

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

7/26/21

Official Minutes as of 8/9/21

1 Call to Order

2

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

4 Absent: Chair Ben Bartlett

5 Others: Lorraine Petrini, Chris Sterndale, Mary Colvard, John Bartsch, Walter Lewis, Kip
6 Baillargeon, Dave Dearborn, Janice Lyle, Peter Lyle, Kimberly Gable, Katherine Gibbons, Alan
7 Gibbons, Ida Andrade, John Andrade, Mike St. Laurent, Jeffrey Burdett, Jim Rosborough, Pam
8 Kelly, Linda Rosborough, April Burditt, Leslie Dionne, Gary Dionne, Tom Duffy, Judy
9 Baillargeon, Sandra Vilchock, Jaye Vilchock, Fawn Woodman

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

11 Approve Manifests

12 **Mr. Eaton made a motion to approve the accounts payable manifest of 7/26/21 and payroll**
13 **manifest of 7/27/21. Mr. Dumas seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**

14 Approve Minutes

15 **Ms. Danis made a motion to approve the public and non-public minutes from 7/12/21 as**
16 **written. Mr. Eaton seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**

17 BOS Reports from Assigned Boards/Committees

18 Budget Committee

19 No meetings currently

20 Planning Board

21 There is another meeting this Wednesday. Mr. Morin said they talked about watercross at the last
22 meeting. That case will continue the next meeting. There was a case about Lamprey Rd and due
23 to the road being a public road now, it was an issue with purchasing a part of an additional parcel
24 of land. There is an option to purchase two acres but the applicant wanted to purchase a smaller
25 lot.

26 CIP

27 No meetings currently

28 300th Celebration Committee

29 There was a meeting last Thursday but Mr. Eaton was not able to make it. Ms. Danis asked how
30 the recent BOS meeting ended with the 300th Celebration Committee. Mr. Eaton said the
31 committee would come back to another BOS meeting and the committee understands that not
32 everything that they want will be able to occur.

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33 *Marston Property*

34 Ms. Danis said Kevin Kouchoukos did his CBNA senior project; it was a volleyball tournament
35 that raised money for Marston property.

36 **Town Administrator Report**

37 Mr. Sterndale said there was easement for the power service for Marston property that came in
38 the mail today.

39 Ledge Farm Road will be closed tomorrow while they repair damage to the culvert due to the
40 rainstorm last week. There is other paving in town being done as well.

41 Mr. Sterndale said the Planning Board and Zoning Board have been working on the watercross
42 cases. The ZBA will rehear the case; a variance for the watercross event had been approved at a
43 prior meeting. The two boards are working on the same issue at the same time. Watercross event
44 will come before the BOS for special event licensing after it goes through the land use boards.

45 **Action Items from Last Meetings**

46 None

47 **Assessing**

48 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to approve the elderly exemption for Map 1 Lot 192. Ms. Danis**
49 **seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**

50 **General Business**

51 *Road Standards Policy and Practice*

52 Mr. Morin said that townspeople voted on Warrant Article 20 which would abolish the road
53 standards policy that the BOS had previously created. Mr. Sterndale said the BOS has access to
54 what the town attorney suggested; the BOS reviewed that.

55 Ms. Danis said this policy has nothing to do with the roads that were accepted as town roads at
56 the last election. The policy explains the roads standards going forward and would be used as a
57 guide when town roads are getting updated or need work. It's not saying that if Road A needs
58 work, it would be brought up to this standard right away. The policy enables the town to move
59 roads in that direction of the standard. Mr. Dumas asked if it would be for new developments;
60 Mr. Sterndale said new developments would be under the Planning Board.

61 Ms. Danis said there are things that are board policy and there are some things that are the will of
62 the voter. Warrant article 20 was advisory by nature.

63 Ms. Danis asked if there were any emergency lanes left. Mr. Sterndale said there are. It may be
64 5 miles of roads at this point. The vast majority were approved as town roads.

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65 Mr. Morin said he wasn't a fan of the road standards policy and he doesn't want to have these
66 standards for the town. Ms. Danis said there are no road standards, and they are one of the few
67 towns that don't have any. Mr. Morin asked if the town could get sued if the roads aren't brought
68 up to these standards. Mr. Sterndale said no. Ms. Danis said it's an ideal in the future to work
69 towards. Mr. Dumas said it's not a legal obligation; as the roads are reconstructed over time, it
70 would strive for that standard.

71 Ms. Danis said there are standards for new developments. Mr. Sterndale said those standards are
72 developed by Planning Board. Ms. Danis asked would this come into play for EL? Mr. Sterndale
73 said only if there was a condition that this was the standard. The roads that were accepted in
74 2020 were without any conditions. At that time, there were no standards written by the BOS for
75 roads. Mr. Dumas said the BOS put a lot of work into creating these standards and if they have to
76 develop it again, it will likely look a lot like this.

77 Ms. Danis asked if they have flexibility if they have this set of standards? For example, if an EL
78 came to the town meeting asking to be accepted, would it have to go by these standards? Mr.
79 Dumas said there is flexibility with the policies.

80 Ms. Danis said she agrees with Mr. Morin but likes the idea of having the standards so they
81 know what the guide post is in town.

82 Kip Baillargeon wrote Article 20. He said the people spoke at the election. He said the BOS
83 didn't have a right to tell someone to bring up their road to a standard that didn't exist.

84 Ms. Danis asked what would be the value in rescinding the standard and then creating a new one.
85 Mr. Baillargeon didn't believe there should be a standard at all.

86 Ms. Danis said it gives the town highway dept. a standard to aspire towards as they are fixing the
87 roads. Mr. Baillargeon said the standard has been voted down and that the BOS should listen to
88 the people. He said the standard is gone and Mooers Road should be accepted as a town road
89 because there was no standard when this road was accepted at the town meeting a couple of
90 years ago.

91 Mr. Morin said they should abolish the standards. Ms. Danis said there should be standards.

92 The motion has to be rescinded otherwise the policy for road standards remain in effect.

93 Mr. Eaton is in favor of having road standards so people can't build any roads they want without
94 standards.

95 Mr. Baillargeon said the standard that they have currently is ludicrous and most roads would not
96 be accepted. There was no road standard in place when Mooers Road was approved. He said the
97 standards doesn't stand for Mooers Road and the opinion of the people is that the roads are the
98 roads.

99 Mr. Morin said they could keep the standards as written or rescind and revisit down the road.
100 The second option would appease the voters.

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101 Ms. Danis said they could leave them in place and as a board, revisit it. Once they have a new
102 draft, they can vote to adopt the new standards. She is not in favor of kicking the can down the
103 road.

104 Mr. Eaton said they could be talking about this for several years.

105 Ms. Danis asked which parts Mr. Morin would like to revisit. He said they could get average
106 width of the newly adopted roads and use that as a standard. Ms. Danis and Mr. Morin said the
107 roads that were recently voted on as town roads at the last election were accepted as is. He is in
108 favor of leaving them as is. Ms. Danis concurred. She said some of them are in rough shape and
109 it would take a long time to get them up to any standards. Mr. Morin asked if they are legally
110 obligated to get any of these roads up to standards. Mr. Eaton and Ms. Danis said these roads
111 could remain as is indefinitely. Mr. Dumas said if the road is in acceptable shape, they could
112 leave the roads as is. It's future roads that they need the standards for.

113 Ms. Danis read the last line of the standard policy and noted that that line gave the BOS
114 flexibility for the roads.

115 Mr. Dumas said it has to be a vote to rescind and it has to pass the vote.

116 **Mr. Eaton made the vote to rescind the town standards policy for roads. Mr. Morin**
117 **seconded. The vote was 2-2 with Mr. Dumas and Ms. Danis nay.**

118 Ms. Danis said the board can revisit in the future.

119 Mr. Baillargeon asked if anything was going to be discussed about Mooers Road. Mr. Dumas
120 said it is not up to the BOS to revisit a town vote.

121 Mr. Dumas suggested townspeople reading the roads standard policy and seeing what fits and he
122 suggested coming up with suggestions.

123 Ms. Danis noted that no one has come forward about Mooers Road.

124 *Q2 Financials*

125 Mr. Sterndale said the big road projects are coming up. Public works said they have used a lot of
126 materials this winter. A lot of culvert work was down on Mitchell Road this year. They have not
127 done as much paving as they had anticipated. Recycling costs are creeping up. That line is going
128 to keep going up.

129 The fire department has spent a lot in higher over-time wages and per diem wages due to
130 vacancies. There are vacancies in fire and police departments which reduces costs for benefits.
131 There is a vacant police spot due to a deployment.

132 Revenues have a big impact on tax rate setting. Rooms and meals tax sharing with towns will go
133 up by 1/3; highway grant will go down. The county budget is up 3%. State education tax will
134 decrease.

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135 Ms. Danis asked if some of the police expenses can be covered by state money for COVID. Mr.
136 Sterndale said no but the fire department may have expenses there.

137 Mr. Morin asked if they are looking good for tax increase for next year. Mr. Sterndale said it will
138 be driven by what is put in the budget and what is put in warrant articles.

139 Ms. Danis said they should be as transparent as possible when it comes to the road standards
140 policy. She thinks they should discuss it in public meetings. She suggested looking at road
141 planning through CIP. Mr. Sterndale said there are decisions on how to handle roads should
142 come from the BOS.

143 **Appointments**

144 *Police Chief Woodman*

145 Chief Woodman said things are going well. It's their busy season right now. An officer is leaving
146 in the next couple of weeks. There is someone who can take that spot. There has been a lot of
147 training this year. The state park has been good this year. The reservation system works well.

148 She would like to establish a drone program in Nottingham. It could be used in a densely
149 populated areas, accident reconstruction, assist with finding lost people, finding people with
150 diminished capacities, and kids, etc. The officers are being trained. The drone that they would
151 like to buy is out of Merrimack, NH. It has infrared technology so it can be used at night. She
152 says the cost is \$6900. She said they can work with the fire department. Other agencies such as
153 Candia and Northwood have drones.

154 Ms. Danis asked if they could use it for fire dept. Chief Vilchok said they could use it for
155 searches, fires, water rescues, and other rescues. Mr. Sterndale asked about the recent search on
156 ledge at night. Chief Vilchok said it would have been an aid for that.

157 Ms. Danis asked if the \$6900 was a one-time cost. Chief Woodman said it was a one-time cost.
158 It's locally fixed as well. The life span is 5-10 years.

159 Ms. Danis asked if there was room in the budget for it. Mr. Sterndale said there is room in the
160 police department but since it was a large expenditure, the police department wanted to bring
161 before the BOS. The initial training is \$100-200K and they would like to train two officers.

162 Ms. Danis, Mr. Eaton and Mr. Dumas supported the purchase of this. Chief Woodman said they
163 would keep the drone in their department but they work with the fire department.

164 Chief Woodman said she would like in-car cameras and tasers for 2022-2023. There are many
165 benefits for in-car cameras

166 The in-car camera is 360 degrees, and they cost \$40K. It's voice activated as well. The body
167 cameras aren't as good as they can be knocked off the person. She said the departments she has
168 spoken to prefer in-car cameras over the body cameras. Chief Woodman said many towns have
169 both. They won't have to rely on other towns who have cameras; right now, she requests other
170 towns to show up to some incidents.

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171 Chief Woodman said tasers are around \$40K and they would like 10 of these. It's the newest
172 taser and it would use the cloud storage. Mr. Dumas noted that there was a bill in Congress that
173 restricts police cameras for use on streets. Chief Woodman said she believes the cameras would
174 still be helpful.

175

176 *Fire Chief Vilchock*

177 Chief Vilchock said it's been a challenging past year and he thanked his staff. Pricing of PPE has
178 increased dramatically. The total runs for 2021 so far is 377. Last year total was 536. The
179 department is a mix of career, part-time, and call members. The response time for career shift is
180 8 minutes, 41 seconds. The D shift (part-time) is 8 minutes, 22 seconds. The call (station not
181 manned) is 20 minutes, 20 seconds. Chief Vilchock said that people have to get to the station to
182 get equipment and then go on call because they are not already at the station.

183 They are finding it difficult to find call members due to pay potentially. Options for the future: 1.
184 increase career fire department by 3 members, 2. explore contracting out to private EMS
185 services, 3. explore partnering with neighboring town(s) or 4. no changes. Increasing career fire
186 personnel will reduce dependance on per diem and funding details. There are currently 6 career
187 firefighters. Chief Vilchock said there aren't many private EMS services in the area and it would
188 not help with call time as they are a distance away. It would help on weekends and nights when
189 the Nottingham station is on call. Chief Vilchock said perhaps Northwood or Barrington could
190 be a partnering town. Barrington is bigger than Nottingham so it be buying more of a load for
191 Nottingham. Chief Vilchock prefers Option 1.

192 He would like to purchase a second ambulance in 2022. New purchase price is \$280K. Other
193 towns have a back-up ambulance. Chief Vilchock said he puts off ambulance repairs so there is
194 always an ambulance.

195 Mr. Morin asked if they could buy a used ambulance. Chief Vilchock said he doesn't know. He
196 said he would balance the usage of the two ambulances. It would come out of the building fund
197 if they were to buy an ambulance. It would be fully outfitted utilizing the McClean Trust Fund.
198 That fund has \$116k in it.

199 Ms. Dumas and Mr. Morin asked if they would be on a cycle for buying two ambulances at the
200 same time. Chief said they would not have to buy two at the same time; the 2017 one would be
201 replaced first. Mr. Sterndale said they would not use the 2nd ambulance for mutual aid. Chief said
202 there are times when you need two ambulances; it would not be used as a rescue vehicle. The
203 trade-in value is \$30K for the 2017 model they have.

204 **Review Action Items for Next Meeting**

205 300th Celebration Committee, road standard policy, Chris/Shawn road maintenance guidance

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

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207 **Adjourn**

208 **Ms. Danis made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 8:36pm and go into non-public**
209 **RSA 91-A:3 II (d). Mr. Dumas seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Morin-yay, Mr. Eaton-yay,**
210 **Ms. Danis-yay and Mr. Dumas-yay. Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**

211 The non-public meeting ended at 8:50pm.

212 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to seal minutes of non-public session. Mr. Eaton seconded. Roll**
213 **call vote: Mr. Morin-yay, Mr. Eaton-yay, Ms. Danis-yay and Mr. Dumas-yay. Unanimously**
214 **approved by a vote of 4-0.**

215
216 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 8:50pm. Mr. Eaton seconded.**
217 **Roll call vote: Mr. Morin-yay, Mr. Eaton-yay, Ms. Danis-yay, and Mr. Dumas-yay.**
218 **Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**

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