

**Nottingham Select Board Meeting**

**11-15-21**

**Approved 11-22-21**

**1 Call to Order**

2 Members Present: Chair Ben Bartlett, Tiler Eaton, Tony Dumas, Donna Danis

3 Absent: Vice Chair John Morin

4 Others: Lorraine Petrini, Chris Sterndale, Steve Soreff, Gene Reed, Sandra Weston, Frank Carey,  
5 Neil Santos, Tina Jennings, Eric Jennings, Anne Noeth, Bill Noeth, Tom Duffy, Susan Hayes,  
6 Dee-Ann Decker, Mike Coltin

7 The Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Bartlett recognized  
8 Steve Soreff for his ongoing commitment to reporting on various committees in town.

**9 Approve Manifests**

10 **Mr. Dumas made a motion to approve the accounts payable manifest of 1-15-21 and**  
11 **payroll manifest of 11-16-21. Mr. Eaton seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-**  
12 **0.**

**13 Approve Minutes**

14 Minutes tabled.

**15 BOS Reports from Assigned Boards/Committees**

16 *Budget Committee*

17 There will be a meeting on Thursday.

18 *Planning Board*

19 No update.

20 *CIP*

21 The departments have submitted their lists. A meeting will be scheduled.

22 *300<sup>th</sup> Celebration Committee*

23 The meeting will be Thursday.

24 *Marston Property*

25 Pads are going to be poured.

**26 Town Administrator Report**

27 NHMA annual conference is this week.

28 There will be public input for the bridges at an upcoming meeting.

29 Dec. 4 is the annual holiday parade.

30 There is a letter that was submitted about the time capsule the group would like buried in town.

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31 The old town hall renovation almost has an RFP ready. Mr. Sterndale indicated that they are  
32 evaluating whether one or two bathrooms will be required. The furnace will be swapped out.  
33 They need to add an egress door; the office will be locked so that won't be an egress door. A  
34 window could be replaced with a door in the main room. It needs to be under contract by  
35 December.

36 They are waiting for information from the school district to set the tax rate.

37 Ms. Danis asked if they wanted to meet next Monday night.

**38 Action Items from Last Meetings**

39 11-15-21 2022 Budget

40 11-29-21 2022 Budget, road standards

**41 Assessing**

42 There is nothing.

**43 General Business**

44 *2022 Budget*

45 Mr. Bartlett was looking at the moderator salary and thinks that is pretty low considering the  
46 amount of work and the number of meetings she has to attend. He would like to increase that.

47 Mr. Sterndale said he'd like to do something different with the merit pool and the current high  
48 inflation rate. Previous to Mr. Sterndale's tenure at the town, town employees all received the  
49 same percentage increase however since he came on board, it has been a merit based approach.

50 Mr. Sterndale suggested that on April 1, there is a blanket inflation percentage for all town  
51 employees with a small merit increase.

52 There are 3 elections next year.

53 The moderator has proposed buying another ballot counting machine. The age of the current one  
54 and the lack of a backup are the drivers for this.

55 Health insurance premiums are going down. One-fourth of town employees are not under the  
56 town's insurance. Next year will be the first full year at the higher employer's contribution for  
57 police department.

58 The payment of Regional Planning Commission dues is being requested by the Planning Board.

59 Facility costs will be adjusted if the town and school work together for the SAU building.

60 Property/liability premium holiday was \$12.7K.

61 There were retirement payouts for police department. There are a few equipment costs for police.

62 Ms. Danis asked if the police costs for events are coming out of Tri-Centennial budget or this  
63 budget. Mr. Sterndale said that anything that can be handled by our own officers in the course of

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64 normal duty will be covered by the operating budget. Anything that requires hiring of officers  
65 outside of the town will be covered by the 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Ballistic vests and e-ticket printer  
66 in the cruisers may be warrant articles.

67 The fire chief is proposing around the clock coverage. There is no information about a grant. Ms.  
68 Danis asked about internet costs in the budget. Mr. Sterndale said the phone lines are through the  
69 internet but some town buildings are different. He is looking for a better way to present this in  
70 the budget.

71 A new full-time position is proposed for public works/recycling/recreation. Ideally someone  
72 could plow as well. Salt prices went up by 25%. More gravel is being used; the larger gravel on  
73 the dirt roads is working well. The town received 8 miles of dirt roads as well. There will be  
74 more need for engineering for gravel roads and culverts. Line 276 is Highway Contracted Road  
75 Maintenance Project with \$300k. Ledge Farm remains on the list to be paved and the cost is  
76 higher than the project line. There are 2 culverts jobs and that would cost more than the \$300k.  
77 Mr. Sterndale suggested a reserve fund for the next couple of years for culvert costs. Mr.  
78 Sterndale said the government money will be spent on larger highway roads rather than Ledge  
79 Farm Road. Barriers have been on Berry Road for a year. Mr. Sterndale said that could be  
80 covered by ARPA funds. Berry Road could wait another year. Cooper Hill and Kelsey Road will  
81 not qualify for ARPA funds.

82 There is better revenue received for some items at the recycling department.

83 Welfare dollars are being used for scholarships for kids to attend recreation camp.

84 There are some program equipment costs for recreation department.

85 The mowing and property maintenance at Marston has been added to budget.

86 The library wants to move a part-time position to full-time position.

87 The library is asking to replace their library lift. This could be a warrant article.

88 Tasers and training are being requested by the police department. Dashboard cameras will also  
89 be asked for. These could be warrant articles.

90 Ms. Danis asked about putting money into the 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration. Mr. Sterndale said they could  
91 eliminate that.

92 There is a request for a 2<sup>nd</sup> ambulance from the fire department.

93 Mr. Sterndale said there may be a private road acceptance citizen petition warrant article and a  
94 property tax exemption for solar panels citizen petition warrant article. A portion of Cahill Lane  
95 may become a private road. There may be a request for eligible uses of the Conservation  
96 Commission funds.

97 Mr. Bartlett suggested removing the funds for the 300<sup>th</sup> Celebration from the budget.

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98 Mr. Bartlett would like to have the department heads present their warrant articles at the  
99 deliberative session. Ms. Danis said they should not be putting forth a warrant article that the  
100 BOS doesn't support. Mr. Eaton said he is in favor of raises for the town employees. Ms. Danis  
101 agreed.

102 The department heads will present at the next BOS meeting. Early Feb. will be the deliberative  
103 session.

104 *Scheduling of Deliberative Session*

105 The BOS needs to pick a date for the deliberative session. The school deliberative session may  
106 be a week night. The town and the school could do the deliberative session on the same day. Ms.  
107 Danis and Mr. Bartlett suggested having town and school deliberative sessions on the same day.  
108 Mr. Sterndale will discuss with the school board.

109 **Appointments**

110 *Anne Noeth & Bill Noeth 16 Cove Road*

111 This road is next to the boat launch. Ms. Noeth distributed information to the BOS. Mr. Noeth  
112 said Cove Road was accepted by the town as a public road. He thought all of Cove Road would  
113 be accepted as a public road. A part of the Cove Road is used by the fire department. He said that  
114 some other roads were accepted fully but not all of Cove Road. He is requesting that all of Cove  
115 Road be accepted. He said Mr. Sterndale said that part of the road was a private driveway. Mr.  
116 Noeth said he does not believe it's a private driveway. He is requesting that the town maintain  
117 the entirety of the road down to the boat launch.

118 Mr. Sterndale said some of the roads have had different names over the years and the private  
119 roads have been moved as well. Mr. Bartlett is not ready to comment on this issue. The rest of  
120 the Board concurred.

121 Ms. Noeth said the fire dept. do its training there. Ms. Noeth noted that because the roads were  
122 not maintained in the past, the fire dept. could not access the lake when there was an accident on  
123 the lake. Ms. Hayes who lives on Cove Roads said the road used to be plowed off and on. She  
124 said everyone around the lake uses this road. Mr. Jennings said the boat ramp is for emergency  
125 only. Ms. Hayes said the road goes down the water edge. Mr. Carey said the boat ramp was  
126 dedicated for use to those who bought land from the Cahill family. It's not a public boat ramp.  
127 It's been in the worst condition in the past five years. It's an emergency access to the lake.

128 *PLIA*

129 Ms. Decker is here on behalf of PLIA. Typically, she comes to the BOS in the spring but wanted  
130 to speak about the past year and update the BOS. She would like to change the way the lake host  
131 program is funded. Ms. Decker said she has \$3k but the state says she has \$3900. This is due to  
132 the weather this year as there was a lot of rain, thunder and lightning. There was not a lot of  
133 monitoring at the state park this year. Areas of concerns: private boat launches and increasing  
134 milfoil. The number of gallons of milfoil that has been removed has increased considerably. Ms.  
135 Decker said they have asked for money in the spring from the fund. The group no longer wants

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136 to use those funds to support the lake host program. She would like the lake host program as a  
137 line item in the budget. Like other organizations for town services, Ms. Decker would come to  
138 the BOS ahead of time instead of asking for the money after the fact. She would like to split the  
139 funding situation: lake host as a line item in the budget and mitigation of milfoil as a separate  
140 fund that goes before the voters each year. They have 6 certified divers. There were 950 hours  
141 between the divers and volunteers. Ms. Danis said there are divers, people in canoes protecting  
142 the divers and people with nets collecting the milfoil.

143 Ms. Danis asked Mr. Sterndale if they can get the state to cover some of the costs. He said the  
144 state has given money as goodwill. Ms. Decker said the state says they can't help one lake unless  
145 they help them all. Mr. Santos said the state will only help out if they make revenue from the  
146 state park. There were 11 new areas for milfoil. There was 5x as much as last year. There are 6  
147 divers who can remove milfoil and 6 others who can identify it. Ms. Decker said the herbicide is  
148 not a one-time thing; it costs \$3000 per acre. It's something they do after all other ways have  
149 been tried. The state feels like the divers can pick the milfoil; Nottingham is not at the level of  
150 using the herbicide. There is a vacuum that can suck up the milfoil instead of the divers picking  
151 it and bringing to the surface however, the vacuum costs \$5k per day. Ms. Decker said this is  
152 why she would like the way they budget for this to be changed.

153 Ms. Decker said would like the line item at \$8-10k. Ms. Danis said the first draft is already  
154 bigger than what they were expecting. Ms. Decker asked if they should consider a separate  
155 warrant article for lake host. If it doesn't pass, then they go back to what they are doing now. Mr.  
156 Dumas asked if the lake is in Nottingham in its entirety. Ms. Decker said yes. Mr. Dumas said  
157 the lake is held in the public trust and the state is responsible for protecting it but the state  
158 doesn't do anything. If the town formally accepts doing the work, the state will continue to  
159 expect the town to do the work. Mr. Eaton asked if there are other groups for lakes. Ms. Decker  
160 said the PLIA is the only organization doing state park activity. Ms. Decker said the local reps  
161 need to understand it affects all the residents in town. Mr. Santos said the state park owns half  
162 the amount of frontage on the lake. The PLIA are interested in potentially purchasing a boat. Ms.  
163 Decker said she will submit a formal letter to the BOS. Ms. Danis said they are getting by with  
164 the number of volunteers, but do they want to add a line in the budget. Ms. Danis is in favor of  
165 adding a line to the budget if they can. Mr. Dumas said that is an option; the boat would help the  
166 group. Hiring people is hard right now so finding volunteers may be even harder. Ms. Decker  
167 said there is milfoil at the town beach. People who bring kayaks and canoes could be  
168 contributing to the problem.

169 *Other*

170 Rose Breslin-Dawson is asking if they can bury a stainless steel time capsule at the town square  
171 for 25 years. Mr. Bartlett said due to historical significance of that area, he would say no. Ms.  
172 Danis said she is not in favor of putting it there as well.

173 Mr. Bartlett said they should post no digging signs at properties in town.

174 Mr. Dumas said they could put the time capsule by the flagpole at the community center. Ms.  
175 Danis said she would agree with that. The Board concurred.

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176 Mr. Reed suggested that the proceeds from USA Springs property mitigate tax increases. He  
177 asked if the COVID money will expire. Mr. Sterndale said it must be committed by 2024.  
178 Stormwater quality is a top choice for using this money.

179 Mr. Reed said there is a property that has \$130K in back taxes, and there is a buyer who may buy  
180 it. There may be some unexpected revenue there.

181 Mr. Reed asked if the BOS will increase elderly exemption for taxes. Mr. Bartlett said they have  
182 not discussed this but they could take this into consideration. Mr. Reed would like to have this  
183 directive come from BOS or he may do a citizen petition warrant article for an increase in elderly  
184 exemption.

185 **Review Action Items for Next Meeting**

186 11/1 minutes, department heads will present at BOS meeting, Cove Road, old town hall  
187 decisions

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

189 **Adjourn**

190 **Ms. Danis made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 8:26pm and go into non-public**  
191 **RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Mr. Eaton seconded. Roll call vote: Mr. Bartlett-yay, Mr. Eaton-yay,**  
192 **Ms. Danis-yay and Mr. Dumas-yay. Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**

193 The non-public meeting ended at 9:10pm.

194

195 **Ms. Danis made a motion to seal minutes of non-public session. Mr. Dumas seconded. Roll**  
196 **call vote: Mr. Bartlett-yay, Mr. Eaton-yay, Ms. Danis-yay and Mr. Dumas-yay.**  
197 **Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**

198

199 **Ms. Danis made a motion to adjourn the public meeting at 9:10pm. Mr. Eaton seconded.**  
200 **Roll call vote: Mr. Bartlett-yay, Mr. Eaton-yay, Ms. Danis-yay, and Mr. Dumas-yay.**  
201 **Unanimously approved by a vote of 4-0.**