



NORTHFIELD BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

Minutes of the meeting of December 5, 2023

Present: Selectman Jason Durgin, Selectman Ross Cunningham, Selectman Mark Hubbell

Town Staff Present: Town Administrator Stephanie Giovannucci, Interim Public Works Director Adam Dow, Police Chief Mike Hutchinson, and Police Lt. Jesse Colby.

Sel. Durgin reopened the public meeting at 5:00 pm.

Foothills Foundation

Carrie Bernash of Foothills Foundation updated the Board on the projects that they have been working on which include adding trails, connecting existing trail systems, and mapping out the trail systems for ease of use. She added that they Board meets monthly on the 1st Monday. Mrs. Bernash stated that the Board is made up on community members, Highland Mountain Bike Park and White-Water Rafters. Their goal is to make this area a destination for recreation.

Jada Lindblom of UNH Cooperative Extension stated that she's been working with Foothills to collaborate them with other recreational groups, receive grants, and help with research.

Mike Geldermann of New England Mountain Bike Association explained that they have been collaborating with Foothills in an effort to assist with building the trail system to connect to the Winni River Trail.

Ken Norton and Sheryl Tedford of the Winni River Trail discussed the existing trail system, and that they are looking to connect to the Northern Rail Trail and at some point, from Rt. 140 to the WOW Trail. Mr. Norton asked if Surette Park could be plowed in the winter because people like to utilize the trail system all year.

Marty Parichand of the Mill City Park in Franklin explained how the White Water Rafting community has grown and the connection it has and wishes to continue with Northfield. Sel. Hubbell explained concerns regarding the traffic on Cross Mill and Hodgdon Rd and asked that we have more communication or a point of contact. Mr. Parichand explained the significant in the location for WWR utilizing the drop in the river and the force of the water.

Mark Hayes of Highland Mountain Bike Park stated that he opened the park 20 years ago and was receiving 1600 visitors, in 2021 they were at 54000 visitors. He added that they installed the pump track at Southwick School, which was constructed by grants and donations. He stated that he has a cell tower on the top of his mountain and just signed a new contract with the conditions that they donate \$20,000 to Foothills. They are partners with Meadowsend Timberlands who own abutting lots and are able to construct free trails through their properties, and they just purchased 85 acres to build more free trails.

Vehicle Bids

Mrs. Giovannucci informed them that we did not receive any bids, Board would like to put it more out there on other sites.

Solid Waste Collection Bids

Mrs. Giovannucci opened the one bid received from Casella.

Cunningham/Hubbell moved to table the decision to the next meeting so they had time to review. **Motion Passed.**

2024 Proposed Budget Review

Mrs. Giovannucci stated that she had new numbers for dental, and that we went back and looked at personnel, plus added in the proposed contract from Casella, bringing the budget to a 1.6% increase. Board discussed further and agreed to the new figures.

Cunningham/Hubbell moved to approve the adjusted budget as recommended by the Board of Selectmen. **Motion Passed.**

Public Input

Scott Haskins expressed his concerns with the price on picking up trash and asked if Casella would do a three-year contract to be able to get the Transfer Station up in running for trash collection. Sel. Durgin stated that we would still have to haul it out.

Kristen Vaughn stated that the current contract states we can ask for a 2-year extension.

Carl Bartlett talked about the cost and comparisons to resident's time and gas. He added concerns about visitors to the Mt. Bike Park as he has refused access to his land.

Administration

Mrs. Giovannucci presented the Board with a new Finance Directors job description.

Cunningham/Hubbell moved to approved the Finance Directors job description. **Motion Passed.**

Mrs. Giovannucci informed the Board that we need to do a Public Hearing to accept the Block Grant from HB 2, she added that the next meeting would be great. Board agreed.

Police Department

Chief Hutchinson informed the Board that the fire arms have been ordered, and that we are working on ordering the tasers soon.

Chief Hutchinson stated that the software in their cameras are not compatible with Windows 11, so we are in need of the new software as we are upgrading to 11 next year. He added that he is going to hold off on computer replacement and apply for the grant next year.

Public Works Department

Mr. Dow stated that Hiltz has completed the work at Sarah, Silver, Megan and R&D plans to reclaim on Thursday.

Mark Marr asked the Board for permission to accept 1-7 plastics at the Recycling Center and allow them to be mixed. He stated it creates stronger bales allowing us to bale more and will cause less in the curbside waste. Mr. Marr added that we need 36 bales to send out and we have about 20 right now.

Board agreed we can try it out for a year and see how it goes.

Cunningham/Hubbell moved to approve the acceptance of 1-7 plastics. **Motion Passed.**

Sel. Hubbell stated that he agrees with getting the 12,000lb lift as the concrete is thick enough and insurance will cover. Board signed the Purchase Request.

Cunningham/Hubbell moved to approve the purchase of the 12,000lb lift. **Motion Passed.**

New Business

Sel. Hubbell asked about the Electric, Mrs. Giovannucci stated that she is looking into it and has received many calls from the company. Sel. Cunningham stated that the County may be looking to lead the program which will save the town some time. He will let Mrs. Giovannucci know once it has been decided.

Chief Hutchinson asked since the Public Works Dept is short staffed if other staff members who have a CDL could help them with plowing. Board asked for a recommendation on what that would look like.

Sel. Hubbell stated that he and Sel. Durgin were in the Christmas Parade in Tilton and asked if the fireworks mess was cleaned up. Chief Hutchinson confirmed it was. Mrs. Giovannucci stated that their Public Works Dept cleans it up, but due to the storm they were delayed in getting over there.

Unfinished Business

Hodgdon Rd Cemetery – No new updates

Other Business

Mrs. Giovannucci stated the Kip Cormier had to get a bond for a lot now owned by Eptam Plastic and he needs the Selectboard to release the bond even though the State confirms that the project is complete.

Cunningham/Hubbell moved to release the bond for property on Riverside Business Park. Motion Passed.

Review Minutes

Cunningham/Hubbell moved to approve the minutes of November 21, 2023. **Motion Passed.**

Public Input

Kristin Vaughn stated that she feels the recycling is a good idea.

Scott Haskins questioned rules for RV's on properties in a residential/commercial zone. Sel. Durgin noted the Zoning Ordinance.

Sel. Durgin recessed the meeting at 6:54pm.

Sel. Durgin reopened the meeting at 7:02pm

Non-Public Session

Durgin/Hubbell moved to go into Non-Public Session at 7:03 pm under NH RSA 91a;3-11 (A). Roll Call Vote – Sel. Cunningham – Yes, Sel. Hubbell – Yes, Sel. Durgin – Yes **Motion Passed.**

Durgin reconvened the public session at 8:00pm.

Durgin/Hubbell moved to seal the minutes of the non-public session because divulgence of the information likely would adversely affect the reputation of any person other than a member of the board or render the proposed action of the board ineffective. Roll call vote, Sel. Cunningham – Yes, Sel. Hubbell – Yes, Sel. Durgin - Yes. **Motion Passed minutes are hereby sealed.**

There being no other business, Sel. Durgin adjourned the meeting at 8:01 pm

Minutes approved December 19, 2023