

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, April 19, 2021

Attendees: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Bob Blonigen, NHDOR Project Manager Jennifer Reczek, VHB Environmental Scientist Peter Walker, NHDOT Cultural Resources Manager Jill Edelmann, State Senator Rebecca Perkins Kwoka via phone, NH State Representative Joan Hamblet, US Senator Maggie Hanson's Representative Bobby Graham, Board of Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Historic District Commission Chair Lulu Pickering, Planning Board Member Chris Cross, Zoning Board of Adjustment Alternate Will Gilbert, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

M. Marconi moved to enter a nonpublic session at 3:30pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (c). T. Connors seconded the motion with all were in favor.

M. Marconi moved to return to public session at 4:00pm, seconded by B. Blonigen. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: T. Connors-Yes, M. Marconi-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes. All were in favor.

M. Marconi moved to seal the minutes indefinitely. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: T. Connors-Yes, M. Marconi-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes. All were in favor.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 4:02pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of March 29th, 2021, April 12th, 2021 and April 15th, 2021. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.

Manifest Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the manifests \$191,095.65 dated 4/1/21, \$328,410.67 dated 4/8/21 and \$203,922.53 dated 4/15/21. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.

Volunteer Appointments:

M. Marconi moved to appoint the following residents to the Conservation Commission for 3-year terms; Andrew Meigs, Jim Tucker, Derick Willson, Ben Hutchins and Bill Murray. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.

M. Marconi moved to appoint the following residents to the Economic Development Committee for 2-year terms; Mike Donahue, Jeff Hiatt, Judy Miamis, Bob Raymond, Ken Latchaw and Alicia Busconi. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.

M. Marconi moved to appoint Lillian Wilson as a Library Trustee Alternate for a 1-year term. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.

M. Marconi moved to appoint Margaret Lamson as the PDA rep for a 3-year term. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.

M. Marconi moved to appoint the following residents to the Recreation Committee for 1-year terms; Bill Blatt, Brian Haberstroh, Kat Johnson, Rebecca Navelski, Dana Nowell, Jillian Semprini, Laura Stone, Bill Wright and Jarad Savinelli.

M. Marconi moved to appoint the following residents to the Safety Lane Committee for a 1-year term; Laura Stone, Edna Mosher, Maggie Cooke, Ken Ernstoff and Derick Willson.

M. Marconi moved to appoint the following residents to the Zoning Board of Adjustment for 3-year terms; Matt Morton, John Frink, Bob Byrnes and Derick Willson as an alternate.

T. Connors thanked everyone for volunteering.

Video Recording of Meetings:

B. Blonigen asked if it was a legal requirement to record meetings. T. Connors said that it wasn't a requirement, but the residents had asked for it at the 2020 town meeting. B. Blonigen would like to find out what the rules are for recording meetings. M. Marconi moved to table this until there is more information. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.

NHDOT Bloody Point Train Depot and Land:

The Town of Newington and the NHDOT are working towards an agreement on the transfer of land, from the NHDOT to the Town, located at Bloody Point, tax map 7, lot 25. NHDOT said that they are legally bound to get fair market value for the land and cannot transfer the land at no cost. The Town asked the NHDOT to restore the train depot and surrounding land before transferring it to the town. If the NHDOT won't do it, Newington asked for \$2 million to restore it themselves, the NHDOT offered \$150,000. The NHDOT says that the land to be transferred is 2.3 acres. HDC Chair L. Pickering thought the acreage was closer to 4.7 acres. The NHDOT explained that the other land is a "right of way" and cannot be transferred to the town. The NHDOT has valued the 2.3 acres at \$500,000, which includes a historic land covenant. The NHDOT will be having a public hearing on this subject soon.

T. Connors thanked everyone for coming to the meeting to try and resolve this issue.

Facility Use Requests:

M. Marconi moved to approve the following requests.

Portsmouth Little League-School Field-Tuesday, Thursday and weekends-May3-June 11th

Newington School-Fox Point-April 22nd-Earthday Picnic

Recreation Committee-Fox Point-Thursday Nights-May 27th-End of Aug-Outdoor Movies

Kimberly Jacques-Old Town Hall-May 15th-Baby Shower

Sabine Strong Foundation-Old Town Hall-Aug 15th-Road Race

B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.

Notice to Committees: Town Forest Committee Representative

M. Roy will send out an email to all committees asking them to recommend members for the Town Forest Committee.

Recreation Summer Camp Status Report:

The Recreation Committee is meeting tonight to vote on their decision about Newington Camp this summer. The Board of Selectmen supports their proposal but wants them to come back to the Selectmen with their final plans and budget for the camp.

Crack Sealing Bid Review & Award:

The Town received two bids for crack sealing. One from Indus and one from Connecticut Sealcoating. The Connecticut Sealcoating bid was \$1 less per pound than Indus. **M. Marconi moved to accept the crack sealing bid from Connecticut Sealcoating. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Paving Bid Results:

The Town has received four bids for the paving in town. R&D Paving out of Franklin had the lowest bid. **M. Marconi moved to table this item until M. Roy can check out their references. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.**

Sprague Fume Status:

Last year the Town received many complaints about the smell coming from Sprague. The town has complained to the NHDES, they contacted Sprague who denied that the smell was coming from them. The town is considering hiring a consultant to monitor the smell, but it would cost \$50,000. T. Connors recommends that the town keeps monitoring the smell and if it gets bad again then the town would contact the State again. M. Roy asked if the Board wanted to appoint a board member to work with P. Deshaine on this matter, or just continue to have M. Roy be the liaison. The Board would like to continue with M. Roy.

Adams Homestead Conservation Easement:

The Conservation Commission is meeting on April 29th to give their recommendation for the Adams Homestead Conservation Easement. B. Blonigen thought it was important that the owner of the property know that the Board of Selectmen are working on this but currently have no proposal in front of them.

Tennis Courts Tree Trimming:

The Recreation Committee is discussing this at their meeting tonight. B. Blonigen asked if the trimming was necessary for the safety of the tennis players or just so they don't have to clean leaves off the courts. M. Roy will reach out to the Recreation Committee to see what they recommend.

Adjournment: B. Blonigen moved to adjourn at 5:17pm. M. marconi seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder