

TOWN of MIDDLEFIELD, CT



Middlefield Board of Selectman Regular Meeting

Monday, January 5, 2026 - 7:00 p.m.

Community Center, Room 2

405 Main Street, Middlefield, CT and Remote

Minutes

Meeting Agenda Items	Meeting Notes
Call to Order	Meeting called to order at TIME Present: Megan Abbott; Doug O'Rourke, Selectman; Brian Dumas
Pledge of Allegiance	Recited
Approval of Agenda	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Motion to approve agenda as presented by Doug O'Rourke• Second: made by Megan Abbott• Vote: unanimous• Motion carried
Public Comment	Brian Dumas addressed the Board regarding the Conservation Commission's work on a policy for leasing town-owned properties for haying, with a focus on ecological protection, particularly grassland bird habitats. The policy is scheduled for a vote by the Conservation Commission on January 20, 2026, and will be brought to the Board of Selectmen in February 2026. Discussion included: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Conflicts between ecological protection and agricultural value of hay.• Timing of haying and its impact on bird nesting.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Reference to policies adopted by other municipalities (notably Wallingford). ● The importance of maintaining grassland habitats. <p>No additional public comment was offered.</p>
<p>Public Communications</p>	<p>The First Selectman reported receiving multiple communications related to speeding and traffic concerns, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Favorable feedback regarding new speed feedback signs on Jackson Hill Road, which also collect traffic speed data. ● Ongoing concerns regarding drivers bypassing existing speed enforcement by using Peters Lane and Spring Street. ● Discussion of potential installation of temporary speed bumps on Spring Street, including cost considerations, resident impact, and seasonal limitations. ● Explanation of differences between speed bumps, speed humps, and speed tables.
<p>First Selectman's Report:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Old Home Days - Update / Budget Joint Boards and Commissions Meeting Other updates 	<p>The Board discussed preliminary planning for Old Home Days:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Anticipated base cost of approximately \$30,000, consistent with the prior year. ● Potential additional expenses of approximately \$8,000 related to the Town's 350th Anniversary activities. ● Clarification regarding use of funds from the Park and Recreation Commission account, which maintains a balance of approximately \$70,000. ● Commitment to transparency and oversight of expenditures. ● No action was required. <p>Joint Boards and Commissions Meeting:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Motion: To schedule the Joint Boards and Commissions Meeting for Thursday, February 26, 2026, made by Megan Abbott ● Second: made by Doug O'Rourke ● Vote: unanimous ● Motion carried <p>Other updates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Veteran tax exemption matters awaiting further information. ● Ongoing discussions related to elections,

	<p>registrar needs, and voting logistics.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Planning for recognition of long-serving staff upon retirement. ● No formal action was taken under this item.
Boards and Commissions Appointments: a. Board of Finance b. Zoning Board of Appeals c. Conservation Commission	<p>The Board discussed upcoming appointments and interviews for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Board of Finance ● Zoning Board of Appeals ● Conservation Commission <p>Brian Dumas requested consideration of expanding the number of Conservation Commission alternates if qualified candidates exceed available positions. The Board acknowledged the request and explained appointment and reappointment obligations.</p>
Tax Refunds	No votes / No motion
Adjournment	<p>There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned by consensus at 7:37 p.m.</p> <p>Motion: To adjourn the meeting Moved By: Doug O'Rourke Second: Megan Abbott Vote: Unanimous Motion carried</p>

Respectfully Submitted,
Rachel Kurek, Meeting Minutes Transcriptionist
 01/15/2026