

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

9/14/20

Official Minutes as of 10/5/20

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, Tom Butkiewicz, Jim Fraser, Susan Mooney, Pat
6 Desrosiers, Bob Desrosiers, Hal Rafter, Ryan Melchionno, Teresa Bascom, Michael Bascom,
7 Chelli Tennis, Sam Demeritt, Deb Kimball, Cheryl Smith, Don Belletete

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

9 Approve Manifests

10 **Ms. Danis made a motion to approve the accounts payable manifest of 9/7/20 and payroll**
11 **manifest of 9/8/20. Mr. Eaton seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

12 Approve Minutes

13 **Mr. Eaton made a motion to approve the public and non-public minutes from 8/31/20 as**
14 **written. Mr. Dumas seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

15 BOS Reports from Assigned Boards/Committees

16 Budget Committee

17 Not in session. October 1 is the first meeting

18 Planning Board

19 No update

20 CIP

21 No update

22 300th Celebration Committee

23 They are continuing to plan events.

24 Marston Property

25 They are looking into whether they can get the property seeded.

26 Town Administrator Report

27 Tax revenue setting info was distributed to BOS. The town is coming in right on budget for this
28 year. Reconstruction and paving around Nottingham Lake roads is underway. Chief of police
29 position is being advertised.

30 Action Items from Last Meetings

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

9/14/20

Official Minutes as of 10/5/20

31 *Rte. 4 property, corner of Freeman Hall Road property, 9 acres property across from USA*
32 *Springs property on Rte. 4, road standards, NHMA Policy Process*

33 **General Business**

34 *NHMA Policy Process*

35 Mr. Sterndale will attend the NHMA Policy Process meeting. Ms. Danis said she was interested
36 in the following issues: making government records electronically and right to know laws,
37 elections: local autonomy over issues, state owned properties, and water resources.

38 Mr. Sterndale asked the BOS if there was anything they did not want to support. Mr. Bartlett said
39 no. Mr. Dumas said without the context of the meeting, it's difficult to determine.

40 *Rte. 4 Property*

41 Mr. Sterndale said they spoke about the Rte. 4 property (formerly known as USA Springs) in
42 May. At that point, the governor said there was a full stop on any town-owned properties being
43 put up for sale. The property is 168 acres; 1000 feet back from the road is commercially zoned.
44 Beyond that, it is residentially zoned. There is a cell tower that sits on the property. It's possible
45 to sell the land without the cell tower and the town could keep the cell tower and continue to
46 receive that income. Mr. Morin said keeping or selling the land with the cell tower would be a
47 good question for a realtor to determine what would be best for the town. Mr. Bartlett asked if
48 putting solar panels on the property would be an option for this land. Mr. Sterndale will reach out
49 to the solar panel firm. Previously, the solar company was interested in leasing the land. Mr.
50 Sterndale feels that leasing the land is not a good option from a legal risk point of view. Mr.
51 Bartlett said they don't want a company using the property as a junk yard or for extracting water.
52 Mr. Eaton said he would be in favor of selling the property. Ms. Danis asked if the zoning laws
53 are sufficient for protecting the land from a company extracting water. Mr. Sterndale said he will
54 look into finding that answer. Ms. Danis asked if there was anything else that they are not
55 thinking about that would cause problems. Without town water and sewer, it limits who would
56 want the property, Mr. Bartlett said. He would like a company to buy that space so the tax bill
57 would lessen for residents. Mr. Sterndale said the BOS will have a hard time steering who gets
58 the property. Mr. Morin would like a broker but if it is not sold quickly, another option should be
59 used. Mr. Sterndale said they will create an RFP for a realtor. Mr. Sterndale said they can auction
60 the property and it will sell fast. Mr. Morin said he would like to use a realtor to get the most
61 amount of money. Mr. Bartlett asked if they should set a timetable for the realtor. Mr. Eaton and
62 Mr. Dumas said they would be comfortable with the evaluation that the realtor creates. Ms.
63 Danis said she would like to get an appraisal. Consensus of the board was that they will get an
64 appraisal.

65 **Appointments**

66 *Conservation Commission*

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

9/14/20

Official Minutes as of 10/5/20

Sam Demeritt, chair of the Conservation Commission, along with Susan Mooney, Deb Kimball and Cheryl Smith came to the BOS meeting to request the appropriation of \$5k for a grant to conduct an appraisal for a potential conservation project. Mr. Demeritt opened the public hearing at 7pm.

Ms. Mooney said they have been talking to the owner of a 100-acre property since February and negotiations are still happening. The Conservation Commission is looking to purchase 50 acres of this property. The property connects some of the other properties that the Conservation Commission has already protected. Some of the 100-acre property may be developed by the owner as well. The conservation committee has some money in their account but doesn't have enough for the entire 100 acres. One option is that there will be an open space subdivision that the owner will be compensated for as well as a nature corridor and land in conservation. Ms. Danis asked if there were any other projects that the Conservation Commission would need money for. Ms. Mooney said there aren't any strong projects. Ms. Smith said another project fell through; this is the main project now. Mr. Morin asked how confident they are they will come to an agreement with the owner. Ms. Mooney said the Conservation Commission owns some land that abuts Northwood and other towns.

Mr. Bartlett asked how much land the Conservation Commission would like. He is concerned that people will get pushed out of the town because the taxes are too high because so much land is in conservation and not generating taxes. Ms. Mooney and Ms. Smith said that town services for a plot of land cost double once a house is put on it; conserving property costs less.

Mr. Eaton said that Shannon Drive residents like that there is conservation land behind those houses.

Mr. Eaton made a motion to approve the request for the Conservation Committee to appropriate \$5k for a grant to conduct an appraisal for a potential conservation project. Mr. Dumas seconded.

Dr. Butkiewicz said about 30% of Nottingham is conserved already. He would like to see the entire property be preserved. He encourages the committee to develop a fundraiser that individuals can donate to and he would contribute personally. Mr. Demeritt noted the state property is not conserved land.

The public hearing is closed at 7:22pm. Mr. Eaton withdrew his motion.

Mr. Eaton made a motion to approve the request for the Conservation Committee to appropriate up to \$5k for a grant to conduct an appraisal for a potential conservation project. Mr. Dumas seconded. It was approved unanimously.

Resident Concerns re: State Rep

See attached letter from Nottingham Democratic Committee.

Mr. Bartlett said that James Spillane, NH state rep, made inappropriate comments on social media and would like the Board to weigh in. Mr. Dumas said he expects more out of those they

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

9/14/20

Official Minutes as of 10/5/20

104 elect to congress and that if any of the BOS members had said these comments, the other BOS
105 members would have said the comments were out of line. He thinks they should put out a
106 statement that says that the town expects more from leaders from our town and a state rep
107 shouldn't alienate a large section of constituents with inappropriate comments. He thinks Mr.
108 Spillane should resign and drop out of the November race.

109 Mr. Eaton said that the BOS tries to do the best for the people of the town. He would like to call
110 upon State Rep. Spillane to come to a BOS meeting to explain what he meant by his statements.
111 Mr. Eaton said that Mr. Spillane doesn't speak for him.

112 Mr. Morin said he does not condone Mr. Spillane's actions. It's unbecoming. He doesn't think
113 the BOS should ask him to resign. He said he doesn't condone what Mr. Spillane said and people
114 can vote him out in November.

115 Ms. Danis said that it's up to the people who vote to make their choices. She said she would be
116 in favor of sending Mr. Spillane a letter that said Nottingham doesn't condone his behavior. She
117 wouldn't ask for his resignation.

118 Mr. Bartlett said this issue made national news. He wouldn't ask for Mr. Spillane's resignation.
119 He would support a letter that said the BOS doesn't agree with what Mr. Spillane said. Mr.
120 Bartlett said what Mr. Spillane said doesn't represent the towns.

121 Mr. Morin and Ms. Danis said they don't want Mr. Spillane to come to a BOS meeting. Mr.
122 Eaton reiterated he would like Mr. Spillane to come to a meeting. Mr. Dumas said he feels
123 conflicted: if you are not holding your elected reps accountable, you accept all behaviors. Mr.
124 Dumas continued to say it is likely that Mr. Spillane will give them a canned statement if he
125 came to a meeting.

126 There is a consensus of the Board that they would write a letter to Mr. Spillane that says the BOS
127 does not condone or support Mr. Spillane's behavior.

128 Mr. Morin asked if the other state reps from Nottingham have made a statement. He hopes that
129 the other state reps got letters from citizens about Mr. Spillane, like the BOS did.

130 Mr. Eaton said after the reps are elected, they are supposed to represent all people not just those
131 constituents who voted for them. He doesn't understand how people like Mr. Spillane get
132 elected.

133 Mr. Dumas said this is not the first incident that Mr. Spillane has had that is questionable.

134 Jim Fraser said he served 26 years in military. He believes the BOS should condemn Mr.
135 Spillane's behavior and the voters should decide what to do in November.

136 Don Belletete said he doesn't understand why the BOS has to make a statement at all. People
137 will make that decision in November for the elections.

138 Teresa Bascom said that people can decide in November election.

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

9/14/20

Official Minutes as of 10/5/20

139 Dr. Butkiewicz said he believes Mr. Spillane's comments were a joke. If the BOS calls for his
140 resignation, it brings another story to potentially national news. The other reps probably want to
141 stay away from his comments. He would recommend the BOS not making any statement.

142 Mr. Bartlett said he would be in favor of not making a statement. Ms. Danis agreed. Mr. Morin
143 agreed. No statement will be made.

144 **Review Action Items for Next Meeting**

145 Guidance from BOS to dept. head for the budget

146 **Other**

147 Mr. Bartlett asked about a bonfire for the 300th celebration in 2022. A resident is willing to
148 donate wood. He asked where they would have the bonfire and suggested the pit. The fire dept.
149 may have to be responsible for a fire. Ms. Danis said the 300th Celebration Committee will come
150 to the BOS with plans.

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

152 **Adjourn**

153 **Ms. Danis made a motion to adjourn at 7:51pm. Mr. Dumas seconded. Unanimously**
154 **approved by a vote of 5-0.**

155

156

157

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

9/14/20

Official Minutes as of 10/5/20

Nottingham Democratic Committee
September 9, 2020

Nottingham Board of Selectmen
139 Stage Road
Nottingham, NH

To the Nottingham Board of Selectmen:

In the wake of Representative James Spillane's recent Facebook post, which was both racist and advocated violence against innocent people, the Nottingham Democratic Committee has voted unanimously at its September 9, 2020 meeting to ask that the Board of Selectmen request that Rep. Spillane resign from the NH House of Representatives. His Facebook post read:

"Public Service Announcement: If you see a BLM sign on a lawn it's the same as having the porch light on for Halloween. You're free to loot and burn that house."

The Selectmen in Deerfield voted unanimously on 9/4/2020 to request that Rep. Spillane resign. They released the following statement:

"The Deerfield Select Board condemns recent comments made on social media by District 2 NH State Representative James Spillane and calls on him to immediately step down as our representative in the NH General Court. Deerfield is a welcoming community that abhors threats of violence and incivility towards any community members. Representative Spillane's comments are incongruous with the responsibilities and duties of a person elected to represent this fine community."

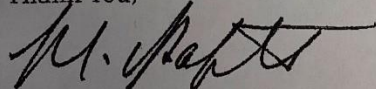
Nottingham Democrats ask that the Select Board, as representatives of the Nottingham community, also condemn his actions and call for his resignation.

We remind the Board, that this is only the latest in a series of reprehensible actions by Mr. Spillane, including:

- Shooting a squirrel out of season in 2019 with a .50 caliber rifle and posting pictures of the carcass on Twitter. This violation of the law and his oath of office cost him his House committee assignment.
- Being arrested on 2 counts of DWI on a main street in Pembroke in 2017. He was convicted of open container and yellow line violations.
- Being convicted of DWI and reckless conduct in 2010 after causing the car his wife was driving to crash and then trying to strangle her with his hands.

We encourage the Board to take forceful action against Rep. Spillane, and make clear that he does not represent the citizens of Nottingham.

Thank You,



Nottingham Democratic Committee
Hal Rafter, Chair
hwr-nottdems@comcast.net
498-0144