

Approved

Town of New Boston Selectmen's Meeting March 18, 2019

<u>PRESENT:</u>	Joe Constance	Selectman
	Karen Scott	Selectman
	Christine Quirk	Selectman
	Peter Flynn	Town Administrator

Police Chief James Brace, Police Department Administrative Assistant Cathy Widener, Officer Tanya Marie-Bellemore, Transfer Station Manager Gerry Cornett, School Board Chairman Wendy Lambert, School Board members Wendy Lambert and Fred Hayes, Deputy Town Clerk Cathy Strausbaugh, Joyce Whelton, Ellen Ruggles, Lucas Landry, Marie Danielson, Joyce Bosse, Tracey Riehl, Denis Pinard, Marilyn Pizzolon, Christine Page, Joyce and Jeff Sarette, George St. John, Ken and Lyn Lombard, Mark and Jenn Boisvert, Brandon Merron, Willard Dodge, David Litwinovich, Bill McFadden, Susan Carr, Keith Gentili, Kaleb Jacob and several more members of the public were present for all or part of the meeting.

A. CALL TO ORDER: A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Peter Flynn at 6:00PM beginning with the Pledge of Allegiance.

Item 1: Reorganization of Board of Selectmen:

Nomination and Election of a Chairperson: Christine nominated Joe as Chairman of the Board. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0 Joe then took over the meeting and introduced Karen as the new Selectman.

Board Representation for Selectmen: a) **Planning Board** Joe, b) **Budget Advisory Committee** Karen, c) **Highway Safety Committee** This Committee has limited use and a proposal is expected to add this to another Committee. No Selectmen appointed. d) **CIP Committee** Christine.

Consent Agenda-The Selectmen signed the consent agenda. Christine moved to approve the consent agenda including reappointment of Helen Fanning to the Recreation Commission, reappointment of Gerry Cornett to the Conservation Commission, reappointment of Thomas Miller to the Forestry Committee and appointment of Willard Dodge as an alternate to the Forestry Committee. Karen seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

B. PUBLIC FORUM:

Joe noted the Board always welcomes public comment and feedback. There are two opportunities for public comment, one at the beginning of the meeting and then another at the end. Anyone with a comment is asked to state their name and address for the record and that comments be respectful and thoughtful. The Board will listen but public comment is typically not a back and forth. If there is any need for extended dialogue a request to be added to the agenda and supporting documentation should be sent to Peter beforehand.

Joe noted there has been difficulty recently with dirt roads due to the weather. New Boston has 50 miles of dirt roads with poor roadbed that the town attempts to bind by adding material each year. The town has grown, houses have been added to dirt roads and traffic on them has increased. A proposal was presented at the March 11 meeting to decrease speed on dirt roads due to detrimental effects on their condition. The Selectmen approved and signs will be posted. There was a quick thaw over the weekend beginning with a warm rain Friday with 40 degree temperatures then 60 degree temperatures on Saturday. There was a thaw on dirt roads resulting in 7-10" of mud. He has been out to the roads. These conditions would usually result in 2" of mud on a properly graveled road but these roads have incredibly poor drainage. The Road Agent and crew have worked over the weekend and today added crushed stone and sand to Middle Branch, Thorton and McCollum Roads. Beard and South Hill Roads are still in bad condition. Some roads have stabilized and some haven't. He noted the town usually keeps 1000 yards of crushed stone at the Highway shed but was exhausted this year. 1700 yards was resupplied Sunday and Monday from John Neville, Skip Gomes and Mt. William Sand and Gravel. John crushed stone Saturday, Skip produced stone today. Today 10 trucks worked putting material at Clark Hill, Middle Branch, Tucker Mill, Thorton, Pine and Woods Lane and other places. The Highway crew ran the grader for 12 hours Sunday. This situation could happen again.

Joe noted he has been studying town roads for a year learning about the poorest roads. One of the worst examples is Thorton Road with mud and drainage issues. There are trees growing in the drainage areas and it is very narrow. He said it is a substantial undertaking and expensive to build quality asphalt roads estimated at a \$19 million to \$25 million bond compared to the largest bond New Boston has ever had, the school building, that was required. He proposes a change to be discussed at the next Selectmen's meeting to reconstitute the Road Committee with professional highly qualified volunteers to advise how to improve town roads including design, need assessment, prioritization and costs with citizen input. The volunteers would be citizens with NH DOT road building experience, traffic engineers, longtime residents with a background in town roads and familiarity with citizens and traffic and citizen alternates. All meetings will be public. There is no solution that would be quick, permanent or free.

Denis Pinard of 100 Beard Road noted he was on his way home from work Saturday morning and saw a Road Closed sign on his road. He called the Police Department as he was unsure if he could drive home and was told he could drive home but that the road was almost impassable. He noted he works in public safety as a firefighter and has a vehicle that was able to travel the road in these conditions but there are residents on the road with vehicles that can't, some of whom need to travel for medical reasons and could not. He noted Joe mentioned all roads in town have a poor roadbed. He noted he built his house on Beard Road eleven years ago and since then six more new houses have been added to the road. He noted they all have notes in their deeds about swailing, ditches and drainage. He said the Highway Department worked on the lower portion of Beard Road but over time the work filled in and there is no drainage. He said every time the road is graded the cambria is removed and the water has nowhere to go. He appreciates the Highway Department and the work they do. He said the town is throwing good money at a bad situation. He noted there is a manual on how to build a road on the NH DOT website that should be followed. He noted his road turned to 17" of quicksand.

Joe agreed swails have not been cleaned and the winter weather contributed to them filling. He is aware of the manual Denis mentioned and noted it is time for a professional approach to the road maintenance plan and interim steps will be taken if there are any.

Marilyn Pizzolon of 95 Beard Road gave pictures she took of the area to the Selectmen. She noted she and her husband Flavio are concerned about the worsening condition of Beard Road. They built their home five years ago with a driveway that was approved by the town. It was level to the road with road runoff draining into the ditch that is parallel to their property. A culvert was installed under the driveway as mandated by the town and Flavio clears it annually as required by the town. Over the years the drainage ditch has filled causing their culvert to have more silt buildup that is getting harder to remove as it is like cement. With the material added to the road each year the road is now higher than their driveway and the rut situation was so extreme over the weekend the road had to be closed. A winter storm caused road aggregate to go into their driveway and 20' into their lawn. They bought a specialized snowblower for driveway maintenance but broke 12 shear bolts this winter due to the road aggregate going into their driveway, compared to 2 last winter. They moved to NH for a better quality of life but the road conditions have impacted that including dust from passing vehicles preventing them from walking for exercise on the road. The liquid sprayed does not prevent the dust for more than a few days. She and Flavio would like a solid road maintenance plan put into action that would prevent the road from washing into their driveway and improves the road to minimize winter rutting. She said closing a road for conditions is an inconvenience and a public safety issue that could slow first responder response time. She is a retired ER medical professional and knows time is of the essence for many medical situations. She said the dirt road residents pay the same taxes as those that live on paved roads but the worsening condition of Beard Road is deplorable and not acceptable to them as equal taxpayers.

Joe noted Peter will ask the Highway Department to clean up the road aggregate damage at the Pizzolon's driveway and lawn when the current situation is remedied.

Marilyn noted she appreciates that and has talked about it with Road Agent Dick Perusse to let him know they cannot shovel the aggregate from the culvert.

Christine Page of 141 Beard Road said she is concerned about her vehicles as two have been damaged due to road conditions. She is not sure of the appropriate time to get them fixed as they could be damaged again due to road conditions. She loves living on Beard Road but is afraid to drive the road and missed work due to these concerns.

Christine Quirk noted many towns are going through this.

Joe noted this is the worst New Boston has seen. New Boston also has increased traffic and population. He noted Bedford is almost out of buildable lots and more people are expected to move to New Boston. A 400 acre parcel was recently sold in New Boston and expected to be developed with 30-50 houses and more people.

Joyce Sarette of 197 Riverdale Road noted her road is in bad condition including poor drainage. She also noted Riverdale gets a lot of traffic from Route 114 to Gregg Mill Road. She suggested posting the road "Residents Only." She noted a school bus recently got stuck in front of her

house. She noted there is ice in front of her driveway that has caused cars to slide into her mailbox and she is concerned for traveler's safety due to the road layout. She doesn't want the road paved.

Joe noted speed makes the condition of the dirt roads worse. This was addressed at the March 11 Selectmen's meeting including enforcement. He noted a similar situation occurred on Bog Brook Road that was formerly a dirt road but was paved due to changed traffic patterns and this may be needed at Riverdale Road as a change that needs to be addressed.

Jay Kelly of 136 Beard Road noted he understands dirt roads but the answer from the town to close the road as the town is out of material is unacceptable. If the Road Agent was watching the weather he should have anticipated this occurrence, been ready for it and gone to get material.

Elsie Golding of 89 Beard Road noted she has lived in New Boston for approximately 20 years and this is the worst she has seen dirt roads. She is an ER nurse and has to have the ability to get to work as well as emergency crews need the ability to get to her area otherwise residents and emergency personnel are put at risk. She also noted traffic has increased and Beard Road is used as an alternate route to avoid the downtown area if events are going on. She gave a two page letter to the Selectmen. She can't drive to her house tonight and asked where she can park her car.

The Selectmen said overnight parking is allowed at the Town Hall tonight.

Jeff Biron of 59 Lyndeborough Road noted he has lived in New Boston 41 years. He has always lived on a paved road but asked why Beard Road took a backseat today. He noted New Boston is growing and getting away from the small town mentality, roads are getting paved, and even the paved roads are falling apart. He offered his driveway to police to monitor traffic on his road and the first vehicle clocked was travelling 96 miles per hour.

Joe noted 163 new houses were built in New Boston over the last five years. He will research why Beard Road took a backseat today.

Mark Boisvert of 307 Middle Branch Road noted he has lived in New Boston 15 years and this is the worst he has seen the dirt roads. He also has safety concerns. He thanked the workers who worked on the situation over the weekend. He asked when the proposed committee will begin.

Joe noted the Selectmen will consider the committee proposal in April.

Jenn Boisvert of 307 Middle Branch Road noted appreciation for the Highway crew, her family enjoys the outdoors and is used to seasons changing and the effects of this on roads. Today the Highway crew dumped material on Middle Branch Road but it is still muddy and her vehicle is sliding. She is terrified and felt trapped over the weekend. The current fix is temporary and frustrating as the ruts reform when vehicles drive down the road. The temporary fix occurs every year. She reads the Warrant Articles each year to see if there are any plans to improve Middle Branch Road and there have been none in 15 years. She is glad to hear a committee is going to be formed. She asked that the public be informed of the Committee's progress as it will give the public hope and encouragement.

Joe noted the Committee meetings will be public if the proposal is approved.

Tracey Riehl of 106 Dougherty Lane noted she travels Middle Branch Road quite a bit and is surprised vehicles don't bounce into the river from the road more often due to road conditions. She said the Highway crew has not been to Dougherty Lane and asked if crushed stone would be placed there soon.

Joe noted he expects that to occur but the Road Agent is not present to confirm.

Lucas Landry of 47B Beard Road noted he is originally from Lincoln and is familiar with dirt roads. He suggested a maintenance plan to work on a few roads a year, starting with the bigger roads. He loves the community and school, lives in his dream home but the road is unbelievably bad. He went off the road this winter at slow speed due to the condition of the road. Both of his family vehicles have sustained damage due to road conditions. He suggested the town put a maintenance plan in place. He noted the work needed is too much for a crew of five Highway personnel.

Joe agreed the paving work is a lot for the Highway crew and gave the example of Goffstown's Christie Road paving project that took a large crew most of a summer to complete.

Willard Dodge of 116 Tucker Mill Road noted he is a lifelong resident and has helped build and maintain New Boston roads. He noted the town has been voting in default budgets in recent years but before that a 10 year road plan was in place. For two years nothing was done, then he came before the Selectmen to request Bedford Road not be delayed. That is the only road that was done as others were prevented by default budgets. He said the Highway crew did a great job on Bedford Road improving the roadbed. He noted there is a lot of road work needed, dirt roads will need to be dug down deep, improved and rebuilt up. That won't get done with default budgets.

Joe noted the 10 year road plan document is available and a person that worked for NH DOT drafted it and is willing to become involved with the proposed committee.

George St. John of 112 Butterfield Mill Road, noted he is a lifelong resident of New Boston and always lived on a dirt road. Butterfield Mill Road is a dirt road that is just as bad as others in town. The town has four wheel drive fire trucks and ambulances out of necessity and experience through the years. Mud season happens and maintenance is getting better. Before the 10 year plan was drafted for a better method to maintain roads they were formerly just graveled. That gravel is still there as part of the roadbed. He has plowed for the New Boston Highway crew since 2000 and helps with the winter maintenance that has been affected by the cyclical freezing and thawing this year. The town voters keep cutting the budget, causing services to be cut including gravel. It is not an easy fix.

Susan Carr of Leach Hill Road noted she is here to follow up on the Senior Citizen transportation proposal. She noted Warrant Article 31 passed and she has since met with Peter, Recreation Director Mike Sindoni and Manchester Transit Authority. She asked if she can move forward to get information to the public with an anticipated start date of July 1. The Selectmen approved

and offered the town website and official Facebook page. The Selectmen asked she also get this information out with the New Boston Beacon. The Selectmen asked her to research other services New Boston can offer as other towns do.

The Selectmen thanked all for their comments. Seeing no further comments, Joe closed the first session of public comment.

C. APPOINTMENTS:

Item 2: Chief James Brace-

Introduction And ‘Swearing In’ Of Newly Hired Police Officer Tanya Bellemore: Police Chief James Brace was present to meet with the Selectmen to introduce newly hired Police Officer Tanya Bellemore. She was previously employed by DCYF in Concord. As part of the hiring process, she completed physical agility and written testing followed by a Board interview, polygraph, psychological and medical testing. A comprehensive background was also completed. Tanya was highly recommended by her family and peers. She will attend the Police Academy beginning May 6 which will enable the Department to begin her field training prior to her attendance at the Police Academy. In front of a large crowd of friends and family, Deputy Town Clerk Cathy Strausbaugh swore Tanya in, then Jim presented her with her badge. The Board welcomed Tanya.

Discussion Re: Parker Road Truck Traffic And Noise And Question Of Legality Of A Business On Riverdale Road: Police Chief James Brace noted he has been investigating a complaint of truck traffic noise and question of legality of a business on Riverdale Road. He spoke with Planning Coordinator Shannon Silver and learned the business is probably legal. He will seek clarification on the activity that is occurring involving tractor trailers in the overnight hours that is disturbing families in the area. It is probably not feasible to control this with “No Through Trucking” but an ordinance could be enacted for no through trucking during overnight hours. Jim is researching ordinances. Peter will work with him to combine and revise some traffic ordinances and bring it to the Selectmen. Karen noted she read the information from Shannon and it seemed the driver is just returning home from transporting with a tractor trailer. Jeff Biron of Lyndeborough Road was present and asked if the drivers are following DOT laws limiting number of hours allowed to be driven per day. Jim noted that is unknown at this time as the Department is only investigating a complaint.

D. OLD BUSINESS:

None.

E. NEW BUSINESS:

Item 3: Printout And Year To Date Expenditures And Revenues Related To New Budget: Peter presented the 2019 expenditures based on the budget voters approved last week and current spending status. There is nothing significant at this time. The revenue report is included.

F. OTHER BUSINESS:

Item 4: Town Administrators Report:

- Signage On Byam Road And Wilson Hill Area: Signs will be placed when weather and ground conditions improve. An ordinance is being revised.
- Railing In Front Of Town Hall: Dan Towne ordered the railing and it is ready to be installed.
- Mountain Road Issue: Pending second legal opinion.
- Record Retention: Old documents are being scanned. Old town reports and vital statistics are scanned. Personnel and welfare documents are presently being scanned. The grant for the Cannonball Project has been hand delivered to Cofile Energies in Essex, VT who expect to complete scanning and digitizing the Molly Stark Cannon documents by mid-June. The entire grant was spent on this project. The Committee will decrease meeting frequency to twice a year.
- Introduction of Building Permit Fee Structure: Not discussed.

Item 5: Selectmen's Reports:

- Joe reported the Forestry Committee completed the surveying at the Sherburne Lot. Tom Miller is working on mapping as the Committee works toward American Tree Farm System certification of this lot as a wilderness area. The Committee is planning for the second year of the NBCS first grade Christmas tree project and an educational forest walk for NBCS sixth graders.
- Karen thanked Deputy Town Clerk Cathy Strausbaugh for swearing her in and everyone for their kindness welcoming her as a Selectman. She is looking forward to serving. The Selectmen welcomed her.

G. PUBLIC FORUM:

Trustee of the Trust Funds Fred Hayes asked if the town has considered digitizing the historical ledgers with cemetery plot sales. Peter said this is part of the long term plan and will follow up. Fred noted he will need the ledgers to include in a spreadsheet for the state.

School Board member Wendy Lambert thanked the Forestry Committee for the opportunities it offers to students.

Item 6: Possible Non-Public Session per RSA 91-A:3, II(a)(c): Town Administrator's review. None.

ADJOURNMENT: Christine made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:04PM. Joe seconded the motion. All were in favor. 3-0

Prepared by Maralyn Segien

**Next Scheduled Meeting: Town Hall Conference Room on April 1, 2019 (6:00 PM)
7 Meetinghouse Hill Road- New Boston, NH 03070
Phone: (603) 487-5504-www.newboston.gov
Handicap Access available**