

LeeAnn Mackey Statement at BOS Meeting 6/16/2025 (Transcribed)

Number one: At the SWC meeting on May 26, 2025 the chair stated that the “committee would not be taking marching orders from the Board of Selectmen”.

My answer is what I believe the Chair was referring to and what I support, is that our Committee operates with legal independence as an advisory body as intended under RSA 91-A.

Our role is not to take orders, but to serve the public by studying issues and providing recommendations transparently.

If that sounds combative it's because of an unfortunate narrative that is being pushed that distorts the spirit of our role.

That narrative has not only undermined the credibility of our Chair, it has done the same with the rest of the Committee as well. This is deeply disrespectful to the volunteer efforts we have all sustained for years.

Question two: Regarding the mission statement, do you agree with the original 2016 charge developed by the BOS?

My response: The original charge was written for a prior nine-year-old version of this Committee.

Our group formed much later under different leadership and without a new formal charge. It's misleading to claim that we're ignoring a mission that was never explicitly assigned to us.

What we've done is build a cultural culture of transparency and diligence. The better question here is: why is the Board just now raising this ever after several years of watching us operate in public view?

Question number three: the BOS appointment authority. Does the committee recognize the authority of the BOS to appoint members?

My response: of course we do, we've never disputed that. But appointment authority is not the same as editorial control.

The Selectboard can appoint members, but that does not mean it should micromanage the Committee's internal process or silence members findings. As the New Hampshire Municipal Association puts it, and I quote, “The Board should not editorialize, censor, or preemptively attempt to control findings.”

Number four: Co-Chair appointment. Does the committee plan to appoint a co-chair?

My response is: I believe that's a decision for the Committee to make internally and not something the BOS should force.

The Committee has functioned well for years without one.

If the Board is suddenly trying to insert structural changes it raises the question of whether the goal is to improve function or simply control.

Number five: communication of success and failure. The question was can the committee understand the importance of passing on information on projects that are successful or not.

My response is: that's exactly what we've been doing by approving and submitting detailed minutes after every single meeting.

If those minutes aren't being accessed or review by Selectboard members, the problem isn't a communication problem on our end it's access and follow through on theirs.

Telling us you can't find the minutes or that you are unable to find specific items within them, as our current BOS rep has done on multiple occasions, does not justify attacking our transparency.

That's not just unfair it's irresponsible.