

Select Board Meeting
Monday May 9, 2022
7 PM
Nowak Room, Town Offices
Final Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Julie Gilman, Lovey Roundtree Oliff, Niko Papakonstantis, and Nancy Belanger. Molly Cowan was present via Zoom; her absence was unavoidable due to Covid quarantine, and she stated that she was alone in the room. Town Manager Russ Dean was also present at this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Papakonstantis at 7:05 PM.

2. Board Interviews

a. There were no interviews at this meeting.

3. Public Comment

a. There was no public comment at this time.

4. Proclamations/Recognitions

Chief Poulin spoke about new Police Officer Arthur Joseph and Tad Sierad who was being promoted to Sergeant. Town Clerk Andie Kohler swore in Arthur Joseph as a Police Officer and also swore in Theodore Sierad as a Police Sergeant.

5. Approval of Minutes

a. Regular Meeting: April 25, 2022

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the regular meeting minutes of April 25, 2022 as submitted. Ms. Oliff seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

b. Special Meeting: April 28, 2022

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the special meeting minutes of April 28, 2022 as submitted. Ms. Oliff seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

6. Appointments and Resignations

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to accept the resignation of Kristin Osterwood from the Conservation Commission. Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to accept the resignation of Kathy Corson from the Housing Advisory Committee. Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

7. Discussion/Action Items

a. Pickleball Discussion

Mr. Papakonstantis said in late March, Rec Director Greg Bisson asked the Select Board to accept funding for permanently altering three tennis courts into pickleball courts at Hampton Road. We paused that process for further discussion. We have received many pieces of correspondence, all of which are available in the meeting packet. There's also a presentation by the fundraiser for this project included in the packet. The Board will discuss the issue and open for

public comment. Both pickleball and tennis are great sports. How can we allow both to be played in our community? We should be able to find room for everybody.

Ms. Oliff said she understands the importance of creating community for pickleball players, but we also need to have space for tennis. She would like people to listen to each other and work together to find a solution.

Ms. Gilman said she would like to find a solution for everyone in Exeter. Both sports deserve a place of their own, but finding space is difficult.

Ms. Belanger said she met with both groups and she thinks we can find a solution. Hearing about it for the first time at the March Select Board meeting was very concerning.

Ms. Cowan said we should approach this discussion without blame, treating this as an opportunity to add to our town and thank the volunteers and participants and Rec Advisory Board members who have done good work on this.

Mr. Papakonstantis said outside organizations like Riverwoods have contributed money previously to projects at the Rec Park, but that was to improve existing facilities, rather than change something. This is a new situation and there was a communication breakdown before it got to the Board, which we would like to not happen again.

Greg Bisson, Parks and Rec Director, said the pandemic brought out the demand for pickleball. Kyle Littlefield started pickleball in Exeter and it has grown over the years. Last year, Kyle retired and Parks and Rec took it over. The Rec Advisory Board was brought a proposal in October about possibly converting tennis courts into pickleball courts. This is the growing scene for Parks and Rec departments all over the country. The Rec Advisory Board debated for an hour and voted to approve the concept of the pickleball courts and allow the fundraising. That was not the proper process and that is on the Rec Dept. The pickleballers are enthusiastic about improving the park. Our numbers are not where they were for tennis, although there are a number of tennis players here tonight. The youth tennis programs haven't recovered from Kyle's departure and the pandemic eliminated tennis lessons, so people haven't come back. We want to have equal opportunities and accessibility, not just ADA compliance but also with the set-up process which is physically difficult. With this conversion, anyone could walk up with a paddle and play.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked what data we have to support the relative number of pickleball and tennis players. For something that changes the physical layout of one of our Parks and Rec areas, we should have sent out a survey and done due diligence. He's amazed by how quickly the money was raised, but maybe the fundraisers shouldn't have made commitments to the people they raised money from. Mr. Bisson said in the summer, he's there working on the pool until 7 or 8 PM at night and he observes the courts. He spends 50-60 hours a week in the park. Ms. Oliff said the numbers will fluctuate based on weather conditions. We're now at a place where we should discuss how we should

resolve this. We should talk about permanent restructuring and where the money can be used to create permanent pickleball courts. There's a newer property that we've acquired adjacent to Parks and Rec. Let's discuss what will be beneficial for both sides.

Mr. Bisson said there was no survey, we just looked at the data regionally of what other communities were doing. We looked at this as an opportunity to rehab the area and improve upon it.

Ms. Belanger asked where the town is in finding a replacement tennis instructor. Mr. Bisson said we brought in BEAM tennis, but that instructor has scaled back from what he offered last year because the numbers weren't there. We also host USTA tennis in the parks, with two instructors, which is a very successful program.

Ms. Cowan said this process started before the warrant article passed to purchase the building. What does the availability of that space mean? Mr. Bisson said we are still in the planning phase of rehabbing the building, and then we plan to do a public forum on what people want to see there.

David Kovar of 38 Cross Road said there are at least three parties to this conversation: pickleball players, tennis players, and taxpayers. He is interested in how town funds are being spent and in process and procedure. He wants to make sure we're not setting a precedent that enables this problem to happen again. Why is there a sense of urgency to solve this problem? The new space may open up other options. We should slow down this conversation to allow everyone to have a say.

Don Cloutier of Prentiss Way in Exeter said he was part of the group to raise the funds to change the courts. The Exeter Pickleball Club has been involved with Northeast Passage in Durham and parapickleball, which we've been doing at the YMCA. We'd like to bring that program outside. Jim Tufts of Special Olympics would like to get involved. A positive vote would allow these children and adults to participate in this program

Michelle Clark of 68 Park Street Unit 1 said she's a parapickleball player. There are not a lot of local opportunities for her and her daughter to play. There are no accessible tennis programs here. Outside of the Northeast Passage program, we can't set up the nets. It's inclusive if we have the nets. This is a fast growing, well-established sport. We're not taking away from the community, we're adding to it.

Nancy Riccio of 25 Little Pine Lane said she's pro both sports. If the pickleball community wants to raise funds for a separate dedicated space she supports that, but not taking away from others. This proposal conflicts with the mission of the Rec. It's not inclusive. They want to host tournaments for out of towners. There would be no tennis courts available that are ADA compliant. The reduction in parking will limit other uses of the facilities. The economic impact argument is speculative. No restaurants or shops are located near the Rec Park. The plan was presented to her by Mr. Cloutier as if it were a done deal, but nowhere but in the minutes of the Rec Advisory Board meeting was there a

mention of this plan. The group didn't want to wait to put this in a warrant article, but what is the hurry? She wants the Board to vote no on this proposal.

Karen Dudra of 12 Pine Meadows Drive described the difficult process of setting up the pickleball nets. The pickleball demographic is primarily 60+ and it's a hardship. One must have the combination to the lockbox. We've organically fundraised and grown as we've gone along. For someone to play, they can't just walk in, they have to know the combination to the lockbox and set up the net. There are six tennis courts at the HS, 16 at PEA, and 8 at the Rec Park; 30 tennis courts in Exeter, but none for pickleball. They should share.

Barbara Fitzjardin of 50 Brookside Drive said it's important to have a permanent pickleball court because the nets are difficult and time-consuming to set up. Pickleball is important because any age can play, the material is not expensive, and the court is half the size of a tennis court, so it's easier to cover the field for the elderly and for kids. Pickleball etiquette means that when it's posted, anyone can come and be rotated in, you don't need a partner. The games will be shortened if people are waiting. With tennis, if your partners cancel, you can't play. She hopes that the Board will consider making the pickleball courts permanent.

Richard Gabrieli of 2 Sterling Hill Drive said he plays tennis every day, weather permitting, with guys in their 70s and 80s, who have just as much fun and camaraderie as described with pickleball. Pickleball should be separate. He's ok with sharing the courts, but he doesn't want to see them permanently converted.

Mary Hargue, who is not a resident of Exeter, requested to speak. Ms. Oliff said the Board will consider it after all Exeter residents have spoken.

Phillip MacDonald of 96 Main Street said he likes tennis better than pickleball, but he can't play tennis due to health issues. There's a great turnout for pickleball. We could have 8 pickleball courts where you have 4 tennis courts and accommodate 32 players. There's more of a need for pickleball.

Christine Reed of 6 Sleepy Hollow Lane said this was taking place without the Select Board knowing about it. What the Board need is facts to vote, and we don't have that right now. Everyone in Exeter should be able to play a sport. Pickleball should have their own courts, not take away our courts.

Pavel Pazourek of 50 Brookside Drive read his letter in opposition of changing the courts, which was included in the Board packet.

Kevin Keaveney of 14 Exeter Farms Road said he enjoys both sports but he's opposed to repurposing the public courts into pickleball courts. We should look at every option available before taking away the tennis courts.

Jay Childs of 7 Hunter Place said we don't want to establish a precedent with the process that has taken place here. Converting shared courts into pickleball-only courts is a bad idea, and the process followed was deeply flawed. The community knew nothing about this plan. Rec should have solicited feedback and input from the public. We want to give access to play to a growing sport, but without taking access from another growing sport. There was outreach

to the public around the acquisition of the new building, Planet Playground, and other projects, but there was no outreach about this proposal, which would be a significant change. The Rec Advisory Board was in favor of raising funds and converting the top courts, but that was not an official approval. The Select Board must decide, but they didn't even know about this plan until March 2022, when money had been raised and a contract signed to begin construction. If a private group can raise enough money, can they make other changes to public spaces? This would set a bad precedent. The proposal should be denied and go back to the drawing board.

Glen Potvin of 20 Chestnut Street said he took up pickleball this year and it brings people together. The courts are full and there's a sign-up. You can't fight the tide. Pickleball is immensely popular. The numbers will be five to one in favor of pickleball, it's a growing sport. We should proportion the existing space to the number of users. People are always going to be upset, but we should just decide. Pickleball has people waiting.

Andrew Shakely of 20 Epping Road said he's had to wait for the courts for tennis. We don't have good data on what the usage is. We should create more permanent pickleball facilities without taking away tennis facilities. The town should take steps to accommodate them, but given the process we went through, this is not the right decision

Arlene Childs of 7 Hunter Place said the situation is not broken, so why is the urgency to fix it? She loves to play tennis on the upper courts. She would like to see a pickleball court elsewhere, but she's willing to share the courts. On the lower level, there's noise from the highway, it's buggy, and there are acorns on the court. There are steps to get down there, so you can't get down there in a wheelchair. It would be great to see tennis come back for wheelchair players as well.

Dick Matthews of 13 Runawit Court, a member of the Parks and Rec Advisory Board and President of the Exeter Pickleball Club, said we never would have moved forward with raising money if we didn't believe we had permission to change the courts. We assumed we had permission with Rec Advisory Board approval. Pickleball has been here for 5 years, it's not new. This isn't about sneaking around this system. We followed what we believed was the right course. The people who donated money were told the courts would be built. The \$38,000 gift to the town was to repurpose three tennis courts. There is a growing number of people playing pickleball and an aging population. Pickleball is easier to learn and more fun for those who have never played a sport, and more interactive. The average game takes 11-12 minutes and the rest of the time is spent talking and having fun. There's never not a line to play pickleball, sometimes with as many as 20 people. This is about taking a facility and making it accessible without spending the \$250,000-\$500,000 it will cost if we look for a new place to put permanent courts. There are still 5 tennis courts plus others in town. There are zero pickleball courts. This demographic has few opportunities to be active in this town and enjoy camaraderie. If this is not approved, we will write

the checks back to the donors tomorrow. No tennis player's life is going to change if the pickleball courts are changed permanently, but it will serve more members of the community.

Michael McGill of 25 Little Pine Lane said not knowing the process is not an excuse for bypassing it. We should start from square 1 and find a solution everyone can agree on.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked the Board to consider the nonresident to speak, and they agreed.

Mary Hardt of 48 Mountainview Terrace in Rye said regarding the Portsmouth NH public courts, they have lots of players of both sports. They used to have pickleball players play with nets that were already there, but last year they installed permanent pickleball courts, and she has observed that once there were permanent courts, players didn't rotate. The lines of people waiting to play tennis got longer in the evening and the pickleball courts were empty at that time. Portable nets could be used to keep courts open and available to everyone.

Mr. Papakonstantis closed the public comment session.

Mr. Papakonstantis said If the Board needs additional time to deliberate, we will take it, but we will vote when ready. If we voted just because everyone's here, we'd be doing a disservice to tennis players, pickleball players, and the voters. Programming for seniors is important to him, and he'd like to see permanent pickleball courts in Exeter. In terms of the naming rights, in 2015, the Select Board adopted a sponsorship policy for certain limits of money raised where any signage has to come before the Select Board. If pickleball promised things that may not be delivered, he's sorry, but we need to follow a process. The taxpayers paid to improve the upper courts just a few years ago. We should get input from the taxpayers on how they feel about changing these courts that we just spent money to improve.

Ms. Oliff said she doesn't think we'll be ready to vote tonight. If donors are passionate about this, we can figure out the process and start over. We should figure out the storage system to address this in the short-term. Whatever numbers one group gets vs the other group, no one's going to be happy. These are two popular sports that are great for all ages. The bottom line is figuring out where this is going to happen. The process was flawed, but we'll go back to the drawing board and do it right.

Ms. Gilman said if we're talking about developing new tennis courts or pickleball courts somewhere, there will be a cost to the town, and we should know what that is. She understands the difficulty of playing a sport on a space that's striped for another sport, so it probably should have a dedicated space, but where do we put that and what will it cost?

Ms. Belanger said she appreciates the difficulty of set-up, but hopefully there is a temporary solution. We have to do our due diligence. The survey and data are important. We need to know what our needs are. She's not convinced we need to take away from our tennis courts. The town needs to weigh in on this, not just people who play pickleball and tennis.

Ms. Cowan said she has questions that would make it hard for her to make a decision. When we're expanding pickleball, what are the costs to the town? The presentation says there are no costs, but there are water, bathroom, and parking costs, timing issues, etc. She is sympathetic to the setup difficulty, but she suggested putting this as a Parks and Rec duty once the staff is in the building next door. Why are we converting the top courts which we just spent money on, could the bottom courts be dedicated pickleball space?

Mr. Papakonstantis asked about other spaces in town. Greg Bisson said residents can use the six EHS courts with permission when school is not in session. Residents can't use the PEA Courts. The town only has the eight tennis courts at 8 Hampton Road.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if we resurfaced only the upper courts, but Mr. Bisson said no, we resurfaced all of the courts. Mr. Papakonstantis asked if it would be possible to make two or three of the lower courts into pickleball courts. Mr. Bisson said there would have to be some kind of fencing to separate that from the tennis, which is not included in the current proposal.

Mr. Papakonstantis said regarding pickleball tournaments, would they happen during summer camp? Mr. Bisson said there would be some Friday activities. We would keep half of the parking lot reserved for camp and school. Anyone using the pool would have a pool parking pass. Mr. Papakonstantis said he's concerned about the traffic coming and going.

Mr. Papakonstantis asked if Parks and Rec staff can facilitate the setup of nets. Mr. Bisson said there are volunteers who set up the nets during the scheduled times, MWF mornings and W evenings. The issue with set-up is in the off-hours, not in the scheduled open play hours. Mr. Matthews said that at that time there are 40 or 50 people there, some of whom can set it up. Mr. Papakonstantis asked if there's any other place between 4 and 10 Hampton Road that could host the Pickleball courts. Mr. Bisson said a lot of site work would need to be done at 10 Hampton Road before any excavation could be done. Ms. Oliff asked if we can find out what it would cost for the area with the trailer and parking next to the pool to be paved and fenced for pickleball, since we're gaining parking spots at 10 Hampton Road. Mr. Bisson said he would have to talk to Public Works about traffic flow.

A resident pointed out that the condos on the side of the Rec Park would not be happy with pickleball courts being there.

A resident said if people want to play on Tuesday, Thursday, Saturday and Sunday, they need to know the combination. Mr. Papakonstantis asked if we can increase the time that folks have access to it. Mr. Bisson said right now we have volunteers who go out and do it. It would be burdensome for staff. The temporary nets will be destroyed from use by the end of the season.

Jason Doris from Pine Street said when we send out a survey, we should word it not assuming people are playing pickleball already. Maybe they're just interested in it. Mr. Papakonstantis said Mr. Bisson had done multiple surveys in the past and will represent both sports fairly.

Ms. Gilman asked what is the acreage of the 8 tennis courts. Mr. Bisson said 121'x160'. Another property would also have to have facilities such as parking and restrooms.

Barbara Keaveney of 14 Exeter Farms Road asked whether we can put the courts in other parks. Mr. Bisson said Gilman Park is under a work plan with SELT so it's off the table. Mr. Papakonstantis said parking will be a problem at the other Parks and Rec properties.

Mr. Bisson will come back in June with alternate proposals.

b. Parks Improvement Fund request

Greg Bisson said regarding ADA access to the lower courts, we looked at a concrete ramp or wooden ramp, which were too expensive; an aluminum ramp will meet the accommodations. We only have to widen the gate. This would allow us to offer adaptive programming on the lower courts. Ms. Belanger asked if this will change anything with pickleball. Mr. Bisson said no, but it would offer an opportunity to offer adaptive tennis. This will be a beneficial offering for both pickleball and tennis.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the purchase of an ADA aluminum ramp from National Seating and Mobility to come out of the Park Improvement fund in the amount of \$26,776. Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Bisson said that TEAM has donated \$1,200 for a picnic gazebo in Townhouse Common. We applied for an AARP grant that would offset the addition of decorative and safety lighting. We looked at building a wood pavilion, but concrete is cheaper. This would be stamped concrete similar to the one in Gilman Park. The gazebo will be 12'x13' and will accommodate an 8' picnic table. This will be a permanent structure but the picnic table can be removed. It will be located where the picnic table was at the corner of Court and Front Street. It will be used for performances on "Tune and Fork" Tuesdays with music and food trucks. It will last for 15 years.

Ms. Belanger asked why we wouldn't do something similar to the pavilion at Swasey, and Mr. Bisson said that cost \$150,000. He added that there's been an uptick in people picnicking at this park.

Ms. Gilman said this is in the Historic District, so a permanent structure should be reviewed, although we could go forward without HDC approval since it's town property. The next HDC meeting is in June. Mr. Dean said the Board could approve it conditioned on HDC approval. Ms. Gilman said she could arrange for a special meeting of the HDC.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to accept the donation from TEAM to accept the prefab gazebo of a value of \$1,200 to be built on the site of the cement pad, contingent on the approval of the Historic District Commission. Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved that contingent on the HDC approval, we approve the Parks and Rec Dept to expend \$4,300 from the Park Improvement Fund for the concrete pad to be

provided by Contrast Concrete. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Bisson said we would like to tear down the yellow shed in the Rec Park parking lot. We can put the equipment at 10 Hampton Road. This would remove an eyesore and a danger, and will improve parking flow.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to approve the relocation of equipment and the demolition of the yellow storage shed to be performed by Defraso Demolition at a cost of \$2,400 to be expended from the Park Improvement Fund. Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

Mr. Bisson said the current balance of the Park Improvement Fund is \$21,686.97. The Park Street Common playground equipment is on site, and should be installed in early June.

Ms. Belanger asked about bench painting. Mr. Bisson said Parks Foreman Andy Clauson has rehabbed quite a few, but over 200 are left.

c. FY22 Bond Issues

Ms. Gilman read the Certificate of Vote Regarding Authorization of Bonds and Approval of Loan Agreement with the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank:

I, the undersigned Clerk of the Issuer, hereby certify that a meeting of the Governing Board of Issuer (the "Board") was held on May 9, 2022. A quorum of the Board was in attendance and voting throughout.

I further certify that there are no vacancies on the Board, that all of the members of the Board were duly notified of the time, place and purposes of said meeting, including as one of the purposes the authorization of bonds and the approval of a Loan Agreement between the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank (the "Bond Bank") and the issuer.

I further certify that the following is a true copy of resolutions unanimously adopted at said meeting:

RESOLVED: That under and pursuant to the Municipal Finance Act, Chapter 33, N.H.R.S.A., as amended, the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank Law, Chapter 35-A, N.H.R.S.A., as amended, and other laws in addition thereto, and to votes of the Issuer duly adopted on March 9, 2021 and March 8 2022 under Articles 6 and 4 of the Warrant for such annual meeting of the Issuer there be and hereby is authorized the issuance of a \$2,250,000 Bond of the Issuer (the "Bond") which is being issued by the Issuer for the purposes of financing (i) the development of groundwater sources (\$1,000,000) and (ii) the purchase of land and building at 10 Hampton Road (a/k/a the Qessential Building), including minor renovations, to be used by the Parks and Recreation Department (\$1,250,000).

The Bond shall be dated as of its date of issuance, shall be in such numbers and denominations as the purchaser shall request, shall mature in accordance with the schedule set forth in Exhibit A to a certain Loan Agreement hereinafter described (the "Loan Agreement"), shall bear a net interest cost rate (as defined in the Loan Agreement) of four percent (4.00%) per annum or such lesser amount as may be determined by a majority of the Board. The Bond shall be substantially in the form set forth as Exhibit B to the Loan Agreement and otherwise shall be issued in such manner and form as the signatories shall approve by their execution thereof.

RESOLVED: That the Bond shall be sold to the Bond Bank at the par value thereof plus any applicable premium.

RESOLVED: That in order to evidence the sale of the Bond, the Treasurer of Issuer and a member of the Board are authorized and directed to execute, attest and deliver, in the name and on behalf of the Issuer, a Loan Agreement in substantially the form submitted to this meeting, which is hereby approved, with such changes therein not inconsistent with this vote and approved by the officers executing the same on behalf of the Issuer. The approval of such changes by said officers shall be conclusively evidenced by the execution of the Loan Agreement by such officers.

RESOLVED: That all things heretofore done and all action heretofore taken by the Issuer and its officers and agents in its authorization of the project to be financed by the Bond are hereby ratified, approved and confirmed.

RESOLVED: That the Clerk and the signers of the Bond are each hereby authorized to take any and all action necessary and convenient to carry out the provisions of this vote, including delivering the Bond against payment therefor.

RESOLVED: That the useful life of the project being financed is in excess of ten (10) years.

I further certify that said meeting was open to the public; the aforesaid vote was not taken by secret ballot nor in executive session; that notice of the time and place of said meeting was posted in at least two (2) appropriate public places within the territorial limits of the Issuer, or published in a newspaper of general circulation in said area, at least twenty-four (24) hours, excluding Sundays and legal holidays, before said meeting; that no deliberations or actions with respect to the vote were taken in executive session; and that the minutes of said meeting have been promptly recorded and have been or will be made open to inspection within one hundred forty-four (144) hours of said meeting, all in accordance with Chapter 91-A, N.H.R.S.A., as amended.

I further certify that the above vote has not been amended or rescinded and remains in full force and effect as of this date.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to adopt the Authorization of Bonds and Approval of Loan Agreement with the New Hampshire Municipal Bond Bank. Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

8. Regular Business

a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a tax abatement for 110/2/83 in the amount of \$95.09 for the tax year 2019. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an abatement for 110/2/22 in the following amounts and years: \$423.26 for the tax year 2019; \$375.79 for the tax year 2020; and \$309.65 for the tax year 2021. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an abatement for 110/2/115 in the following amounts and years: \$239.19 for the tax year 2020 and \$191.27 for the tax year 2021. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an abatement for 110/2/5 in the following amounts and years: \$242.34 for the tax year 2020 and \$357.50 for the tax year 2021. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve an abatement for 110/2/71 in the following amounts and years: \$237.85 for the tax year 2020 and \$349.95 for the tax year 2021. Ms. Belanger seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Gilman moved to approve a tax abatement for 110/2/94 in the amount of \$193.79 for the tax year 2021. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 5-0.

b. Permits & Approvals

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to renumber 28 Cullen Way to 37 Cullen Way. Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to renumber 26 Cullen Way to 41 Cullen Way. Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0.

c. Town Manager's Report

- i. The tax warrant has been completed by the Tax and Assessing offices and requires board signature. Tax bills will go out in a few weeks and are due July 1.

- ii. He attended a Health Trust meeting, the housing seminar and the Public Safety public input session.
 - iii. He's looking to meet with representatives from the Stoney Brook development in Stratham regarding town sewer and water.
 - iv. We're working on lease purchase for Fire SCBA equipment.
 - v. The Congressional Direct Spending for 10 Hampton Road was turned down by Rep Pappas but is still alive with Senator Shaheen.
- d. Select Board Committee Reports
- i. Ms. Gilman attended a Housing Advisory Committee meeting. They discussed towns that don't have water and sewer and how ratepayers are supporting them with our facilities that have the same underlying water source. She suggested looking at the General Court webpage for State updates. The Governor signed the redistricting maps and Exeter moved from District 23 to 24, we're now in a district with Stratham, North Hampton, Hampton, and Rye.
 - ii. Ms. Belanger attended the Housing Advisory Committee work session and forum, which had a good turnout. We discussed "Attainable" vs "Affordable" Housing. The May 20th meeting will look at next steps. She also attended the Public Safety forum and two webinars for Planning and Zoning. This week she has Conservation Commission and Planning Board meetings. The Alewife Festival is this Saturday, May 14 9-1.
 - iii. Ms. Cowan had no meetings, but said she received a complaint from a resident about car exhaust and motorcycle noise. She would like to look at what other towns do on this and hear an update from Police on enforcement. Ms. Gilman said she's heard it's unenforceable because someone has to go with a decibel meter and prove that it was the person creating it. We don't have the staff to enforce it. Mr. Papakonstantis asked Mr. Dean if a member of the Police can come to a future meeting and address it on the record.
 - iv. Mr. Papakonstantis attended the Public Safety forum, but he would like to see more outreach because there were only about 10 members of the public present. The Sustainability Advisory Committee is ready to finalize the draft of the ordinance for single use plastics; the next step is a public hearing. The Sustainability Advisory Committee will be setting up a booth at the alewife festival and showing films at Town Hall later that day.
- e. Correspondence
- i. A letter from PEA requesting a street closure for graduation. Ms. Belanger was concerned that the date is a Sunday and there are two churches on that road that can't have their services. Mr. Dean said he will look into that.
 - ii. An award certificate from the Arbor Day Foundation for Exeter as a Tree City USA.

- iii. A letter of thanks from Southern New Hampshire Services for an appropriation.
- 9. Review Board Calendar
 - a. Due to schedule conflicts, the next meeting will be May 31.

10. Non-Public Session

- a. There was no non-public session at this meeting.

11. Adjournment

MOTION: Ms. Belanger moved to adjourn. Ms. Gilman seconded. In a roll call vote, the motion passed 5-0, and the meeting was adjourned at 9:50 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,
Joanna Bartell
Recording Secretary