

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday June 13th, 2022

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Vice-Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, PDA Representatives Peggy Lamson and Susan Parker, Greenland Select Board Chair Steve Smith, Greenland Select Board Vice-Chair Vaughan Morgan, Recreation Chair Rebecca Navelski, Recreation Committee Members; Jessica Morgan, Dana Nowell, Newington Residents Huddy Grandy, Laura Stone and Heather Belanger, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:31pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Peggy Lamson and Susan Parker-Pease Development Authority Update:

P. Lamson brought the PDA agenda and the two motions that will be made on the option agreement extensions for Aviation Avenue Group, LLC and North Forty Group, LLC, to the Town Hall on Friday. These items were emailed to the Board of Selectmen. B. Arsenault asked if the Greenland Board of Selectmen have taken a position on the option agreement extensions. Chair Smith said that it won't be on an agenda until July, but the Board has not taken a position because they don't know what's going on at the moment, except that Procon/Kane has stated publicly that they don't plan on putting air cargo at Pease. P. Lamson stated that both she and S. Parker will be voting in favor of the extension at Thursday's meeting because it will be a benefit for Newington. B. Arsenault said that it was just her opinion. Resident H. Grandy said that she had submitted revised language for the option agreements that made it clear that no air cargo could be part of the development of the two properties, but she hadn't heard anything back about her request. H. Grandy believes that there should be a change in the language of the option agreements before a vote is taken on Thursday June 16th. B. Arsenault pointed out that this development is clearly not going to benefit Newington, the only one who benefits is the "for profit" company. B. Arsenault asked if EWA was on the agenda for Thursday. P. Lamson said no. B. Arsenault pointed out that Procon/Kane said that they had removed air cargo from the option agreement, but that is no true at all, it still states air cargo as an option. S. Parker agreed with B. Arsenault that the option agreement extension has a linguistic backdoor that she was not aware of. S. Parker thought that the language that H. Grandy proposed should be added to the option agreement extension before a vote is taken on Thursday because it closes the latitude of use. H. Grandy proposed that either P. Lamson or S. Parker make a motion to amend the option agreement extension to include the new language.

B. Arsenault moved that a motion be made at the 6/16/22 PDA meeting that states that the following language be adding to the two motions before the PDA.

To be added to Paragraph 1, after the “for development of” language (which will be revised by Procon/Kane) please add the following sentence:

“North Forty/AAG, as consideration for the renewal of this Agreement, shall not under any circumstance pursue, explore, allow, or in any way develop the property, or permit, through any sublease or other agreement, any tenant of the property to pursue, explore, allow, or in any way develop the property for purposes of domestic or international air cargo services at Pease International Airport. “Air Cargo” shall be construed broadly and shall include all forms of cargo transportation by plane”.

If the motion to amend the option agreements passes then Peggy Lamson and Susan Parker should vote “yes” on the extension of the option agreement.

If the motion to amend the option agreements fails then Peggy Lamson and Susan Parker should vote “no” on the extension of the option agreement.

B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All in favor.

B. Blonigen asked what the two Greenland Selectmen thought about the amended motion, as private citizens. Vice-Chair Morgan said that the amended motion made sense to him.

B. Arsenault asked if Procon/Kane had demonstrated substantial progress to get the option agreement extension. P. Lamson said yes. B. Arsenault stated that the June 9th memo from Paul Brean about the Procon/Kane option extension was very subjective. B. Arsenault is not convinced of the change from air cargo and thought the memo was very misleading. S. Parker stated that after she read the June 9th memo from Paul Brean, she called him to ask why he was using so much filler language. B. Blonigen said that filler language provides “wiggle” room for the developers.

M. Roy entered the meeting.

B. Blonigen updated the Board on his meeting with NHDOT and Town Engineer Eric Weinrieb about the drainage problems on Shattuck Way. The NHDOT is going to do another hydro study. They believe the problem is because the pipe on the Sprague property is at 11 feet elevation and the one on Shattuck Way is at 10 feet, so it can’t drain as well. B. Blonigen pointed out that there was never a problem until the NHDOT finished the Spaulding Turnpike project. B. Arsenault thought that the Town should get a letter from the land owner outlining when the problem started.

B. Arsenault asked if the Dumpling Cove Drainage project had started yet. M. Roy said it is scheduled for next week. B. Arsenault asked about Hannah Lane. M. Roy said that it had been completed. B. Blonigen said that grass is growing there.

B. Arsenault asked Fire Engineer A. Hyland Hebert what was happening with the Fire Dept. Command car. A. Hyland Hebert said that it is getting its mechanical repairs right now and they will reevaluate it again before the inspection is due in September.

B. Blonigen asked about the light pole on Coleman Drive. If the shield on the light was working. M. Roy said that everyone is happy with the shield.

T. Connors recessed the meeting at 6:11pm.

T. Connors called the meeting back to order at 6:29pm.

Recreation Committee-Summer Camp Voucher Program:

The Recreation Committee would like the Board of Selectmen to distribute the \$34,500 in their budget, that was originally budgeted for the Newington summer camp, to the parents that have to send their children to a different summer camp this summer because Newington is not doing a camp. They are asking for \$700 per child.

B. Arsenault pointed out that the summer camp doesn't cost the Town \$34,500, because the parents pay a tuition. The total tuition revenue paid to the town was \$27,635 last summer, so the actual tax burden to the tax payers is only \$6,865. J. Morgan pointed out that the Recreation Committee is under budget every year and returns money to the General Fund. L. Stone said that her family is paying over \$6,000 for camp this summer. She feels that giving some back to the families will help because many families didn't budget this much for camp this summer because they thought that Newington was going to have a camp. B. Blonigen said that he had heard from many town residents that said that they don't think that it is the Town's responsibility to support kid's going to summer camp. A. Hyland Hebert asked what other towns do for their residents. M. Roy checked with towns statewide and didn't find any that offered compensation for camp. J. Morgan said that it is a huge hardship for families. L. Stone said that if the Town gives \$500 per child for 40 children it would be \$20,000. The Board of Selectmen had suggested \$250 per child previously. T. Connors said that the Board will review the suggestions and will send their opinions to M. Roy. T. Connors also pointed out that the Town will always help the children that need assistance for summer camp. The next Recreation Committee meeting is on July 12th. J. Morgan asked if there could be changes to the voucher form. M. Roy said yes.

Adjournment: B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 7:03pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Eleanor Boy, Recorder