

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES JUNE 3, 2025

MEMBERS PRESENT: Mr. Steven H. Kitchin, Chairman
Mr. Michael K. Beaudette, Vice Chairman
Mr. Robert C. Medeiros, Clerk

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. Mallory E Aronstein, Town Administrator

A Board of Selectmen meeting was held on Tuesday, June 3, 2025, at the School Administration Building, One Gardners Neck Road, Swansea, Massachusetts.

Mr. Kitchin called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Mr. Kitchin led the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Kitchin stated that the meeting is currently broadcast live on television, being streamed online, and will be replayed later on Swansea Community Network. He asked if anyone in the audience would be recording the meeting to notify the Board. There were no confirmations from the audience.

Vote on FY26 Annual Appointments - Solid Waste/Hazardous Waste Committee

Mrs. Aronstein requested that the Board appoint Elizabeth Leonardo, the Treasurer/Collector, and Adeline Bellesheim, the Conservation Agent, to the Solid Waste/Hazardous Waste Committee effective immediately.

Motion made by Mr. Beaudette, seconded by Mr. Medeiros, to appoint Elizabeth Leonardo of Swansea, MA, and Adeline Bellesheim of Westport, MA, to the Solid Waste/ Hazardous Waste Committee with terms to expire June 30, 2026.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS

Acknowledge recipients of Awards from Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School.

Mr. Kitchin announced that three residents of Swansea were honored as recipients of various awards from Diman Regional Vocational Technical High School. Mr. Kitchin said the recipients are Albertina Bell, who was awarded the Distinguished Graduate award, Leo Roy, who received the Honorary Diploma, and Gary Vasconcellos, who was honored with the Image Award.

The Board discussed the awards and offered their congratulations to the recipients.

Vote to Affirm Appointment of Full-Time Fire Dispatcher

Motion made by Mr. Beaudette, seconded by Mr. Medeiros, to affirm the appointment of full-time Fire Dispatcher Brandon Halbardier of Fall River, MA, effective April 15, 2025.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS

Review and Act on Selectmen Priorities- FY 2026

The Board deliberated on the Selectmen's Priorities for the fiscal year 2026. The Board discussed and agreed to seven priorities, including economic development, access to water and rights of way, specifically the boat ramp, mooring regulations, and Pearse Landing stakeholders discussion, Capital Infrastructure Planning for the Fire and Highway Departments, promoting agriculture in Swansea, aging in place initiatives, merging dispatch operations of the police and fire departments, and planning Swansea in 5, 10, 15, or 25 years.

Vote to appoint a Representative to the Bristol County Advisory Board.

Mr. Kitchin asked if the Board could have additional information regarding the mission and duty of the Bristol County Advisory Board and the meeting schedule to determine whose schedule aligns best for the selection of the Representative for the Bristol County Advisory Board. He stated that the Board will decide on this matter at the upcoming meeting.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Beaudette, seconded by Mr. Medeiros, to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of May 20, 2025.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS

Town Administrator's Report

Mrs. Aronstein stated that there is a call for volunteers for an exciting project to paint crosswalks funded through the Cultural Council. She said the crosswalks are by Compton's Corner, located on the corners of Ocean View and Pinehurst Avenues. Mrs. Aronstein said this will take place on June 21st at 9:00 am. Mrs. Aronstein stated that any interested individuals should contact the Selectmen's office to volunteer.

Mrs. Aronstein requested that the Board vote to waive permit fees for the Town Offices building project.

Motion made by Mr. Beaudette, seconded by Mr. Medeiros, to waive all permit fees relative to the Town Offices building project.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS

Mrs. Aronstein said she received correspondence from Henry Elliot, Chair of the Swansea Harbor Advisory Committee, requesting the Board vote to reduce the number of members on that Committee from 9 to 7 members.

Motion made by Mr. Beaudette, seconded by Mr. Medeiros, to reduce the number of seats on the Harbor Advisory Committee from 9 to 7 members, effective June 4, 2025.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS

Mrs. Aronstein requested that the Board dissolve the Open Space Committee. She stated that this committee was established to review the Open Space Plan and that work is now complete.

Mr. Kitchin thanked the members of the Open Space Committee for their diligent efforts. He requested that they remain on standby for future assistance when required.

Motion made by Mr. Beaudette, seconded by Mr. Medeiros, to dissolve the Open Space Committee effective June 4, 2025.

ALL IN FAVOR – UNANIMOUS

Mrs. Aronstein stated that the Fire Chief, herself, and Community Development Director John Hansen collaborated to apply for a Municipal Fiber Grant from the Commonwealth and received \$250,000. Mrs. Aronstein said the Town needs to provide a grant match. She said this project will enhance communication and connectivity amongst town-owned buildings, ultimately removing subscription costs with Comcast and reducing expenses. Mrs. Aronstein said the cable group will vote on Friday to use their funds for the grant match.

Mrs. Aronstein said the Town received \$50,000 for zoning and design guidelines for mixed-use neighborhoods. Mrs. Aronstein said our Town Planner, Chris Parayno, applied for this grant from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs.

Mr. Kitchin thanked the participants in the grant process on behalf of the Board of Selectmen for their efforts.

Old Business

Mr. Medeiros said he was thinking about the comment at Town Meeting regarding pools versus the beach. Mr. Medeiros said he mentioned the Town had spent some money on revitalizing the beach but that one thing he failed to mention at Town Meeting was that the Waterfront Revitalization Committee at the time was instrumental in gaining a grant, around \$800,000, that was a game changer for us and my colleagues who served diligently. Mr. Medeiros said he apologized and said that the town did obtain a grant that helped push that project along. Mr. Medeiros emphasized that he merely wished to clarify this.

New Business

The Board reviewed and discussed the Board of Selectmen's schedule for the next six months and agreed on the proposed dates.

Mr. Kitchin said that he wanted to thank all the numerous people who helped make our Memorial Day Parade and the ceremony the successful events that they were. Mr. Kitchin stated it was so meaningful and enjoyable, and the event was very well run. The Board agreed to issue letters of thanks to all volunteers involved.

Correspondence

Mr. Medeiros congratulated the graduating Class of 2025 from the Joseph Case High School.

At 7:10 p.m., **Motion** made by Mr. Beaudette, seconded by Mr. Medeiros, to adjourn the meeting and enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L.c30A, §21(a)(7): To comply with or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements: Review Executive Session Minutes – March 25, 2025; and pursuant to M.G.L.c30A, §21(a)(3): To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for collective bargaining as an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the town: Police Patrolmen's Union.

Roll Call Vote showed: Kitchin, yes; Beaudette, yes; Medeiros, yes.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessica White
Administrative Assistant

Document List:

*Email- Swansea Recipients Award from Diman Vocational Technical High School
Memorandum to Appoint Full-Time Dispatcher- Brandon Halbardier*

Town Administrator memorandum Recommendations for Selectmen Priorities FY2026

Selectmen Priorities Chart FY2026

*Notice from the County Commissioners of Bristol County to appoint a new Representative
Minutes of the Board of Selectmen meeting of May 20, 2025*

Memorandum to reduce number of members on Harbor Advisory Committee

Letter regarding award of the Community Compact Municipal Fiber Grant

Press Release from the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs regarding grant recipients

Board of Selectmen proposed meeting schedule