

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday May 15th, 2023

Present: Chair Bob Blonigen, Selectman Brandon Arsenault, Selectman Chris Wayss, Fire Engineer Ann Hyland Hebert, Resident Wil Gilbert, Town Administrator Martha Roy and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

B. Blonigen called the meeting to order at 7:04pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Minutes Approval: B. Arsenault moved to approve the April 17, 2023 minutes. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor. B. Arsenault moved to approve the May 1, 2023 minutes as amended. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Manifest Approval: B. Arsenault moved to approve the manifest for \$184,330.96 dated 5/4/2023. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Sale of Town Land Public Hearing, Tax Map 19 Lot 17, 144 Old Dover Road:

B. Blonigen opened the public hearing at 7:04pm.

A. Hyland Hebert said that she is in favor of the sale of this property as long as the proceeds will go back to the town.

B. Blonigen explained that the proceeds go to the lien held by the town first and then to the heirs. A. Hyland Hebert asked if the Town will recover what it is owed. M. Roy said yes. The value of the property is \$112,000 which is 50% of condition.

There were no other public comments.

B. Blonigen closed the public hearing at 7:13pm.

Appointments:

B. Arsenault moved to appoint Edna Mosher to the Historic District Commission. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.

PDA Capital Improvement and Land Planning Committee Update:

The Board reviewed the draft minutes from the Tuesday May 2nd meeting. Shawn Tobey, Civil Engineer and Project Manager at Hoyle Tanner spoke on behalf of the project and concluded that the five criteria had been met for approval of the Conditional Use Permit. Thirteen people spoke in opposition to the Conditional Use Permit. B. Arsenault pointed out that neither of Newington's PDA Reps spoke at the meeting. None of the issues that the Board of Selectmen asked to be brought to this

meeting appear in the minutes. The PDA Capital Improvement and Land Planning Committee voted to recommend this application to the PDA Board of Directors.

B. Arsenault asked that the Board invite Eric Weinrieb and the wetland scientist to meet with them in the next 30 days. Both of them believe the data on the plan is incorrect. The State has reviewed the plans and accepted them.

B. Arsenault said that the public is not being heard about the soil and water contamination.

B. Arsenault said that the Board's concerns are not being addressed. A third-party review of the plans has not been completed, alternate sites for the project have not been looked at, an explanation of the "public good" has not been addressed and the disagreement of the square footage of the wetlands from 2017 vs 2022 has not been explained. The email from the Board of Selectmen to the Committee Chair Steve Fournier doesn't appear in the minutes. C. Wayss said that the Board's questions weren't read into the record. All questions and answers should appear in the public hearing. The lack of transparency is a concern. A. Hyland Hebert suggested that in the future the Board needs to be more specific on the PDA Rep's role and how the information should be communicated.

Stone School-(1) Preservation Alliance Grant-Status-Next Steps (2) Building Status:

M. Roy said that the Building Inspector has plugged up the holes in the Stone School so that critters will no longer get in. The Stone School Committee will review the updated Preservation Alliance Grant report and the cost for each item. M. Roy said that when she read the grant there was no mention of a survey or "in kind" services required. She reached out to get a clarification, but hasn't heard back yet. B. Blonigen said that the Board wants the Stone School Committee to make all the decisions on this project. The committee is in charge of this process, whatever they recommend is how we should move forward. The Committee will process all the information and put together a proposal for the Selectmen. The committee will recommend when to pay the consultants for the Stone School report.

Road Paving Priorities:

M. Roy said that the Budget Committee had approved the paving of McIntyre Road and Fox Point (Old Post Road to Little Bay Road) in the 2023 budget. However, now that the water project on Fox Point is going to be done, the Selectmen had discussed not completing Fox Point. What would they like to complete instead? B. Blonigen thought that a segment of Fox Point could be done or at least a really bad portion of the road could be stabilized and the top coat could be delayed until the water line work is completed. B. Blonigen asked if Eric Weinrieb could come to the next Selectmen's meeting to hear his recommendation for road paving.

B. Arsenault questioned if the Town should pay for another road paving report from the Rockingham Planning Commission if we don't even follow the report we currently have. M. Roy said that she thought the previous report was valuable. M. Roy suggested if the Selectmen didn't want to pay for the RPC report they could ask Altus Engineering to give their recommendation to the Selectmen. B. Blonigen would like to hear Eric Weinrieb and Denis Hebert's thoughts on the RPC report. B. Arsenault doesn't believe the report is being followed. A. Hyland Hebert asked how old the report was. M. Roy said it was done in 2018 and is updated every year until 2021 when staff was no longer available to update it.

Greenland vs Town of Newington-Case Dismissed Notice:

The Town of Greenland's case against Newington's Planning Board has been dismissed. Greenland appealed the decision of the Planning Board to recommend approval of a development proposal to the PDA. B. Blonigen said that Greenland was invited to the Planning Board's meeting about this development, but they didn't come to express their concern for the project. None of the Selectmen were ever contacted about Greenland's concerns. B. Blonigen is very disappointed in Greenland's leadership and suggested that Newington send the legal bills incurred during this dispute to Greenland.

Suburban Sale Update:

Discussion ensued about the option of donating the Suburban to a trade school vs selling it. C. Wayss thought that donating it to a trade school would better serve the community. B. Arsenault thought that it should be sold because the proceeds should go back to the taxpayers. Town property should be leveraged. B. Arsenault thought that the Suburban should be put out to bid and after the Board's receives the bids, then a decision could be made about donated it or selling it. A. Hyland Hebert said that Fire Engineer, Jim Fabrizio, works with a trade school in Hampton and could be very helpful in this decision.

Mooring Block Sale Request-Fox Point:

M. Roy said that the Board had received an inquiry about purchasing a Fox Point mooring block.

B. Arsenault moved to decline the sale of a mooring block until the Selectmen talk to the Dockmaster. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.

B. Blonigen said that the stickers on kayaks on the rack at Fox Point is working. Most have them, just a couple do not. Work on the dock is progressing. The quality of work is good, but slow.

General Sullivan Bridge Railing (200 feet) to be Donated to Newington:

M. Roy explained that she had been contacted by Bob Landry on behalf of NHDOT about a donation of 200 feet of the General Sullivan Bridge to the Town of Newington.

M. Roy reached out to the HDC and Historical Society to ask about the donation and neither knew anything about it. B. Blonigen asked M. Roy to call the NHDOT and decline their donation of 200 feet and let them know Newington would consider receiving four feet.

Carnival Request to use "Newington" Name in Event:

B. Blonigen thought there was no conflict with using the name because Newington doesn't own the name. If they wanted to say the Town of Newington carnival it would be a different story. B. Arsenault agreed and thinks the carnival is a good thing. C. Wayss agreed it was a good thing. B. Blonigen asked M. Roy to check with legal to see what they can use.

Newington Town Forest Trails Update:

M. Roy received an email from the PDA about the Newington Forest trails. A group called the New England Bikers Association (NEMBA) has reached out to ask if they could do maintenance on the trails in the Newington Forest. B. Blonigen said that he walks these trails a lot and they do need maintenance, signs at the beginning of trails, trail markings and some culvert pipes and gravel. B. Blonigen would like to meet with the group and also have the Conservation Commission and Recreation Committee involved in the discussion. B. Blonigen asked M. Roy to set up a meeting when everyone can come.

B. Arsenault spoke to the City of Portsmouth about the delay in approving the MOU for the water project at Fox Point. The delay is due to personnel being out of work, but should happen shortly.

B. Arsenault would like to have the Recreation Committee and Highway Department organize a trash pickup day in Newington. Recreation could organize it and the Highway department could pick up the bags. The Police department could help with traffic control. B. Arsenault asked that this be put on the next agenda and for M. Roy to reach out to the Recreation Committee and Len Thomas.

The Board discussed signs in the Town's right of way. Newington's sign ordinance does not allow signs in this area. **B. Arsenault moved to inform the property owner of the process for putting signs in town. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.**

Discussion ensued about the salt usage in 2022. Special salt vs regular salt. The number and lengths of storms in 2022. Spraying the roads before a storm. The process for contractors taking salt during a storm. B. Blonigen asked that M. Roy contact L. Thomas to come to a meeting to talk about this.

B. Arsenault said that he had contacted Eversource and was told that the cost to get three phase power to the Transfer Station would be approximately \$20,000. The Town just needs to put a work order in to request it. B. Blonigen asked M. Roy to put a work order in. B. Blonigen said that this project is in the Town's long-range plan (CIP).

C. Wayss asked about the double poles remaining in Town. M. Roy said that she found out there has been a delay because the poles have been transferred from Eversource to Consolidated, but overall Newington is ahead of the game in having double polls removed.

Public Comment:

W. Gilbert commented on the compactor at the Transfer Station discussion. W. Gilbert would like the Town to consider having curb side pickup for recycled material as an alternate to the purchase of a compactor. G. Mello does curbside pickup.

B. Arsenault moved to enter a nonpublic session at 8:17pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (e). Legal. 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 8:57pm, 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 8:59pm. C. Wayss seconded the motion. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy, Recorder