

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

2/24/20

Approved Minutes as of 3/9/20

1 Call to Order

2 Members Present: Chair Tony Dumas, Vice Chair Ben Bartlett, Donna Danis

3 Absent: Tiler Eaton, John Morin

4 Others: Steve Soreff, Bonnie Winona MacKinnon, Gene Reed, Sandra Weston, Dee-Ann
5 Decker, John Decker, Jessica Belle, Tom Butkiewicz, Bill Simone, Doug Cummings, Judith
6 Cummings, Teresa Bascom, Michael Bascom, Shirley Bascom Woodard, Pam Kelly, Robin
7 Marshall, Robert Desrosiers, Pat Desrosiers, Mary Bonser, Terry Bonser, Kevin Jordan

8 Chair opened the meeting at 6:50pm with the Pledge of Allegiance.

9 Approve Manifests

10 **Ms. Danis made a motion to approve the accounts payable manifest of 2/24/20 and payroll**
11 **manifest of 2/25/20. Mr. Bartlett seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 3-0.**

12 Approve Minutes

13 **Ms. Danis made a motion to approve the public minutes from 2/10/20 as amended. Mr.**
14 **Bartlett seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 3-0.**

15 **The non-public from 2/10/20 will wait till next meeting.**

16 Action Items from Last Meetings

17 No action items from last minutes.

18 BOS Reports from Assigned Boards/Committees

19 *Budget Committee*

20 No update.

21 *Planning Board*

22 No update.

23 *CIP*

24 They are done meeting for the season.

25 *300th Celebration*

26 No update.

27 *Marston Property*

28 There was a meeting for fundraising last week with NYA.

29 Town Administrator Report

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The town clerk, Sandra Weston, will be retiring at the end of March. The appointed deputy, Lori Anderson will take over as town clerk. She will be looking for a deputy. One of the three recycling bailers has stopped working at the recycling center. A new one will be around \$10k. There are 2 others that they will continue to use which will make it a bit harder until a third is purchased. Ledge Farm Road has problems with cracking and heaving on the paved parts. Mr. Sterndale went over the potential solutions. Ms. Danis asked what the contractor should have done to prevent this. Mr. Sterndale said it may have occurred because it was so close to the cold weather however, Canton Court and South Summer did not have these issues and they were paved at the same time as Ledge Farm Road.

Mr. Reed said the tax collector's term is up and there is one candidate. Mr. Reed will train this person. There is no treasurer running on ballot. Ms. Danis said there may be someone who may be a write-in candidate.

Appointments

SB2 Hearing

The public hearing is open for Article 9 at 7:05pm. Mr. Dumas read Article 9.

Ms. Bascom spoke in support of the warrant article so people can vote while not attending the town meeting. She said the meeting has become contentious and some people show up for some articles and then leave. A greater representation will be at the polls instead of going to the town meeting.

Mr. Butkiewicz said the town meeting went from 9am to 7pm last year. It's difficult for people to spend 10 hours at a meeting however, the only people who get to vote are those who stay for the meeting. He is in favor of SB2.

Ms. Bonser said that she was always in favor of the town meeting but after last year's 10-hour meeting, she said she is in favor of SB2 so more people can vote.

Mr. Bonser said he was the town and school moderator for many years. The turnout for the deliberative session is small. He believes it's a form of voter suppression because people can't vote if they are not there. Everything is on secret ballot when voted through SB2. He is in favor of SB2.

Ms. Woodard said she remembers town meetings from the 60's where the meeting was very short. She said the meeting now is contentious and very long. She is in favor of SB2.

Ms. Decker, supervisor of the checklist, corrected the number of registered voters that was mentioned previously by a speaker. She said she is ambivalent about town meeting vs. SB2 although with the aging population not being at town meeting to vote, it sways her to have the town move towards SB2.

Mr. Reed said there is information online on how to run SB2.

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65 Ms. Weston said some overseas military people can vote for elections but not for the warrant
66 articles at town meeting.

67 Ms. MacKinnon said she is in favor of town meeting. It's a 300-year-old tradition and we are
68 coming up on our 300th year celebration in our town. This will be her 8th town meeting and they
69 never have filled the gym with townspeople. She has been doing the school deliberative session
70 and no one comes to that. She doesn't believe the town has outgrown it.

71 The BOS is not required to vote on this since it's a citizen petition article. The public hearing for
72 SB2 was closed at 7:28pm.

73 *Land Use Change Tax Public Hearing*

74 Land use change tax public hearing was opened at 7:28pm. Mr. Dumas read Article 13.

75 Mr. Butkiewicz said he put this warrant article together. He explained the article and why he
76 created it. There will be no conservation fund; all the land use change tax money will go into the
77 general fund.

78 Ms. Kelly asked if all or a percentage was put into the special fund in past years. Mr. Sterndale
79 said it goes into the conservation fund. Mr. Sterndale said that the full amount of what they
80 collect each year varies. Ms. Kelly said she is not favor of this warrant article.

81 Ms. Decker asked when a developer develops land, are they required to put land in conservation
82 space or common use space. Mr. Sterndale said they are not required but they can if they choose
83 to.

84 Mr. Reed said that cluster developments have common space to have less than the minimum 2
85 acre lots required by the town.

86 Mr. Bonser spoke about Mulligan Forest. The whole amount for the land use tax was received
87 for general fund. The law changed so the conservation fund could get 50% of the land use
88 change tax and then a few years later, it was passed to 100%.

89 Mr. Sterndale gave further history to the land use change tax over the past few years.

90 Mr. Cummings said he is in support of these two warrant articles. He asked for clarification on
91 why they have these hearings. He said reducing taxes should be the goal.

92 Mr. Sterndale said it was around \$300k in the conservation fund currently.

93 Mr. Dumas closed the land use change tax hearing at 7:47pm.

94 **General Business**

95 *Town Meeting Prep*

96 It was decided who would read and speak to what warrant article at the town meeting.

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5	2020 Operating Budget	Michael Koester
6	Stormwater Asset Management Loan	Tony
7	Ambulance Operations	Chief V
8	Fire Vehicle CRF	Chief V
9	Official Ballot Referendum (SB2)	
10	Hwy Road Reconstruction	Ben
11	Highway CRF	Ben
12	Revaluation CRF	John
13	Direct LUCT to General Fund (79-A:25)	
14	Tri-Centennial Fund	Tiler
15	Invasive Species ETF	Donna

97

98 Ms. Danis said she and Charlene Andersen will meet next week to go over the updated roads
99 policy. Mr. Bartlett said they committed to have that done by March 1. Mr. Sterndale said they
100 will give the updated draft to lawyers. Ms. Danis said it will not be done by March 1.

101 Mr. Cummings asked if they could give money for the audio video system in the gym as it is
102 very poor quality. Mr. Sterndale said they just upgraded that.

103 Ms. Weston said the town ballots have arrived today. The school ballots will be arriving soon.

104 Mr. Soreff said there was a perfect rating from the attorney general for the past election.

105 Mr. Bartlett thanked Sandy for her years of service as town clerk.

106 **Review Action Items for Next Meeting**

107 **Ms. Danis made a motion to go into non-public at 8:04pm under RSA 91-A:2, A.**

108 **Mr. Bartlett seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Bartlett-yay, Mr. Dumas-yay, and Ms. Danis-**
109 **yay. Unanimously approved by a vote of 3-0.**

110 The board exited non-public session at 8:35pm.

111 **Ms. Danis made a motion to seal the minutes of non-public session. Mr. Bartlett seconded.**
112 **Roll call vote: Mr. Bartlett-yay, Mr. Dumas-yay, and Ms. Danis-yay. Unanimously**
113 **approved by a vote of 3-0.**

114 **Ms. Danis made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:35pm. Mr. Bartlett seconded.**
115 **Unanimously approved by a vote of 3-0.**