

Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
May 22, 2024

Present: James Bailey – Chairman, Richard Pelletier – Selectman, Iris Campbell – Selectwoman and Laura Buono, Town Administrator

Others present: Chris Parsons, David Konesko, David Carver, Consuelo Carver, Riche' Colcombe, Brad Fyfe, Greg Marsh, Walter Crane, Cheryl Schneider, Tom Patenaude, Tom Patenaude, Kathleen Weber, Dana Clow, Natalie Crane, Kathy Anderson, Zachary Wolf, Jannifer Schamel, Michael J. Schamel, Bill Lewis, Michael H. Schamel, Joshua Matthew, Steve Livingston, Barbara Clark, Nancy DeMoura, Keith DeMoura, Steve Parenteau, Patty Parenteau

Meeting opened at 6:00 pm
Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

1. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Chairman Bailey made a motion to go into nonpublic session at 6:01 pm under RSA 91-A: 3 II B Hiring. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bailey – yes, Campbell – yes, Pelletier – yes. The motion passed.

In attendance: Chairman Bailey, Selectwoman Campbell, Selectman Pelletier, Town Administrator Laura Buono, Police Chief Chris Parsons

The Chief came to speak with the Board regarding one of his open full-time positions and his recommendation to hire Keegan Finley. Keegan graduated top of her criminal justice class and has passed her background check. Chief Parsons said she will be attending the police academy this summer but will have in-house training in the meantime.

Chairman Bailey made a motion to come out of nonpublic session at 6:08 pm. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion. Roll call vote: Bailey – yes, Campbell – yes, Pelletier – yes. The motion passed.

Chairman Bailey made a motion to hire Keegan Finley to fill one of the full-time positions in the police department. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

2. MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Bailey made a motion to accept the meeting minutes dated May 8, 2024. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

3. MANIFEST

Chairman Bailey made a motion to authorize the Selectmen to sign manifests and order the Treasurer to sign Payroll Check numbers 19304 – 19335 a/k/a Vouchers #20 & 21 in the amount of \$206,794.80 (includes 151 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 031664 – 031764 a/k/a Voucher #19 (replacement check), & 20 in the amount of \$237,952.11. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

4. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bailey made a motion to approve the Consent Agenda for May 22, 2024. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

- InvestNH Planning Grant between CNHRPC & Town of Hillsborough
- ARPA Asset Management Grant Extension for Water/Sewer Dept.
- Intent to Excavate – Map 7 Lot 196 2nd NH Turnpike
- Yield Tax Assessment – Map 5 Lot 70 Farley Road \$3,586.46; Map 11 Lot 50 216 Bible Hill Road \$228.08; Map 4 Lot 53 316 Farley Road \$1,211.95; Map 1 Lot 10 291 High Range Road \$1,701.52; Map 11 Lots 50-5 & 50-6 \$109.50; Map 11F Lot 228 500 W. Main Street \$91.56; Map 1 Lot 40 Severance Road \$9,162.19.
- Cemetery Deed – G&K Flanders @ Harvey Memorial Cemetery
- Gravel Tax Levy – Map 7 Lot 190 \$267.00
- First Issue Property Tax Warrant in the amount of \$9,409,326.00

5. BUTLER PARK – BENCHES

The Board approved the purchase of new benches for Butler Park.

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Riche' Colcombe said she has questions from people who know she attends the Selectmen's meetings:

- One question was if the town is aware the chimney is separating from the old school. Ms. Buono said she will check with building maintenance.
- A resident of Franklin Pierce is curious how long the dock will be gone for. Ms. Buono suggested to Ms. Colcombe to direct these people to give her a call at the office. Currently the new dock is being fabricated and should take about 2 weeks.

7. COMMUNITY POWER

Ms. Buono reported Community Power is pulling together the website material and said the required paperwork was signed and sent to the State. Selectman Pelletier asked when the new rates take place, Ms. Buono will find out when.

8. EVERSOURCE ABATEMENT MEETING

Ms. Buono briefed the Board on the multi-town mediation regarding the abatement process between PSNH (now Eversource) and many communities which goes back to 2017 and has been going back several years. Very little was accomplished during the session, and we are now waiting to hear what the next step will be.

9. PUBLIC HEARING – ATV RIDERS REQUEST

Chairman Bailey opened the public hearing at 6:30 pm for the purpose of the request of the Contoocook Valley ATV Riders Club to travel along portions of the following class V roads: Union Street, Prospect Street and Bear Hill Road.

Brad Fyfe, ATV club member, using a map, showed the roads the club wants to use up to the Hillsborough rail trail. The goal is to connect the rail trail to the Contoocook Valley ATV trail system.

Chairman Bailey said he knows Deering provided permission on some of their roads as well and wasn't sure if the permission was for a limited time. Mr. Fyfe said it is a 3-part permission process, Deering is first, Hillsborough second and the State is third. Deering said permission starts when all three are approved.

Cheryl Schneider (Union Street) asked if this will allow year-round access. Mr. Fyfe said no, only for the open season from May 23 to November 3, riding on the street during daylight hours only.

Kathleen Weber asked what those hours are. Mr. Fyfe said sunrise to sunset. Ms. Weber asked who would police that. Mr. Fyfe said Fish & Game or local fire department.

David Carver (Bear Hill Road) asked if there were contingencies with the Deering approval. Mr. Fyfe said there were no contingencies.

Gordon Clark asked if using Union Street will connect to the rail trail. Mr. Fyfe said yes.

Mr. Fyfe showed the connection from Deering to Hillsborough to the trail system off Bear Hill Road. The requested connection would end the dead-end trail that's in place now which ends at Contoocook Mills.

Consuelo Carver (Bear Hill Road) would like to keep her nice afternoons without ATVs alongside her yard disturbing her dog, the bald eagles, the deer etc. throwing trash, riding in large groups, tearing up the road in mud season. Mr. Fyfe recommended she call Fish & Game during the mud season. Ms. Carver is not in favor of this request.

David Carver (Bear Hill Road) spoke about the 50 people that were not notified about the hearing because they don't live on the affected roads but use Bear Hill Road for walking, running, biking etc. Mr. Carver is not in favor of the request. Mr. Carver said to prepare for this meeting he walked some ATV trails and was not impressed with the amount of nip bottles and beer bottles he has seen on the ATV trails.

Walter Crane (Bear Hill Road) sees people enjoying the environment on Bear Hill Road and the historical value of the area. He feels a guard rail is needed along the banks of the river. The intersection of Prospect and Bear Hill Road is a dangerous one. The cemetery on top of the hill needs protection and there are several blind driveways. Mr. Crane is not in favor.

Dana Clow (Bear Hill Road) asked where the designated load and unload would be. Mr. Fyfe said there is parking at Grimes Field and Pats Peak to name a few.

Steve Livingston (Barden Hill) asked if alternate routes were considered. Mr. Fyfe said the original plan was to go past Tooky Mills and connect on to Mill Street and jump on the state rail bed. But, it was thought staying on a long straight road would be safer. Either way would be fine for him. Chairman Bailey explained when the club first came to the Board, that was the first route that they were taking, and the Board felt it was too dangerous and asked the club to come up with a different route, which is being presented this evening.

Cheryl Schneider asked if it was considered that Union Street is a busy road because it is a short cut between Antrim, Bennington straight through to Henniker. Chairman Bailey said that is why there is this public hearing. The Selectmen at the time asked for another alternate route and that is what is being presented this evening.

David Carver asked how the submitted letters and emails are reviewed pertaining to this public hearing. Ms. Buono said the Board has received copies of the letters and emails which will be included with the meeting minutes.

Michael Schamel (Bear Hill Road) enjoys 4-wheeling but agrees there are too many pedestrians in this area and adding ATVs would be unsafe.

Walter Crane suggested an alternate route going from Henniker down to Clement Hill in Deering that is much safer.

Jennifer Schamel asked if there are specific rules for loading and unloading the ATVs, there is an area across from her property that people often use to pull over. Mr. Fyfe said the club has rules and locations for loading and unloading. Ms. Schamel does not want to be put in the position of policing.

Dana Clow recommended conditions be set for loading and unloading.

David Carver asked the Board to deny the request.

Consuelo Carver asked what the age limit is for driving ATVs on the roads. Mr. Fyfe said these roads would require a driver's license.

Natalie Crane asked the Board how they will base their decision; she too is not in favor. Chairman Bailey said the Board will base the decision on the public input.

Walter Crane asked if the names of the letters and emails be read into the record. Ms. Buono read the names:

Sofia Kuzmyak

Edward Gannon

Anita Moham

Mr. & Mrs. Carver

Ms. Buono said there was another email received today, and the concern was parking. Ms. Buono asked if this request is approved, her understanding is this information will also be on the State maps for ATV trails. Mr. Fyfe said the club sells the maps as part of their fundraiser and by doing so their trails will not be on the State trail maps. Ms. Buono asked if the club would not take State money for their trails. Mr. Fyfe said their trail money is raised by ATV registrations.

Ms. Shamel (Bear Hill Road) asked what the emissions level are from ATVs. Also, the maps are published, and anyone can obtain those maps, she too is not in favor.

Mike Schamel said there is a unique balance between people and Bear Hill Road, he feels it would be a mistake to grant approval.

Riche' Colcombe said there have been good points made, there were 64 letters sent out and about 20 people showed up, 44 did not, does that weigh into the Boards decision? Chairman Bailey said the Board can't consider the 44 who didn't show because the Board does not know what they would say.

Selectman Pelletier asked Mr. Fyfe how often the trail would be used. Mr. Fyfe said that would be up to individuals. Selectman Pelletier then asked what happens if the Board denies this request, would another route be looked at. Mr. Fyfe said if we can yes, also the rail trail limit is 50" wide from Deering to Bennington which limits the size of the ATV. Another point Selectman Pelletier made is the sun rises early and potentially the neighborhood could be waking up to an ATV going by. He asked if other communities put time restrictions on. Mr. Fyfe said there is a time limit in Berlin. Selectman Pelletier asked what the expected usage is if approved. Mr. Fyfe doesn't know, maybe 20 or 30 a day.

Chairman Bailey closed the public hearing at 7:27 pm.

Chairman Bailey made a motion to deny the request of the ATV club to use Union Street, Prospect and Bear Hill Road. Selectman Pelletier seconded the motion, the motion passed.

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 pm

A true record
Mary Whalen
Recording Secretary

Date: _____

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

James C. Bailey, III, Chairman

Iris Campbell, Selectwoman

Richard Pelletier, Selectman