

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

2-8-21

Official Minutes as of 2/22/21

1 Call to Order

2 Members Present: Chair Ben Bartlett, Vice Chair John Morin, Tiler Eaton, Tony Dumas

3 Absent: Donna Danis

4 Others: Lorraine Petrini, Chris Sterndale, Steve Soreff, David Scott, Jason Tremblay, Anthony
5 Weatherbee, Sandi Dow, Fawn Woodman, Tom, Rebecca Martin, Tom Levins, David Scott,
6 Chris Norwood, Pete, Brian O'Brien

7 Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

8 Approve Manifests

9 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to approve the accounts payable manifest of 2-8-21 and payroll**
10 **manifest of 2-9-21. Mr. Eaton seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**

11 Approve Minutes

12 **Mr. Morin made a motion to approve the non-public minutes from 1-11-21 and the public**
13 **minutes from 1-25-21 as written. Mr. Eaton seconded. Approved by a vote of 3-1 with Mr.**
14 **Bartlett abstaining.**

15 BOS Reports from Assigned Boards/Committees

16 *Budget Committee*

17 No more meetings.

18 *Planning Board*

19 They met and will be meeting again this week. There is an application for a subdivision for 6 lots
20 around Kennard/Smoke St. The developer is returning to another upcoming meeting. The other
21 development that the Planning Board is discussing is on King Fisher. Mr. Sterndale said there is
22 a change of use for the snowmobile race. There will be a policy for the BOS to discuss regarding
23 events in the upcoming weeks.

24 *CIP*

25 They finalized their work.

26 *300th Celebration Committee*

27 Mr. Eaton and Mr. Soreff discussed the advertising book. Mr. Soreff said they are launching a
28 series of lectures starting Feb. 23. The lectures will be via zoom. The two topics they have
29 decided on so far are geology of Pawtuckaway and loons.

30 *Marston Property*

31 Ms. Danis is not at meeting and there is no update.

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32 **Town Administrator Report**

33 The Tweed lawsuit decision came through today. It was ruled in the plaintiff favor. The BOS
34 was not enforcing the ordinance since it was passed at the town meeting. The ordinance, at this
35 point, is effectively null and void. Mr. Dumas asked about the attorney fees. That will be the next
36 thing discussed.

37 There was an accident with one of the plow truck on Cooper Hill Road. No one was hurt. There
38 was significant damage to the car that hit the plow truck.

39 The moderator is working on deliberative sessions with supervisors and other election officials.
40 Mr. Dumas and Mr. Sterndale will participate as well.

41 There is one town employee that is Covid symptomatic.

42 The rec dept. is planning outdoor events like the egg hunt, fishing derby. They will be advertised
43 with the BOS approval. It was agreed that these events will be advertised.

44 **Action Items from Last Meetings**

45 *Tax Deeding Properties*

46 **Assessing**

47 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to approve the following veteran credits: Map 15 Lot 1.3**
48 **Widdecomb veteran credit and Map 66 Lot 2.30 Bailey veteran credit. Mr. Morin**
49 **seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**

50 Regarding, Map 68 Lot 104 Murphy abatement, Mr. Morin agreed with Avitar assessment. Mr.
51 Dumas agreed. Mr. Eaton concurred.

52 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to approve the abatement for Map 68 Lot 104 with the new**
53 **assessment of \$407,400 and the abatement difference of \$29,500. Mr. Morin seconded.**
54 **Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**

55 Regarding Map 68 Lot 31 Wawrzonek abatement, Mr. Morin said it is steep piece of land but
56 doesn't disagree with the assessment. He is confused with Avitar's assessment as they changed it
57 from 'steep' to 'rolling.' Mr. Morin said it is a cliff and it is a very steep lot. Changing from
58 'rolling' to 'steep', it may change the assessment. Mr. Bartlett agreed with Mr. Morin. Mr.
59 Dumas said it sounds like a clerical error. Mr. Morin said the 'steep' value is different than
60 'rolling' but he doesn't disagree with the assessment. He thinks the assessment should remain the
61 same but change to 'steep.' Mr. Sterndale said the BOS only needs to worry about the property
62 value and Avitar will handle the rest. Mr. Morin said then he would say the value should not
63 change. He said it is fair. Mr. Dumas agreed. Mr. Bartlett asked if there is not much difference
64 between the house next door and this one. Mr. Morin said the property next to this one is very
65 steep but others on the street are not as steep. Mr. Bartlett asked about 69 and 71. Mr. Morin said
66 69 is steeper; this is the one the BOS is speaking about it. Mr. Morin said Avitar should change it
67 back to 'steep' but keep the assessed value. Mr. Bartlett suggested tabling this till they get an

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68 explanation from Avitar. Mr. Sterndale said if they are comfortable with the assessment, they
69 should decide and not micromanage what is on the property card. Mr. Morin suggested denying
70 this and agree with Avitar so that the assessment remains the same.

71 **Mr. Morin made a motion to deny the application for Map 68 Lot 31. Mr. Dumas seconded.**

72 Mr. Bartlett asked if the person can come back for another abatement. Mr. Sterndale said they
73 may be able to but they may have to wait till the next tax season.

74 **It was approved by a vote of 4-0.**

75 **Appointments**

76 *NHDOT Anthony Weatherbee re: Rte 152 bridge*

77 This is a bridge replacement project which is by the school on Rte.152. The bridge was
78 constructed in 1925 and widened in 1970. It has been red-listed for a while. The concrete is
79 degrading, and the rebar is exposed. There is a rusted substructure. They are suggesting a bridge
80 replacement.

81 There are three options to handle traffic: accelerated bridge construction (closing the road
82 completely) for one month, phased construction (close one lane and rebuild that portion), offline
83 temporary bridge (construct that while traffic is on Rte. 152, use new bridge once it's complete,
84 fix the bridge and then remove temporary bridge). He said the second option would be hard
85 because the bridge is so destroyed already and it would be more expensive. The third option
86 which is the temporary bridge will be very difficult in that spot. The detour that would be signed
87 by the state would be 22 miles. There could be shorter routes but they would not be on on state
88 roads and it would not be signed that way.

89 The bridge has some protected shoreland. There are federally and state listed species. It's part of
90 the wildlife corridor. They will build a wildlife shelf so critters can go along this without going
91 on the road.

92 Mr. Martin is asking for BOS and others to get back to them tonight or after the meeting
93 regarding environmental concerns.

94 Mr. Bartlett said he preferred the first option but 22 miles for an alternate route is concerning.
95 The fire and police would have longer routes to reach anyone who needed help. He asked if the
96 state would return the area back to the way it was beforehand if they used the temporary bridge.
97 Mr. Weatherbee said yes. A construction season is spring/summer/fall. It could be prepped in
98 spring and done in the summer. Mr. Dumas asked about the traffic reroute. Mr. Weatherbee said
99 they have to sign the state mandated roads which is a 22-mile detour. Mr. Morin said they don't
100 want to start this in spring/summer because Priest Road will become a mud road as it's a dirt
101 road. They should do summer/fall. Mr. Bartlett said commercial traffic can't go down these
102 roads. Mr. Tremblay said they could do the summer closure. Mr. Bartlett would like input from
103 the police and fire chiefs. Chief Woodman said she is not inclined to shut down the road for a
104 month. It will significantly reduce the police's time to respond to calls. It's extremely unsafe for

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the police to drive ‘code’ on these roads. She can’t rely on mutual aid; the town should plan ahead and not shut down the road. Mr. Morin said he doesn’t agree with Chief Woodman and thinks the one month is the best plan. Chief Woodman said the fire chief is opposed to option one as well. Mr. Eaton is concerned that the bridge is unsafe as is and asked is it safe for the fire truck or commercial trucks to go on the one lane of the road. Mr. Weatherbee said they may have to load post if necessary. It may be more expensive for the one lane option. Mr. Morin asked if the BOS went with the 2-year plan, is the state going to force the town to do the one month plan. Mr. Weatherbee said he doesn’t make those decisions. Mr. Scott believes the state is willing to do the one lane road but it will be through the winter and it will make plowing more difficult. It will be harder for drivers.

Mr. Dumas asked Chief Woodman asked about splitting officers on different parts of town. Chief Woodman said she doesn’t have enough staff to do that. She believes the road should be left open for one lane use. Mr. Scott asked if the furthest citizens are 12 minutes away and with this detour adds time but is less than 12 minutes, it’s still better that the response time that the furthest citizens are receiving in town. Mr. Morin said that the roads are paved outside of Priest Road. The one lane is going to be a real pain for two years. Mr. Weatherbee said it would be two years. Chief Woodman’s opinion remains the same. Mr. Dumas said this decision does not need to be made tonight. Mr. Weatherbee will come back with more information. Mr. Sterndale said the fire chief would not be in favor of closing the road. Mr. Weatherbee said it would cost \$300k more to have the road go to one lane. It will be \$1.1M for option 1 and \$1.4M for option 2. Mr. Scott said it would have to be pretty creative for DOT to help with costs. Mr. Sterndale said the other roads would have more damage to them due to the increased traffic. He said most of the traffic on Rte. 152 is local traffic and they would go on Priest Road. There aren’t a lot of commercial trucks. Mr. Scott said they should discuss the condition of Priest Road before this project. Mr. Tremblay asked about flooding and school bus routes. They could do this while the school was closed. Mr. Dumas suggested raising the roadbed so the road would not completely flood over like it has in the past. Mr. Morin said the water level stayed the same this past year even while water levels dropped elsewhere because there is a beaver dam by the bridge. Mr. Dumas said the temporary bridge may have to go over the largest portion of the river.

Construction would be scheduled for 2024-25. Mr. Weatherbee would like to present this to the public in the next couple of months. Mr. Bartlett suggested perhaps August so it will be after the elections and vacations.

For those who are interested in reaching out directly, the project contact is David Scott at 271-1613. His email is David.L.Scott@dot.nh.gov and the project website is <https://www.nh.gov/dot/projects/nottingham40612/index.htm>.

General Business

Rte. 4 Property

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142 Mr. Sterndale said they are ready to get under contract to market the property. The business
143 arrangements between Norwood and BOS can be done in public but specifics can be discussed in
144 non-public.

145 **Mr. Dumas made a motion for Chris Sterndale to enter into a contract with Norwood**
146 **Group to for the purpose of marketing town properties for sale. Mr. Eaton seconded.**
147 **Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**

148 **Review Action Items for Next Meeting**

149 There were none.

150 **Non-Public per RSA 91-A:3 II (a), (b), (c), (d), (e), and/or (l) if required.**

151 **Adjourn**

152 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 7:56pm and go into non-public**
153 **RSA 91-A:3 II (d). Mr. Morin seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Morin-yay, Mr. Eaton-yay,**
154 **Mr. Bartlett-yay, and Mr. Dumas-yay. Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**

155 The non-public meeting ended at 8:25pm.

156

157 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to seal minutes of non-public session. Mr. Eaton seconded. Roll**
158 **call vote: Mr. Morin-yay, Mr. Eaton-yay, Mr. Bartlett-yay, and Mr. Dumas-yay.**
159 **Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**

160

161 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 8:25pm. Mr. Eaton seconded.**
162 **Roll call vote: Mr. Morin-yay, Mr. Eaton-yay, Mr. Bartlett-yay, and Mr. Dumas-yay.**
163 **Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**

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