

Minutes
Nottingham Selectmen's Meeting
July 27, 2015

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

Members Present: Mark Carpenter, Mary Bonser and Donna Danis

Others: Chris Sterndale – Town Administrator, Dawn Wirkkala – Secretary, Sam Demeritt, Kristen Lamb, Susan Mooney, Debra Kimball, Cheryl Smith, David Viale, Charlene Anderson, David Sweetser, Eugene Reed

MANIFEST SIGNATURE:

Motion: by Mr. Carpenter, second by Ms. Danis to approve the July 20, 2015 accounts payable and July 21, 2015 payroll manifests.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

OUTSTANDING MINUTES:

Motion: Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Carpenter to approve the minutes of the July 13, 2015 meeting as amended.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Board of Selectmen Department/Board/Committee Reports:

Budget Committee: Mr. Carpenter reported a committee member has requested a meeting during August to review and discuss open questions and task items that were asked during the May 2015 meeting, instead of waiting until September.

Ms. Danis reported she would not be able to attend the Board of Selectmen meeting on August 10th.

Town Administrator Reports, Mail, Signature Items:

Highway: The major projects for 2015 road construction is complete, significantly ahead of schedule from prior years with happy results. The vendor communicated with the town very well, deliveries were completed on time, and the product is of satisfactory quality.

Repair work will start on the Deerfield Road dry hydrant, the needed equipment and parts have been delivered.

Fire: Congratulations to Fire Fighters Chris D'Eon and Zach Gagnon, as they completed and passed the advanced EMT training, and their employment probationary period has ended.

The new truck has arrived and needed equipment will be installed soon and should be in-service in the next two to four weeks.

Recreation: Kudos to lifeguards Landon McBride and Case Merritt, both completed water rescues with a 2-year old child.

Chair Bonser asked to send letters recognizing their swift and positive actions.

Mendums Pond Dam Repair: NHDES has notified the town and has mailed letters to notify abutting property owners about the need to drawdown the pond to complete repairs on the dam. They will hold two public meetings to discuss the matter – on August 3rd at the Barrington Middle School and on August 10th during the Nottingham Board of Selectmen meeting.

Police: The new cruiser has arrived and needed equipment will be installed soon and should be in-service in the next two to four weeks.

General Business:

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New Parking Ordinance: The Selectmen supported the proposed changes to the Nottingham Parking Ordinance, which introduces “permit-only parking” in Selectmen designated areas, such as the Town Beach. Mr. Sterndale stated Police Chief Foss is comfortable with the proposed changes.

It was stated changes to the parking ordinance will need a public hearing, which will be scheduled and posted for a future date.

Recreation Revolving Committee: The Selectmen made the decision to keep the application period open two more week and assign members at the August 10, 2015 meeting. Citizens interested in participating in the committee should submit an application to the Selectmen office. The Selectmen also need to complete their expectations and timelines for the committee.

2nd Quarter Budget Update: The Selectmen thanked Mr. Sterndale for providing an excellent summary of the 2nd quarter budget information. None of the Selectmen had additional questions regarding the information.

Town Clerk: Mr. Sterndale presented the appointment form for the new Deputy Town Clerk Lori Anderson.

Motion: by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Carpenter to approve the appointment of Lorraine Anderson as Deputy Town Clerk.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor

Requested Legislative Changes Letter: Chair Bonser presented her draft letter to the NH Representatives and Senator Reagan regarding requests for legislative changes to allow undeclared ballot clerks and preventing wording changes to citizen petition warrant articles once they have been submitted.

Ms. Danis offered her support in changing legislation for undeclared ballot clerks, as trying to find registered Republicans or Democrats to work as ballot clerks is becoming harder and harder but offered less support with the request to prevent wording changes to citizen petition warrant articles.

Chair Bonser stated she understands the frustration by some by having citizen petition warrant articles changed after submission for printing on the ballot; citizens should be able to vote in either the positive or negative on the original request. Chair Bonser changing the letter to discuss the possibility of legislation with the Representatives and Senator during an upcoming meeting.

Mr. Carpenter and Chair Bonser stated it had been previously mentioned by Selectman Carpenter in March 2015 that the Selectmen should analyze the benefits/drawbacks of a change to an SB2 voting system for the Town after they reconvened from the March 2015 elections and Town Meeting at an additional future separate meeting.

The Selectmen agreed they would like to discuss the contents of Mary's letter with the local representatives and agreed to change the letter to reflect that they would like to discuss the merits (pros and cons) of possible changes in language relating to citizen petition warrant articles.

The Selectmen requested to hold a meeting with the Representatives and Senator Reagan as soon as possible to complete discussion regarding the legislative change requests.

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Capital Improvement Program: Mr. Sterndale reported it appears the Budget Committee and Planning Board CIP members have been selected/appointed and the School Board is discussing whether or not they will send a school participant.

Mr. Sterndale reported the first step is to review the initial request and existing information, additional meetings would have committee member's work with individual Department Head. The startup meeting will take place during August.

APPOINTMENTS:

7:00 pm: Conservation Commission Sweetser Easement Public Hearing: Chairperson Sam Demeritt opened the Conservation Commission meeting and public hearing at 7:00.

Mr. Demeritt reviewed that the purpose of the public hearing was to invite public comment regarding the proposed disbursement of up to \$60,000 dollars from the Town's Conservation Fund for a conservation easement. The property is identified as Tax Map 65, Lot 1, along Ledge Farm Road, totaling 200 acres, more or less. The Nottingham expenditure is a partial payment of the total cost, along with additional federal grants and funds from South East Land Trust (SELT) the property will be placed into permanent conservation easements.

Mr. Viale reviewed the project and provided descriptions of the property. The property is approximately 200 acres, with a proposed total project value over \$1.1 million dollars. SELT has secured 95% of the project funds, to include both local and federal grants from the NRCS Wetland Reserve Program, NRCS funding through the Agricultural Land Easement (ALE) program. Matching funds are required to secure the ALE easement, a portion of which have been secured through grants and a gift by the Sweetser family. SELT is asking that the Town of Nottingham assist in the purchase of the easement by providing the last 5% of the project costs and required matching funds via a disbursement of up to \$60,000 from the Conservation Fund. SELT would be the Primary Easement Holder; the Town of Nottingham would hold an Executory Interest and NRCS would be the third party with a Right of Enforcement.

Comments from Commission members, the BOS and the audience were solicited. All comments were favorable. Mr. Sweetser thanked the town for their assistance in protecting the family property.

Chair Demeritt closed the Public Hearing at 7:20 PM.

Motion: by Ms. Lamb, second by Ms. Kimball to expend up to \$60,000 from the Town's Conservation Fund to provide matching funds for the Sweetser Agricultural Land Easement.

Vote: 5 – 0 in favor.

Motion: by Ms. Smith, second by Ms. Mooney to adjourn the public meeting at 7:22 pm.

Vote: 5 – 0 in favor. All five (5) votes were in favor.

Motion: by Mr. Carpenter, second by Ms. Danis, to support the expenditure of up to \$60,000.00 from the Conservation Fund on the Sweetser property Easement.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: The Board entered non-public under RSA 91-A:3 II(a)

7:25 PM Motion: by Ms. Danis, second by Mr. Carpenter to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3 II(a)

Roll Call Vote: Bonser – Yea, Carpenter – Yea, Danis – Yea. 3 – 0 in favor.

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7:45 PM Motion: by Mr. Carpenter, second by Ms. Danis to exit the non-public session.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Motion: by Ms. Danis, second Mr. Carpenter to seal the non-public minutes of July 27, 2015.

Roll Call Vote: Bonser – Yea, Carpenter – Yea, Danis – Yea. 3 – 0 in favor.

The Selectmen made no decisions during their non-public session.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business,

7:46 PM Motion: by Mr. Carpenter, second by Ms. Danis to adjourn.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Calley-Murdough