

Minutes
Nottingham Selectmen's Meeting
October 6, 2014

5:30 PM Chair Carpenter opened the meeting and asked all those present to stand for the Pledge of Allegiance.

Members Present: Mark Carpenter, Mary Bonser and Donna Danis

Others: Chris Sterndale – Town Administrator, Dawn Wirkkala – Secretary, Romeo Danais, Cheryl Smith, Charlene Andersen, John Morin, Sue Serino – Assessing Coordinator

MANIFEST SIGNATURE:

Motion: by Ms. Danis, second by Ms. Bonser to approve the October 6, 2014 manifest.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

OUTSTANDING MINUTES:

Motion: Ms. Bonser, second Ms. Danis to approve the minutes of the September 22, 2014 meeting as amended.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Town Administrator/Department Reports, Mail/Correspondence and Signature Items:

NHMA Policy Conference: Mr. Sterndale reviewed his attendance at the NHMA Policy Conference stating it was good to attend and learn about the process. Mr. Sterndale stated all the originally presented policy proposals were adopted. However not all floor proposals were; there were instances where some towns agreed with the NHMA supporting the proposed policy and other towns opposing the support.

General discussion took place about the NHMA attendance at legislative hearings and providing testimony, if they successfully lobbied for legislation changes, and if Selectmen participation in proposed legislation was valuable. Mr. Danais, a former NH Representative, stated NHMA did attend proposed legislation hearings on a frequent basis. Mr. Danais stated regardless of the originally proposed language for a bill, once the law changes reach the committee it belongs to the committee; any public testimony can be helpful and support language in a bill by providing additional information or clarification to the committee members regarding the proposed change.

Highway/Berry Road: Mr. Sterndale reported that Berry Road paving is still incomplete due to vendor delays. Chair Carpenter asked if there are any clauses within the contract for failure to deliver material. Mr. Sterndale stated there is, more of a seasonal delay and nothing can happen until winter arrives. The Road Agent is frustrated with the delay and will consider this in selecting vendors in the future.

Bear Paw: Mr. Sterndale stated Bear Paw is attempting to encourage greater participation to their conservation property located across the street from the Town Offices and are installing a more defined parking area and information kiosk.

Fire Department: Performance evaluations were received for the newest full time and the per diem employees, both with positive recommendations. The per diem employee has completed all necessary training and the request has been submitted for his transfer to full time employment.

Board of Selectmen Department/Board/Committee Reports:

Planning Board: Chair Carpenter stated the meeting reviewed the most recent changes to the newly proposed steep slope ordinance, and there was a lot of positive and good dialogue. The review included a map identifying the pocket areas of steep slope, which was helpful. After the discussion, there was agreement that the ordinance would be applicable to new development only and not applicable to current owners. Chair Carpenter stated the key reason expressed for the new

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ordinance was erosion; however it was asked if any of the identified steep slope areas on the map would ever be considered for new development.

Ms. Bonser stated there was a recent approval for a development where steep slope erosion might have been a concern and it is something that should be discussed during the planning process.

Chair Carpenter stated Mr. Mettee has been requested to include additional language regarding the ordinance only being applicable for new development only and not affect current property rights.

The Selectmen agreed there might not be a need for the newly proposed language, but they would continue to review the proposed changes.

MPEC: Ms. Danis reported the draft conversation guide has been distributed for review and a final review by the committee will take place during the Tuesday, October 7th meeting.

Registration for the Community Input session is now open and notices have started been sent out to the public, including notices on Facebook, bulletin boards, and as many other places as possible.

Concern was expressed about lack of evening participation by senior citizens and to accommodate seniors who might not attend Ms. Danis will attend the October Senior Luncheon to review the proposals and gather their input about the project.

New information regarding the Marston property has been put on the Town website, along with the registration information for the upcoming Friday, October 24th Community Input session.

Budget Committee: Ms. Danis reported the committee met with the new principal and the Technology Director to review the new Technology Plan for the school and students. The committee asked to be invited to a walk through of the school to review how the new technology will be managed and maintained for each classroom, within each grade and how it will work with the new and developing curriculum.

Ms. Danis stated the 1 to 1 technology does not mean that each student will be able to take the equipment home, but that it will be made available to each student during the day. In addition, an attempt is being made to make sure each student has access to computer technology at home as well.

APPOINTMENTS:

6:00 pm: Barn Preservation Easement Hearing: Chair Carpenter opened the hearing at 6:02 pm.

Mr. Danais provided the Selectmen with additional information to answer questions the Selectmen had regarding the application.

Mr. Danais reported he did not have a specific build date for the barn; however verbal information received documents the house being over 75 years of age. The house was built in 1756 and the barn has been used for agricultural purposes over the years, including eggs for pharmaceutical purposes by Dr. Fernald in the early 1900's. Mr. Danais stated he currently uses the barn for agricultural purposes. Mr. Danais stated the changes and additions that have been completed to the barn do not affect the barn and are acceptable according to the NH Barn Preservation Association.

Chair Carpenter stated he had concern about the use of the cupola for social entertainment. Mr. Danais stated the cupola has been used infrequently for entertainment and not on a recurring basis. He reviewed the possibility of using the cupola for wedding activities, but according to a wedding planning it would require a greater need for guest accommodation for weekend wedding activities, and Nottingham does not have the resources. It was a tavern many years ago, but not for a long time.

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Mr. Danais reviewed some of the repairs the barn would need. The south side of the barn needs new clapboard and windows are also needed and being planned for and will use existing old window glass. The roof is currently corrugated steel which is leaking and a new roof will be required; repairs will be made with a composition shingle because steel is too expensive with an initial estimate of \$146,000.00. New paint will also be needed, as the prior paint job was completed very poorly. Mr. Danais stated he replaced the stairs but the mezzanine flooring will need to be replaced.

Chair Carpenter asked how much of the original beams and structure remain. Mr. Danais stated the original beams remain and the barn is structurally sound. The current floor is dirt; at one time the wood floor was removed because of rot caused by cattle being in the barn.

Ms. Danis asked if the list of repairs presented is complete or a partial list; are there other items Mr. Danais will be considering for the barn restoration. Ms. Danis also asked if Mr. Danais had estimates to complete the proposed work. Mr. Danais stated he did not have estimates; he could not receive an estimate for clapboard repair until he can complete some of the needed demolition.

Ms. Danis stated if an easement on the barn is given, the reduction of property taxes being collected on the barns of Mr. Danais property will cause a increasing shift to the other property owners within the Town. Not sure what this means so would just leave it out.

General discussion took place about the proposed easement discount the Selectmen would be able to provide on the barn assessment. It was stated the approximate property tax shift could be anywhere from \$300.00 to \$900.00 depending on the barn value chosen.

Ms. Andersen stated the Barn Preservation website indicates there are no grant funds available for repairs but she supports the idea of preserving the barn structures

The Selectmen agreed that they wanted a written proposed plan listing the types of repairs currently being considered, with initial repair estimates from Mr. Danais prior to their approval. They understand the work plan will change, but it will give them a better understanding of what to expect from Mr. Danais. The Selectmen would review the plan and consider the length of time for the easement, with the minimum being 10 years, but having the option for a longer length of time.

Chair Carpenter suggested the Selectmen hold off on a vote until the work plan has been received and requested Mr. Danais submit his plan as soon as possible, but prior to November 3, 2014.

Motion: Ms. Bonser, second by Ms. Danis to continue the Danais Barn Preservation Hearing to November 3, 2014 at 6:00 pm.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Chair Carpenter thanked those for attending.

6:15 pm: Board of Assessors/Fairpoint Settlement issue has been postponed to another date.

NON-PUBLIC SESSION: The Board entered non-public under RSA 91-A:3 II(e)

6:37 PM Motion: by Chair Carpenter, second by Ms. Bonser to enter non-public under RSA 91-A:3 II(e).

Roll Call Vote: Bonser – Yea, Carpenter – Yea, Danis – Yea. 3 – 0 in favor.

6:54 PM Motion: Ms. Danis, second Chair Carpenter to exit the non-public session.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Motion: Chair Carpenter, second Ms. Bonser to seal the non-public minutes of October 6, 2014.

Roll Call Vote: Bonser – Yea, Carpenter – Yea, Danis – Yea. 3 – 0 in favor.

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The Selectmen made no decisions during their non-public session.

ADJOURNMENT: Having no further business,

6:55 PM Motion: by Ms. Bonser, second by Ms. Danis to adjourn.

Vote: 3 – 0 in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dawn Wirkkala