



Town of Hopkinton

Office of Select Board

330 Main Street, Hopkinton, NH 03229-2627 - (603) 746-3170 – www.hopkinton-nh.gov

**SELECT BOARD
PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES
Hopkinton Town Hall – 330 Main Street
Monday, March 13, 2023
Approved**

I. CALL TO ORDER:

After a public site visit on Old South Road, which commenced at 5:00 p.m., the Select Board, Town Administrator, and any interested members of the public arrived at Town Hall. Chair Dunlap called this Public Meeting of the Select Board to order at 5:45 p.m. on Monday, March 13, 2023, and introduced the members of the Board.

Select Board

Members Present: Sabrina Dunlap; Ken Traum; Jeffrey Donohoe; Steven Whitley; and Thomas Lipoma

Staff Present: Neal Cass, Town Administrator, and Cara Johnson, Administrative/Assessing Assistant

Public Present: Tom Burack; Louise Carr; Bonnie Christie; Jeff Crosby, Town of Dunbarton Acting Road Agent; Dave Eliason; Nicholas Goulas; Celeste Hemingson; Wayne Poor; Paul Sanborn; and John Wuellenweber

II. POINTS OF PRIDE:

Mr. Cass noted:

- In the near future, the Police Department will be presenting a program on scammers and fraud and the Fire Department will have a program on first aid; both events will be held at the Slusser Center
- Dan Couture, of the DPW's Building and Grounds department, recently built some great shelves and bins to organize the computer equipment in storage at Town Hall
- Commendation for Carol Harless, Town Clerk/Tax Collector, and Christine Johnson, Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector, for the job they did today, assisting the continuous flow of residents casting absentee ballots the day before the forecast Town/School Election Day snowstorm

Chair Dunlap noted:

- Thanks to everyone who helped with setting up for the election
- Commendation for the DPW for their great work, and in advance of the upcoming snowstorm

Mr. Traum noted:

- Appreciation for Sara Persechino, Town Moderator, for her work with the election
- Commendation for Mr. Cass on another successful presentation at the library's "Cookies with Cass" program, which had 22 attendees
- The Energy Committee and several other groups will be co-sponsoring the NH Saves "Button Up" Workshop, which will focus on how citizens can improve energy efficiency in

their homes; this workshop will focus on how citizens can improve energy efficiency in their homes

Mr. Traum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whitley, that the Select Board become a co-sponsor of the NH Saves “Button Up” Workshop, on April 26, at the Hopkinton Library Community Room, from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m.

VOTE: Dunlap, Traum, Donohoe, Whitley, and Lipoma voted in favor of the motion, no votes against; **MOTION PASSED 5-0.**

III. ADMINISTRATIVE:

A. The Board reviewed documents for signature, and approved (5-0) the Consent Agenda of March 13, 2023, taking the following action on a motion made by Mr. Traum and seconded by Mr. Whitley:

TOWN OF HOPKINTON - SELECT BOARD CONSENT AGENDA MARCH 13, 2023			
ITEM	DATE	ACTION	COMMENT
AP MANIFEST			
AP MANIFEST DATED 3/13/2023	3/13/2023	APPROVE	\$141,643.76
PAYROLL			
EMPLOYEE PAYROLL			
EMPLOYEE PAYROLL DATED 3/13/2023	3/13/2023	APPROVE	\$93,025.75
DIRECT DEPOSIT: \$87,884.24			
CHECKS: \$5,141.51			
APPROVED SINCE PREVIOUS MEETING			
AP MANIFEST			
AP MANIFEST DATED 2/27/2023			\$1,919,986.48
AP MANIFEST DATED 3/6/2023			\$100,620.84
EMPLOYEE PAYROLL			
EMPLOYEE PAYROLL DATED 3/2/2023			\$97,475.61
DIRECT DEPOSIT: \$92,906.19			
CHECKS: \$4,569.42			
ELDERLY DEFERRAL APPLICATION			
102-025-000 - 68 CARRIAGE LN - MCEVOY	3/13/2023	APPROVE	\$1,484.00
ELDERLY EXEMPTION APPLICATION			
102-093-000 - 239 MAPLE ST - ASTLES	3/13/2023	APPROVE	\$120,000.00
SOLAR ENERGY SYSTEM EXEMPTION APPLICATION			
223-007-000 - 64 FLETCHER LN - CIANCE	3/13/2023	APPROVE	\$10,000.00

VETERAN CREDIT APPLICATIONS			
239-057-000 - 244 OLD PUTNEY HILL RD - GREANEY	3/13/2023	APPROVE	\$500.00
223-007-000 - 64 FLETCHER LN - O'DOUGHERTY	3/13/2023	APPROVE	\$500.00
218-028-000 - 90 TUCKER DR - TRANTHAM	3/13/2023	APPROVE	\$500.00
RIGHT TO BURY			
#1200 - OLD HOPKINTON - F/78/1 - HOTTEN-SOMERS	3/13/2023	APPROVE	
OTHER			
2022 EQUALIZATION MUNICIPAL ASSESSMENT DATA CERTIFICATE	3/13/2023	APPROVE	
APPOINTMENT TO OFFICE - HUMAN SERVICES ADISORY COMMITTEE - WHITE	3/13/2023	APPROVE	

VOTE: Dunlap, Traum, Donohoe, Whitley, and Lipoma voted in favor of the motion, no votes against; **MOTION PASSED 5-0.**

- B. The Board reviewed the Select Board Public Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 21, 2023. Mr. Traum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whitley, to approve the Select Board Public Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 21, 2023.

VOTE: Dunlap, Traum, Donohoe, Whitley, and Lipoma voted in favor of the motion, no votes against; **MOTION PASSED 5-0.**

- C. The Board reviewed the Select Board Nonpublic Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 21, 2023. Mr. Traum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Whitley, to approve the Select Board Nonpublic Meeting Minutes of Tuesday, February 21, 2023, and Mr. Traum noted they are not sealed.

VOTE: Dunlap, Traum, Donohoe, Whitley, and Lipoma voted in favor of the motion, no votes against; **MOTION PASSED 5-0.**

IV. PUBLIC HEARING RE: Laying out a road over Old South Road

After reading a list of reasons the petitioner, resident Nicholas Goulas, submitted to support his petition to upgrade Old South Road from a Class VI to a Class V road, Chair Dunlap invited public comment.

Resident Paul Sanborn:

- Provided Select Board members and Mr. Cass a packet of his research and conclusions
- Among his concerns were the dust, speeding, and impact on residents on the Dunbarton side of the road
- After careful consideration, he does not see enough positives to support the proposal

After Mr. Goulas noted that upgrading the road would provide opportunities for subdivision of his and his next door neighbor’s lots, he acknowledged that there could be some impact on the Dunbarton residents, but said he believes most travelers would continue to use Jewett Road or Sugar Hill Road. He went on to say that he believed this was an affordable upgrade that could be completed by the

DPW, and that the increase in taxable properties created by subdivision of current parcels would help offset any road construction costs.

A brief discussion of cost of this proposed project ensued, and Mr. Goulas said he would be open to discussion. He said he would consider sharing the cost with the Town, but does not have an estimate of the cost at this time. Mr. Whitley noted that the DPW provided an estimate for this project, completed as a Class V gravel road, which would be approximately \$700,000.00. Mr. Goulas said he believed this figure was high, but added that he would still consider a cost share, if he could obtain some alternate bids.

Resident Dave Eliason:

- Noted that he did not see any benefit of this proposal
- Expressed concern that more houses being built could result in a great increase in the number of vehicles traveling that stretch of road, bringing the potential for more people speeding on the road, which he says is already a problem

Resident Bonnie Christie:

- Noted that she was representing the Conservation Commission this evening
- Read a statement from the group, which included notation that they voted to submit testimony in opposition to changing Old South Road from Class VI to Class V
- Stated that there are approximately 600 acres of abutting conservation land, with a high concentration of wildlife, and this land is also utilized by citizens for numerous recreational purposes
- Asked that, during the decision making process, consideration be given to the effects of the numerous pollutants generated by changes to the existing road could have on the surrounding people, wildlife, and environment

On a related note, Chair Dunlap later added that, although the Open Space Committee did not vote on the matter, as the Conservation Commission did, individual members of the Open Space Committee expressed that they did not support this petition, and the other members unanimously agreed.

Jeff Crosby, the Dunbarton Acting Road Agent and member of Dunbarton's Planning Board:

- Provided a brief history of a stretch of Old Hopkinton Road, which is the Dunbarton road that continues into Hopkinton as Old South Road
- Noted that around 1990, a Dunbarton resident who owned two building lots paid the full cost for converting that portion of Old Hopkinton Road from Class VI to a gravel Class V road
- Stated that many years later, residents in Dunbarton voted in favor of the Town of Dunbarton paving that portion of road, which stops about 150 feet before the Hopkinton town line
- Added that this stretch of Class VI road in Dunbarton, leading to Old South Road in Hopkinton, is not maintained

Resident Tom Burack:

- Noted that he and his wife, Emilie, neither support nor oppose this petition
- Stated that there are several questions and concerns, including ownership of the road, school bus safety, and drainage, and he hopes these will be considered before making a decision on the petition

Discussion ensued regarding the town burden and public interest criteria for making a decision on this type of petition, information that was part of a handout provided to hearing attendees. Resident Celeste Hemingson expressed concern for the land and trails in the Old South Road area, and Mr. Lipoma, who was part of a committee studying Hopkinton's Class VI roads last year, noted that Old South Road has an abundance of conservation land abutting it and no changes were recommended for this road at the conclusion of that study. Mr. Whitley added that anyone could submit a layout petition on a Class VI road, and the Select Board would be obligated to go through the steps for making a decision on the petition, independent the Class VI Roads Committee's recommendations.

After Mr. Lipoma explained that Class VI roads were studied as part of the development of a Class VI road building policy, Resident John Wuellenweber noted that, as a builder, he is in favor of this petition.

Resident Wayne Poor:

- Noted that he is also a builder/contractor
- Said that he is not opposed to development, but believes any cost of upgrading a road for development purposes should be the responsibility of the person seeking to develop, not the residents of the town

The Select Board and Mr. Cass discussed concerns and questions raised during the hearing; followed the test criteria that was part of the handout; reviewed the private rights and public interest aspects; and found the burden outweighs the public interest.

Mr. Whitley made a motion, seconded by Mr. Traum, that the Select Board denies the layout petition submitted by Nicholas Goulas, for the reasons just articulated for the layout test.

VOTE: Dunlap, Traum, Donohoe, Whitley, and Lipoma voted in favor of the motion, no votes against; **MOTION PASSED 5-0.**

Following the vote on the layout petition, Chair Dunlap announced that, due to the forecast snowstorm, Sara Persechino, Town Moderator, made the decision to postpone the Town/School Election to March 28, 2023. Ms. Persechino noted that:

- The rescheduled election date is per NH RSA
- Town Meeting is still scheduled for Saturday, March 18
- Absentee ballots cast today, due to storm warning, will be counted on March 28
- People who voted by absentee ballot today have the right to vote in person on March 28, but are asked to do so before 9:00 a.m., when processing of absentee ballots begins
- People who will not be available to vote on March 28 can still vote by absentee ballot before that date

V. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Town Meeting 2023:

1. Regarding updates for voting day, Mr. Cass noted that this item was put on the agenda last Friday, with no idea what the day would bring; it was noted the snowstorm will likely impact voting day.
2. For the Saturday business session, Mr. Cass asked that any additional presentation slides be sent to him, and noted that the Lottery Commission provided slides for the

Keno presentation.

B. Housing Committee: Chair Dunlap noted that the applications from prospective committee members have been received and will be reviewed.

VI. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Boat Launch Name Request: Discussion ensued among Board members and Mr. Cass. It was noted that more information is needed regarding specifics of the request, and that a policy must be developed for how town locations and landmarks are named for specific people or families.
- B. Sno-Mad Trail Use Request: Mr. Cass noted that the Sno-Mads snowmobile club requested permission to ride on a portion of land that is now Town-owned.

After a short discussion, Mr. Traum made a motion, seconded by Mr. Donohoe, to approve the Sno-Mads' request to use the Town-owned parcel for one year.

VOTE: Dunlap, Traum, Donohoe, Whitley, and Lipoma voted in favor of the motion, no votes against; **MOTION PASSED 5-0.**

VII. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR UPDATES:

Mr. Cass noted that the focus is on preparation for Saturday's Town Meeting.

VIII. PUBLIC FORUM:

Following up on the public hearing, Bonnie Christie:

- Asked about a particular phrase used in the petition review criteria handout; the NH Municipal Association publication, *A Hard Road to Travel* was suggested as a good resource
- Clarified that the Meadowsend and Audubon land she referenced during the public hearing is already conservation land

Regarding the new Housing Committee, resident Louise Carr:

- Wanted to understand the process for getting started
- It was pointed out that details will be forthcoming

IX. OTHER:

There were no other comments or questions.

X. NON-PUBLIC SESSIONS:

A. NON-PUBLIC SESSION I-RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation

Mr. Whitley moved to go into a non-public session to discuss an issue which could affect the reputation of someone other than a Board member under the provisions of Nonpublic Session RSA 91-A: 3 II (c). Mr. Traum seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Sabrina Dunlap	Yes
Ken Traum	Yes
Jeffrey Donohoe	Yes
Steven Whitley	Yes
Thomas Lipoma	Yes

MOTION PASSED 5-0.

The Board and the Town Administrator went into nonpublic session, as recorded separately, at 7:25 p.m. The Board returned to public session at 7:35 p.m.

B. NON-PUBLIC SESSION I-RSA 91-A: 3 II (c) Reputation

Mr. Whitley moved to go into a non-public session to discuss an issue which could affect the reputation of someone other than a Board member under the provisions of Nonpublic Session RSA 91-A: 3 II (c). Mr. Traum seconded the motion.

ROLL CALL VOTE:

Sabrina Dunlap	Yes
Ken Traum	Yes
Jeffrey Donohoe	Yes
Steven Whitley	Yes
Thomas Lipoma	Yes

MOTION PASSED 5-0.

The Board and the Town Administrator went into nonpublic session, as recorded separately, at 7:35 p.m. The Board returned to public session at 8:25 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mr. Whitley moved that the meeting be adjourned. Mr. Lipoma seconded the motion. All members voted in favor and the meeting was declared adjourned at 8:25 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Cara Johnson
Administrative/Assessing Assistant