

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday December 12th, 2022

**Present:** Chair Ted Connors, Vice-Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, , John Ratigan, Esq., Library Trustees Chair Jack O'Reilly, Library Trustees; Paul Pelletier, Megan Wayss, Peter Welch, Alternate Library Trustee Lillian Wilson, Library Employees; Theresa Tomlinson, Brittany Post, Debra Obertenac, Unitil Project Manager Roger Barham, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Finance Director Sheryl Bagley, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:30pm. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes Approval:** This item was postponed.

**Manifest Approval:** B. Arsenault moved to approve the manifests for \$68,846.36 dated 12/8/2022. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Kayaks Left on Racks-Fox Point:**

M. Roy explained that kayaks are being left on the racks down at Fox Point year-round. This was not the intention when the racks were placed there. M. Roy suggested sending a postcard to all residents about removing the kayaks for the winter. B. Blonigen explained that there are no names on the kayaks so the owners could not be contacted. Dockmaster P. Welch said that there are about 7 on the rack by the docks and another seven at the second rack. Some of the kayaks have been on these racks for two or three years. B. Arsenault asked if the kayaks were hurting the racks or vegetation around it. P. Welch explained that the kayaks weren't hurting anything, but the racks were not intended for year-round storage. P. Welch would like to see postcards sent out to all the residents asking them to remove their kayaks by a certain date or they will be removed and stored someplace else. He also suggested that signs be made and put on the racks. T. Connors suggested putting a deadline on the postcards for removal. P. Welch pointed out that some are locked onto the racks, but they can be removed. B. Arsenault suggested that December 31st be the date that the kayaks must be removed from the racks. If they are not removed, then they will be removed and stored in the carriage house and the owners would be responsible for a portion of the labor to remove the kayaks and put them into storage. It was a consensus of the Board to send a postcard to residents with an end date of December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2022, to remove the kayaks or they will be removed and stored in the carriage house. P. Welch would like to see names on the kayaks going forward.

### Fox Point Plan:

The Board reviewed the draft of the Fox Point CIP. P. Welch asked the Board if they could award the bid for the pier work soon so it could be done this year. M. Roy said that the bid said that the work would be done beginning in March 2023. P. Welch doesn't want the work to take place during mud season and would rather the project be done now. M. Roy will contact the bid winner and see if they can move the time frame. B. Blonigen would like the Conservation Committee Chair, Jane Hislop, to review the Fox Point CIP. J. Hislop has mentioned trail maintenance at Fox Point and B. Blonigen would like to see this added to the CIP. **B. Arsenault moved to award the dock repair bid to Riverbend Masonry for \$70,628. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.** T. Connors would like the contractor to come in and talk to the Board and the Dockmaster before the project is started.

P. Welch said that some docks are being stored on the shore and the NHDES does not want them there and has asked Newington to remove them. T. Connors said that they will look at the docks and see if any of them have names on them, or they will contact the landowner and try to have them removed.

### Fox Point Dockmaster Report:

The Board reviewed the report from the dockmaster which included the following items.

- The capacity to supply dingy space is being challenged.
- The bottom of the floats should be cleaned before next season.
- There are several skiffs which are in violation of the registration requirement but action by the marine patrol solved the problem.
- The three floats, that run from the gangway to the face float, are showing their age which is about 40 years old.
- The gangway is getting slippery it should be repainted with non-slip coating before the next season.
- The life ring needs its support reinstalled.
- The parking lot has not been crowded this year. The Police Department is making regular visits to keep the use limited to Newington residents.

### Library Trustees Meeting:

B. Arsenault explained that he thought there was a misunderstanding about the Selectmen wanting to meet with the Library Trustees without the Library Director. B. Blonigen said that he didn't want the Library Director to attend because he thought they would be discussing her benefits. B. Arsenault said that the Board wanted to meet with the Trustees because they want to know why the Trustees want to change the procedure on paying bills. Why the change of procedure? What caused the decision to change? B. Arsenault now understands that the library wants to have better control over their expenses and finances. When J. O'Reilly and L. Berry brought this proposal to the Selectmen in May the Board had two issues that needed to be resolved. The

Board wanted monthly financial reporting on spending and the Board wanted the excess funds at the end of the year to be returned to the taxpayer. The new proposal that J. O'Reilly sent to the Selectmen today stated that on 1/1/2023, the library would take over payment of their electricity and water bills. They will provide monthly reporting and return excess funds to the town for reduction of taxes. The Selectmen agree with this request. **B. Arsenault moved to approve the draft agreement dated May 5, 2022, adding that it will be processed in the first Thursday of the quarter, granted that the AP clerk receives the letter from the Library Trustees. T. Connors seconded the motion. B. Arsenault and T. Connors in favor, B. Blonigen opposed.**

**Library Capital Reserve Article Placement on Warrant:**

**B. Arsenault proposed adding the Library Capital Reserve Article back on the warrant because the \$20,000 is part of the library building's capital improvement plan. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

T. Connors thanked everyone for coming to the meeting.

B. Arsenault reminded M. Roy that the library legal expense line should be zero and should be corrected because they are coming before the Budget Committee on Wednesday the 14<sup>th</sup>.

**Recreation Committee Removal of Capital Reserve Warrant Article from 2023 Budget Request:**

**B. Arsenault moved to remove the Recreation Committee warrant article from the 2023 budget. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**Coalition of Communities:**

M. Roy explained that the new MOU has fewer towns than the previous one. They just don't want to fight the battle. **B. Arsenault moved to approve the new Coalition of Communities MOU. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

**PF Pope 457 Plan-Change of Ownership:**

M. Roy said that this item is just an FYI. PF Pope has been bought by BPAS.

**Unitil:**

R. Farham said that he had received the letter about the bond and escrow that is needed. He is not sure of the purpose of the \$100,000. M. Roy said that she thought she had been very clear of the purpose of the bond. It is to cover the Town if there is any damage to Gosling Road from Unitil's project there. W. Jones said that he would have the money to the town by Friday the 16<sup>th</sup>. W. Jones asked if it would be ok to leave the jersey barriers in the Town's right on way by Cumberland Farms. T. Connors said that the Board is ok with that. The closing of the lane on Gosling Road will now happen in mid-January. W. Jones asked if the lane could be closed for more than three days now

that the project as been moved to January. The Board was ok with the project taking five days.

**Adjournment:** B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 6:40pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,  
Eleanor Boy, Recorder