

**Town of Sandown, NH  
Board of Selectmen  
Minutes**

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Meeting Date: Monday, July 29, 2013  
Type of Meeting: Regular meeting  
Method of Notification: Public Posting – Two locations at Town Hall  
Meeting Location: Sandown Town Hall  
Present: Selectpersons: Terry Treanor (Treanor), Brenda Copp (Copp), Tom Tombarello (Tombarello), Hans Nicolaisen (Nicolaisen), James Devine (Devine), Paula Gulla, Selectmen’s Assistant and Cynthia J. Robinson, Recording Secretary  
Absent: Lynne Blaisdell, Town Administrator  
Late to arrive:  
Call to Order: Chairman Tombarello called the meeting to order at 7:00 P.M.  
Pledge of Allegiance

**Review of minutes of previous meetings**

- Board members reviewed the minutes of July 15, 2013. Selectman Nicolaisen asked to add at the end of line 358 “...pending background checks”. **MOTION:** Selectwoman Copp moved to accept the minutes of July 15, 2013 as amended. Selectman Treanor seconded. Motion passed unanimously.
- Board members reviewed the non-public minutes of July 15, 2013. **MOTION:** Selectman Nicolaisen moved to accept the non-public minutes of July 15, 2013 as written. Selectman Devine seconded. Four ayes [Copp, Tombarello, Nicolaisen and Devine] and one abstention [Treanor]. Motion passed.

**Public Comment**

- Tony Stoddard is before the Board to make two requests. Last year his wife and daughter started a fundraiser called “Coins for Cole” in memory of his son who passed away from neuroblastoma cancer. The Stoddard family would like to do a fundraiser again this year at the Sandown Train Depot on Saturday, September 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> or if those dates are not available September 21<sup>st</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup>. Paula Gulla will check those dates to make sure the Depot is available.

Selectwoman Copp looked into the Dark Skies ordinance to see if the Stoddard’s request to have the Town Hall illuminated with gold lights in September to recognize Childhood Cancer Awareness Month could be allowed. Selectwoman Copp feels the request would fall under the temporary lighting section of the ordinance. Mr. Stoddard stated additionally they would like to decorate Town trees and/or buildings with gold ribbons and bulbs. Consensus of the Board is

44 they are okay with the two requests. Mr. Stoddard was asked to work with the  
45 staff in the Selectmen's Office.

- 46
- 47 • Gordon Champion came before the Board to discuss two issues he has. The  
48 first is as the Board of Selectmen they are the local franchising authority for cable  
49 television in this Town. As such the Board has the right to call before them the  
50 government affairs representative for Comcast the local provider. Mr. Champion  
51 pointed out that Sandown residents cannot take advantage of all the services  
52 [telephone] Comcast offers surrounding towns and as a result Sandown  
53 residents pay extraordinarily high prices for the limited services they receive. So,  
54 based on this and Mr. Champion's discussion with a representative of Comcast  
55 he is asking the Board that prior to the renewal of the cable television license  
56 with Comcast the Board invite their government affairs representative to come  
57 before the Board and explain why the residents cannot save thousands of dollars  
58 by taking advantage of all the services Comcast has to offer. Mr. Champion  
59 stated he is willing to attend that meeting.

60

61 Mr. Champion is volunteering his services to negotiate the new contract with  
62 Comcast. Mr. Champion explained his background in assisting towns and cities  
63 on how to negotiate cable television contacts with Comcast and he has worked  
64 with the private sector as well so he is familiar with both sides of the business.  
65 Mr. Champion is offering his services free of charge except for printing and  
66 associated tasks rather than the Town hiring an attorney who would charge on a  
67 fee based basis.

68

69 Selectwoman Copp stated the Cable Advisory Board is in the process of looking  
70 into hiring Attorney Epstein to review the contract and recently sent him a letter  
71 asking him to quote a flat fee for the review of the contract. They have not heard  
72 from him to date. Selectwoman Copp stated on Tuesday, September 24, 2013  
73 they are holding a public hearing on the contact and a representative from  
74 Comcast will be present. Selectman Devine stated it is his understanding  
75 Granite State Communication was granted the franchise in perpetuity. Mr.  
76 Champion stated the Telecommunication Act was set up specifically so there  
77 could be competition. Selectman Nicolaisen suggested Mr. Champion attend the  
78 Advisory Board meeting on August 27, 2013 to discuss his offer to them.  
79 Selectwoman Copp stated there is still an opening on the Advisory Board.

80

81 Selectwoman Copp thanked Mr. Champion as Chairman of the Sandown  
82 Republican Committee for offering to buy the flagpole for the Firemen Memorial.  
83 Mr. Champion stated the Republican Committee has a golf tournament  
84 fundraiser coming up on September 21, 2013. Mr. Champion stated that the  
85 majority of the funds raised are used in Sandown. Ms. Gulla noted that research  
86 done says that Comcast can petition the Public Utilities Commission [PUC] to  
87 allow them to offer telephone service in Sandown. Mr. Champion agreed adding

88 it is the responsibility of the Town to bring Comcast before them and ask that  
89 very question and ask Comcast to petition the PUC on the Town's behalf.  
90

91 **Appointments**

92  
93 **Town Clerk/Tax Collector Michelle Short**  
94 **Properties for deeding and possible deed waivers**  
95

- 96 • Present at this meeting was Michelle Short. Board members reviewed the list of  
97 parcels eligible for deeding. Ms. Short asked the Board how they want to move  
98 forward with this process. Ms. Short pointed out the extensions the Board has  
99 granted and she provided the forms for the Board to sign. Chairman Tombarello  
100 stated there was discussion about sending the remainder on the list a letter  
101 informing them the Board will be viewing the property before deeding takes  
102 place. Ms. Short stated two parcels are land only and two are houses whose  
103 owners are deceased. Ms. Short stated she has been working with the Assessor  
104 and they have sent letters to the survivors but have not received a response.  
105 Ms. Short stated another option is to keep letting the liens go collecting interest at  
106 18% and someday when the property is sold the Town gets the money. Ms.  
107 Short will work with Ms. Gulla and Ms. Blaisdell on sending out the letters.  
108

109 **Members of the Senior Affairs Transportation Committee (SSATP)**  
110 **Further discussion regarding request to accept donation of vehicle for program**  
111

- 112 • Present for this discussion were Nelson Rheame and Kathleen Richardson.  
113 Ms. Richardson and Mr. Rheame were present to provide the information the  
114 Board requested at a previous meeting regarding insurance and a certified  
115 inspection of the Dodge Caravan. Ms. Richardson provided the Board with  
116 material to review. Selectman Devine was concerned about all the work that  
117 needs to be done on the vehicle. Chairman Tombarello feels it is too early in the  
118 life of the Program to be looking at taking on a vehicle especially one with high  
119 mileage. Selectmen Nicolaisen and Devine support the acceptance of the  
120 donation of the van. Selectwoman Copp and Selectman Treanor support the  
121 Program but cannot at this time support accepting the donation of the van.  
122 Chairman Tombarello read the letter from a member of Community Caregivers  
123 about the services they provide Sandown residents. There was a lengthy  
124 discussion about the pros and cons of this donation and its value to the Program.  
125 Selectwoman Copp raised the question of whether this Program is trying to oust  
126 Community Caregivers from Sandown. Selectwoman Copp would like to see  
127 both this Program and Community Caregiver work together. **MOTION:**  
128 Selectman Nicolaisen moved to accept the donation of the 2003 Dodge Caravan  
129 to the SSATP at no cost to the Town except for registration and insurance and to  
130 be used only by SSATP. Selectman Devine seconded. Mr. Rheame stated the  
131 Program is not trying to oust Community Caregivers from Sandown; SSATP feels

132 Community Caregivers is trying to oust them. Two ayes [Devine and Nicolaisen]  
133 and three nays [Treanor, Copp and Tombarello]. Motion fails.  
134

135 Chairman Tombarello read the public notice for the proposed Eagle Scout Project to be  
136 completed by James Beucler for a hiking trail across Town land off of Morrison Lane,  
137 which connects to Cub Pond and Punch Pond. Chairman Tombarello stated the public  
138 hearing would remain open until the end of this meeting for anyone who wishes to make  
139 a comment.  
140

141 **Matthew Turner**

142 **Update and status of Eagle Scout Project – fence at cemetery**  
143

- 144 • Present for this discussion were Matthew Turner and Assistant Scout Master  
145 Robinson of Troop 268. Mr. Turner informed the Board his Eagle Scout project  
146 of installing 176 feet of fence at the library is complete. Mr. Turner presented the  
147 Board with photos, described the work he and others performed as well as the  
148 projects budget. Mr. Turner asked the Board for a letter on Town letterhead  
149 accepting the project as complete and a release from liability. Mr. Turner stated  
150 he would be dedicating the project at a regular Boy Scout meeting and he will  
151 inform the Board of the date and time. Selectwoman Copp asked Mr. Turner if  
152 he would be willing to be interviewed by Donna Green who is interviewing people  
153 on what is happening in Sandown [projects]. Mr. Turner stated yes. Mr. Turner  
154 provided the Board with Boy Scout forms that need the Board's signatures.  
155 Board members congratulated Matthew Turner on his completed project and  
156 Eagle Scout.  
157

158 **Public Hearing to present proposed Eagle Scout project by James Beucler**  
159 **for a walking trail on Town property off Morrison Road**  
160

- 161 • James Beucler was present for the public hearing. Mr. Beucler provided the  
162 Board with his updated Power Point. Mr. Beucler stated he spoke with Mr.  
163 Springer and he is allowing him to use a portion of his property for parking if the  
164 Conservation Commission feels they need it in the future. Mr. Beucler stated he  
165 is still working on where the sign will be placed [Town right of way or Springer  
166 property]. He will keep the Town informed. Chairman Tombarello asked about  
167 the concerns Mr. Saltalamacchia had. Mr. Beucler stated he spoke with Mr.  
168 Saltalamacchia and he didn't have a problem with the project as long as the plan  
169 that was presented to him was what is built. Selectman Nicolaisen reminded Mr.  
170 Beucler when it comes to placing the sign keep in mind snow plowing. Mr.  
171 Beucler stated because he didn't make the August Boy Scout Commission  
172 meeting this will be a late fall early winter project. Chairman Tombarello noted  
173 possible help with the project from the Sandown Free Spirit organization.  
174

175 Selectwoman Copp continues to be concerned about the parking issue on  
176 Morrison Road, but noted there was no public present to voice their opinion. Mr.  
177 Beucler stated he is still considering limiting the number of vehicles that can park  
178 on Morrison Road. Members of the Sandown Conservation Commission  
179 members were present and Brian Butler stated the Commission accepts the  
180 project. Mr. Robinson confirmed with the Board that once this public hearing is  
181 over Mr. Beucler can move forward with his project. Chairman Tombarello stated  
182 the Board gave Mr. Beucler their blessing a couple weeks ago. Mr. Beucler was  
183 asked to keep the Selectmen's Office staff informed of his progress. Both Brian  
184 Butler and Mark Traeger of the Conservation Commission who have experience  
185 with parking associated with Town trails don't feel parking will be a problem.  
186 Selectman Treanor suggested getting something in writing from abutters  
187 regarding the parking issue. Mr. Traeger noted that Morrison Road is a public  
188 way.

189  
190 **Non-Public discussion under RSA 91-A:3 (c) Reputation**

- 191  
192 • This appointment did not take place.

193  
194 **New Business**

195  
196 **Discuss Stormwater Management Permit & possible Town comment**

- 197  
198 • Paula Gulla asked the Board if they want Steve Keach to write a comment on  
199 behalf of the Town relative to the Stormwater Management Permit and its impact  
200 on Sandown. Ms. Gulla noted that the Town has decided to join the coalition but  
201 they are also looking for comments from towns on how the Permit will impact  
202 them individually. Following some initial confusion on the difference between  
203 joining the coalition and hiring Steve Keach to write an independent letter it was  
204 the consensus of the Board to have Steve Keach write a letter for Sandown.  
205 Selectman Devine read his notes from the teleconference. Ms. Gulla will contact  
206 Steve Keach to get a cost estimate and find out what he will be saying in the  
207 letter. This topic will be discussed briefly at the August 5, 2013 meeting with  
208 legal counsel.

209  
210 **Discuss Town Comdata cards and \$20/monthly fee**

- 211  
212 • Cheryl Eastman, Finance Director, has been working on the Comdata cards held  
213 by Lynne Blaisdell and Deb Brown. Comdata has notified the cardholders they  
214 have a new service where they notify the cardholder weekly of where they can  
215 get the cheapest gas and this service has a fee of \$20.00. Ms. Eastman  
216 contacted the company and told them Sandown doesn't use their card for this  
217 services and they said it didn't matter they would still have to pay the fee.  
218 Selectwoman Copp informed the Board if they keep the cards the way they are

219 now it will be costing the Town \$240.00/year for nothing. Ms. Gulla asked the  
220 Board if there was a reason to not use the higher debit card amount.  
221 Selectwoman Copp stated what she remembers is those using the cards didn't  
222 think they needed the increased amount. Selectman Devine suggested looking  
223 into a credit union. **MOTION:** Selectman Devine moved to drop the Comdata  
224 card. Selectman Nicolaisen seconded. Selectman Nicolaisen stated we can't  
225 drop the card until there is something else in place. Three ayes [Treanor, Devine  
226 and Nicolaisen and two nays [Copp and Tombarello]. Motion passed. **MOTION:**  
227 Selectwoman Copp moved to bring back the Comdata card. Selectman  
228 Nicolaisen seconded. Four ayes [Treanor, Copp, Tombarello and Nicolaisen]  
229 and one nay [Devine]. Motion passed. **MOTION:** Selectman Devine moved to  
230 drop the Comdata card. Selectwoman Copp seconded. Zero aye and five nays  
231 [Treanor, Copp, Tombarello, Nicolaisen and Devine]. Motion failed.  
232

### 233 Old Business

#### 234 **Further discussion regarding bids received for Library egress**

- 235 • Selectwoman Copp stated after reviewing the budget they were able to come up  
236 with \$400.00 for the library egress, \$1,154.00 for the stormwater management  
237 contract and \$1,800.00 for the door at the Police Station. **MOTION:**  
238 Selectwoman Copp moved to accept the PICA General Contracting quote for the  
239 basement egress at the library in the amount of \$5,300.00 with \$4,900.00 coming  
240 from the warrant article and the remaining \$400.00 from Acct. 4196.0 Insurance  
241 Account line .03 PLIT. Selectman Treanor seconded. Motion passed  
242 unanimously. Ms. Gulla clarified for the record that the Board did not accept the  
243 third bid because it was late.  
244  
245

#### 246 **Update and status of Cable Franchise Agreement and Atty. Agreement**

- 247 • Selectwoman Copp stated that the Cable Advisory Board talked about and made  
248 a motion to hire Attorney Peter Epstein to look over the new cable contract.  
249 Based on an email from Attorney Epstein he would not accept the signature of  
250 the Advisory Board he needs the Board of Selectmen to sign the agreement.  
251 Selectwoman Copp had an issue with some of his comments about what  
252 Attorney Epstein would be doing for his review and his hourly rate. Selectwoman  
253 Copp spoke to Ms. Gulla about this who in turn spoke with Attorney Gorrow who  
254 suggested the Advisory Board tell Attorney Epstein what they want him to do and  
255 ask for a flat fee. Selectwoman Copp spoke to the Advisory Board and they  
256 agreed with Attorney Gorrow's suggestion. Selectwoman Copp stated the  
257 Station Manager was going to contact Attorney Epstein and to the best of her  
258 knowledge he has not responded back. Selectwoman Copp stated now that  
259 Gordon Champion has offered his services for free this is something the Board of  
260 Selectmen and Advisory Board have to work together on. Chris Donnellan,  
261  
262

263 Station Manager stated all the Advisory Board has asked Attorney Epstein to do  
264 is look over the franchise agreement and provide a to do list and a time table  
265 associated with the to do list so they follow proper procedures for the renewal of  
266 the contact. Mr. Donnellan stated he has not heard back from Attorney Epstein.  
267

268 **Correspondence**

- 269
- 270 • Letter from Old Meeting House Historical Association inviting a Board member to  
271 give the welcoming speak on August 11, 2013 at 11:00 A.M. and attend their  
272 dinner following the service. Selectman Devine will attend. Ms. Gulla will notify  
273 the Old Meeting House Historical Association that Selectman Devine will attend.  
274 Ms. Gulla went over who will be walking or riding in the parade. Chairman  
275 Tombarello will be available to announce the Citizen of the Year.  
276
  - 277 • Email from legal counsel. There will be a selectmen's meeting on Monday,  
278 August 5, 2013 with legal counsel to discuss pending litigation. There will be a  
279 brief public discussion regarding Steve Keach sending a letter for Sandown  
280 regarding the stormwater management permit.  
281
  - 282 • Letter from legal counsel regarding pending legal cases. Selectwoman Copp  
283 noted the need for a response to one of the letters. Chairman Tombarello asked  
284 Ms. Gulla to add this to the list when speaking with legal counsel on Monday  
285 night.  
286
  - 287 • Letter from the Planning Board informing the Board of their request to Town  
288 officials regarding the permitting of erosion control measures. Chairman  
289 Tombarello informed the Planning Board this request should be made through  
290 the Board of Selectmen. The individuals involved will be meeting on Thursday.  
291
  - 292 • Email from Jeffrey Chaput requesting a key to Town Hall for Boy Scout meetings.  
293 Paul Gulla will contact Lisa Sears to see if she still needs her key and if not, ask  
294 her to return the key to the Selectmen's Office. Consensus of the Board is to get  
295 the key back from Ms. Sears if she doesn't need it and then provide Mr. Chaput  
296 with a key to Town Hall.  
297
  - 298 • Ms. Gulla spoke about giving Attorney Gorrow authorization to quiet title.  
299 Consensus of the Board is it is okay for Attorney Gorrow to notify the court that  
300 the Town is not interested in the property.  
301

302 **Department Liaison Report**

- 303
- 304 • Selectman Devine stated the Conservation Commission met and discussed the  
305 Boy Scout project.  
306

- 307
- Paula Gulla stated there are still Old Home Day vendor booths available and the Schedule of Events can be viewed on the Town’s website.
- 308
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- Chairman Tombarello urged everyone to support Old Home Day.
- 311
- Selectwoman Copp discussed with the Advisory Board the purchasing of wireless mikes so that the public can hear better what is being said at meetings. Selectwoman Copp asked the liaisons to discuss this with their Board or Committees.
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- Selectman Treanor provided the Board with an email from Police Chief Joseph Gordon regarding skateboarding on Town property, posting a sign prohibiting and the issuance of a fine [Selectman Treanor will work with the Police Chief to resolve], poor upkeep of the parking lot behind Town Hall [Mr. Genualdo will obtain and estimate] and repair of the door at the Police Station [found money to make repair].
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324 **Non-Public discussion under RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring**

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- **MOTION:** Chairman Tombarello moved to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (b) Hiring. Selectman Devine seconded. Roll call: Treanor – aye, Copp – aye, Tombarello – aye, Nicolaisen – aye and Devine – aye. Motion passed unanimously.
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331 **MOTION:** Selectman Nicolaisen moved to come out of non-public session.  
332 Selectman Devine seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

333

334 Chairman Tombarello announced while in non-public session the Board voted to  
335 seal the minutes. **MOTION:** Selectman Nicolaisen moved to hire Richard  
336 Hanley for the full-time position at the Highway Department at a rate up to  
337 \$17.84/hour pending a background check. Selectwoman Copp seconded.  
338 Motion passed unanimously.

339

340 Chairman Tombarello adjourned the meeting at 9:44 P.M.

341

342 Respectfully Submitted,

343

344

345

346 Cynthia J. Robinson  
347 Recording Secretary