

# Select Board Meeting

For the date of: 03/19/2026

**Type of Item:**

- Board or Committee Presentation
- Consent Agenda Item
- Public Hearing
- Unfinished Business
- New Business
- Executive Session
- Workshop

**Type of Submission:**

- Regular Submission
- Additional Agenda Item
- Additional Information

**Agenda Number:** 26-32

(If this is Unfinished Business, please remember to research and enter the original agenda number above. For Regular Agenda items, the Secretary will assign a number.)

**Brief Title of consent or Agenda Item:** Consideration and any appropriate action to a request from the History Committee to provide a letter to the bridge advisory committee on naming process for the new Topsham-Brunswick Bridge.

**Brief Description of Consent or Agenda Item:** Memo's attached

**Submitted by:** Mark Waltz, Town Manager

**Date:** 03-16-2026



## Memorandum

**To:** Select Board

**From:** Town Manager Waltz

**Re:** External Communication Request from History Committee

**Date:** March 13, 2026

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As you know, the Select Board's Board and Committee Policy requires approval prior to sending out external communication.

The History Committee would like to provide the attached letter to the bridge advisory committee (or anyone else who may be involved in the naming process for the new Topsham-Brunswick bridge). They seek your approval to release the letter.

To date, the Town has not been requested to take a position on name. Possible courses of action could be to:

1. Allow the History Committee to make their name suggestion and defer until the Town is asked any recommendation from the Select Board;
2. Join with the committee in making the name request; or
3. Establishing a process to accept suggestions (a deadline for submissions, a public hearing, etc.) prior to making a request or allowing external communication on the issue.

March 12, 2026

Topsham History Committee  
Ralph Williams  
100 Main Street  
Topsham, Maine 04086

To whom it May Concern,

On behalf of the Topsham History Committee, we are writing to wholeheartedly support naming the new bridge between Topsham and Brunswick the "Pejepscot Falls Bridge."

Like the Design Advisory Committee, we believe this name is simply the right one. "Pejepscot" is the name the Anasagunticook—an Abenaki people—gave to this very stretch of the Androscoggin River. It means "long rocky rapids part" or "crooked like a diving snake," and it captures something true and vivid about this place that no modern name quite can.

For generations before European contact, the Abenaki gathered at the falls right here—at the foot of where this bridge now stands—to harvest salmon and other fish as they swam upriver to spawn. This location is, without exaggeration, the single most important site for the Abenaki in all of what is now Brunswick and Topsham. Giving the bridge a name rooted in that history is the least we can do to honor that enduring presence.

We also love that this name connects seamlessly with the community's memory of the site: those falls still lie beneath the Brunswick Hydroelectric Dam, just upstream, and the name "Pejepscot Falls Bridge" keeps that story alive for every person who crosses it.

The name, "Pejepscot Falls Bridge," is a name our whole community—from long-time residents to newcomers—can feel proud of. We warmly invite the committee and our neighbors in both towns to embrace it.

With appreciation and community pride,

The Topsham History Committee  
Topsham, Maine

A handwritten signature in dark ink, consisting of a horizontal line followed by a stylized, cursive letter 'R'.