

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the February 28, 2017 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman McGrath the meeting of February 28, 2017 at 7:02 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman Routsis.

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Marilyn McGrath, Roger Coutu, Pat Nichols, Angela Routsis

Absent: Ted Luszey

Staff/Others: Donna Graham, Executive Assistant; Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director, Ken Dickinson

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman McGrath asked if anyone in the audience wished to address the Board on any issue which the Board has control of at this time. If not, we'll go onto nomination and appointments.

5. NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS - None

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman McGrath asked does any Board member wish to remove any item for separate consideration.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to approve consent items A, B, C, D, E and F as noted or appropriate, carried 4-0.

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Current Use Application - Map 102, Lot 11 - 38 R Boyd Rd., w/recommendation to approve
- 2) 2016 Supplemental Bill - Map 247, Lot 75 - 17 R Eayrs Pond Rd., w/recommendation to approve
- 3) Elderly Exemption - Map 175, Lot 034, Sub 016 - 10 Pond View Dr., w/recommendation to approve
- 4) Veteran Tax Credit - Map 142, Lot 007, Sub 006 - 6 Oliver Dr.; Map 156, Lot 063, Sub 039 - 311 Elmwood Dr., w/recommendation to approve
- 5) Requalification of Elderly Exemption - Map 175, Lot 071 - 6 Marshmallow Path; Map 242, Lot 054 - 102 Musquash Rd.; Map 175, Lot 158 - 103 Ferry St., w/recommendation to requalify

B. Water/Sewer Items

- 1) Sewer Abatement - S-UTL-17-16 - 36 Sutherland Dr., w/recommendation to approve
- 2) Water Abatement - W-UTL-17-01 - 25 Cottonwood Dr., w/recommendation to approve

C. Licenses & Permits

- 1) Request to Solicit Funds - Teen Challenge New Hampshire
- 2) Request to Solicit Funds - Live and Let Live Farm Rescue and Sanctuary
- 3) Request to Solicit Funds - Honor Flight New England

D. Donations

- 1) Lifetouch National School Studios - \$776.96

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the February 4, 2017 meeting
- 2) Minutes of the February 14, 2017 meeting

F. Calendar

- 03/01 7:00 Budget Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/02 6:30 Recreation Cte - BOS Meeting Room
03/02 7:00 Benson Park Cte - HCTV Meeting Room
03/08 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room - CANCELLED
03/09 7:30 Zoning Brd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/13 7:00 Conservation Cmsn - Buxton CD Meeting Room

03/14 TOWN MEETING
03/15 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
03/15 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/15 7:30 Senior Affairs Cte - BOS Meeting Room
03/16 7:00 Benson Park Cte - HCTV Meeting Room
03/21 7:00 Cable Utility Cte - HCTV Ctr.
03/21 7:00 Municipal Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room
03/22 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room - CANCELLED
03/23 7:30 Zoning Brd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/27 7:00 Sustainability Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
03/28 7:00 Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
03/29 7:00 Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room

7. OLD BUSINESS - None

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Public Hearing - Grant Acceptance - Exotic Aquatic Plant Control Grant from NHDES in the amount of \$12,582

Chairman McGrath recognized Ken Dickinson to speak on this matter.

Good evening once again. Ken Dickinson noted that I'm a little under the weather to be perfectly honest. I did have Amy Smagula come down to our Conservation Commission meeting last Thursday and she made a nice presentation. She even handed out an updated long-range management plan for us as well. So I can speak to that to the extent that I need to. In general, I'd like to say that from a dollar perspective and say from a treatment standpoint as well. The trend is to try to reduce the amount of chemicals used and rely more upon DASH operations. This year will be an example of that especially to try to avoid any cyanobacteria, plumes that we had at Otarnic Pond last year. They did not recommend to treat Otarnic Pond. So right off the bat, the price goes down because we're only treating one pond instead of two. From a diver perspective, I believe it remains about the same but there's an opportunity for that to also diminish based on what they see when they go out there and they're going to try to get out there early to assess everything.

If we look at it from a projected cost standpoint, I took a look at the difference between the 2016 award projected costs versus the 2017 projected award costs and the difference I calculated it at \$6,246 savings - net difference between the two. Chairman McGrath said a reduction of that. Mr. Dickinson said there's that potential and the costs are variable based on what happens during the season as you know. Their work plan doesn't fall the fiscal year exactly. I could get into it in more details if necessary.

Selectman Coutu stated it's my understanding I watched the meeting. She did an awesome job Ken presenting it. I appreciate it. The funding level - the grant that is being awarded, we're applying for the full grant as we always do but based on the conversation that I listened to and the information I gathered both from the Town Engineer Mr. Dhima and the presentation that she made, and some of the statements that you made, we apply for the full funding. This is not a reflection of what it's going to cost. It's a reflection of the grant that's available and we'll spend what we need to spend to achieve the goals that need to be achieved in doing mostly pulling the weed as opposed to chemical treatment. The monies that we don't spend, the Town Engineer returns it at the end of the year - our portion. I was encourage by the fact that we're going to do less chemical treatment and we're going to do more of the hands on going in - well the team is going to go in and they're going to pull quite a bit out. That had proven to be very successful in the past. I know that considering how quickly this material grows and how harmful it could be to the aquatic life that it's important that we get it out as best we can. I'm impressed. I think it's very well managed. I think your team is doing an awesome job monitoring what's going on. I think that the representative from the State did an outstanding job in her presentation. Kudos to you guys and thank you for everything you do for reclamation of our ponds in the Town of Hudson.

Ken Dickson replied thank you and we'll continue to look at it in more detail especially with Aqualogic, the chosen DASH vendor for this year. They were great with their outreach. As I had stated in the meeting, we should have some opportunities to interact with them throughout the process to monitor and see how the DASH activity goes in concert with the treatment at Robinson Pond and then they'll reassess again next year to see if they can continue to do the same or if they have to go back to plan A versus plan B or C.

Chairman McGrath asked if anyone else had any questions. If not, I'll open the public hearing at 7:09 p.m. Anyone present wish to address this issue? If not, I'll close the public hearing at 7:10 p.m.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to accept the Exotic Aquatic Plant Control Grant from NHDES for services this spring and summer and to authorize Acting Chairman Marilyn E. McGrath to sign all documents relative to the same, carried 4-0.

B. School Impact Fees

Chairman McGrath noted we have a Memo in the packet from Karen Burnell the Business Administrator for the Hudson School District requesting release of \$75,000 from the School Impact Fee Account 09-2000-2080-000-051. It's to offset the school's fiscal year 2017 bond payment. The balance available as of January 31, 2017 in this account is \$259,809.23.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to release \$75,000 from School Impact Fee Account 09-2000-2080-000-051 per the request from Karen Burnell, Business Administrator for the Hudson School District, dated February 3, 2017. The funds will be used to offset this year's School District bond payment, carried 4-0.

C. Donation of a Gris Mill Stone

Chairman McGrath stated we have an offer from Mr. William Tate to donate an old gris mill stone that used to be located at the Hudson/Nashua bridge. He'd like to donate this stone to the Town of Hudson and he expressed a preference that it be placed at Benson Park. Road Agent Kevin Burns has reviewed the offer and he is okay with that donation and he will work with Mr. Tate to place the stone.

Selectman Nichols said I don't know what a gris stone is. Chairman McGrath believed it's a large stone. Its round and it has a hole in the center. Mr. Tate offered to donate that a number of years ago when former Selectman Ann Seabury passed away. He wanted to donate that in honor of her and that it be placed at the town. It has some historical significance and it can be used not only as a visual piece of history but I think that you can also adjust it so that it could be a fountain - some sort of a water fountain. Sadly one of the former Selectmen didn't want to accept that donation and didn't feel that it was necessary. Mr. Tate has come back and offered it to the town and wanted it to be placed at Benson Park. I happen to think that it's a very nice donation and that it's something that we should accept.

Selectman Nichols thank the Chairman. I wasn't quite sure. I thought that's what it was but I wasn't sure that's why I asked. Chairman McGrath wasn't sure where it comes from. Is it from an old mill building that would be grinding flour or grain or something. It's quite large and quite heavy. If there is no objections, a motion to accept.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to accept the donation of a Gris Mill Stone from William Tate and to place the stone at Benson Park with the location to be determined by Road Agent Kevin Burns and Mr. Tate with a letter of gratitude being sent to Mr. Tate for his contribution.

Selectman Coutu noted Billy is always thinking about the community and I really appreciate that donation. That has some significant historical value to our town. Glad we're going to put it at Benson Park.

Chairman McGrath said it does and it's a shame truly that it wasn't accepted in honor of Ann Seabury because that was something that he really wanted to do. He wanted to honor her and one of our antagonistic Selectmen didn't want to accept it. Any other discussion?

Vote: Motion carried 4-0.

Selectman Nichols asked couldn't a plaque be put on that in memory of Ann Seabury. Chairman McGrath said he's not donating it at this time in her memory. I suppose if he wanted to come back and make that as a stipulation, we could do that. That was his original intent.

D. Revenues and Expenditures

Chairman McGrath recognized Kathy Carpentier, Finance Director.

Good evening. Kathy Carpentier explained we're reviewing January 2017 reports tonight which is 7 out of 12 months. A linear budget would be at 58 percent. Most departments are around 58 percent unless they've done blanket POs for the year. I'm unaware of any issues that we might have at this point. No department heads have brought anything to my attention or the Town Administrator's attention. We might have some issues with some large earned time buyouts but we won't know that until May or June. It depends upon how many openings we have and that type of stuff. We usually address that in late spring anyways. It looks like our revenue are doing pretty well. Our motor vehicles at the current run rate might actually hit \$5 million for the first time but we can't really predict that at this point or guarantee that.

Chairman McGrath told Selectman Coutu keep buying new cars.

Kathy Carpentier said it looks like our building permits are at about 80 percent but that's definitely a seasonal thing but we might have some favorability there by the end of the year. I didn't see any issues that I needed to bring to your attention.

Selectman Coutu indicated it was an excellent report. Very healthy.

Chairman McGrath anticipated more building permits because it's that time of year and the economy is improving. Ms. Carpentier noted we're already at close to 80 percent. So that's great through January. It will pick up in the spring.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Routsis - I actually have nothing pressing to say this evening. I just hope everyone enjoys the continued warm weather because it has been really nice to have no snow. Again my thoughts are still with the Kellers as they go through this time with their son. I just want everyone to know that he is doing better and continue thinking of him and keeping him in your thoughts.

Selectman Coutu - Took the words out of my mouth. Everybody please keep praying for Josh. Encouraging news a lot better than it had been in the past. We wish Josh well. We wish the Keller family our hopes and aspirations that everything will turn out and he's certainly in our thoughts and prayers.

Selectman Coutu wanted to remind everybody that two weeks from tonight is Election Day. You'll be seeing a lot more activity around town for our candidates. Please take the opportunity to listen to them, find out where they stand on the issues, and we're going to say it again. This is in my opinion the most important election that you can cast a ballot in in that this is what affects the people who serve or are elected are going to impact in some fashion or another your tax rate. I think it's a lot more important than the Presidential Election although we don't get the notoriety that a Presidential Election gets. We don't have that kind of cash flow in our candidates pockets to do that kind of campaigning. Please listen to the candidates. Please get out and vote. Look at the ballot questions. They also have an impact on the tax rate. I look forward to seeing everybody at the polls in two weeks. Thank you Madam Chair for sitting in. It looks like you may break a record this evening.

Selectman Nichols - I don't have too much to say other than Josh's family that they'll be in my prayers forever until I know that he is up walking and coming home.

Selectman Nichols said thank you to the town and all you Selectmen for welcoming me for these past three years and wishing me well. Hopefully I'll get better. I don't really have too much to say. Happy St. Patrick's Day to everybody.

Selectman McGrath - Just a couple of things. Sustainability Committee is planning to do a roadside cleanup along Lowell Road from the Sagamore Bridge north to Executive Drive and also a portion of Wason Road going up to the first - they didn't put down the name of the street but it's the first street on the left past Market Basket. Market Basket has given them the authorization to be able to park cars in that far corner of the lot the day that they do the cleanup. They wanted to check with the Board of Selectmen to see if anyone had any issues with that or any other suggestions.

Selectman Coutu said no. They did an outstanding job the last time they did that area. It's the welcoming point of our community and it will be nice to see it cleaned up.

Chairman McGrath agreed but I would like to add one - and this may not be doable at this time but down across from the driving range - Stewart Street - there's a little corner there and when you drive by all you can see is a mass of plastic trash bags that are up in the trees. I don't know that they could even do that or if that's something that Kevin Burns sometime that his men are down that way that they could take care of but it's a complete mess. I don't know where the bags are coming from because they're far away south of Market Basket that they shouldn't be traveling that far. In any event, there's a number of them. I'll pass this on that the Board of Selectmen doesn't have any issues with what they're proposing.

- Donna's Place requesting approval for BYOB and to advertise

There's two more things. Chairman McGrath said we have a request from Donna's Place that's located in Brook Plaza. She'd like to be able to host a BYOB night on Friday evenings at her place of business. Donna has reached out to the Police Department and got some feedback from Captain Avery that they haven't had any issues with that business in the last five years. We need to have a discussion about that and whether or not anybody is opposed to that. My thought was that perhaps if we wanted to allow here to do that, it's only on Friday nights, allow her to do that for a six month time period and see whether or not there are any complaints from the other businesses that are located in that plaza or the Police Department has any issues with that. That might be something we could consider but that's the request that's been placed before the town.

Selectman Coutu said my problem with that Madam Chair is that if there's something that we had a lot of in this community is restaurants, pizza parlors. This is a Pandora's Box waiting to be opened. If we allow this to happen, we're going to have a lot of other restaurants coming and saying well I want to have Thursday night bring your own booze in case people don't know what BYOB is. They probably all do but it's bring your own booze. I've never heard of this. I think it might be circumventing the liquor laws. I would like to have a report from the Liquor Commission as to whether or not that's even allowable that we have an established business that's serving patrons. I don't know whether or not they have any kind of an alcoholic license at all whether they sell beer and wine. I know a couple of other small diners that do. Bring your booze is allowing people to bring hard liquor as well as soft liquor. You can bring our own beer and wine but I would be afraid or I would be concerned that a lot of other establishments would come in and make the same request and we'd be hard pressed to say no once we say yes to one. I'd like to have clarification from the Liquor Commission before we decide this to have at least the Town Administrator communicate with the Liquor Commission, present it them, and see what their recommendation is. I'm sure they may have had these kinds of requests in the past and they can advise us what is our legal responsibility in terms of the liquor laws in town.

Chairman McGrath agreed. I think that that would be a good idea to get that information. I don't know what her hours of operation are. Selectman Routsis didn't believe that she's open nights at all right now. Chairman McGrath thought it was a breakfast place. If we can have Steve when he returns from vacation get us that information from the Liquor Commissioner and then we can go forward and discuss it further. One of the next agendas we'll take that up.

- Liquor Commission - Benson's Bakery & Café - application for liquor license (copy place on desks)

Chairman McGrath stated the last thing that I have and this was in the general read and I asked Donna to pull it because I have a question about this. Again this is another liquor type of request. Benson's Bakery and Café on 203 Central Street is requesting a liquor license for their business. I found that to be odd because it's a bakery. I can't quite understand why they'd be looking for a liquor license. I would like to get more information about that before we take that up.

Selectman Coutu wanted to clarify the bakery. It's called "Benson's Bakery". She serves breakfast and lunch just like Donna's Place does, just like Suzie's. I don't know what time they close. Selectman Routsis thought midafternoon maybe. Selectman Coutu said they do serve meals. She has a bakery there but they're expanding. They've rented some empty space that was in the building. They're expanding the restaurant portion and I think she wants to get beer and wine to accommodate customer requests for beer and wine for lunch.

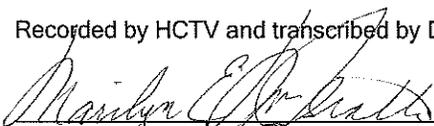
Chairman McGrath said I want more information about that because I think that that's another one of these. Some of us had an issue with the floral shop wanting to sell wine. I could make that leap because I figured that they were just selling a bottle of wine with a bouquet of flowers. This is quite different if it's a bakery. I haven't gone to this business so I don't know. I don't know what they serve, what their hours of operation but I'd like more information before this gets approved. It's just like you just said. It's another business and it just seems to be all of a sudden we're getting a lot of liquor license requests. I don't know that they're appropriate for those types. That's all that I have. I have no other issues to bring before the Board.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION - None

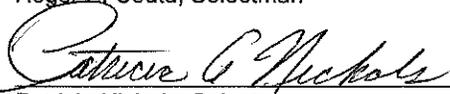
11. ADJOURNMENT

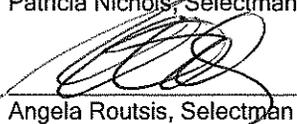
Motion to adjourn at 7:29 p.m. by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Nichols, carried 4-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.


Marilyn E. McGrath, Chairman


Roger F. Coutu, Selectman


Patricia Nichols, Selectman


Angela Routsis, Selectman