



# **Town of Hopkinton, NH**

## **Office of the Select Board**

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### **SELECT BOARD PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES MONDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2018 APPROVED OCTOBER 29, 2018**

#### **CALL TO ORDER**

Chairman Jim O'Brien called this regular meeting of the Select Board to order at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, October 15, 2018, in the large meeting room in the Town Hall. Chairman O'Brien introduced the members of the Board. Steven Whitley led those assembled in the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Members Present:** Jim O'Brien, Ken Traum, Sara Persechino, and Steven Whitley.  
Sabrina Dunlap absent.

**Staff Present:** Neal Cass, Town Administrator, and Robin Buchanan, Administrative Assessing Assistant.

**Public Present:** Janet Krzyzaniak, Lynn Clark, Bonnie Christie, Stuart Arnet, Dijit Taylor, Lucia Kittredge, Rob Knight, Ron Klemarczyk, Bob LaPree, Carol Olden, Stephanie Verdile, Robin LeBlanc and North Sturtevant

#### **POINTS OF PRIDE**

Mr. Cass highlighted the Highway Department noting they are out in all weather, day and night, plowing, paving, repairing and rebuilding roads.

Mr. Traum stated he attended the Senior Luncheon on Wednesday, October 10, 2018, when Jim Turner was presented with the Boston Post Cane. He also noted that Paula Simpkins does a great job with the seniors. He also stated that the Library is functioning out of the lower level of the Slusser Center and is doing a great job.

Sara Persechino wanted to thank Neal Cass for his construction of the new service windows at the Town Hall.

Steve Whitley noted the Hopkinton High School Golf Team won the State title.

**ADMINISTRATIVE**

The Board reviewed documents for signature and approved (4-0) the consent Agenda, taking the following action on a motion by Mr. Traum and seconded by Ms. Persechino.

**CONSENT AGENDA    October 15, 2018**

<b>ACCOUNTS PAYABLE MANIFEST</b>	\$44,892.22
	\$46,183.24

<b>PAYROLL</b>	\$75,645.65
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**BUILDING PERMITS**

Scott A Chmura 166 Pleasant Pond construct 8x12 detached shed Map 206 Lot 7.1  
Messer Rudeman Family Trust 15 Cottage remodel 2 bathrooms Map 102 Lot 69

**SAFETY GRANT-PD****INTENT TO CUT**

Clement Pond LLC Map 204 Lot 8

The Board reviewed the Select Board Meeting Minutes of Monday, October 1, 2018. Mr. Traum made a motion, seconded by Ms. Persechino to approve the Public Meeting Minutes of October 1, 2018.

**VOTE:** Traum, Persechino and Whitley voting in favor of the motion; no votes against, Chairman O'Brien abstaining, MOTION APPROVED 3-0-1.

**APPOINTMENTS: Plan NH RE: MTAG (Municipal Technology Assistant Grant)**

The MTAG Program is for New Hampshire communities who want to expand options for places to live (e.g., by location, and/or design and/or price-point) and need to change their zoning regulations in order to do so. Grants range from \$5,000 to \$20,000. A 25% cash match is required.

Carol Olden, Robin LeBlanc, North Sturtevant and Stephanie Verdile are here to make suggestions to the Board to help when we resubmit the MTAG. Mr. Sturtevant stated the request was too broad for the areas of focus. He thought that having a meeting about their concerns regarding the application and would help the Board to reapply for the next round of grants.

Ms. Verdile suggested that we should get more letters of support from the community.

Ms. LeBlanc stated the program has been in effect for 30 years. She further stated citizens want walkable communities, with facilities nearby. She also noted that many more households have only one or two people in them.

Discussion ensued, with regards to the timeline, how the use of surveys is helpful and the need to collaborate with the community. Mr. Whitley stated the EDC is working on different ideas, but they still need to do groundwork and they need help in identifying a direction to go in. Mr. Whitley further stated all EDC meetings are open to the public.

Mr. Traum suggested that EDC hold a charette with Plan NH. A Plan NH charrette brings together diverse professionals to brainstorm recommendations to address challenges a community faces. Over a two-day period, the team visits the “target area” (e.g., downtown or significant neighborhood), talks with community leaders and members, and develops recommendations based on what they have seen and heard and also their own professional knowledge of ideas and trends could contribute to healthy and vibrant communities.

Discussion continued, with regards to the villages, undeveloped land, Hart’s corner conversation easement and the suggestion of housing in a TIF District.

Ms. Verdile, at the invitation of Mr. Whitley, will attend the EDC meeting on Thursday, October 18, 2018, which will be held at the Town Hall.

Chairman O’Brien thanked the members of Plan NH for their help.

#### **OLD BUSINESS:**

#### **NEW BUSINESS:**

**2019 Holiday Schedule:** Ms. Persechino stated at the last meeting she made a motion and Mr. Whitley seconded the motion for discussion. The motion was to change the name of Columbus Day on the Town Calendar to Indigenous People Day. Mr. Whitley felt it was best to wait until the other Board members were present for the discussion. Ms. Persechino withdrew her motion and asked Mr. Cass to put it on the next agenda for discussion. Ms. Persechino asked Lynn Clark to come forward and give a brief history of how Columbus Day came to be.

Ms. Clark, who has a background in Native Americans and was also the Director of the Mt. Kearsarge Museum, stated that the Native Americans have been here 12 thousand years. She stated that Columbus did not discover America, that it was discovered by John Cabot, who was from England. She continued that after the Revolutionary War, the United States wanted a clean break from England. However, Columbus did not discover America, he enslaved and tortured people and we are honoring him for something he did not do. It is time to move forward. We have done a disservice to the indigenous people who were here then and for those that are still here.

Mrs. Krzyzaniak disagreed with changing the name, she thinks it is wrong.

Mr. Traum stated he had hoped by putting the item on the agenda that we would receive more public input.

The Board agreed to put it on the agenda again in two weeks and will post it on the website and hopefully, they will get more input. It was decided that a public input session will be held on Monday, October 29, 2018 at 6:00 pm.

**Town Clerk/Tax Collector Update:** Mr. Cass stated the move will take place on Tuesday, October 23, 2018. Both offices will be closed for the day. Mr. Traum inquired if the Town Clerk/Tax Collector is ready to take credit cards. Mr. Cass replied no, but that it may happen after the move. Mr. Traum inquired if the move would have an impact on the elections. Mr. Cass replied no.

Mr. Cass further stated that everyone at the Town Hall has been working to come up with ideas, and everyone is flexible. Mr. Traum inquired if Mr. Cass had calculated the cost of the move and the savings of moving the office. Mr. Cass replied no, but he will do so. Mr. Cass stated the plan is to move Robin Buchanan's office out into the hall, Deb Gallant will move into Robin's old office, and Marilyn Bresaw will move into Deb's old office; the Town Clerk/Tax Collector's office will be located in Marilyn's old office.

**Budget Process Update:** Mr. Cass stated budgets were due on Friday, October 12, 2018 and they are all in. He will be meeting with Department Heads during this week and on October 25, 2018, all the Department Heads will get together for a Budget Summit.

Mr. Traum gave a brief overview of the Budget Committee Meeting held on Wednesday, October 10, 2018. He also stated the School Board is working cohesively with the Budget Committee.

**DES letter:** Mr. Cass stated we have received a letter from DES with regards to Cross Road, noting that a new culvert had been installed within an area jurisdictional under NH Wetlands Law, RSA 482-A. It further stated that approximately 500 square feet of land jurisdictional under RSA 482-A was impacted without authorization from NHDES. It further states it can be corrected by retaining the services of a NH Certified Wetlands Scientist (CWS) and submit an "After-the-Fact" Wetlands Permit Application to NHDES.

Mr. Cass stated that Hoyle & Tanner have been contacted. Hoyle and Tanner have a CWS on staff and they are confident that they can finish in the 30-day time limit. Mr. Whitley stated the original approval did not authorize a culvert. Mr. Traum stated the culvert was only to be temporary so they thought it was okay. Chairman O'Brien stated the approval was only for the removal of the beaver dam, not a culvert. Mr. Traum stated the beaver dam would not have been taken down if there was not a culvert there.

Chairman O'Brien stated the beavers have moved and the area is once again flooded, however, the beavers are no longer on Town property and therefore, the Town has no authority to remove them from someone else's property. He further stated our goal of public access of the road is now under water.

Anna Wells stated this is what beavers do. Mr. Cass stated he has been in touch with Fish and Game and only the property owner can remove the beavers from their property.

Chairman O'Brien stated we completed the removal on Town property and we have no plans to proceed any further. Ms. Persechino volunteered to speak with the property owner.

**Riverway Association DRAFT Ground Lease:**

Chairman O'Brien stated that the Board agreed to allow the Riverway Association to move a railway section house from its current location on land owned by TDS on Pine Street to a piece of land owned by the Town by the Riverway Association. Mr. Cass stated there were no changes from the Riverway Association. Mr. Whitley inquired about insurance. Mr. Cass replied he is waiting to hear back.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

**YTD Financials September 30, 2018:**

Mr. Cass stated that the Revenues look good. He further stated we receive the Rooms and Meals the last week in December and the flood money has just been received. Mr. Cass also informed the Board that the Ella Tarr Trust is almost up to date.

Mr. Cass stated expenses under Selectmen Expense looks over, however, it has been corrected.

**Joint Select/School Board Meeting:**

Mr. Cass stated the Joint Select/School Board meeting is scheduled for Thursday, October 25, 2018 at 5:30 pm. Discussion ensued, as to the location, but it was decided to hold the meeting at the Town Hall so that it could be live streamed.

Mr. Cass stated there will be a Rail Trail meeting at the Town Hall on Wednesday, October 17, 2018 beginning at 3:00 pm.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:**

Mr. Cass stated the Concord Monitor will be doing a Hopkinton newsletter very week. It will be e-mail to anyone that signs up.

Mr. Cass informed the Select Board that we have received the tax rate for 2018. It is \$34.74. He also informed the Board that the Warrant would be ready for signatures this week.

**PUBLIC FORUM:**

Ron Klemarczyk inquired as to the status of the land swap with the State. Mr. Cass replied all the work is with the State.

Bonnie Christie inquired if the Board had received an e-mail from citizen's concerned about the wetlands and protecting them. Mr. Whitley stated he has seen the e-mails and would like the Conservation Commission's input. Ms. Christie stated she hears the need for public access, but is not hearing the need to protect resources. Ms. Persechino stated we can do both.

**OTHER:**

Ms. Persechino stated that she felt that the updates on the Board meetings on Facebook were helpful and asked Mr. Cass if he would resume doing them.

Mr. Traum inquired if Mr. Cass had heard from Webster re: Granite Apollo. Mr. Cass stated he has sent several e-mails but will now call him.

Dijit Taylor, Chair of the Open Space Committee would like to give a history of Open Space before they proceed to a Non-Public Session with the Board.

Ms. Taylor recounted that the Open Space Committee was created in 2003 and that through a vote at Town Meeting appropriated \$5,000,000 for the purchase of land or other property interests therein, for the protection of natural heritage and rural character in the best interest of the Town... Ms. Taylor stated we have purchased seven (7) parcels to date and have spent \$2.1 million.

During 2008, the Select Board requested that the Open Space Committee refrain from making purchases. The Open Space committee moved forward on other projects working with the Conservation Commission on trail development and acquiring 3 additional parcels without using the bonded funds. She stated the Open Space Committee continues to explore its options and would like to go into non-public for the remainder of the discussion.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Respectfully submitted,

Robin Buchanan  
Administrative Assessing Assistant