

Nottingham Select Board Meeting

8-30-21

Official Minutes as of 9-20-21

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, Steve Soreff, David Dearborn, Athina Dearborn, Jim
6 Rosborough, Jeffrey Burditt, April Burditt, Linda Rosborough, Pam Kelly, John Bartsch, Mary
7 Colvard, Tom Duffy, Kevin Jordan, Jason Spearin, Debbie Ricker, Danielle Roy, Susan
8 Levenson, Kevin Bassett

9 The Chair opened the meeting at 6:30pm with the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Bartlett said
10 Nottingham Police, Nottingham Fire, Raymond Ambulance Corp and Lorraine Petrini did a great
11 job for the Recycled Percussion event. Raymond Ambulance volunteered services and police had
12 no incidences.

13 BOS Reports from Assigned Boards/Committees

14 Budget Committee

15 No update.

16 Planning Board

17 Both items were pushed off.

18 CIP

19 No update.

20 300th Celebration Committee

21 There was a meeting last week. A bonfire, Earth Day, and program books were all discussed. \$7k
22 has been raised. Picnic at Pawtuckaway and reenactment will also be planned.

23 The 300th Celebration Committee will meet with the BOS soon. Mr. Sterndale said no one has
24 talked to the Highway Dept. about using the pit for a bonfire.

25 Marston Property

26 Ms. Danis said Matt Kouchoukos has looked at back stops and side fences.

27 Town Administrator Report

28 There were bid results for the fire dept. mezzanine. The Board concurred going with the low
29 bidder.

30 **Mr. Eaton made a motion for the BOS to approve the lower bid for the Fire Dept.**
31 **mezzanine project. Ms. Danis seconded. Unanimously approved by a vote of 5-0.**

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32 Mr. Sterndale said someone is interested in leasing the landfill area for a solar power system. The
33 Board concurred that Mr. Sterndale will look into this.

34 **Action Items from Last Meetings**

35 Road Standards Policy and Practice
36 9-20-21: 300th Celebration Committee
37 10-4-21: Old town hall
38 SAU transition team

39 **Assessing**

40 No update.

41 **General Business**

42 *Road Standards Policy*

43 Mr. Bartlett said there will be a 25-minute discussion from the public with 3 minutes given for
44 each person.

45 Mr. Dearborn suggested the BOS follow the will of the people and rescind the road standards
46 policy as was voted on in Article 20. He said the Board should reaffirm and rescind the policy
47 immediately. He said the Board could reintroduce new standards or the same standards.

48 Mr. Bartlett said Judy and Kip was unable to come to the meeting. He read their statement out
49 loud. In the letter, it noted that most of the roads in Nottingham would not pass the standards.
50 They are in favor of rescinding the road standards policy as voted on in Article 20.

51 Ms. Kelley asked if the Board plans to apply these standards to Mooers Road. Mr. Bartlett said at
52 the time Mooers Road was approved, there were no road standards. Ms. Danis said everyone
53 thinks that every road is going to be immediately brought up to those standards. There is room
54 for judgment for roads in those standards.

55 Ms. Kelley said the town administrator urged the BOS to pass the road standards. She said it was
56 passed so quickly because Article 19 was coming up. She thinks those road standards were not
57 suitable or relevant to Nottingham. She said if they need them, she thinks they should be more
58 relevant to Nottingham. She said that if the road standards are aspirational, they should be more
59 realistic for the town of Nottingham.

60 Mr. Bartlett closed the public discussion.

61 Ms. Danis said they are as a Board didn't come up with those standards quickly. They were not
62 developed in haste. Mr. Dumas said they didn't pass the policy because of Article 19. He said the
63 road standards were created over a year. Mr. Morin said he would like to take 8 things off the
64 road standards policy and he is not in favor of having road standards. Mr. Eaton said this is what

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the people voted for but the roads were voted on and approved as is. These roads don't have to be paved right away or ever.

Mr. Bartlett said they have gone 300 years without road standards. The highway dept. needs to go by something when they repair these roads. Mr. Bartlett said they spent a great deal of time figuring out a standard. It could be this standard or something else. He believes this Board has an obligation to create something that can be used for future Boards. He said they could rescind the standards and then reinstate the same policy; however, that accomplishes nothing.

Mr. Morin said he is not sure if the standards would be the same. He said some of these standards are unfeasible. Shawn McLean should know the best practices for the town and faith should be put in him to do his job well. Mr. Morin doesn't want these standards to be a large tax dollar for residents. He said if we are not going to upgrade to these standards, what is the point of having them.

Mr. Bartlett said it gives something the highway dept. to strive for. Ms. Danis said it gives engineers a blueprint for what the roads should be and informs residents what the town is striving for. Mr. Dumas said Shawn's input was given for this document.

Mr. Eaton said there are only 5 people that can vote on this. There were 610 residents that voted on Article 20. The roads have been here forever. He is in favor of continuing to do whatever they have done in the past for the roads that were approved in Article 19.

Mr. Dumas said they are only looking at the roads in Article 19 instead of all roads; they should be looking at all roads in town.

Mr. Eaton said he doesn't think they need road standards for the roads that have become town roads in the last election.

Ms. Danis said it's not just those roads; it's any roads in town when they undergo a repair.

Mr. Dumas said it's self-defeating to get rid of standards. It's bad precedent for BOS to give up their statutory authority. Mr. Bartlett said it was the will of the people. There were 610 people that voted for Article 19. Mr. Dumas said there are 6000 people in town. Mr. Bartlett said they need a standard; perhaps it's not this standard. He said sidewalks are not needed for existing roads, however, that is mentioned in the road standards policy. Ms. Danis asked if more people voted for sidewalks, would the BOS do that?

Mr. Bartlett said any future warrant articles should be listed as advisory or policy driven. Mr. Sterndale said they can't do that with petition warrant articles.

Mr. Morin made a motion to rescind minimum standards of the roads as determined by the will of the people in 2021 election. Mr. Eaton seconded.

Mr. Dumas said over the course of the year, no proposals came in that were opposed to road standards. It may not be a perfect fit for the whole time. No one has come forward to offer any ideas, guidance other than rescind and reenact later.

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101 Mr. Eaton said he wants this issue to go away; one way or the other.

102 Mr. Bartlett said this is the hardest decision he has had to make but he believes that they need a
103 road standard.

104 **Motion passes by a vote of 3-2 with Mr. Dumas and Ms. Danis voting nay.**

105 Mr. Bartlett asked if there was enough support to reinstate the road standards. Ms. Danis said
106 that was pointless.

107 The discussion is closed.

108 Ms. Danis said the new roads are not linked to the roads that were approved at the last election.
109 Comments should come from people who live on all different roads.

110 Mr. Bartlett said they would work on road standards at a future meeting.

111 **Appointments**

112 *SAU Transition Committee*

113 Ms. Levenson thanked the Board for the concert last night as well as Mr. Bartlett and Ms.
114 Petrini. Mr. Bartlett said it could not have gone on without the support of the School Board as
115 well.

116 Ms. Levenson said the state approved the new SAU. They have looked at different spaces in
117 town. Mr. Spearin said one of the options was rented out; they are down to 2 choices. One is a
118 room at the community center or the old town hall building. Mr. Spearin said it's less expensive
119 to fix the room in the community center but there is less space in the town hall. In the old town
120 hall, there are more updates needed. They will have 4 staff, potentially 5. They would need a
121 conference room for meetings. The old town hall building needs a new boiler, and there are rot
122 issues under the floor and other areas. He wants to see if the BOS has other options as well or
123 what they think about these options.

124 Mr. Bartlett asked if they would have enough room in the community center. Ms. Ricker said it
125 would be a conference table, not a conference room. Ms. Levenson said part-time superintendent
126 would be in the office and other personnel may be in the school most of the time. They need a
127 business function personnel as well.

128 Mr. Bartlett said the space is limited in the community center. The rec is crammed in as is. He is
129 in favor of the old town hall with some help from the town.

130 Ms. Levenson asked how long the old town hall has been left empty. Mr. Sterndale said the SAU
131 signed over the building and the land underneath it to the town once they got a new school. The
132 town moved into the community center from the old town hall. Ms. Levenson said it was the
133 school district, not the SAU.

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134 Ms. Levenson said the old town hall has parking, and it's good to have the buildings up to code.
135 Ms. Ricker said they need to come up with a plan soon. She asked what the timeframe is to bring
136 that building up to code.

137 Mr. Bartlett recommended that the 2nd floor of the old town hall remain closed. He thinks the
138 work will take longer than when the new SAU needs a space.

139 Ms. Danis asked how soon the walk-through could happen. Mr. Sterndale said it may be hard to
140 find a contractor. Mr. Eaton suggested Gary Anderson. Ms. Danis asked if that's the preferred
141 location over the community center. There was no consensus among the committee. Mr. Morin
142 said if the SAU moves to community center, it doesn't allow the town to expand. He believes the
143 school should be separate from the town.

144 Ms. Ricker said the room in the community center gives them 900 square feet. The old town hall
145 would have to be turned back to the town for events. Mr. Sterndale said he said that is what he
146 thought the town would want to happen. Ms. Ricker said the back space at the old town hall is a
147 smaller space than the community center room. Mr. Spearin said they could put a small office
148 there and have open cubicles for the rest of the staff. The bathroom space is nonexistent
149 currently, and they would have to walk through the community space to get to the bathroom. Mr.
150 Bartlett said he is in favor of allowing the whole space for the school.

151 Ms. Danis said she agrees with Mr. Morin; if the school moves to the community center, it
152 doesn't allow the town to expand. She suggests finding out the cost of old town hall updates.

153 Ms. Levenson said they have an unassigned fund balance of \$50k. Mr. Bartlett said the Board
154 isn't able to tell the school what the town would spend at this time. Mr. Eaton said the more
155 people that are in that building, the more money it would bring into the town. He is in favor of
156 having the school occupy the whole space.

157 Ms. Ricker asked if the town is expecting the school to pay rent.

158 Mr. Eaton said the building will fall over if they don't do something about it. The fire escape is
159 dangerous. Ms. Danis asked if they could invest money into the first floor and is there a risk to
160 the building. Mr. Eaton said they would spend a fortune for the 2nd floor. Ms. Danis asked if
161 there was a safety hazard. Mr. Sterndale said they haven't had professional eyes on it. The 2nd
162 floor has lack of egress and the windows go to close to the floor.

163 Ms. Danis asked if they can take some of the big space but leave some for community space. Mr.
164 Sterndale said it's all or nothing. The stage area is up for grabs. Mr. Spearin said that area isn't
165 helpful to them. Ms. Levenson said they would have to be good neighbors with both spaces.

166 Mr. Spearin said they could take the community center for a short time. They could have other
167 options in the future. He said that they would do the upgrades for the community center. He is
168 worried about the old town hall. He believes it would be well over \$200k to fix the old town hall.
169 Mr. Bartlett said he would like a professional to look at the building.

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170 Mr. Morin said the plan was to keep the old town hall. He would be in favor of the SAU in the
171 community center if it wasn't forever.

172 Ms. Danis asked if the line dancing could be done at the school. Ms. Levenson said it could
173 potentially be done there. She said the construction company may be able to look at the old town
174 hall. Ms. Ricker asked if the BOS would like the construction company to look at the community
175 center. Mr. Morin said the bill is the school's for someone look at the community center or the
176 old town hall.

177 There was discussion about three trees on the old town hall property that may need to be
178 removed.

179 **Other**

180 Mr. Rosborough asked what needs to be done for Mooers Road to bring it up to standards. Mr.
181 Bartlett said he would refer that to Shawn McLean. Ms. Danis said Mr. McLean needs to discuss
182 that with the Board.

183 Mr. Bartlett said he believes that stipulation for Mooers Road should be removed.

184 Mr. Rosborough said Mooers Road is in good shape. He needs to know what the road needs to
185 do to be officially accepted.

186 Mr. Bassett said he owns Lamprey Road. He passed out a document to the BOS. He would like
187 the Board to establish what has been maintained. He is asking if Lamprey Road is dedicated or
188 not. If it hasn't been done, it needs to be done.

189 Mr. Morin said this is something they should be asking the attorney. There are sections that were
190 not maintained by the town before and can they be described as driveways then.

191 **Review Action Items for Next Meeting**

192 Road standards, SAU Transition, Mooers Road, 300th Celebration Committee

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

194 **Adjourn**

195 **Ms. Danis made a motion to adjourn at 7:59pm. Mr. Dumas seconded. Unanimously**
196 **approved by a vote of 5-0.**