

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

6-15-20

Official Minutes as of 7/27/20

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: Lorraine Petrini, Steve Soreff, Chris Sterndale, Dee-Ann Decker, Dawn and Joe Fernald,
6 Sandi Weston, Bonnie Winona MacKinnon

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

8 Approve Manifests

9 There were questions about entries on the accounts payable. Mr. Sterndale is not sure and will
10 reach out to Betsy. They are holding off on voting for accounts payable and payroll manifest.

11 Approve Minutes

12 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to approve the public and non-public minutes from June 1,**
13 **2020 as amended. Ms. Danis seconded. A roll call was taken. Unanimously approved by a**
14 **vote of 5-0.**

15 BOS Reports from Assigned Boards/Committees

16 *Budget Committee*

17 Not in season

18 *Planning Board*

19 Mr. Eaton said there were a few cases. Three showed up. There is a subdivision off Mitchell
20 Road. There were continuations of other cases. There was an additional subdivision they were
21 speaking about as well.

22 *CIP*

23 Not in season

24 *300th Celebration*

25 Cookbooks are in the process for the next fundraiser.

26 *Marston Property*

27 There is grass seeded and planted. They need rain. The signs to stay off the field have been
28 ordered.

29 Town Administrator Report

30 Mr. Sterndale said the reevaluation is taking place starting tomorrow. He heard from Betsy and
31 explained that the checks were cancelled and redone.

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

6-15-20

Official Minutes as of 7/27/20

Ms. Danis made a motion to approve the accounts payable manifest of June 15, 2020 and June 16, 2020 and payroll manifest of May 19, 2020 and June 2, 2020. Mr. Dumas seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.

Action Items from Last Meetings

From 6-1-20 meeting: Mr. Sterndale will find out more info about town meeting, Mr. McLain will get costs for maintaining Ledge Farm Road, Mr. Bartlett will send the BOS what he sent for community newsletter.

Assessing

Ms. Danis made a motion to approve the intent to cut and abatement requests as detailed on agenda. Mr. Dumas seconded. A roll call was taken. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.

General Business

Road Projects

Mr. Sterndale said they put some projects out to bid. Mr. Sterndale discussed the info that was sent to BOS. They went over Ledge Farm Annual Costs document which details how much it costs to maintain Ledge Farm Road as is; Shawn McLean created this. Traffic counts and accident data for Ledge Farm Road were also distributed to the BOS. Ms. Danis said the maintenance costs were about \$7k and winter treatment were about an additional \$2k. There have been 11 accidents from 2018 to current. Mr. Morin said that some of the accidents were based on people's poor driving. Mr. Sterndale said that many of the accidents were on the paved part of Ledge Farm Road. Ms. Danis believes the risk is not there based on this information and that some of the accidents were operator error. There is a warrant article that would be dedicated to paving Ledge Farm Road; Mr. Sterndale would like to know what the BOS would like to do regarding this. Mr. Morin is against the warrant article. The amount on the warrant article is \$310k. Ms. Danis is also against the warrant article. Mr. Dumas said the accidents are not as dire as they had thought but perhaps they dodged a bullet by maintaining the road overall and paving the first portion. Mr. Bartlett said the most dangerous part of the road has been fixed; however, Mr. Bartlett said he is concerned about the rest of the road as it is the highest driven road. He is conflicted as to what to do for this road as he doesn't want to increase taxes too much at this time. Mr. Dumas said the dust issue, knee deep mud in the spring and ruts in winter were also issues. Mr. Bartlett said that Shawn McLean is using different materials now so that should alleviate some of the problems. Mr. Sterndale said that this road will still remain bad and complaints will still come as they cannot maintain that road up to par. Mr. Bartlett asked if the traffic count will decrease if they don't pave the road. Mr. Sterndale said the traffic count was high 2 years ago, and it wasn't less traveled. This is not a new problem; this is a continuation of the same problem. Mr. Eaton said that he is in favor of not asking the town for more money at this time. Mr. Sterndale said that there were a few problems that will be fixed in the spring on the part of the road that was recently paved. Ms. Danis asked Mr. Sterndale if there was anything

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

6-15-20

Official Minutes as of 7/27/20

70 that the BOS can do that would be less money for this road. Mr. Sterndale said no. The general
71 consensus is not in favor of the Ledge Farm Road warrant article. Mr. Dumas said he doesn't
72 want to abandon this project but would be in favor of putting it off a year. Ms. Danis asked what
73 the process is at town meeting for this warrant article. Mr. Sterndale said they should discuss it
74 during the budget and then they can table the article or move to amend it to \$1. Mr. Bartlett
75 asked what if they have a catastrophe on that road. Mr. Sterndale said they use the operating
76 budget like they would for any other road.

77 Mr. Sterndale said there are no other changes for the warrant articles as of right now. Mr. Bartlett
78 asked the BOS about the utility truck and loader and if the BOS wants to hold off on purchasing
79 those vehicles. Mr. Sterndale said that those trucks are in the CIP for the next year and the
80 following year. Mr. Bartlett asked the BOS for thoughts about not adding to the reserve fund for
81 highway dept. this year. There is \$34k in the fund now. Ms. Danis said she would like to leave it
82 to the voters. Mr. Sterndale said that perhaps the fire dept. could hold off on putting money in
83 their reserve fund as their next vehicle is further out than the highway dept. Mr. Eaton agrees
84 with Ms. Danis about letting the voters decide.

85 Mr. Bartlett asked why they are cutting Ledge Farm Road warrant article but not other warrant
86 articles. He thinks if the BOS is leaving fire and highway warrant articles as is, they should leave
87 Ledge Farm Road up to the voters as well. Mr. Morin said the BOS can disagree and not vote the
88 same way. Ms. Danis said she believes that Ledge Farm Road is good enough for now. She
89 continues to say that there is a not a significant safety reason and the maintenance costs aren't as
90 high for Ledge Farm Road but they know they will need a piece of fire apparatus at some point.
91 Mr. Morin said they are saving up and that is the purpose of the reserve funds. Mr. Eaton
92 believes that many of these articles will be reduced by the voters. Mr. Dumas said that the
93 reserve funds are expected by the voters as they have been doing that for many years. He doesn't
94 feel they are being hypocritical by saying hold off on Ledge Farm Road. He believes that putting
95 money in reserve funds will reduce the spikes in tax rates as the town has saved for the large
96 purchases for fire and highway dept. Ms. Danis suggested putting less in reserve funds but they
97 could use general fund dollars to offset revenue shortfalls. Ms. Danis asked about reducing
98 reserve fund for highway or fire. Mr. Sterndale said they are not purchasing anything for fire
99 dept. for 5 years; the impact will not be felt for some time. That is not the case with the highway
100 as they need something in the next year and year after and the fund is virtually empty. The
101 highway fund is for equipment purchases. Mr. Bartlett said they will have more vehicles than
102 drivers if they purchase these next two vehicles. Ms. Danis suggests cutting fire to \$50k, cutting
103 Ledge Farm Rd warrant article completely and leaving highway reserve fund as is. Mr. Morin
104 and Mr. Dumas are in favor of that. Mr. Morin would want to put fire reserve fund back to \$100k
105 next year. Mr. Eaton asked if there was anything they can do to control the number of people
106 going on Ledge Farm Road. There is nothing that can be done as it's a public road. Mr. Eaton
107 agreed with what Ms. Dumas proposed. Ms. Danis recommended that the board use the
108 following as a strategy for managing the budget this year: table the Warrant article for continued
109 work on Ledge Farm Road, reduce the investment in the fire department capital reserve fund to
110 \$50K and use the general fund dollars to offset revenue shortfalls. Mr. Bartlett said they could

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

6-15-20

Official Minutes as of 7/27/20

111 make cuts to the budget. Mr. Dumas said that reducing the amount put into the reserve funds are
112 the cost saving measures. Mr. Morin, Mr. Dumas agree with Ms. Danis' recommendation. Mr.
113 Eaton agreed with Ms. Danis' recommendation.

114 Mr. Sterndale suggested meeting one more time before town meeting.

115 Ms. Weston said she has questions about Article 16 and 17. Mr. Dumas said they are citizen
116 petition warrant articles. Ms. Weston said there is no cost amount listed. Ms. Danis said they
117 don't put money associated with them as they are citizen warrant articles. Ms. Weston asked
118 what the recommendations of the BOS is. Mr. Dumas said they don't make recommendations on
119 them. Ms. Weston asked what the annual cost of Highland Ave and North River Lake Road if
120 they are accepted as town roads. Mr. Dumas said the warrant article asks if the town will accept
121 it as a town road. The ask of 'will you accept this as a town road' doesn't cost anything. It will
122 cost the town money in the future for upkeep but it is unknown.

123 *Reopening Plans*

124 Residents have been signing up for appointments with the town clerk. This has been going well.
125 It may be maintained for the future. Mr. Sterndale said the state plans to open the state beach on
126 Friday. There will be day passes sold. Round Pond has been quiet. The town beach will have no
127 lifeguards and recreation dept. will not have campers going to the town beach. Ms. Danis asked
128 about opening the town beach on Thursday as the weather will be hot. There will be a port
129 o'potty at the town beach that will be use at your risk. The next BOS meeting can be done in
130 person. The gym could be used for larger meetings for other boards.

131 Ms. Fernald asked if the BOS instructed the police dept. to remove all people off the town beach
132 road including Fernalds. The town beach road is owned by the Fernalds. Mr. Eaton and Ms.
133 Danis said they were not aware of that. Ms. Danis said this is something that the Board needs to
134 discuss in non-public.

135 *Town Meeting Prep*

136 Mr. Sterndale said they can put 140 people in the gym and café for the town meeting. They will
137 have audio for café as well so they can hear and see everything. Ms. Danis asked if they are
138 providing distancing for those who are wearing masks and those who do not or if they are
139 providing distancing only for those who are wearing masks. Mr. Sterndale said ideally it would
140 be for all people. Mr. Sterndale said that those who are in the café can speak from there and
141 everyone will hear. There will be hand sanitizer and masks available. Ms. MacKinnon said that
142 any public can come to the meeting including people from outside of town. Ms. MacKinnon
143 would prefer putting people wearing masks in a segregated area and that the town should provide
144 masks to all people. She has heard from a lot of people who are not willing to work at the
145 meeting. There will be no lunch. Ms. MacKinnon reminded the BOS that if they would like to
146 speak about their individual opinions (not as the BOS) that they should speak from the audience
147 level instead of speaking from the BOS table. There was discussion on how to have the secret
148 ballots for the 3 warrant articles that require that. Ms. Decker asked if the town is providing PPE

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

6-15-20

Official Minutes as of 7/27/20

149 for town ballot clerks. There will be 8-foot tables with people on either end. The ballot clerks
150 would like masks and face shields. Ms. MacKinnon asked if they will give everyone a mask. Mr.
151 Sterndale said they can but some people may wear their own. Ms. MacKinnon said she will be
152 requiring all workers to wear a mask. Ms. Decker clarified that as an employer, you can require
153 people to wear masks. Ms. Decker said that face shields do not replace masks; they need both.
154 Ms. MacKinnon said that Ms. Decker, Joanna Arendarczyk and RuthAnne Fuller have attended
155 many meetings on how to conduct town meetings in this time.

156 **Appointments**

157 **Review Action Items for Next Meeting**

158 Mr. Dumas will tie Zoom with tv broadcast

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

160 **Adjourn**

161 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to enter into non-Public per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) and (c) at**
162 **8:56pm. Ms. Danis seconded. A roll call vote was taken. Unanimously approved by a vote**
163 **of 4-0.**

164 The non-public meeting ended at 9:26pm.

165 **Ms. Danis made a motion to seal the non-public minutes. Mr. Eaton seconded. A roll call**
166 **vote was taken. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

167 **Ms. Danis made a motion to adjourn at 9:28pm. Mr. Morin seconded. A roll call was taken.**
168 **Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

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