

Select Board Meeting  
Monday November 22, 2021  
6:15 PM  
Nowak Room, Town Offices  
Final Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Julie Gilman, Molly Cowan, Lovey Roundtree Oliff, Daryl Browne, Niko Papakonstantis, and Town Manager Russ Dean were present at this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Papakonstantis at 6:15 PM.

2. Non Public Session

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to enter into non public session under RSA 91-A:3II(a) and (c). Mr. Browne seconded. All were in favor and the meeting entered non public session at 6:17 PM.

**MOTION:** Selectwoman Cowan moved to seal the minutes of the non public session. Selectwoman Oliff seconded. The motion carried unanimously. The Board reconvened at 7:09 PM.

3. Public Comment

- a. There was no public comment at this meeting.

4. Proclamations/Recognitions

- a. Mr. Papakonstantis recognized the Exeter Fire Department, Health Office, and Police Department, as well as SAU16, for the vaccination clinic at Lincoln Street School.

5. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: Nov 15, 2021

**MOTION:** Ms. Oliff moved to approve the minutes of November 15, 2021 as presented. Mr. Browne seconded. All were in favor.

6. Appointments and Resignations

**MOTION:** Mr. Browne moved to accept the resignation of Bevin Kennedy from the Communications Advisory Committee. Ms. Gilman seconded. All were in favor.

**MOTION:** Mr. Browne moved to accept the resignation of Julie LaBranche from the Community Power Aggregation Committee. Ms. Oliff seconded. All were in favor.

7. Discussion/Action Items

- a. Ben Anderson re: Sight Easement

Ben Anderson of 66 Newfields Road, the owner of the Word Barn, was present to discuss this request. The Andersons would like to use a different access road to the lower field, but discovered that to bring it into compliance, they have to get approval from DOT and need a sight easement from Raynes Barn. Mr. Anderson approached the Conservation Commission with this request,

and they were supportive, with a vote of 7-0. Jay Perkins of the DPW is also supportive. Mr. Anderson hopes that the Board will grant the sight easement, which is the ability to keep the area clear of any brush.

Ms. Gilman said Conservation Commission saw that Mr. Anderson took down a tree that was obstructing the site, which made a positive difference. His attention will make this area safer for all of us.

Mr. Dean said RSA 41-14(a) describes the process to grant the easement. We also need the Andersons to submit a proposed easement or reimburse the town for attorney fees in drafting the easement. If they draft it, there needs to be a more detailed description of the easement area. It would go before the Planning Board. This is the first sight easement request he's seen, so it's not common.

Mr. Browne asked if the Unitil maintenance is inadequate. Mr. Anderson said that DOT needed it solidified that the area would be kept clear, and they did not hear that from Unitil. Just north of this area, Unitil cleared a swath 16 feet deep at Raynes Farm, but DOT did not find that that was enough.

Mr. Papakonstantis said the next Planning Board meetings are Dec 9 and 16, and the next Select Board meeting is Dec 20th. Mr. Anderson should work with Mr. Dean to get the legalities worked out prior to those dates.

b. Speed Limit Ordinance Update First Reading

Police Chief Stephan Poulin was present to address questions about this issue. Mr. Dean said we looked at town ordinances based on resident feedback and found that several streets need to be added. The Police Dept did some speed surveys and compiled a list of all streets affected and school speed limits. This would update the current ordinance to make our list comprehensive.

**MOTION:** Ms. Cowan moved to open the public hearing regarding the speed limit ordinance. Ms. Gilman seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Gilman read the changes:

Amendment to Chapter 2 Section 202 which lists the roads that are restricted to 20 MPH, adding Colonial Drive and Swasey Parkway. Section 203, a max speed 25 MPH, adding Linden Street from Front Street until the 2nd bridge, Watson Road, Beech Hill Road, Old Town Farm Road, Oaklands Road, Pine Street, Pickpocket Road, Drinkwater Road (top section), Cross Road, Juniper Ridge Road, Epping Road from Main Street to Comings Court, Summer Street, Park Street, Clifford Street, Elliot Street, Gary Lane, Great Hill Court, John West Road, Kimball Road, Crestview Drive, Washington Street, Winter Street, Gill Street, Columbus Avenue, Brentwood Road from Epping Road to Millstream, Greenleaf Drive, Dog Town Road, Brookside Drive, Red Berry Lane, Birch Road, Jubal Martin Road, Park Street, Chestnut Street, Jady Hill Ave, Webster Ave, Bittersweet Lane, Buzell Ave, Ashbrook Road, Guinea Road, and Phinney Lane. Mr. Dean said he had one addition, Blue Hawk Drive. Ms. Gilman said there is also a change to 20 MPH school zones: In a posted school zone, at a speed of 10 MPH lower than the usual posted limit from 45 minutes prior to each school opening until

school opening and from school closing until 45 minutes after school closing, RSA 265:60. Section 210, Penalties, is changed to “Any violation of Chapter 2 of the traffic code may be punishable according to the NH Revised Statutes Annotated Chapter 265 Rules of the Road Speed Limitations Section 265:60.”

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public input.

Andrew Elliot of Washington Street thanked the Board for pushing this ordinance change.

Chief Poulin said he wanted to clarify that we’re not changing any speed limits. These roads are already posted at these limits. This is just making it right in the town ordinance.

**MOTION:** Ms. Oliff moved to close the public hearing. Ms. Gilman seconded. All were in favor.

c. Kingston Road Project Update

Jennifer Perry, Director of Public Works, was present to discuss the Kingston Road sidewalk project. Ms. Perry said since her April 2021 update on this project, we have been working to get the final easements from all the property owners. There was one situation where we could not get an easement, so we had to make a design change to move some drainage. This change had to go back to DOT for review. We’re getting estimates of compensation to owners and having them notarized. The whole package will go back to DOT for approval, because it’s a TAP grant. We hope to go to bid in winter and start construction in the spring. It would be a one-season construction period.

Ms. Gilman congratulated the DPW on getting through the TAP grant process, which is difficult. Ms. Perry said they are looking to get an additional person certified for work on these projects.

d. HELPSY Textile Recycling Proposal

Mr. Papakonstantis said Ms. Perry went before the Sustainability Committee last month, and they endorsed this proposal.

Ms. Perry said we were approached by Waste Zero that represents the group HELPSY, which recycles textiles in other communities. This will remove a potential portion of waste from the solid waste stream and preserve landfill space, and may provide a small revenue, about \$40/ton. Residents would call HELPSY in advance and they would come pick up materials at the home: clothing, footwear, hats, belts, etc. They make this profitable by taking the better materials and selling them, or shredding them and using them in other materials. Right now waste disposal is \$78 a ton, so we are looking to save on that. She presented a draft agreement to the Board. She checked with Waste Management for any conflict with our contract, but they agreed that this is a great program.

Mr. Papakonstantis said this sounds like a win-win. How will we advertise this? Ms. Perry said HELPSY provided us with info that was used by a community in MA, and they’ve offered to assist with the roll-out.

Ms. Oliff asked about Savers and other collection sites of second hand materials. Was there any discussion about the effect on them? Ms. Perry said this is optional, and people can still choose to donate to a charity. A lot of people don't do that, they just want to get rid of materials easily.

Ms. Cowan asked what is the collection container? Ms. Perry said they should put it in a plastic bag. It just needs to be dry.

Ms. Gilman asked if containers will be placed in Exeter as well. Ms. Perry said there are three at the transfer station. Ms. Oliff said on their website it says there's already one at 7 Riverwoods Drive.

Ms. Gilman said this program includes materials that other places won't accept.

Mr. Dean said a motion was not necessary, just support from the Board to move forward. He will sign it. The Board generally agreed to move it forward.

e. Waste Management Contract Extension

Ms. Perry said the contract with Waste Management on curbside collection of solid waste and recycling ends in May 2022. If we were to end our contract, this is the time we should solicit proposals from others. She asked for WM to provide a sample contract for an extension. The increases average 6% per year. In the past, the increases were more like 3%, but they say those increases have been insufficient to cover their costs. In 2022, it will be \$995,433. This is less than what was budgeted in 2021, which was initially \$1,003,000. This year, the value of recyclable materials has increased significantly, so we're paying less. Waste Management's pricing is very competitive.

Mr. Papakonstantis said there was a period where Waste Management wasn't meeting standards, and Jay Perkins worked on that. Ms. Perry said there was an issue with materials being left behind, and that has been resolved. She's not aware of any larger issues. Waste Management has consistently done a good job.

Mr. Browne asked about the gas charges consumption. Ms. Perry said it's adjusted twice a year. Her numbers are just estimates for forecasting.

Ms. Gilman asked how HELPSY will affect the solid waste contract. Ms. Perry said it's so small it doesn't even factor in, only about \$2,000. Adding another subdivision would cancel that out.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if she's still negotiating. Ms. Perry said she would like a motion from the Board tonight. She's tried to get as good a deal as possible. If we need to go out to bid, we need to start that immediately.

**MOTION:** Mr. Browne moved to authorize the Town Manager to sign the proposed 5 year contract extension with Waste Management that would provide services to the town of Exeter through May of 2027. Ms. Cowan seconded. All were in favor.

f. Recycle Bin Fees Public Hearing

**MOTION:** Mr. Browne moved to open the public hearing regarding the recycle bin fees. Ms. Gilman seconded. All were in favor.

Ms. Perry said the cost of 65 gallon totes for recycling has not increased since 2008. The price is \$45, but the town is paying \$75 per toter. When we started the program, the fees that we charged for the toter was intended to pay for the toter. The retail cost for a similar size bin with wheels and a lid is \$100 - \$140 each. We recommend increasing the cost from \$45 to \$75. The cost of the resin to make the bins has gone up. We would have to increase the budget for covering the shortfall to \$19,000.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked for public comment, but there was none.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Browne seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked how the public can recycle the smaller bins. Ms. Perry said we asked Waste Management what to do to reduce costs of this program, and their answer was efficiency and saving labor. The wheel totes are automated, if we went to 100% totes we would save money. Mr. Papakonstantis asked if there's a way to incentivize people switching. Ms. Perry said is it fair to the people who have already bought one to offer a discount to the others? Ms. Perry said the material isn't recyclable, but we could take them for people. Ms. Oliff asked if it would be a requirement for people to have the totes, and Ms. Perry said at this point no, but this is the direction that we need to head. There are many cities that have only these.

Ms. Cowan said she wishes we had the conversation before, if the costs have exceeded the revenues since 2014, since it seems like a big jump now. Can they think about a turn-in program, like \$5 off a toter if you turn in a small bin? Ms. Perry said that may be manageable. Mr. Dean said we could offer something like that for a certain time window.

Mr. Browne said if they were free, would they pay for themselves in labor costs? Ms. Perry said we didn't get a proposal on that from Waste Management, but she doubts it.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked what the timeline should be. Ms. Cowan said she thinks it should take effect at the end of the year and we should offer a trade-in policy for the 14 gallon bins. Ms. Perry said she's worried that they'll have a run on them and run out. Mr. Papakonstantis said he's not comfortable having this take effect without notice. Ms. Perry said a week or ten days. Going to the end of the year will be too high a demand for the supply. Mr. Dean said to the end of the year or a 30 day notice. We may run out but it would give adequate notice. Mr. Papakonstantis said those on the waitlist should still get the \$45 price.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to authorize the increase of the 65 gallon recycling totes from \$45 to \$75 effective Jan 1, 2022. Mr. Browne seconded. All were in favor.

g. Outdoor Dining Ordinance Third Reading

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to open the public hearing on the outdoor dining ordinance. Mr. Browne seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis called for public comment, but there was none.

**MOTION:** Mr. Browne moved to close the public hearing. Ms. Oliff seconded. All were in favor.

Mr. Papakonstantis said we changed “Board of Selectmen” to “Select Board,” referencing a different RSA, deleting “voluntary non profit”, and removing typo “close” to say “closed.”

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to adopt the Exeter Town Ordinance amendment chapter 8 the licensing of alcohol use on public property as amended. Mr. Browne seconded. All were in favor.

8. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to approve the solar exemption for 79/24 in the amount of \$14,000 for the tax year 2021. Mr. Browne seconded. All were in favor.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to approve a tax abatement for 110/2/107 in the amount of \$48.02 for the tax year 2021. Mr. Browne seconded. All were in favor.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to approve 110/2/14 in the amount of \$62.43 for the tax year 2021. Mr. Browne seconded. All were in favor.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Veterans Credit for 64/105/12 in the amount of \$500 for the tax year 2021. Mr. Browne seconded. All were in favor.

**MOTION** Ms. Gilman moved to approve a Veterans Credit for 82/4 in the amount of \$500 for the tax year 2021. Mr. Browne seconded. All were in favor.

b. Permits & Approvals

i. There were no permits and approvals considered at this meeting.

c. Town Manager’s Report

i. Ms. McElroy has asked the Board members to review the markups of the Board policies and procedures.

ii. He thanked the holiday decorators for making the downtown look great.

iii. The Town Offices will be closed for the Thanksgiving holiday and the Friday afterwards.

d. Select Board Committee Reports

i. Ms. Gilman said Exeter Hospital Administration had a Zoom meeting with State Representatives. Hospital representatives discussed the stats and the anxiety they’re having. They’re elevated to a crisis level of “code white,” the highest level of emergency response, given their capacity issues. There have been people waiting in the ER for many hours. They’ve diverted ambulances from other hospitals. The ICU is full and 9

people are on ventilators. There are staffing shortages. Mental and behavioral health patients are dropped off at the ER with nowhere to go, and the State has no resources to offer them. Last year, there was a spike in Covid cases after the Thanksgiving holiday, and they're worried that this year it will be higher. Exeter is ranked 11th in vaccination. They're asking people to get vaccinated, if not wear a mask, and to social distance. We also need to ask the State to get behavioral health resources in place.

- ii. Ms. Gilman said tomorrow at 10 AM the HDC is doing a sitewalk at 8 Gilman Lane, for the application of PEA for proposed demolition and the construction of two residential structures. The Community Power Aggregation Committee is having two public hearings Nov 29 and Dec 13 at the Library. Parks and Rec is having a virtual information session November 30th on the proposed acquisition of 10 Hampton Road. There is a Heritage Commission public hearing Dec 17 for changes to the roof of 43 Front Street.
- iii. Mr. Papakonstantis attended the River Advisory Committee, most of that was discussing the PEA residential units. He attended the BRC CIP meeting, but did not see the conclusion. On December 6 Chair Bob Kelly will present to the Select Board.
- iv. Ms. Gilman had no report.
- v. Ms. Oliff said the Housing Advisory Committee discussed the event taking place Jan 21st at the Library.
- vi. Mr. Browne had no report. He announced that he is extending his resignation from the Board effective at the end of this meeting. The Board members and Mr. Dean thanked him for his service. Mr. Papakonstantis asked if we need to formally accept his resignation, and Mr. Dean said he doesn't think it's required. Mr. Papakonstantis said there will be a void between now and the election in March. There will be a place on the ballot for residents to declare their candidacy. Mr. Dean said the Board could appoint a new member up through the next election. Mr. Papakonstantis said it's only a few months. The discussion is primarily about the budget, it doesn't seem fair to bring someone in who hasn't already been part of that discussion. Ms. Gilman will take back the Conservation Commission and they will look into when the next Communications Advisory meeting is.

e. Correspondence

- i. A Comcast notification of price changes
- ii. A thank you letter from New Generation for a donation.

9. Review Board Calendar

- a. The next meetings are December 6 and 20.

10. Non-Public Session

**MOTION:** Mr. Browne moved to go into non public under RSA 91-A:3II(a). Ms. Cowan seconded. In a roll call vote, all were in favor.

11. Adjournment. The Board emerged from non public session. Selectman Browne moved to adjourn, seconded by Selectwoman Gilman. All voted in favor. The Board stood adjourned at 9:05 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joanna Bartell  
Recording Secretary