tarr meets with Eckman Engineering, all options will be discussed.

- Elaine Giacomo and members of the Cemetery Board came before the Selectmen to voice a concern and complaint. On multiple occasions the group of children from the Game of Village have been seen playing, running and throwing things in the cemetery. This issue has a history going back a few years. At that time, they were told it was not appropriate. The maintenance crew reported nearly hitting a child that was running near the mower. They have also been spotted balance walking along the stone wall where multiple stones have fallen off. Many of the headstones are extremely fragile and date back as much as 200 years. Even an accidental bump, of children playing vigorously, could topple a headstone and perhaps harm a child. This safety issue is of the highest concern to the Cemetery Board. The cemetery is a place of final rest and those who visit should be respectful of those who have passed and those who are there to visit loved ones. Peace and tranquility should be expected when visiting, not raucous play. The Cemetery Board did meet with Amy Shuffelton and a group of parents and children from the Game of Village and asked that they no longer use the cemetery for play. E. Giacomo and

members of the Cemetery Board report being treated very rudely by one of the parents. Although being asked not to use the cemetery for play this was ignored and a few days later they were found again playing in the cemetery. A. Stoops reported that this issue came up a few years ago and he met with M. Iselin. Stoops had been a councilor for the group and, while he did present the concerns of the Cemetery Board, admits he never told them to stop. L. Smith felt the intent of the Cemetery Board was not accurately conveyed by Stoops at that time. She recited from rules listed at other cemeteries: No screaming, no running, no bikes, no camping, no graduation parties, no birthday parties, no roller skating, no dirt bikes. E. Giacomo said most cemeteries post strict rules and regulation for conduct while visiting but Nelson has never felt it was necessary until now. Amy Shuffelton, representing the Game of Village, defended their use of the cemetery for playing, insisting that they do not touch the headstones and when she sees them on the stone wall she instructs them to get down. A. Shuffelton reported this type of play in the cemetery has been going on for many years by this group. Brenna informed A. Shuffelton that the ballfield is available for their use, with shaded dugouts, porta potties and a large area for play that is far more appropriate. A. Shuffelton said the children can't walk that far and it's too hot. Brenna said children should be able to play in the heat, cold, rain, snow, and walk that short distance. Brenna stated firmly that the Cemetery is not an appropriate playground. A. Shuffelton defended the children's rights to use the cemetery and then left the meeting. General discussion continued with all in agreement that the cemetery is not to be used as a playground.

● With nothing further, Brenna made a motion to adjourn.

Don seconded.

The motion carried 2-0.

Meeting adjourned 4:40 PM

Next meeting August 12, 2026 at 3:00 PM in the Nelson Town Office.

Minutes for July 15, 2026

Brenna Kucinski, Chair

Absent

Michael Blaudschun, Selectman

Don Carlisle, Selectman