



**TOWN OF NORTHWOOD
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Town of Northwood 818 First NH Turnpike Northwood, NH 03261
(603) 942-5586**

**Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
February 28, 2023**

ROLL CALL: Chairman Hal Kreider, Vice-Chairman Tim Colby, Select Board Member Beth Boudreau, Select Board Member Jim Guzofski, and Select Board Member Pam Sanderson was present via phone.

STAFF PRESENT: Town Administrator Walter Johnson

6:00 P.M. Chairman Kreider opened the Northwood Board of Selectmen meeting with a roll call and led the pledge of allegiance.

Citizen's Forum

Tim Jandebour asked why the Fire Department takes their vehicles to Tilton for repair work. He feels it is because no local garages want to work with them. He stated that there are a lot of problems with the fire department with equipment not working, doors not operating, staff not being trained on the equipment, etc. The hinges on one ambulance are so bad that a patient had to sit in the ambulance at Portsmouth Hospital for an hour because they couldn't open the doors. He asked why we don't fix these things. He claims that at the fire on Route 4, the Epsom Chief had to get the pumper working for the Northwood staff. He claims no other towns want to work with us anymore because we have alienated everyone. He said Paul Tudor has all this information about these incidents. Chairman Kreider asked Tim to submit the concerns in writing.

250th Anniversary Committee Request

Due to the weather tonight, this item was postponed until the March 21 meeting.

Approve Minutes:

J. Guzofski said his name was misspelled in line 98 and 101.

Motion: "To approve the minutes of February 14, 2023, as amended."

Motion: T. Colby

Second: B. Boudreau

Motion carried by vote of 5 to 0.

Consent Agenda

Payroll Manifest dated 02-22-23, Batch # 022223 for \$ 46,526.59

43 Accounts Payable Manifest dated 02-22-23, Batch #103 for \$17,088.89. This batch includes a payment to
44 the Internal Revenue Service for \$10,629 for employee taxes.

45 Accounts Payable Manifest dated 03-01-23, Batch #104 for \$58,187.09. This includes payments to
46 Bergeron Protective Clothing for \$3,785.50 for fire gear, HealthTrust for employee insurances for
47 \$23,355.58, Home Repairs Plus by Nate Smith for \$4,764 for renovations to the town hall lobby, and
48 Morton Salt for \$4,662.38 for salt.

49 Property Tax Exemptions: Approve or Deny per Assessor's Recommendations

50 Service-Connected Disability – Map 111, Lot 10 – Woods

51 Elderly Exemption – Map 122, Lot 16 – Hanlon

52 Solar Exemption – Map 220, Lot 13-2 – Conidas

53 Elderly Exemption – Map 118, Lot 23 – Anderson

54 Abatements:

55 Michael Reynolds – Map 109, Lot 19-MH-1

56 Others:

57 Seasonal Camper Permit – 43 Pine Street – Ruggieri

58 Intent to Cut – 22-349-08-T – Eames

59

60 **Motion: “To approve the consent agenda as read.”**

61 **Motion: T. Colby**

62 **Second: B. Boudreau**

63 **Motion carried by vote of 5/0.**

64

65 **TA Report**

66 TA Johnson met yesterday with representatives from several different agencies within DES regarding the
67 lagoon system. Although not directly stated they want us to shut down the lagoons. They said the lagoons
68 constitute a dam, and as such they need to be permitted with the State. The fee for permits is \$3,000 and
69 additional work would need to be done around the berms prior to being approved. He feels that
70 financially it doesn't make sense to keep the lagoons open. He recommends the Board work through a
71 closure plan with a consulting engineer and close them permanently. The costs for maintaining the
72 permits for the lagoons are over \$5,000 a year. This item will be put on the March 21st agenda. Septic
73 haulers can take their loads to any waste treatment plant instead of the lagoons, but will increase their
74 travel time and costs. A closure plan could take several years with the planning expense, closure costs,
75 etc. The lagoon maintenance trust fund has around \$100,000 in it now.

76

77 There has been no further report on the transfer station burn piles and glass pit. We are moving forward
78 with the process of closing the burn pits.

79

80 The voters' guide final version is waiting for board approval to get them printed and distributed around
81 town and on the website.

82

83 The town hall generator has been repaired and is back in service.

84

85 A voluntary water test was completed at the town hall. It came back clean for PFA's and volatile chemicals.

86

87 TA Johnson has one application for the open position on the Recreation Commission from Michael
88 LeBlanc. He recommended the Board table this until the next meeting when all the newly elected officials
89 will need to be appointed after the election anyway.

90

91 The next meeting will be on the 21st because of voting on the 14th.

92

93 **Appoint Northwood Representative to the Strafford Regional Planning Commission**

94 We have no volunteers yet for this position. H. Kreider will ask the Planning Board at the next meeting.

95

96 **Community Garden**

97 H. Kreider asked to table this until at least after the discussion on the Recreation Commission
98 responsibilities.

99

100 **Voting Day**

101 We are logistically ready for voting on the 14th. Board members not running for positions need to be
102 present or have a proxy present.

103

104 Pam hung up the phone and headed to the meeting at 6:28.

105

106 **Recreation Commission Responsibilities**

107 TA Johnson said the Recreation Commission was established by a vote of town meeting in 1995. The state
108 statute refers to the governing body as being responsible for the appointments and assignment of duties
109 and responsibilities. TA Johnson has not been able to find that the authority has been delegated to the
110 Commission. He advised the Board needs to decide what they want from the Commission and what duties
111 do they want to assign to the Commission, aside from what the statute says. Once those duties and
112 responsibilities are defined, the Board should meet with the Commission to outline what was decided and
113 hopefully there will be an opportunity for cooperation and communication between the Commission and
114 the Board of Selectmen. Or at least a better line of communication that we currently have. B. Boudreau
115 said the Commission needs some guidance from the Board because another person has resigned. She
116 feels the recreation department should offer more than just sports for youth. There should be events from
117 “cradle to grave” and she expects there be communication and working together by the Recreation
118 Director and the Commission. She went on to report the Recreation Commission at their last meeting
119 asked for a general calendar of the upcoming year’s activities and events that would include the
120 Commissions ideas and the Director’s ideas. She said the Recreation Director was unaware of some events
121 that have occurred in the past and could continue. [Select Board Member P. Sanderson joined the
122 meeting.] Chairman Kreider feels the calendar of events is the type of information that should come to
123 the Board. TA Johnson said he has spoken to the Recreation Director since the last Board of Selectmen
124 meeting and the Director understands that the Board wants to know about big events beforehand.
125 Chairman Kreider stressed that the Board needs to know the plan for the athletic fields as well. TA
126 Johnson suggested the Friends of Recreation, the Recreation Commission, and the Recreation Director
127 draft a plan for the fields and a calendar of events. Then the Director can bring it to the Board. From
128 there, the Board can look at how to fund it, a time table, etc. He feels we need a collaborative effort and
129 a plan that everyone agrees with, and they will go with. Once there is a plan in place, the Director can
130 work on implementing it and bring any potential barriers to getting it done to the Board of Selectmen’s
131 attention. A plan in place will prevent everyone from going off on their own with their own plans.

132

133 **2023 Lawn Maintenance RFP Bid Results**

134 We received one bid on the lawn maintenance RFP. This bid was significantly over the budgeted amount,
135 due to increases across the board for labor and fuel. TA Johnson asked for permission from the Board to
136 negotiate with the contractor for pieces of the contract that could be split out, such as the Bow Lake Road
137 fields that are not being used. There was discussion around the potential part-time new hire proposed in
138 the 2023 budget for this summer. If the budget passes, that person could take on mowing with our own

139 mower. There was a discussion about the cemetery portion of the mowing and how that might be funded
140 through the cemetery perpetual care fund. TA Johnson said he has not come up with a formula to figure
141 out how much should be charged to the cemeteries that the Trustees could agree with.

142

143 **Board Task Manager**

144 B. Boudreau suggested the Board host a gathering of all the various boards and commissions, like a
145 volunteer appreciation event.

146 P. Sanderson asked about any progress on the Bow Street/Rt 4 intersection issue. TA Johnson reported
147 there has been no success with trying to get the state to relocate the telephone pole out of the
148 intersection.

149 B. Boudreau also asked about any progress on a monthly newsletter. TA Johnson has spoken to a
150 contractor to set up a template that someone on staff could use to produce a newsletter. A discussion
151 ensued around where content for the newsletter would come from.

152

153 **Board Committee Reports**

154 T. Colby reported that he and Gary Tasker had hung 27 pictures on the walls of the meeting room. He
155 would like to have identifying information displayed near each one. T. Colby said he is thankful for being
156 able to serve on the Board and hopes to be reelected.

157 P. Sanderson said a new resident has expressed an interest in serving on the Zoning Board. She has
158 submitted her letter of interest to TA Johnson. The Zoning Board still has two opening for alternates.

159

160 At 7:21:

161 **Motion: "To adjourn the meeting."**

162 **Motion: T. Colby**

163 **Second: P. Sanderson**

164 **Motion carried by vote of 5/0.**

165

166 Minutes respectfully submitted by

167 Cheryl Eastman

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