

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

4/20/20

Official Minutes as of 5/4/20

1 Call to Order

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

4 Absent:

5 Others: Jonathan Babon, Leanne Gast, Steve Soreff, Chris Sterndale

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

7 Approve Manifests

8 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to approve the accounts payable manifest of 4-6-20 and payroll**
9 **manifest of 4-21-20. Mr. Eaton seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Unanimously**
10 **approved by a vote of 5-0.**

11 Approve Minutes

12 **Ms. Danis made a motion to approve the public and non-public minutes from 4-6-20 as**
13 **amended. Mr. Dumas seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Unanimously approved by a**
14 **vote of 5-0.**

15 BOS Reports from Assigned Boards/Committees

16 Budget Committee

17 Budget is done for the season.

18 Planning Board

19 Planning has not met.

20 CIP

21 CIP is done for the season.

22 300th Celebration

23 There will be a Zoom meeting upcoming.

24 Marston Property

25 Ms. Danis said they are on track for Marston. The seeding will be done. Erosion issues will be
26 taken care of. Fundraising is paused. Major League grant was not awarded to Nottingham; they
27 will go after more grants in the future.

28 Town Administrator Report

29 Employees are healthy. Some entrances have been blocked for Pawtuckaway Park so people
30 have to go through the main entrance. The police were turning people away when the parking lot
31 was full this past weekend. There have been a few search and rescues over the past couple of

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32 weeks. Ms. Danis said that other places like Tuckerman's have told guests that they are not doing
33 searches for lost hikers. Mr. Sterndale said Tuckerman's is federally owned. It's difficult to
34 notify hikers/boaters of this potential change. Many cities and towns are looking into their
35 campgrounds and whether they will open this season. Mr. Dumas asked if we could bill people
36 for search and rescue. Mr. Sterndale said he will look into that but notification to people is
37 difficult. Ms. Danis said the maps and trail markers are lacking at Pawtuckaway Park; perhaps
38 they can improve those. Mr. Dumas said Franconia Notch maps are far superior to
39 Pawtuckaway. Mr. Morin said people want to get out of their houses; it's unusual to have the
40 park this full this early in the season.

41 Tax transition audit is done. NH Retirement system has done an audit for the first time in 10
42 years. Betsy is fixing a few minor problems. The annual audit is underway now as well.

43 Decisions about Ledge Farm Road will be made in the near future. The Epping part of the road
44 will take more work than they originally thought. There will have to be more trees cut down as
45 they require 8 feet clearance on both sides. It seems unlikely they will be able to finish Ledge
46 Farm Road this year with the money they have allotted. Mr. Bartlett asked if there were other
47 roads that would be paved this year. Mr. Sterndale said there are no other roads that would be
48 paved this year. Mr. Bartlett said that with lower prices in oil, perhaps they can get a lower price
49 on asphalt. Mr. Bartlett asked about a couple of trees on Ledge Farm Road and if they were
50 going to be removed. Mr. Sterndale said that Eversource said they will pay for it and take those
51 trees down.

52 NHMA did a survey for towns and cities last week regarding expenses and revenues. Many
53 municipalities are in the same situation as Nottingham: revenues are down. The group suggested
54 getting federal help to make up for some of that money.

55 While no decision has been made, the recreation team is preparing for summer camp so that they
56 will be prepared to move forward quickly given the ok. There are 80-100 families that this may
57 affect.

58 The BOS needs to stop by the town office to sign items.

59 Action Items from Last Meetings

60 USA Springs property, priorities of the board

61 There was discussion on what is and what isn't an action item. Mr. Bartlett and Mr. Sterndale
62 said they would get together to plan for topics in the future to discuss at BOS meeting.

63 Assessing Approvals

64 Mr. Dumas asked if the elderly exemption and veteran's credits have already been vetted. Mr.
65 Sterndale said they are vetted. Mr. Eaton said the information was in the packet and they looked
66 good. Mr. Sterndale said that Mr. Babon or Kelly Dallaire are involved with documentation. Ms.
67 Danis asked if they can do bulk approvals of the veteran's credits. Mr. Sterndale said they can do
68 the whole list all at once. They do not need to be named individually.

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- 69 Ms. Danis made a motion to approve the exemptions and credits as listed on the agenda.
70 Mr. Dumas seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.

Assessing - Board approves the following:					
Map	Lot	Subject	Map	Lot	Subject
	45	6 Elderly Exemption		40	6 Veteran's Credit
	10	9 Veteran's Credit		11	5 Veteran's Credit
	10	9 Veteran's Credit		45	8 Veteran's Credit
	14	19 Veteran's Credit		5	9 Veteran's Credit
	7	23 Veteran's Credit		41	10 Veteran's Credit
	71	8 Veteran's Credit (x2)			
	67	7 Veteran's Credit			

- 71
72 Mr. Bartlett asked if the approval today takes effect in July. Mr. Sterndale said they will take
73 effect April 1.
- 74 **Assessing-Other**
- 75 Mr. Sterndale introduced Jonathon Babon who is the Avitar contract assessor. Mr. Babon sent
76 information to Mr. Sterndale earlier today to distribute to the BOS. The veteran's credit and
77 elderly exemption will come before the Board once a year. Some properties are flagged and will
78 need to be checked around April 1 for additions, etc. as well as rare things like fires to homes. He
79 discussed his process with Kelly Dallaire on making sure items are filled out correctly.
- 80 They have been able to maintain their anticipated schedule. They are not doing interior
81 inspections right now. They will drive around the entire town based on the tax cards. Mr. Babon
82 went over the process of what they do for the assessments. Taxpayers can opt out of Avitar
83 visiting; they can make an appointment with Avitar or Avitar will access from the street.
- 84 Mr. Dumas asked about current use land. Mr. Babon said this process was enacted in the 60's;
85 there were some poorly thought out processes. If the land is undeveloped or open to public, there
86 are less taxes paid. It was beneficial to farmers because they could keep their lands and pay less
87 taxes. There are size restrictions. 10 acres is the minimum. More likely than land being put into
88 this process, there will be a land use tax change. This means the land is subdivided or sold off
89 and the land would no longer qualify for the land use tax as it has less than 10 acres left in it.
- 90 Timber tax goes through accessing office. This is revenue for the town. Ms. Danis asked if this is
91 on the honor system. Mr. Babon said there are some checks and balances.

92 **General Business**

93 *Assumption of Assessing Duties and Reval Update*

94 This has been discussed already.

95 *Approval of Deputy Treasurer Appointment*

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96 **Mr. Eaton made a motion pursuant to RSA 41:29-a, the Select Board approves the**
97 **appointment of Susan Bascom as Deputy Treasurer. Mr. Dumas seconded. A roll call vote**
98 **was taken. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

99 *Appointment of Library Trustee*

100 **Ms. Danis made a motion pursuant to RSA 41:29-a, the Select Board approves the**
101 **appointment of Laura Cotrell as Library Trustee. Mr. Eaton seconded. A roll call vote**
102 **was taken. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

103 **Other**

104 Ms. Danis said someone in the community asked about the town budget. She asked the Board
105 how frequently they should be decimating information. Mr. Bartlett said he is open to
106 suggestions. Mr. Dumas asked what medium they were speaking of using. Mr. Dumas suggested
107 the town website. Mr. Bartlett said everything was on the website. Ms. Danis said there are
108 questions about how the town is spending money if there hasn't been a town meeting. Mr.
109 Dumas suggested a way for people to submit questions and they can get those answers on the
110 website. Mr. Morin said there are ways for people to communicate with the BOS. He doesn't
111 believe that facebook is a good forum to use. All the information is on the town website. Mr.
112 Dumas said that people may be looking for a short version of what's going on; perhaps that
113 would be detailed out in the community newsletter.

114 **Appointments**

115 **Review Action Items for Next Meeting**

116 Pawtuckaway maps and trail markers, Mr. Dumas will develop a cheat sheet for Zoom meetings

117 **Public Comments**

118 Mr. Soreff asked what Mr. Baron's job is. Mr. Sterndale answered.

119 **Adjourn**

120 **Mr. Eaton made a motion to adjourn at 8:01pm. Ms. Danis seconded. A roll call vote was**
121 **taken. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

122