

**Minutes
Nottingham Selectmen's Meeting
June 15, 2015**

6:30 PM Chair Bonser opened the meeting and asked all those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Mary Bonser, Donna Danis and Mark Carpenter

Others: Town Administrator Chris Sterndale, Secretary Dawn Calley-Murdough, Shanon Wright, Jamie Burleigh, Diane Gilman, Jackie Snow, Lauren Chaurette, Sue Gunderson, Jennifer Biron, Therese Thompson, Shannon Taylor, Bonnie Patten, Hal Rafter, Judy Doughty, Paul Miliotis, Ed Kotowski, Jim Robinson, Chet Batchelder, Miska Hadik, Janet Horvath, John Morin, Penny Osborne, Chris Mills, Gail Mills

MANIFEST SIGNATURE:

Motion: by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Carpenter to approve the June 8, 2015 accounts payable and June 9, 2015 payroll manifests.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

OUTSTANDING MINUTES:

Motion: Mr. Carpenter, second Ms. Danis to approve the minutes of the June 1, 2015 meeting as written.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Ms. Danis stated an error was found in the May 18, 2015 minutes, a wrong word was used on page 5 (the motion regarding a letter to the School Board). The Selectmen agreed to correct the minutes removing the wrong word of ascension and include the correct word.

SELECTMEN BOARD/COMMITTEE/LIASON REPORTS:

Planning Board: Ms. Danis reviewed the board continued their review of the proposed ordinance changes; there will be plenty of time for the Selectmen and others to submit comments regarding the changes.

Chair Bonser stated her support for the current ordinance changes, however, she would like the Board of Selectmen to discuss and review the Open Space requirements and the town expense with the required monitoring of the open spaced lands. After discussion the Selectmen requested additional details from the Planning Board on how the properties are monitored.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR/DEPARTMENT REPORTS, MAIL & SIGN ITEMS:

Town Clerk: The Town Clerk will return next Monday. There have been no problems, and only a few phone calls and visitors have been received. Applications and resumes from interested individuals for the open Deputy Town Clerk position can continue to be submitted.

Recreation: Summer Camp starts on June 29th. The Town Beach is open and the closing hours have been changed from 7:00 pm to 8:00 pm, extending the closing by one hour.

Highway: The permitting process for the Deerfield dry hydrant is complete and work will begin later in the summer after other regular road work. Mr. Carpenter stated the Fire Chief has expressed concern about the type of materials used for the dry hydrants. Mr. Sterndale reported the new material will be iron and not PVC.

Mr. Sterndale reported work has begun on the 2015 road reconstruction projects; Lavoie Drive and Freeman Hall are currently being worked on. The bulk of work on Lavoie Drive should be completed before July 4th and Freeman Hall will follow shortly.

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Recycling Center: The center will be open on Friday, July 3rd and closed Saturday, July 4th for the holiday.

Solar Energy Presentation: Mr. Sterndale reported the presentation/meeting regarding solar panel options for the Town and School was held and believes it is a worthwhile to pursue the viability of this project further. Mr. Carpenter stated while there would be initial installation costs, the Town would have the ability to see eventual long term savings and possible future income. More details will be provided as activity on the project continues.

Discussion took place about possible financing options and possible length of use. Mr. Carpenter reviewed the hybrid program, a lease type program which involves investors who supply equipment funds, assistance with installation and equipment maintenance, with repayment and purchase of surplus energy over a contracted time period; once complete the equipment and energy revert to the town. Mr. Burleigh reviewed the advance in technology of the currently used solar processes; the solar panels supply the power/energy needed for existing electric needs and any surplus energy is returned to the electric grid, providing a possible credit back to the municipality; eliminating any need for disposal of toxic batteries as in the past. Ms. Thomson stated the federal tax credit is expected to expire in 2016.

The Selectmen acknowledged that Mr. Sterndale, along with the team of volunteers, will review and process the information with the intent to make a proposal and recommendation to the BOS. Mr. Carpenter thanked Mr. Burleigh for initiating the discussion, providing help in understanding the process and getting the project moving forward.

Code Enforcement Officer: The office will be closed the remainder of this week, as the Building Inspector is going out on extended leave. The office will re-open next week with the fill-in Building Inspector Gene Perrault helping out the next couple of months.

Police: The part-time officer has been sworn in, is receiving his equipment, and has started working/training with the other officers. The newest full-time officer is now working on his own. The department is currently fully staffed, as is the Fire Department.

New Hope Church: Mr. Sterndale thanked the members of the church for providing the office staff and current and former Selectmen with a wonderful dinner to show their appreciation for the service they provide to the town. The church has done the same for the Fire Department, Police Department, and Highway Department. Everyone had a really good time and it was a very kind and appreciated gesture.

GENERAL BUSINESS:

Pre-approved Street Names: The Selectmen reviewed the list and expressed concern that some of the native names are difficult to enunciate, and could cause some confusion.

The Selectmen reviewed the list and subtracted those names they did not feel were good suggestions.

Motion: by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Carpenter to approve the list of suggested road names presented by the Code Administrator, dated June 1, 2015, as amended, for future road names.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:00 pm: Hal Rafter: Mr. Rafter expressed concern about recent Selectmen discussion and actions regarding Nottingham School Board decisions, which has caused dissension and tension

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between the two boards. It had been previously stated the Selectmen can request information but can not legally take action regarding school issues. A lot of time has been spent on the school issue, instead of town issues, and if they want to continue discussing the issue they should go to the School Board and recuse themselves and do so as an individual, and not speak as a Selectman.

Mr. Rafter also expressed his concern that Chair Bonser has written letters to individuals and outside agencies, including the County Attorney and Chief of Police, regarding the school issue, signing the letter as "Nottingham Selectman Mary Bonser." This issue is now an individual concern and not a town government issue. If letters come from the Selectmen it should come from the Town (letterhead) and not from the individual. Signing documents with the Selectmen title can give the impression the information is government communication, reviewed and approved by the full Board of Selectmen, and is not coming from an individual based on individual opinions and point of views.

Chair Bonser indicated her letter was sent to the Attorney General and not the County Attorney, and she included Selectman because it is her position. Chair Bonser stated citizens contacted her, as a Selectman, to express their concern regarding the School Board budget issues and she addressed the issue as an individual Selectman, but not as Chair of the Board of Selectmen. Chair Bonser stated she was acting as a Selectman and there is nothing preventing her from doing so.

Mr. Carpenter stated he believes the three Selectmen are equal and have equal say in what takes place, it is OK to say you are a Selectman, but it important to clarify when one is speaking as a citizen so that people do not get the misimpression that one is representing the views of the BOS.

Ms. Danis stated she believes it is misleading by including the title on that type of communication, because perception is that she is speaking on behalf of the Board of Selectmen. If an issue is brought to the attention of an individual Selectman it should be brought forward to the full board for a decision and possible action.

Chair Bonser stated she disagrees with the other Selectmen but they are entitled to their own opinions.

Mr. Carpenter stated he does not like to play political games and while he is willing to work on issues or projects as an individual, the only action he has taken regarding the tuition issue as a Selectman was to request budgetary input for overall spend projections at the school deliberative session. A request was made during the budget meetings and public budget hearings asking for the possible impact of the tuition policy change, and because an answer was never provided, a decision was made during a Selectmen's meeting to send a letter asking again for further explanation of the tuition impact; no other action was taken as a Selectman. There is no reason any board cannot ask another board for clarification. The issue has become an emotional issue and there should be the ability to have an open and forthcoming exchange of information without all of the shameful background activities taking place, including personal provocations which lead to his personal letter posted in The Forum.

Ms. Danis stated she believes the School Board believes they have provided appropriate answers to the questions being asked, despite what others believe.

Chair Bonser stated she believes she has gone as far as she can go in trying to receive further answers to her questions, as a Selectman, and notified the School Board she was going to seek

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additional clarification regarding the issue. She contacted The Attorney General and NH Department of Education asking them to investigate her accusations and concerns. Ms. Bonser offered to share the findings with other members of the Board of Selectmen. Chair Bonser stated she feels a responsibility that the government provides answers to the questions asked and is committed to the town.

Mr. Carpenter stated Chair Bonser made an individual decision to take this action, and spend money, and it is not a decision from the Board of Selectmen, and the issue should not be discussed at a Board of Selectmen meeting, keeping the integrity of the board intact. The Selectmen should be concerned about the current and future cost to the town and how all decisions might affect future decisions of the Board of Selectmen. Mr. Carpenter stated budget decisions completed by other town, municipal and state agencies can and will affect budget decision made by the Board of Selectmen.

Ms. Danis stated she is also committed to the town, and she believes Mr. Carpenter is also committed to the town. Both indicated that they have asked hard questions about the school budget when they were on the Budget Committee and have also completed a lot of hard work to improve the working relationship between the Board of Selectmen and the School Board.

Mr. Rafter stated he agrees that the Selectmen are the leaders of the town but issues regarding School Board actions should be addressed during a School Board meeting and any follow up regarding additional questions should be discussed with the School Board. Ms. Chaurette stated the accusatory tone has prevented the School Board and Selectmen having an open dialogue regarding the issue. Mr. Rafter stated he is concerned there is a lot of confusion and Chair Bonser's letter included a lot of additional confusion, which could be prevented by discussing the issues in a joint meeting between the School Board and Board of Selectmen.

Chair Bonser stated the confusion can hopefully be cleared up when she receives her responses from the Attorney General and NH Department of Education. Chair Bonser thanked Mr. Rafter for attending.

7:15 pm: Paul Miliotis/Conservation Commission Alternate Member Appointment: Chair Bonser thanked Mr. Miliotis for volunteering.

Mr. Miliotis reviewed his prior history, experience, and interest in conservation and why he would be a good fit to work on the Conservation Commission, with interest in water and wildlife conservation.

Motion: by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Carpenter to appoint Mr. Paul Miliotis as an alternate member of the Conservation Commission from June 15, 2015 to April 1, 2018.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

7:30 pm: Marston Property Exploratory Committee (MPEC) Update: Ms. Danis introduced the attending committee members Chet Batchelder, Miska Hadik and Janet Horvath.

Ms. Danis stated the committee met and discussed what actions might be taken to move the development processes forward and consider what recommendations should be brought to the Selectmen. Three motions were made during the meeting, to accept the NH Listens reports, to promote the use of the Marston property for recreational purposes or other community purposes and not for something such as a municipal office building, and to formalize the next steps in the development plan.

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Ms. Danis stated the committee felt it was important to move forward with a commitment to move the property forward in a recreational capacity and an important next step is to get expert advice to establish a formal conceptual plan, including, but not limited to all aspects that will be needed to support recreational activities, such as parking, lighting, bathrooms and even a snack shack. One of the biggest questions is determining how much the project will cost and the committee is suggesting hiring help for a conceptual plan by using some of the Recreation Revolving funds.

Ms. Danis stated the committee will actively seek alternate funding and donations for development in order to decrease any or all need for funding by taxation.

Mr. Hadik stated part of the delay in making a decision about how to move forward were the school ball field questions. UNH had previously reviewed the field situations at the school and for a variety of reasons the school location is probably not the most ideal, whereas the Marston property is very conducive in providing recreational fields.

Ms. Danis stated she would like to receive support from the Selectmen for an approximate \$20,000.00 to \$25,000.00 of Recreation Revolving Funds to hire an engineer to provide a report.

Mr. Carpenter asked about the amount of money that is currently available in the revolving fund. He clarified with Mr. Sterndale that the BOS has established last year the size of the Rec Revolving Fund has grown to its current size because the General Fund has been subsidizing the Rec programs, which means property tax dollars are in the General Fund. He has concerns about using any General Fund dollars, wherever they may exist, without knowing the impact of the recent policy changes taken by the school board. Mr. Carpenter stated while he is supportive of the Marston project, he is unwilling to spend any new funds, including on a proposed new fire truck, until a better understanding of the current changes can be received.

Mr. Batchelder stated the committee is only looking to release a request for proposal to determine a more accurate cost of hiring an engineering company before making a decision and determining if funds are available to actually hire the engineer.

After discussion the Selectmen decided a request for proposal could be sent out in order to receive proposals of the actual cost of hiring an engineer.

Ms. Danis stated the committee will meet again on Monday, June 22 at 6:30 pm.

Sale of Town Property: Mr. Sterndale reviewed the list of five properties he wanted the Selectmen to consider for possible sale, by sealed bid and with some special considerations. The special consideration for each lot will be the request to merge the purchased small lot with an abutting lot. The special consideration will limit bidders, but there are multiple abutters, and abutting owners have already approached the town for possible purchase.

General discussion took place about the available lots and after discussion the Selectmen agreed that Mr. Sterndale could move forward and write up formal sale proposals for each of the five lots, which would be presented to the Selectmen at their next meeting.

Signature Items: Mr. Sterndale reviewed the items in the signature folder and current mail information.

Appointment forms, recreation salary increase and the letter regarding the significant increases in the County Commissioner expenses.

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County Expenses: Mr. Carpenter reviewed the Selectmen are seeking information from the County Delegates because of recent increases in county expenses, including a separate office and two positions just for the Legislative County Representatives who decide the county budget. Mr. Sterndale reported the Selectmen have been invited to send one representative to the next County Commissioner meeting and Mr. Carpenter stated he would attend if he was available.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business,

8:02 PM Motion: by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Carpenter to adjourn.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Calley-Murdough