

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Thursday August 19th, 2021

Present: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Bob Blonigen, HDC Chair Lulu Pickering, Planning Board Chair Denis Hebert and Martha Roy, Town Administrator.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 1:00pm. Followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

General Sullivan Bridge Update and Reply to Dept of Transportation Memorandum of Agreement (MOA)t: The Town sent a letter to the NHDOT following the public meeting in June. T. Connors read the letter. The Board of Selectmen went on record requesting that the profits from the sale of Bloody Point go back to the Town to be used for the restoration of a town historical property. However, the memorandum of understanding says nothing about this request. M. Roy suggested that the Town should stick with their original demands from the June letter. B. Blonigen wanted to know why there was no mention of Dover's Rail Trail project. M. Roy will contact the NHDOT to find out how much is being spent on that project. L. Pickering said that if the NHDOT sells Bloody Point then the state can keep all the profits. If the Town of Newington doesn't sign the MOA then the NHDOT will move forward anyway. The MOU doesn't need Newington's Board of Selectmen signatures. The Newington Historic Society wants the property. L. Pickering outlined many financial aid vehicles that can be used by the Historic Society to rehab and maintain the Bloody Point property. The second floor would be used as a caretaker's apartment to pay for the upkeep of the property. The Historic Society is a 501C3 non-profit organization. They would be non-taxable. M. Marconi discussed his concerns about the Town being responsible if the Historic Society couldn't do it in the future and having a residential unit in the industrial zone. T. Connors pointed out that the Town has never received any requests to purchase/acquire the train depot at Bloody Point. M. Marconi pointed out that the NHDOT offered the Town \$150,000 for the property which wouldn't be nearly enough to restore the building. L. Pickering said that the agreement says that the Town would have to keep the property in the condition that it is in now. \$150,000 could be used just to get it weatherproofed and could be used as a match for another grant. T. Connors is concerned that the Historic Society will approach the town for funds to restore in the future. M. Marconi said that the town is not interested in maintain another property, it is too much of a burden for taxpayers. **M. Marconi moved to reaffirm the Board of Selectmen's June 18th, 2021 letter to the NHDOT. B. Blonigen seconded the motion will all in favor.**

L. Pickering said that the Building Inspector is getting bids for a HVAC system for the Old Parsonage. The cost is around \$9,800. D. Hebert said that prior to spending this money the Town must get approval in writing from the NH Dept. of Historical Resources. L. Pickering said that they have no objections.

Hannah Lane/Nimble Hill Road Drainage:

M. Roy is going to Hannah Lane this afternoon at 2pm. The Abbotts want to have the slope on the residence side be reduced so it can be mowed. B. Blonigen wants to know exactly what the Abbotts want before any reduction of the slope is done. B. Blonigen said that Bourassa had done a good job and the water is flowing the way it should. It is a Nimble Hill Road drainage problem, not a Hannah Lane problem. T. Connors said that the engineers will be putting out a report soon.

Fox Point Mitigation:

M. Marconi moved to recommend to the Conservation Commission that the mitigation funds from Portsmouth Water be used for Fox Point Shoreline restoration. B. Blonigen seconded the motion with all in favor.

M. Marconi moved to enter a nonpublic session at 1:49pm per RSA 91-A:3 II (e). B. Blonigen seconded the motion and T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen-Yes, M. Marconi- Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

M. Marconi moved to return to public session at 1:52pm, seconded by B. Blonigen. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen-Yes, M. Marconi-Yes, T. Connors-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.

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 1:53pm. B. Blonigen seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: B. Blonigen-Yes, M. Marconi-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Martha S. Roy
Town Administrator