

Town of Newington, NH  
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes  
Monday May 1st, 2023

**Present:** Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, Selectman Chris Wayss, Newington PDA Rep Margaret Lamson, Newington/Greenland PDA Rep Susan Parker, Police Chief Mike Bilodeau, Transfer Station Superintendent Craig Daigle, Lamprey Regional Coop Chair Paul Deschaine, Budget Committee Vice-Chair Emily Savinelli, Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Town Administrator Martha Roy and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

B. Blonigen called the meeting to order at 5:32pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Minutes Approval:** Approval of minutes was tabled until the next meeting.

**Manifest Approval:** B. Arsenault moved to approve the manifests for \$122,618.83 dated 4/13/2023 and \$12,364.12 dated 4/20/23. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.

**Susan Parker and Peggy Lamson-PDA Meeting Re: FBO:**

The Board of Selectmen asked S. Parker and P. Lamson to come to this meeting to discuss the Pease Development Authority Capital Improvement and Land Planning Committee meeting on May 2, 2023 that will review the application of Pease Aviation Partners, LLC for property located at 53 Exeter Street, requesting Conditional Use approval of 6,620 square feet of wetland buffer impacts associated with the construction of a driveway and pedestrian bridge to serve a fixed base operator (FBO) building and attached hanger.

B. Arsenault explained that the Board would like the PDA Reps to get answers to the following questions before they vote “yes” on this project at the meeting tomorrow:

- A thorough review of the available sites on Pease to determine if there is a less obtrusive option
- A public third-party review of the design of the project-not conducted by the designing engineering firm. P. Lamson said that a third party has reviewed it. B. Arsenault said that the third-party review outlining what they found and recommend has not been made public.
- A Wetland Engineer and Wetland Scientist to review the buffer zone and regions of impact to solve the 2017 vs 2022 disagreement of the square footage of wetlands

- A complete and public explanation of the benefit to our region and the public. How does this “do public good” as listed in the PDA charter.

The Selectmen expressed concern about how the Conditional Use Permit application can be approved without getting the answers to these questions.

C. Wayss asked why PDA meetings are held in the middle of the day. It is very hard for people to attend these meetings and voice their opinions. P. Lamson said that she would take these concerns to the PDA Director.

#### **Craig Daigle, Transfer Station-Recycling Status:**

C. Daigle explained that the costs to recycle trash has increased substantially over the past year. The cost to recycle used to be less than to dispose regular trash, but now it is \$19,000 more annually. It may be time to consider changes. Most of the costs for recyclables are the hauling fees. If the Town got a compactor, then it would mean less frequent hauling and would reduce costs. The Town looked at getting a compactor a few years ago, but found out that 3-phase power was needed to run the compactor and the cost to bring 3-phase power to the transfer station was approximately \$100,000, but it may be time to look at getting a compactor again. C. Wayss said that he heard that single stream recycling ends up just going in the trash anyway. C. Daigle said that EcoMaine, the company that Newington’s recyclables go to, definitely recycles them. C. Daigle encouraged the Board to go to EcoMaine’s website to watch a video showing the entire process. Discussion ensued about different methods to get Eversource to give Newington a break on the price to get 3-phase to the Transfer Station. Letters to Eversource about how it would benefit Newington, from the Board and school children, B Arsenault said that he would reach out to Eversource. Different compactor models were discussed. C. Daigle asked if the residents should continue to recycle glass or should it just go in the regular trash. B. Arsenault said that more research was needed before making that decision. EcoMaine has a market for all recyclables except glass. C. Daigle will look into a lease vs a purchase of a compactor. It was a consensus of the Board to move forward gathering information about adding a compactor to the Transfer Station and getting three phase power at that location to power the compactor.

#### **Paul Deschaine-Lamprey Regional Cooperative Turnkey Landfill Contract Agreement:**

P. Deschaine explained that Newington is part of the Lamprey Regional Coop along with 11 other towns. In March the Lamprey Regional Coop Board of Directors voted to approve a contract extension for waste disposal services on behalf of the member communities. This extends the relationship with Waste Management and their TREE facility in Rochester until December 31, 2033. The previous agreement would have ended on December 31, 2026. Waste Management asked the Board to adjust the rates due to rising costs. The community host fee has been increased by the Rochester City

Council. It has been increasing since 2017, but has never been passed on to the Coop, until now. P. Deschaine said that Waste Management is trying to be cost competitive. B. Blonigen asked what P. Deschaine thought would happen when the contract runs out in 2033. P. Deschaine said that he thought they would open another cell. B. Arsenault thanked the Coop for all of their efforts on behalf of the 12 towns. **B. Arsenault moved to approve amendment two of the Waste Disposal Agreement between Waste Management of NH, Turnkey Recycling and Lamprey Regional Cooperative and authorize the Chair to sign the agreement. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

#### **US DOT Maritime Administration Grant Application:**

P. Deschaine explained that he is seeking a grant for road improvement and is looking for the Board's approval to go ahead with the application. The grant would be used for work on Gosling Road and Shattuck Way. Altus Engineering updated to estimated costs from the Capital Improvement Plan and came up with a total cost of \$2,202,660 for the project. The grant is a 80/20 match, so Newington's 20% would be \$440,532. Portsmouth would be contributing \$71,653 for their half of Gosling. B. Blonigen asked where this money would come from. M. Roy said the money would come from the Major Roads Capital Reserve Fund. The consensus of the Selectmen was to move forward with the grant application.

P. Deschaine said that he had applied and been approved for a grant through the Department of Justice for upgrades in the communication for the Police and Fire Departments.

P. Deschaine asked the Selectmen if they had any interest in applying for a SEDS Micro Grant that could be used to update the sign located at the end of exit 4. It was a consensus of the Board to pass on this grant.

#### **Appointment:**

**B. Arsenault moved to appoint Emily Savinelli to the Zoning Board of Adjustment.**

**C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

B. Arsenault thanked E. Savinelli for volunteering.

#### **City of Berlin Ordinance-Operation of OHRV's:**

B. Blonigen said that the city of Berlin allows OHRVs to drive on their streets. B. Blonigen wants to make sure that the Town is covered in case the ATV is in an accident on the way to an incident. M. Bilodeau said that ATVs are allowed on roads as long as it is registered and follows the traffic rules. Any vehicle can be listed as an emergency vehicle as long as it has emergency lighting. The ATV is registered through the NH Fish & Game. The Board of Fire Engineers and Police Commissioners have already accepted the ATV as an emergency vehicle. They will be taking a training course through the NH Fish & Game. B. Arsenault questioned accepting a grant without

seeing the application. E. Hoyt and M. Bilodeau will put together policies and procedures for the ATV. Discussion ensued about the need for a trailer or not, the use of helmets, eye protection, liability insurance, putting lights on the ATV, using existing materials and donations. C. Wayss said that helmets may not be required, but wearing them is the right thing to do. We can work together to get head protection.

**Sale of Town Land-Woodbury Ave/Piscataqua Drive:**

M. Roy said that RSA 41:14-a requires the Town to hold 2 public hearings at least 10 days but no more than 14 days apart on the proposed sale. The Board's vote shall take place no sooner than 7 days nor later than 14 days after the second public hearing. The Conservation Commission met and supports the sale of this parcel of land. The Planning Board does not recommend the sale of this property because there are utilities in the ROW, this parcel of land may be needed in the future for the widening of Woodbury Ave. and reducing the width of Piscataqua Drive could hinder future growth in the Industrial District. **B. Arsenault moved to not proceed with the sale of the Woodbury Ave land to Wilcox as presently presented. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.** The Board asked Wilcox to rethink their plan and come back to the Board with another proposal.

**Sale of Town Land-Old Dover Road-Tax Deeded Property:**

The Conservation Commission supports the sale of this parcel of land. The Planning Board has asked the Selectmen to consider the sale of this parcel to the abutters only so they can merge their current lots with this one. B. Blonigen asked M. Roy to check with legal to see if the sale could be limited to the abutters. M. Roy said that she had already checked and it could be done. **B. Arsenault moved to place the Old Dover Road lot up for sale, only to the three abutters, with the condition that they merge this lot with their current lot. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.** B. Blonigen asked that a letter be sent to the property owner who is currently parking trucks on the lot for sale. M. Roy explained that the Board needs to hold the public hearings about the sale of the Old Dover Road property. **B. Arsenault moved to rescind the original motion to sell the property and replace that motion with a motion to move the sale of the Old Dover Road lot to a Public Hearing. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

M. Roy suggested that May 15<sup>th</sup> could be the date of the first public hearing.

**Little Bay Waterline Replacement MOU & Landscape Architect Draft Planting Plan:**

The Board reviewed the final copy of the MOU that included all the changes that the Selectmen recommended and the Landscape Plan for Fox Point after the water line is completed. **B. Arsenault moved to send the landscape plan to the Conservation Commission for their review. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

B. Arsenault pointed out that the MOU had plans for bluff restoration but Portsmouth said that they couldn't get another DES permit because they already had one for the initial work on the project. B. Blonigen said that he didn't understand that, because the DES allows projects to get two permits and thinks Portsmouth Water should get one permit for the work on the waterline and one for the stabilization. B. Arsenault asked M. Roy to contact Wright-Pierce to ask them what permits they have for the shoreline remediation after the project.

There will be a \$250,000 bond for road damage during the project. B. Arsenault said that a road survey needs to be done before and after the project and should include Eric Weinrieb, Altus Engineering, during the surveys before and after.

B. Arsenault moved to amend the MOU to include getting a permit from the DES to restore the disturbed area, another \$250,000 cash bond for Fox Point restoration of the laydown area and the easement area. If the landscape design for Fox Point is under \$250,000, then the Town is covered. B. Blonigen said that if any other work needs to be done the money can be taken out of the conservation fund. D. Hebert reminded the Board that Portsmouth Water still needed to get a permit from the Department of Energy to cross Little Bay and thought the Board could use this to try and get everything Newington wants.

#### **Fox Point Invasives Eradication-Conservation Commission:**

M. Roy said that the Conservation Commission is interested in getting rid of the invasives on Fox Point. **B. Arsenault moved to approve the Conservation Commission's project to get rid of the invasives on Fox Point but work on this project should only be done in the North, Middle and South fields. No work should be done in the area of the waterline project. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

#### **Road Paving Priorities:**

B. Arsenault said that the Board needed to look at the Rockingham Planning Road report to decide which road should be paved in 2023 and asked M. Roy to email the Board the plan and put this item on the next agenda.

#### **Fire Suburban Status:**

M. Roy received an email from Assistant Fire Chief Pat Moynihan about the status of the Suburban. It would not start and it was discovered that the fuel system was no longer delivering fuel to the motor. The Fire Department decided to put the vehicle out of service permanently. **B. Arsenault moved to post the Suburban for public sale. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

B. Arsenault asked about a Stone School Committee update. C. Wayss said that they had met in April and decided to send a survey out to residents asking what they would

like to see done to the Stone School. C. Wayss said that the committee came to the conclusion that that it was too early to apply for another grant. J. Krebs spoke about getting an approximate price to redo the Stone School. C. Wayss said that he had called NHMA and found out that he can be the chair for the committee. B. Arsenault commented that the Stone School Committee is just an advisory committee to find out the options for the building. Three to five options should be brought back to the Selectmen. Every idea is a good idea. C. Wayss said that he understands that it is an advisory committee and will bring the committee's recommendations to the Board.

B. Blonigen said that the Board needs to have prices in the report in order to make any decisions. The Board directed M. Roy to pay Mae Williams her second invoice for the report, but not to pay Misiaszek-Turpin until prices are included in the report. The Stone School Committee will let the Board know when they are satisfied with the report and payment can be made.

The Planning Board has not heard from Mark Phillips about the purchase of town property. M. Roy will inquire to status.

M. Roy talked to Road Agent Len Thomas about the contractor's salt use and he said that he monitors the usage of salt on Woodbury and doesn't think he is using too much. The Highway Department will be attending Salt School later this year. M. Roy will look into cheaper salt to use on the roads.

The Board thanked the Fire Department for their work on the standing water issue on Nimble Hill Road and Shattuck Way.

**Public Comment:**

D. Hebert said that the Eversource bond is still being held because the easements that were changed during the project have not been recorded.

**B. Arsenault moved to enter a nonpublic session at 8:25pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (a). Personnel. C. Wayss seconded the motion. B. Blonigen asked for a roll call vote: B. Arsenault-Yes, C. Wayss-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes. All were in favor.**

**B. Arsenault moved to return to public session at 8:59pm, seconded by C. Wayss. B. Blonigen asked for a roll call vote: B. Arsenault-Yes, C. Wayss-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes. All were in favor.**

**B. Arsenault moved to seal the minutes indefinitely. C. Wayss seconded the motion. B. Blonigen asked for a roll call vote: B. Arsenault-Yes, C. Wayss-Yes, B. Blonigen-Yes. All were in favor.**

**Adjournment: B. Arsenault moved to adjourn at 9:00pm. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Respectfully submitted, Eleanor Boy, Recorder