

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

8/10/20

Official Minutes as of 8/31/20

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, Chris Sterndale, Kathie Morris, Gary LeBlanc, Carol Reed, Steven
6 Reynolds, Ruth Anne Fuller, Mark Vallone, Chris Vallone, Cheryl Denoncour, Debbie Ricker,
7 Jason Spearin, Dee-Ann Decker, Mike Coltin, Bonnie Winona MacKinnon, Lori Anderson

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

9 Approve Manifests

10 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to approve the accounts payable manifest of 8/10/20 and payroll**
11 **manifest of 8/11/20. Mr. Morin seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

12 Approve Minutes

13 **Mr. Motion made a motion to approve the public and non-public minutes from 7/27/20 as**
14 **written. Ms. Danis seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

15 BOS Reports from Assigned Boards/Committees

16 *Budget Committee*

17 No update

18 *Planning Board*

19 Wed. night meeting

20 *CIP*

21 No update

22 *300th Celebration Committee*

23 There is a zoom meeting upcoming.

24 *Marston Property*

25 No update

26 Town Administrator Report

27 Ledge Farm Rd work is starting this week for the last part of the work which includes the topcoat
28 and repairs. It will be done in 3 weeks. The road will be closed many weekdays. Culvert will be
29 swapped out on Smoke Street. The rec dept will determine if they can make the after-school
30 program work. It may be difficult to fit within the school's updated COVID-19 procedures.
31 Transportation is the issue to have after school care provided at the community center.

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Additionally, the rec program can't maintain the same cohorts that the school creates. The town wide evaluation is complete and information was sent out to homeowners. The total valuation in 2019 was \$620M. \$835M is the new valuation. Mr. Sterndale and Ms. Danis said the town was undervalued for some time now. The tax rate will go down.

Action Items from Last Meetings

Permit process

Mr. Sterndale said the planner is helping him create a permit process.

Assessing

Mr. Dumas made a motion to approve intent to cut or excavation for Map 58 Lot 7. Mr. Eaton seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Sterndale said there was an abatement issue that was handled in May by BOS. The applicant has asked if he can come to speak to BOS about reconsidering the board's decision to not approve the abatement. The BOS followed the advice of Avitar in May. There was a consensus of the board to not reconsider the decision.

General Business

PLIA Lake Host Funding Request

Ms. Decker said PLIA has sent \$5050 for payroll to NH Lakes. The remainder of the money needed for payroll is \$3670.02. 7169 inspections were done last year. 10,970 inspections have been done this year. They are running a bit higher for payroll than Ms. Decker expected due to the number of inspections. She is requesting an additional \$5000 from the town for PLIA lake host program. Ms. Decker said the amount they need right now for what the personnel scheduled for is \$3890. There hasn't been much rain which cancels the workers' shifts.

Mr. Bartlett asked if people being home has increased the number of inspections. Ms. Decker said this has definitely increased the number of people using boats and kayaks. Ms. Danis asked how this money this will carry the group for the rest of the year. Ms. Decker believes this will be it for requests and hopes to have a bit left over. This budget goes through Columbus weekend.

Ms. Danis made a motion to approve the additional \$5000 for PLIA lake host program. Mr. Dumas seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.

Deputy Town Clerk

Ms. Danis made a motion to approve the appointment of Teresa Bascom as Deputy Town Clerk. Mr. Dumas seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.

Appointments

School Planning Committee

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Mr. Spearin and Ms. Ricker are representing the school planning committee. This group is exploring options for forming a new SAU supporting just the town of Nottingham. One option they are exploring is having the superintendent's office in the community center. Another option is combining town and school processes such as payroll/accounting, etc. They pay \$50k a year to rent the superintendent's building. They would need a space that would hold 4-5 people.

Mr. Bartlett asked what percentage Nottingham will pay when Strafford leaves the district. Nottingham will pay around 59% off the costs between Nottingham and Northwood. Mr. Bartlett said it would be cheaper to tear the back of the community center and rebuild than to repair. Ms. Danis said the back of the community center is not a viable option due to safety concerns. Mr. Dumas asked about the Dame building. Mr. Eaton said it would be a lot to bring that up to code.

Mr. Sterndale said there are 12 workspaces in the community center now. The community room is an option if activity space (for scouts, etc.) was moved to the school. The old town hall 2nd floor can't hold people. The downstairs of the old town hall isn't large enough for 5 people.

The 5 positions would be superintendent, business services, payroll, admin, and student services director. Perhaps they could combine some business services with existing town employees. The superintendent would be part-time. Nottingham is responsible for \$650k of the superintendent budget. Mr. Spearin said they have to have a backup person for accounting/payroll positions. Ms. Danis said she would want to see how the roles would break out and the impact of overall staffing. Mr. Spearin said currently there is 5 people doing payroll for the 3 towns.

Mr. Eaton asked if they could join with another town for an SAU. Mr. Spearin said they have looked into that. There would be no additional costs with the CBNA contracts.

There was a consensus of the board that Mr. Sterndale would look into what they can do to share costs with the school.

Kathie Morris

Ms. Morris said she lives on Raymond Road and she is not happy about the watercross races that went on a few weekends ago. She said no one told her or the other abutters that this was going on. She said it was extremely loud and she couldn't have a conversation outside while this is going on. The windows can't be opened while this was going on. Fireworks occurred Saturday night and she wasn't told that either. She said that the exhausts are altered for these snow machines to make them louder; she believes they are supposed to have permits to allow this. She said another town does this once a year and she could handle that. She does not want to have another 2 events this year.

There are people from Epping who have the same complaint.

Mr. Bartlett said the town was not prepared and received the ask from this water cross group at the last minute. Ms. Morris suggests a town noise ordinance. She said the oil and gas left behind the pond could wind up in the drinking water and people were swimming in the pond as well.

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101 Ms. Morris said she could handle this once a year but not a three-day event. She would prefer 2
102 days and requests that she be told ahead of time. She would suggest saying no to the next two
103 events being held soon.

104 Mr. Morin said he agrees with some of the points brought up and some are debatable. He isn't
105 against having these events but perhaps there is a happy medium. He continued to say that some
106 homeowners listen to Lee Speedway on race nights and people on the lake have to listen to
107 fireworks at all hours of the day and night.

108 Mr. Eaton said he agreed with Mr. Morin. He said the event was well run when he was there.

109 Mr. Dumas said it boils down to property rights of homeowners and those of the land owner who
110 is allowing the water cross event to use her land.

111 Mr. Bartlett said if the neighbors had been notified by the group, it would have alleviated some
112 of the concerns.

113 Ms. Danis said this was an event. This is an issue with event licensing.

114 Mr. Vallone spoke about his concerns about the watercross event. He said if they had known
115 about the public BOS session that was discussing this event, they would have shown up. He said
116 this event was going on the weekend before as well as the planned weekend. He said he would
117 like to see some limits and a noise ordinance. He would like to limit this event to one or two a
118 year with prior notice given to the abutters and townspeople.

119 See attached document for Mr. Vallone's statement.

120 Mr. LeBlanc said the pit is always loud with shooting guns and fireworks. He asked if the
121 snowmobiles were going to be there practicing on different weekends ahead of time in the future.
122 There is an ongoing noise issue with this property.

123 Mr. Sterndale said there have been no noise complaints that he is aware of with this property
124 prior to this event. There also isn't a noise ordinance in the town.

125 Mr. Morin asked if they could set a noise ordinance. Mr. Sterndale said the BOS could not do
126 that on their own.

127 Ms. Denoncour said she called the town offices to complain about this event. She understands
128 she has no control on what people do on their property with regards to shooting and the snow
129 mobiles being used prior to this large event. She was more concerned when she heard the
130 announcer for the event. She is also concerned about the fireworks. She is worried about the
131 sparks from the fireworks and the current drought. She would like to see a limit to the number of
132 people and wants to ensure that the fire/police are notified of the event.

133 Mr. Reynolds is the president of the watercross association. He doesn't own the property the
134 event was held on. He agrees that it is noisy. He said the group first applies to fish and game
135 dept. to see if the property is viable option to have a water cross event. They received the permit
136 from the fish and game dept. and the fish and game told the BOS before the group knew they

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137 would be allowed to have the event. Mr. Sterndale said fish and game dept. told one of the
138 Nottingham police officers offhand and that is how the town and BOS were made aware of the
139 event. Mr. Reynolds said normally this is 2-year process; this occurred in 4 months. He paid for
140 boosted posts on facebook to let people know about the event but he acknowledges that he failed
141 because these people at the meeting and others didn't know about the event. He said he could
142 have posted flyers and he apologized for only using social media. He said he understands it was
143 noisy and he went to the condos to speak to 2 of those residents but others were not home. He
144 did go back to offer tickets to the residents on the weekend of the event. He said that the owner
145 of the property did have some snowmobilers at the pond for fun in previous weekends. He heard
146 about this pond from fellow water crossers and asked the landowner if he could use it for this
147 event. He said that pollution is not to the extent of other things. He said fireworks were done for
148 6 minutes at 9pm; he apologized for that. There were 2 practices before the event as well.

149 Ms. Danis said that they were told all noise would end at 6pm.

150 Mr. Reynolds said the event can only be 3 times a year.

151 Ms. Danis asked what would he do differently. Mr. Reynolds said the event has been posted for
152 the past few weeks. Mr. Bartlett suggests Mr. Reynolds speak to all the neighbors. Mr. Reynolds
153 said more effective communication is needed; he will let people know about the event in several
154 ways. Abutters would be notified. He said he did notify the fire dept. about the fireworks. There
155 was dry camping with no camp fires allowed. He said all practicing have ceased for these events
156 until the event is occurring, meaning no more weekends of using snowmobiles ahead of the
157 event. At the event, masks were provided, hand sanitizer was provided, porta potties were
158 cleaned every hour and signs were hung to request people stay 6 ft. away from each other. They
159 are not a grass drags. The event will be about as big as it will get on this particular property.

160 Mr. Bartlett would like to see Mr. Reynolds' action plan in writing.

161 Mr. Reynolds said 90% of people were from Nottingham. The next event is at the end of August.
162 On Friday, it's 2 hours long for practice; there will be no additional practice time. Mr. Reynolds
163 said that these events will be the only snowmobile event on this land; the landowner will not
164 have unsponsored events.

165 Ms. Danis said she can appreciate comments on both sides. She has concerns about what can be
166 done between now and the event in later August to plan effectively. She would feel more
167 comfortable with the Sept. event. Mr. Reynolds said he has 27 people on his staff and they will
168 be handing out flyers beginning tomorrow. He asked if he could put it on town's website.

169 Mr. Morin said he would like more detailed information on the permit form that the BOS needs
170 to sign. Mr. Dumas agrees with Mr. Morin.

171 Mr. Eaton said the event was run very well when he was there. He would like to see them
172 succeed but he understands the people's concerns.

173 Mr. Reynolds asked about the requirement for the 2nd police detail. He gave all extra money
174 earned from this event to food pantry. He doesn't have money for the police detail. He has to pay

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175 his employees as well. It was left that Mr. Reynolds would get more info to the town about the
176 upcoming event before the BOS made a decision.

177 *Election Prep*

178 Ms. MacKinnon said masks will be required for the election. She requests all of the members of
179 the BOS to be there. There will be outside voting for people who don't want to come in or don't
180 want to wear masks. They will vote from their cars. She would like two police officers; one to be
181 inside and one to be outside all day. They will not be temperature screening voters. Ms. Decker
182 said the PPE from the state isn't enough. Every voter will get a placemat to put on the shelf they
183 are voting from, a pen, a ballot and a piece of paper to be used to return back to undeclared if
184 necessary. There are some plastic shields for the tables and masks for workers. Ms. MacKinnon
185 suggested keeping the pens to use for the next election. Ms. Decker said the plastic shields will
186 not be enough. She said additional shields that could be bought by the town will not arrive in
187 time; they may have to build something. Ms. Danis asked if the school was getting some shields
188 and if they can borrow them. Ms. Anderson said they may be able to borrow from the school.
189 Ms. MacKinnon said she could decide to not allow kids in the polling place. Mr. Morin said they
190 can strongly recommend not to bring kids. Ms. Danis said any one over the age of 2 should have
191 a mask. They will be doing a mailer to detail this information to the townspeople. Workers will
192 bring their own food. No food for townspeople will be allowed in the polling place. There will be
193 no groups selling things. Cafeteria will be used for election workers only. More breaks will be
194 given to election workers so they can take off their masks and go outside.

195 **Review Action Items for Next Meeting**

196 Road standards

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

198 **Adjourn**

199 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to enter non-public at 8:46pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Mr.**
200 **Eaton seconded. Roll Call Vote: Dumas – Yea, Danis – Yea. Bartlett – Yea. Eaton –**
201 **Yea. Morin – Yea.**

202

203 At 9:15pm, the non-public meeting ended.

204 **Mr. Morin made a motion to seal the minutes. Mr. Eaton seconded. Roll Call Vote: Dumas**
205 **– Yea, Danis – Yea. Bartlett – Yea. Eaton – Yea. Morin – Yea.**

206

207 **Mr. Morin made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 9:15pm. Mr. Dumas seconded.**
208 **Roll Call Vote: Dumas – Yea, Danis – Yea. Bartlett – Yea. Eaton – Yea. Morin – Yea.**

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Memo August 10, 2020
To Nottingham BOS
From Mark and Chris Vallone, Epping *MVCV*
Re Concerns about the NE Watercross event the took place and those planned

1. First, we recognize how popular motor sports are in our area and believe people should be able to use their land to start new businesses. We just want businesses to be good neighbors and have events that generate crowds and loud noise be safe and reasonable.
2. We are abutters but were never notified by anyone that the Northeast Watercross event in July was going to take place. That means we had no chance to attend a public session on this change of land use right next door to our home. None of our neighbors knew about this event either. (Note: Our 5-acre property is on Town of Nottingham Map 69 Lot 11)
3. The noise generated by the event was really loud and not just on the weekend. There seemed to be several trials or practice sessions the weekend before and during the week. The loudspeaker was especially annoying. We could not sit in our own porch or back patio because of the noise level. Inside the house we could still hear that noise even with our air conditioners running. We would like to see limits on noise with limits on both the level of noise and its duration.
4. We know that the 2020 Grass Drags in Fremont were cancelled over concerns about Covid 19 and wondered if the plans included health safety based on the Governor's emergency declarations.
5. We know that there is a total of 3 events that have been planned for this location this year and are worried that there will be more in the future. We would like to see the Town of Nottingham limit this kind^{to} one or two times a year just like they are limited in Fremont. We would also like to see all abutters notified in a timely way about public hearings or meetings regarding Northeast Watercross events planned for this location.

Thank you

Mark and Chris Vallone
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(603) 679-5186

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