

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
Minutes of the July 25, 2017 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Luszey the meeting of July 25, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Boy Scout Kyle Dubay.

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Ted Luszey, Roger Coutu, Angela Routsis, David Morin

Absent: Marilyn McGrath

Staff/Others: Donna Graham, Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Luszey asked does anyone in the audience wish to address the Board on any issue which the Board has control of at this time. Seeing none.

5. NOMINATIONS AND APPOINTMENTS

a) Benson Park Committee - (2 vacancies - 1 member term to expire 4/30/2019; 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/19)

Mark J. Boulger - 153 Old Derry Road, Hudson.

Chairman Luszey asked Mr. Boulger to talk a little bit about what brought you here tonight and why you're interested in being on the Benson Park Committee.

Mark Boulger stated I happened to be on the Town's website and I saw that volunteers were needed. When I had just gone through the motions of looking through what was needed, I ended up filling out an application and I decided I would do something interesting for me to take part of. My family grew up in Hudson. My wife's family grew up in Hudson. When Benson Park was revamped into what it is now, it played the part into us buying a house in Hudson. I travel a little bit for work and a lot of people that I speak with have asked where are you from and I say Hudson. I kind of always bring myself back to just talking about Benson's, and what it is now, and I often end up talking to folks to who are in the 50s, 60s, and 70s and they remember when it was Benson Wild Animal Farm. It just becomes very memorable and nostalgic for a lot of people. I guess in that sense, I have a lot of passion for what the park is, what it was, and what it's become, and what it can become. I know volunteers were needed. I don't know how urgent or intense that need is but I figured I would like to throw my hat in the ring just to be part of the dynamic for the town.

Selectman Coutu said you can save us and yourself an awful lot of time here. First of all looking at your application you listed four committees that you would be interested in. One of them has no vacancies. That would be the Planning Board. So there are three left. One is Benson Park. We spoke about that. The other one is Conservation Commission and the other is the Sustainability Committee. Some people come in here and say well I can serve on all three. Time is limited. Time is precious. My suggestion to you is do one and if you have time, then consider applying for another at a later date. Of the three - the Benson Park, Conservation or Sustainability which of the three interest you the most? Mr. Boulger said the Benson Park Committee.

Selectman Coutu said you mentioned volunteerism urgency. From a government leader's perspective, and I think I speak for all the Board when I say for us having vacancies on any of these committees or commissions is an urgency for us. We would like to have people with diverse

opinions. As former Selectman Maddox used to say, if everybody is of the same opinion, just have one person here conduct a quick meeting and get the hell out. Diversity is important for us to achieve our goals and our objectives and to be successful. The Benson Park Committee apparently you've done a little bit of homework. You spoke of volunteerism. For somebody who doesn't know much about Benson Park is not aware that we have a crew of volunteers and we're always looking for new people, new ideas, fresh ideas and fresh hands on. Aside from what you said to me or said to this Board about Benson Park is there anything else you want to say that you think might enhance your opportunity - first of all, have you ever attended a meeting? Mr. Boulger said I have not. Selectman Coutu asked have you watched them on television. Mr. Boulger remarked I have. Selectman Coutu said there's where you get your education. That's critical.

Mark Boulger indicated we just bought our house in Hudson last year. It was always my understanding that kind of homeownership and attending the meetings kind of went hand in hand to have a say to the town. Just buying a house last year, this was my first wind at just trying to get more involved. We know we're going to be in Hudson for a little while. We both feel very passionately about all the effort that the town has put into Benson Park and we appreciate that. We have a dog. We got to the dog park. We spend time at the Memorial that's in the park. It's astounding. The tiny little taking place library there, the benches, the dedications, all the time and effort that you know that different communities and group efforts have been put into making that park what it is. A lot of people come in and walk through and walk right by it and take advantage of it. I feel like when you've been in the town for as long as we have, certainly not as long as others, you develop more of an appreciation for what it is and especially what it can be. Again this is really my first attempt, my first hand at getting involved in the community locally here. It was really just a passion for the park that drove me into deciding to apply.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Morin, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Mark J. Boulger as a member to the Benson Park Committee with a term to expire April 30, 2019, carried 4-0.

b) Conservation Commission - (1 vacancy - 1 alternate term to expire 12/31/17)

Mark J. Boulger - withdrew

c) Planning Board - no vacancies

d) Sustainability Committee - (4 vacancies - 2 member terms to expire 4/30/2019; 1 member term to expire 4/30/20; 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/20)

Mark J. Boulger - withdrew

## 6. CONSENT ITEMS

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

Selectman Morin asked to remove A. 1. for separate consideration.

Selectman Coutu said A. 2. as well and I might have another. I have questions but I'll pull it, C. 2.

Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman Morin, to approve consent items A 3-5, B, C. 1., D, E and F as noted or appropriate, carried 4-0.

A. Assessing Items

- 1) Current Use - Land Use Change Tax Abatement - Map 110, Lot 56, 12 Senter Farm Road

Chairman Luszey said the Assistant Assessor sent us a memo stating that either requesting us to rescind the prior current use penalty lien assessment amount and reapprove a new amount which you all have a copy of. Any discussion on that?

Selectman Routsis had a quick question about it. Do we base our value on P&Ss or on appraisals? Chairman Luszey said yes to both. The way an assessment is done is based on comps in the area at a certain particular point in time. I'm looking at this and the Assessor says that it should have been the new value. I'm assuming that that's correct. We're about to go in a complete reassessment of the town. Selectman Routsis indicated the only reason I ask is when I purchased my home, a big difference between my appraisal and my assessment at the time and they wouldn't accept my Purchase and Sale. It had to be my appraisal.

Selectman Coutu said I'm going to have the same comment for A. 1 and A. 2. It's the statement that the Assistant Assessor stated, "I am inclined to agree with the owner that the dollar value (both of them are different) estimate was excessive." I'm seeing that more and more. At what point do we start valuating - I know that the answer is well we're do a re-evaluation. I'm very, very disturbed. As Selectman Routsis pointed out that in one instance we're basing the assessment primarily on a Purchase and Sales Agreement. No purchase has taken place. It's just an agreement. I signed a Purchase and Sales Agreement about a month and a half ago and the seller pulled out at the last minute. It doesn't indicate any value. These things happen. I just find that hopefully this new assessment will bring a lot of this...Chairman Luszey said we have an option to defer this until our next regular scheduled meeting and ask the Assistant Assessor to come in and walk us through why this change is warranted.

Selectman Coutu said I'm inclined to agree that perhaps we should take both of them 1 and 2 and defer if there's no objection.

Chairman Luszey said I'm okay with that other than we did not approve one for item 2 at all. We're not revaluing 2 so if you want to do both at the same time. Is that what I'm hearing?

Selectman Routsis said A. 2 is going from \$175,000 to \$159,900.

Chairman Luszey asked do you want him to explain that one also. Selectman Coutu said yes. Just because they say they're asking \$159,000 doesn't mean that that devalues the property. As you know there's bidding wars going on in town on some properties. Does that mean he won't take more than \$159,900? If it goes up to \$179,000 or \$189,000 will he accept the value of that instead? Chairman Luszey said we'll address both of these at our next regularly scheduled meeting.

Selectman Coutu asked about 6. C. 2. I'm asking - there's no one here. I thought there would be someone here from the Police Department. When I look at the Chief's comments, we'd need two detail officers for Route 3A/Webster Street to include traffic cones or road barriers to make a one lane road yet when I look at the map it looks like a route similar to the route that the Tompkins Foundation used across from Alvirne High School. Of course this map is not clear and it doesn't delineate 102. Where is Webster Street in conjunction with this walk and why would we need cones on Webster Street? That's my question and there's no one here to answer that.

Selectman Morin indicated if you look at the bottom towards the river, that short section is on Webster Street. Selectman Coutu knew Webster Street - it runs parallel with the river but I didn't

know that was Webster because it wasn't delineated as such. I guess I can understand. It's just a short portion of it. I have no objection to fundraising for Anne Marie House. I'm a big supporter for Anne Marie House. They do an awful lot for our community.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to approve 6. C. 2. as noted and appropriate, carried 4-0.

- 2) Current Use - Land Use Change Tax Abatement, Map 116, Lot 98 - 29 Senter Farm Road, w/recommendation to abate
- 3) 2016 Tax Abatement Settlement - Map 100, Lot 15 - segTel, INC, dba FirstLight Fiber, w/recommendation to approve the abatement and settlement
- 4) Requalification of Elderly Exemptions - Map 128, Lot 001 - 19 Farmington Drive; Map 253, Lot 053 - 20 Williams Drive, w/recommendation to requalify
- 5) Current Use Lien Release - Map 207, Lot 5 - 139 Bush Hill Road, w/recommendation to approve

B. Water/Sewer Items - None

C. Licenses & Permits

- 1) Request to Solicit Funds - Teen Challenge New Hampshire
- 2) Outdoor Gathering Permit - Family Promise of Greater Nashua at Anne Marie House

D. Donations - None

E. Acceptance of Minutes

- 1) Minutes of the June 27, 2017 meeting
- 2) Minutes of the July 11, 2017 meeting

F. Calendar

07/26	7:00	Benson Park Landscape Cte - BOS Meeting Room
07/27	7:30	Zoning Brd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
08/01	7:00	Board of Selectmen - Workshop - BOS Meeting Room
08/02	7:00	Budget Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room
08/03	6:30	Recreation Cte - BOS Meeting Room
08/03	7:00	Benson Park Cte - HCTV Meeting Room
08/08	7:00	Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
08/09	7:00	Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
08/10	1:00	Trustees of the Trust Fund - Buxton CD Meeting Room
08/10	7:30	Zoning Brd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
08/14	7:00	Conservation Cmsn - Buxton CD Meeting Room
08/15	7:00	Cable Utility Cte - HCTV Ctr.
08/15	7:00	Municipal Utility Cte - BOS Meeting Room
08/16	7:00	Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
08/17	7:00	Benson Park Cte - HCTV Meeting Room
08/22	7:00	Board of Selectmen - BOS Meeting Room
08/23	7:00	Benson Park Landscape Cte - BOS Meeting Room
08/23	7:00	Planning Brd - Buxton CD Meeting Room
08/24	7:30	Zoning Brd of Adjustment - Buxton CD Meeting Room
08/28	7:00	Sustainability Cte - Buxton CD Meeting Room

OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on July 11, 2017

- 1) *Motion by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to hire Daniel Cross, Jr., to the position of Truck Driver/Laborer in the Highway Department at a rate of \$18.02 per hour (Grade VIII, Step Minimum) effective July 16, 2017, carried 3-0-2. Selectman Coutu and Selectman Routsis abstained.*
- 2) *Motion to adjourn at 10:42 p.m. by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Coutu, carried 5-0.*

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Eagle Scout Project - Kyle Dubay

Chairman Luszey recognized Kyle Dubay.

Kyle Dubay, 9 Elaine Street. Chairman Luszey asked Kyle to tell us a little bit what you're up to, and what you would like to do, and what you need from us. Kyle said the project is across from Alvirne - the Alvirne Tree Farm. I was hoping to do a turnpike where we dig out the trail a little bit - the muddy part - add geotextile material to not let gravel go through and then put gravel on top of that and then wrap the geotextile around it to let water drain through and then put topsoil on top. I've already gotten approval from the Eagle Board to do this project. My main reason for coming was for fundraising. I wanted to make sure I had permission before I did anything fundraiser wise. I've gotten permission from the store owner at 7-Eleven on 230 Central Street. I was hoping to get your permission as well.

Selectman Coutu asked is that the cross country trail that you want to do. Kyle said yes. Selectman Coutu said it needs it. It's bad. Mr. Chairman and members of the Board having been involved in several Eagle Scout projects myself, the folks at 7-Eleven have been fantastic to these kids in allowing them to use their water and their facility to wash cars. I've gone and had my car washed by several scouts in the past. It gets expensive after a while. It's well worth the donation. I have no objection and I wish you much success with your car wash.

*Motion by Selectman Morin, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to allow Kyle Dubay to fundraise for his Eagle Scout project by holding a one day car wash at 7-Eleven on Central Street, carried 4-0.*

Kyle Dubay noted the date of the car wash is this Saturday, July 29, from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. at 230 Central Street, 7-Eleven.

B. Public Hearing - Acceptance of a donation of the Mallory Gray Amphitheater valued at \$29,933.71 to Benson Park

Chairman Luszey recognized Jeremy Griffus.

Good evening Mr. Chairman and members of the Board. Jeremy Griffus, 203 Central Street. I'm here tonight representing the Gray family as well as the Mal's Pals organization who set out in 2010 to start raising funds to build the Mallory Gray amphitheater at Benson Park. Mallory former resident and student here in Hudson died October 18, 2009 at the age of 13. It was a long battle of rheumatoid arthritis and leukemia. Working closely with her family and the number of dedicated people who I'd like to mention - there's no way I'd be able to mention all of them because everybody just worked really hard to get this done. Again on behalf of the Gray family to thank

the Lavoie family - Lee, his wife, the kids; the Regan family, the Bowens - Lori Bowen stepped up to the plate and accepted a position. I refused and she was busy enough. She was working, a full time mom, and she took this challenge as well as the entire family. I have no doubt this project wouldn't be done without that family; the Langlais family, anybody who paid to have pink flamingos put on your front lawn or somebody else's front lawn as a fundraiser, anybody that built a cardboard sled or showed up to one of our fundraisers to support it, ladies night, a number of events; Heidi Greeves, Benson Park volunteers. There's too many to mention. I do know that the construction of the project wouldn't have been possible without Dick Empey, Joe Undercofler, and again so many more. I don't know all their names. Also the Highway Department - Kevin and his guys really stepped up to the plate. When this committee was really in a jam, stepped up and got the job done. We owe so much to everybody. We're proud that the amphitheater is up. We recently installed the plaque which states "Mallory Gray Amphitheater" on the crossbar. It will forever be know "Mallory Gray Amphitheater". So we're really excited about that. The value is already stated. That includes the parts that the Highway Department picked up. We did reimburse Kevin for the parts that he spent. However, it doesn't include labor. As stated, the value is \$29,933.71. We're very excited and hope you accept this donation to the town.

Selectman Morin thanked Mr. Griffus and your committee for doing that. It's a great addition to the park.

Chairman Luszey opened the public hearing at 7:24 p.m. Does anyone in the audience wish to speak on this item? Seeing none. We'll close the public hearing at 7:25 p.m.

*Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Morin, to accept a donation of the Mallory Gray Amphitheater valued at \$29,933.71 which is located in Benson Park, carried 4-0.*

C. Acceptance of Police Captain Kevin DiNapoli's letter of resignation

Chairman Luszey said we've all had an opportunity to read that. He'll be missed.

*Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman Coutu, to accept Police Captain Kevin DiNapoli's letter of resignation and to thank him for his many years of service and dedication to the Town of Hudson, carried 4-0.*

D. Land Use Director

Chairman Luszey noted we all saw that in our packet. If there are any comments? We interviewed a number of folks. We put out an offer to George Thebarga and he accept.

*Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to hire George Thebarga for the position of Land Use Director for the Town of Hudson at an annual starting salary of \$98,500 effective August 30, 2017.*

Selectman Coutu said as you stated we did interview several candidates - 3 candidates matter of fact. I'm excited and expect that Mr. Thebarga is going to be a great addition to our staff.

Chairman Luszey echoed that. I'm excited to see what he brings.

*Vote: Motion carried 4-0.*

E. 9/11 Memorial

Chairman Luszey stated in your packet you should have saw a note that basically we're coming up to 15 years I guess it is for 9/11 to observe the attack on the twin towers. This year Governor

Sununu has called and said he would like to speak. On the back of your letter is a tentative draft for the ceremony. If everybody is okay with that, we'd accept this as the program for the day. We will get them in there. Selectman Coutu said if he's going to honor us with his presence, we should let him speak.

Just for the audience that's watching, Chairman Luszey stated we will observe it September 11<sup>th</sup> and we will begin at 6:30 p.m. I hope many will come out to observe the day. There are many, many people that have sacrificed.

Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to hold a 9/11 Observance on Monday, September 11, 2017 at 6:30 p.m. at Benson Park, carried 4-0.

F. Discussion relative to the Coalition Against Bigger Trucks

Chairman Luszey indicated this is a memo relative to Coalition Against Bigger Trucks. I received this is our e-mail. I forwarded it on to everyone. I'm not sure what the Board wants to do with it. I'm looking for input.

Selectman Coutu believed they're invited to come. Donna Graham indicted no. Chairman Luszey wanted to have a discussion. Selectman Coutu said I read it when I first got it in an e-mail format and then I read it formally in my packet. It's of no interest to me.

Chairman Luszey was of the same opinion. It's a very self-centered, self-serving type of organization. I'm not sure what we would benefit if anything from it. Selectman Coutu noted it would hurt our industrial community from banning different sizes from coming in and out of our town. Chairman Luszey thought in terms of big trucks, I think we do a pretty good job managing them with the ordinances that we have and having to come in for special permits for certain runs and things like that. I don't think we need to do anything further.

9. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman Coutu - I want to thank the Police Chief and the Police Department. We all received a memo from him relative to the directed patrols that we had requested that he try to fit into the schedule down at the Sagamore Bridge. In a short period of time, they had already cited 45 people I believe for going through the red light. As I came here this evening, dammit my light was green and as I was proceeding, I was the second vehicle. The first one almost got clipped by two cars coming flying through the red light. It's ongoing. We can't have police at every single corner. I don't fault them. I'm glad that they're doing directed patrols. It's just a matter of time. Something very tragic is going to happen. Not only are they doing directed patrols there, I saw a State cruiser out on the Sagamore Bridge on the opposite side - on the Nashua side. I just wanted to respond a well. I'm very pleased with the efforts being made by our Police Department and also very grateful that they're focusing a little more as well in other areas of Lowell Road. I noticed a couple of cruisers today on Lowell Road doing directed patrols. I'm very pleased with that.

Other than that, I hope everyone has a very safe summer. It's going along well except for the rain. Those of you who are on vacation, I hope your vacations aren't being spoiled by the rain. I'm looking forward to hopefully see an awful lot of people at the 9/11 Memorial. It will be the weekend I'm coming back from Bermuda. I'll be there and looking forward to see all the people. Thank you.

Selectman Morin - Benson Committee has a plan in place for the electrical at the park. I'll have them give you an update at the workshop next week and they move forward with Mr. Burns to get that taken care of to process the POs that was needed to get that moving.

I also have an update on the 9/11. We had an official photographer Christine Green. She's working on putting pictures together to get that video going so we can get that done. We will ask Cable TV to do some filming at the ceremony to add to that to get that finished up.

Selectman Routsis - I have nothing.

Selectman Luszey - If I may just follow up on that whole thing on 9/11. I hope that you two would actually work on putting together the thing you guys do for the middle school - that narrative to fall right on. I will tell you even though my wife is no longer teaching, she has needled me and she has needled me again to say if you see him, tell them to get it done. It is a great teaching moment.

Selectman Coutu noted Selectman Morin just told me this evening that it is anticipated that a group of college students will be coming to the 9/11 Memorial ceremony with a college professor. Selectman Morin and I agreed that if the opportunity avails itself if they would be willing to stay, we would do the presentation for them and we could do it there. We've done it in the field as well as in the classroom. We both enjoy doing it. If it's amendable to them, we will and if cable television is there, we'll have them follow us with the cameras so that they can get it firsthand. It's just not a scripted narrative that we're going to read as voice overs to a film. The film and the severity of the damage and the impact that it had on the New York community as well as the country as a whole is something that we want people to look at with soft, silent pensive music so that they can take in the imagery and the realization of the impact that this attack on our country had. Everything else is just an aside but that focusing on the damage and the lives lost is the most important part of the story and no necessarily what Dave and I bring to it. We've been so involved that...Chairman Luszey said you bring a Hudson hometown perspective.

Selectman Coutu said we try. We're proud of our memorial. For a municipal memorial, it's one of the largest I've seen and I've been to several dedications as has Selectman Morin. We get invited all the time to go to others. God love them, they're nice, they're beautiful, and they do the best they can but Dave got us a big piece of steel and we took full advantage of it. I think that memorializing the life that was lost right here in Hudson had a significant impact on us. Selectman Morin, former Fire Captain, is well aware of the impact that it had on the New York Fire Department. They were the first responders and God love them all. They're still dying today as a result of it. Hopefully we'll put together a nice film and we'll watch the editing process together, make some suggestions, and they're make suggestions to us, and hopefully work out great. The photographer he speaks of, she's been our photographer since day one. She's put out a book. It's a coffee table book of the pictures and all of the - that too is very reflective to what happened. She's done an outstanding job. I think that she'll lend a lot of credence to what we say and what actually happened with her photograph. I'm glad she's coming back to do this for us.

Chairman Luszey indicated Benson's workshop is next Tuesday. It will be in the Buxton conference room. It will be formatted similar to when we had the workshop with all the department heads roundtable. I had a conversation with the Chairman of the Friends of Bensons. Basically what I told him is it's a discussion about where they came from, where they're at, and what their expectations are, where they're going. For me, it's a bit of an education for some of us that were not on this committee when those committees were formed. There is deeds and contracts with the Friends of Benson that folks need to be aware of. Some of the nuances to it like what this Board is obligated to provide and not provide and also kind of give directions to where we'd like to see Benson's going, where it's at. It's more of a planning type of conversation to lay the ground rules for the upcoming budget process for those two committees. All is welcome to attend. Again it's a round table discussion and I hope we have some good participation.

10. NONPUBLIC SESSION

*Motion by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Routsis, to enter Nonpublic Session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3 (c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of the public body itself, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine, or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant; and (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against the public body or any subdivision thereof, or against any member thereof because of his or her membership in such public body, until the claim or litigation has been fully adjudicated or otherwise settled. Any application filed for tax abatement, pursuant to law, with any body or board shall not constitute a threatened or filed litigation against any public body for the purposes of this subparagraph, carried 4-0 by roll call.*

Chairman Luszey entered Nonpublic Session at 7:41 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room.

Chairman Luszey entered open session at 8:19 p.m.

*Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman Morin, to deny the hardship application of Map 182, Lot 39 - 5 Reed Street, carried 4-0.*

11. ADJOURNMENT

*Motion to adjourn at 8:19 p.m. by Selectman Coutu, seconded by Selectman Morin, carried 4-0.*

Chairman Luszey reopened the meeting at 8:25 p.m.

The Board discussed the following topics: budget parameters, status of Freedom Field, and September Workshop.

*Motion by Selectman Routsis, seconded by Selectman Morin to adjourn at 8:34 p.m., carried 4-0.*

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

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Thaddeus Luszey, Chairman

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Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

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Angela Routsis, Selectman

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David S. Morin, Selectman