

ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES OF GLOVER TOWN
March 4, 2025

The legal voters of the Town of Glover are hereby notified to meet at the Glover Town Hall, in Glover Village on Tuesday, March 4, 2025 at nine o'clock in the forenoon to act on the following business:

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

The 224th Annual Town Meeting was called to order at 9am. Nick Ecker-Racz voiced his sentiment that Town Meetings are the foundation of our democracy and he hopes town meetings will continue in the future.

At 9:05am there was no objection to a Legislative Update from Representative Leanne Harple and Senator Sam Douglas. Leanne is on the Education Committee. They are working on reforming the public education funding system. She is also involved in an environmental plan to support healthy lake activities. Sam is involved in the Health and Welfare Committees. They are working on the sustainability of North Country Hospital and the rising costs of health/welfare care. There is a capital bill being considered to address rising property taxes. Noel Ford expressed concern about accountability of campaign contributions and the possibility that donors will influence the recipients to put business interests above the interests of the people. Jessica Ziegler inquired about funding universal school lunches if federal funding is eliminated. Leanne encouraged people to go to her website www.vtrepleanneharple.com for updates. Davi Bock inquired if Sam supports school consolidation. Sam responded that he does not support the five county school consolidation proposal, but indicated it is not his area of knowledge. He stated he supports rural schools. Leanne mentioned it is unclear if there will be any cost savings. Jen Andrews expressed her appreciation for the support to ban wake sports on Glover lakes. Carole Young expressed her concern about the way education is funded. She would like to see the Legislature find other ways to fund public education without relying on property taxes.

The order of the day resumed at 9:38am

Nick made the following announcements: For the first time in many years, there are childcare services available in the basement, thanks to Luna Gordon. A Rabies Clinic is scheduled for Saturday, March 22, 2025 at the Municipal Building (Town Clerk's Office) from 9am - Noon.

WARNING

ARTICLE 1. To elect a Moderator.

David Simmons nominated Nick Ecker-Racz, seconded by Andrea Carpentier. No other nominations were made. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Nick Ecker-Racz was declared elected.

Nick announced the different tables set up around the room: Glover Historical Society, Glover Ambulance, Glover Senior Meals (serving coffee and refreshments), Trails Committee, Energy Committee, and the Glover Library.

ARTICLE 2. To elect a Town Clerk.

Jack Sumberg nominated Cindy Epinette, seconded by Krista Mayer. No other nominations were received. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Cindy Epinette was declared elected.

ARTICLE 3. To receive the reports of the officers of last year.

Jack Sumberg made a motion to approve this article, seconded by Mariel Hess. Cindy identified numerous typographical errors in the report, which were corrected. Deb Clark, Auditor, confirmed the errors do not affect the sub-totals, nor the final totals. The amended report was approved by a voice vote.

ARTICLE 4. To elect all officers required by law for the ensuing year, and fill all vacancies caused by resignation or otherwise.

To elect a Treasurer for a term of one (1) year.

David Simmons nominated Cindy Epinette. Jack Sumberg made a motion to cast one ballot for Cindy Epinette, seconded by Dennis Gibson. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Cindy Epinette was declared the Town Treasurer.

To elect a Select Board Member for a term of three (3) years.

Glenn Gage nominated himself for Selectboard. John S Rodgers nominated Tyler Scelza. Tyler declined the nomination. John S Rodgers made a motion to cast one ballot for Glenn Gage, seconded by Richard Epinette. The motion was approved with a voice vote. Glenn Gage was declared elected. Dennis Gibson thanked David Simmons for all his years of service as a Selectboard member.

To elect an Auditor for a term of three (3) years.

Deb Clark, Auditor, described what the auditors do and indicated the Town Auditors and Town Treasurer were going to review the current practices and software system, to develop a more efficient presentation of the finances in the future. Jonathan Gilbert nominated himself as an Auditor. Jack Sumberg made a motion that nominations cease and one vote be cast for Jonathan Gilbert, seconded by David Simmons. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Jonathan Gilbert was declared elected.

To elect a Lister for a term of three (3) years.

Dennis Gibson nominated David Olsen. No other nominations were offered. The motion was approved by a voice vote. David Olsen was declared elected.

To elect a Library Trustee for a term of five (5) years.

Nancy Rodgers nominated Andrea Neil. No other nominations were offered. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Andrea Neil was declared elected.

To elect a Cemetery Commissioner for a term of three (3) years.

Cindy Epinette nominated Joan Alexander. No other nominations were offered. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Joan Alexander was declared elected.

To elect a Cemetery Sexton for a term of one (1) year.

Joan Alexander nominated Cindy Epinette. No other nominations were offered. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Cindy Epinette was declared elected.

To elect a Collector of Delinquent Taxes for a term of one (1) year.

Jack Sumberg nominated Cindy Epinette. No other nominations were offered. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Cindy Epinette was declared elected.

To elect a First Constable for a term of one (1) year.

Phil Brooks nominated Job Breitmeyer. No other nominations were offered. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Job Breitmeyer was declared elected.

To elect a Second Constable for a term of one (1) year.

Richard Epinette nominated Cindy Epinette. No other nominations were offered. The motion was approved by a majority voice vote. There was one objection. Cindy Epinette was declared elected.

To elect an Agent to deed town owned property for a term of one (1) year.

Deb Clark nominated Cindy Epinette. No other nominations were offered. The motion was approved by a voice vote. Cindy Epinette was declared elected.

ARTICLE 5. To see if the Town will vote to raise \$1,412,909.07 by taxes to be assessed by the Select Board to pay incidental expenses and its several taxes required by law.

Deb Clark made a motion to approve this article, seconded by David Simmons.

Amos Turner inquired as to why the amount to be raised by taxes was so high. A run-down of the big increases was shared. It was explained that the expected revenues, that offset expenses, will be down. Money has been budgeted to prepare for repairing/replacing the Shadow Lake Dam and to supply matching funds for a new salt shed, if grant funding is received. It was mentioned that Town of Barton built a salt shed for \$75,000.

Topher Waring made a motion to eliminate the \$75,000 for the salt shed, seconded by Chris Braithwaite.

Phil Young made a motion, seconded by Jessica Ziegler, to amend the Waring amendment to allow \$35,000 for a salt shed.

Richard LaClair, Road Crew, indicated the existing "salt shed" is eroding the floor, there is only space for one load of salt, and it is difficult to access the storage area.

Ned expressed his appreciation for the work the road crew does.

Several community members mentioned how important it is for the roads to be maintained, especially in the winter, and they supported having a salt shed.

The motion to amend the salt shed budget figure from \$75,000 to \$35,000 was approved with a voice vote.

The motion to amend the amount to be raised by taxes to \$1,372,909.07 was approved by a voice vote.

A brief break was taken at 11:45am. The meeting resumed at Noon.

ARTICLE 6. To see if the Town will vote to collect property taxes on or before 5pm on November 16, 2025, as provided in T32, §4792 V.S.A. and postmarks are not accepted as proof of payment.

Stephan Cantor moved to accept this article, seconded by David Simmons. The article was approved with a voice vote.

ARTICLE 7. To see if the Town will vote to have taxes collected by the Treasurer as provided in T32, § 4791-92 V.S.A.

Rebecca Young made a motion to approve this article, seconded by Ned Andrews. The article was approved with a voice vote.

ARTICLE 8. To see if the Town will vote \$300.00 per mile or more for Class 1, 2, and 3 Town Highways under the Provisions of T19, §307 V.S.A.

Peggy Day Gibson made a motion, seconded by David Simmons, to approve this article. The article was approved with a voice vote.

ARTICLE 9. To see if the Town will appropriate a total of \$26,200 to the individual agencies and services listed in the 2025 column of the 2024-2025 Appropriations Comparison list, and taxes to be assessed by the Select Board.

Deb Clark discouraged the change due to the conflict during election years. The Town Clerk and election workers will not be able to participate in town meeting and tally votes at the same time.

Clare Dolan suggested holding Town Meeting Day on a Saturday. The authorizing statute requires town meeting to be held within three days of the first Tuesday in March.

The amendment and suggestions were defeated with a voice vote. The article was approved with a voice vote.

ARTICLE 11.

To do and transact any other nonbinding business that may legally come before this meeting.

Tabitha Armstrong made a motion to ask the Selectboard to warn a special town meeting to discuss the true costs associated with operating the town and another discussion regarding the cost to pave roads. This motion was seconded by Tyler Scelza. This motion was approved with a voice vote.

James Coe, Co-Chair of the Planning Commission stated the Town Plan needs to be updated every eight years. The Planning Commission created a survey and encourages residents to share their concerns and visions for the future. Several folks requested the collated information be made available to the Selectboard and at the next annual town meeting. Olivia Noel indicated the results will be available on the Planning Commission website. As a reminder: Planning Commission meetings are held the last Tuesday of each month.

Tyler Scelza made a motion, seconded by John S Rodgers, to include a statement in the town policies that town vehicles are not to be used for personal use. Chris Braithwaite made a motion, seconded by Anne Eldridge, to allow the town vehicle to be used by the Road Foreman to travel to and from home. Several residents believed this issue should be addressed by the Selectboard. Several residents voiced their support of the Road Foreman taking the town vehicle home in case of an emergency or to inspect the roads during storms, for efficiency purposes. Tyler and Chris withdrew their motions with the understanding the Selectboard will address this concern.

Stephan Cantor made a motion, seconded by Jessica Ziegler, to approve the following Resolution:

"We, the residents of Glover, VT, resolve to formally request that our Governor, Phil Scott, publicly reaffirm his commitment to upholding the rule of law, protecting the rights of Vermonters and the constitution amidst federal overreach, even if confronted with federal threats related to funding or other matters.

Furthermore, we encourage him to proactively leverage his authority and engage with his colleagues nationwide to advocate for the protection of the rights of government personnel, immigrants, and individuals belonging to LBGTO, disabled and BIPOC communities.

Additionally, we call on him to work with his colleagues on both a state and federal level to safeguard critical services such as Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security, which are essential to the well-being of all Vermonters."

The motion was approved with a voice vote.

Krista Mayer reminded folks that there are two school votes coming up: March 10th, 2025 for Lake Region Union Elementary-Middle School District and March 19th, 2025 for Lake Region Union High School. Both meetings will be held at Lake Region Union High School starting at 7pm. There is an open seat on the Lake Region Union Elementary-Middle School District board if anyone is interested.

Jack Sumberg, Flood Plain Coordinator, indicated that the Flood Plain Plan needs to be updated. There will be a community forum scheduled to inform folks and receive input. We currently have old maps but FEMA is working on getting them updated.

Topher Waring requested an update on the progress relating to the tire dump on Route 16. Phil Young responded as the Health Officer. He did not see any health issues. Several agencies of the State of Vermont are involved in related issues and the Selectboard is waiting for their resolution. Robert Colaceci, Vermonters Helping Vermonters, Inc, requested to speak. A vote was taken: 16 indicated approval for him to speak and 13 indicated objection for him to speak. Mr Colaceci stated he was working with the Attorney General (AG) and Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) to get all matters resolved. He indicated he wanted to build a retaining wall to prevent waste from flowing into the river, he is arranging for the tires to be removed in the spring, and he is working with an organization in Canada to purchase the property. There is a meeting scheduled next week, with DEC and AG offices, to discuss this further. Dawn Stone spoke up and stated Mr Colaceci has been evicted from the property.

Mariel Hess wanted to thank Jack Sumberg and Dwain Clevenger for installing the acoustic panels on the walls and ceiling of the town hall.

Ann Creaven suggested purchasing a speaker and microphone for the next town meeting.

Phil Brooks, Fire Department Treasurer, thanked the Energy Committee for the work they are doing with the Municipal Energy Resilience Program (MERP) grant, and including the Fire Station as one of the projects. He is looking forward to working with them to make the Fire Station more energy efficient.

Nick announced he may not run for the Moderator position next year.

ARTICLE 12. To Adjourn:

David Simmons made a motion, seconded by Dennis Gibson, to adjourn at 1:02pm. The motion was approved.

Dated March 6, 2025

Phil Young, Chair

Cynthia Epinette, Town Clerk

Nicholas M Ecker-Racz, Moderator

APPROPRIATIONS COMPARISON

	2024	2025
American Legion	\$ 150.00	\$ 150.00
American Red Cross of NH & VT	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Big Heavy World	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
ConnectAbilities	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Craftsbury Community Care Center	\$ 1,000.00	\$ 1,000.00
Fairbanks Museum & Planetarium	\$ 1,111.00	\$ 1,111.00
Glover Pioneer Camp	\$ 2,000.00	\$ 2,000.00
Green Mountain Farm to School	\$ 1,200.00	\$ 1,200.00
Green Up Vermont	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Hardwick Area Food Pantry	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
North Country Friends of the VT Symphony Orchestra	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
North Woods Stewardship Center	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Northeast Kingdom Human Services, Inc.	\$ 2,244.00	\$ 2,244.00
Northeast Kingdom Learning Services, Inc.	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
Notheast Kingdom Council on Aging	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Orleans - Essex VNA & Hospice, Inc.	\$ 2,200.00	\$ 2,200.00
Orleans County Citizen Child Advocacy Center	\$ 350.00	\$ -
Orleans County Fair Association	\$ 500.00	\$ 500.00
Orleans County Historical Society	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Pope Memorial Frontier Animal Shelter, Inc.	\$ 550.00	\$ 550.00
Rural Community Transportation, Inc.	\$ 700.00	\$ 850.00
Shadow Lake Association (Boat Wash)	\$ 8,500.00	\$ 8,500.00
Umbrella, Inc.	\$ 700.00	\$ 700.00
Vermont Center for Independent Living	\$ 245.00	\$ 245.00
Vermont Family Network	\$ 250.00	\$ 250.00
VT Assoc. for the Blind & Visually Impaired	\$ 750.00	\$ 750.00
VT Rural Fire Protection (Dry Hydrant)	\$ 100.00	\$ 200.00
	\$ 26,200.00	\$ 26,200.00

David Simmons made a motion to approve the appropriation list, seconded by Stephan Cantor. The Town Clerk indicated she had spoken to the Orleans County Child Advocay Group. They declined to submit a request this year, but they would submit one next year. The motion to approve the article as presented was approved by a voice vote.

Jen Andrews was given permission to address the attendees regarding Shadow Lake. She wanted to thank the town for all their support.

ARTICLE 10. To see if the Town will vote to have the 2025 Annual Meeting start at 9:00AM on March 3, 2026.

David Simmons made a motion to approve this article, seconded by Stephan Cantor.

Tyler Scelza made a motion to change the meeting time to 5pm, seconded by John S Rodgers. The motion was made to encourage more residents to attend.

Anne Eldridge made a motion to change the time to 6pm, seconded by Jessica Ziegler. The motion was made to give residents who get out of work at 5pm a better opportunity to attend.

Chris Braithwaite indicated he did not believe changing the time would increase the number of attendees. He stated that if people want to attend they will make time to attend.