

Select Board Meeting  
Monday November 6, 2023  
7 PM  
Nowak Room, Town Offices  
Draft Minutes

1. Call Meeting to Order

Members present: Chair Niko Papakonstantis, Clerk Julie Gilman, and Nancy Belanger

Members Absent: Vice-Chair Molly Cowan, Dan Chartrand

Town Manager Russ Dean was also present at this meeting. The meeting was called to order by Mr. Papakonstantis at 7 PM.

2. Public Comment

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

3. Proclamations/Recognitions

- a. There were no proclamations/recognitions.

4. Approval of Minutes

- a. Regular Meeting: October 30, 2023

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to approve the Select Board minutes of October 30, 2023 as presented. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

5. Appointments

- a. There were no appointments made at this meeting.

6. Discussion/Action Items

- a. Arts & Culture Commission - Donation of "Hawk" Bench

David Tovey of Parks and Rec and Florence Ruffner of the Arts & Culture Commission were present to discuss the donation. Mr. Tovey said Bruce and Tracy Jones are donating the hawk sculpture for Stewart Park.

Mr. Papakonstantis said this started with an Exeter resident who has a sculpture to donate. He came before Swasey Park Trustees, but they did not feel comfortable accepting the donation because they are not accepting any bench donations, and they thought this appeared to be a bench. They would be open to other types of art or sculpture donations. We talked about putting it on town property, and it came before the Arts & Culture Commission. The artist is going to move the sculpture himself and furnish Parks and Rec with a certificate of insurance liability.

Mr. Tovey said we're looking to add artwork around town and making a map of public art. This addition goes with these efforts. This piece of art fits in nicely at Stewart Park, which is down by the water where there are birds.

Ms. Belanger asked if there will be a sign recognizing the artist and the donor. Mr. Tovey said we hadn't planned it, but if the artist or donor would like it we would.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to accept the donation of the hawk sculpture from resident Bruce Jones and artist Joseph Gray to be installed and permanently displayed at Stewart Park, and to further authorize the Arts & Culture Commission and the Parks and Rec Department to put a plaque recognizing the Jones Family as well as Mr. Gray if they'd like. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

b. Third Reading: 15 Minute Parking Limit, 152 Front Street

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to open the third public reading. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis said this would be a change to ordinance 103.7, 15 Minute parking, which currently reads Front Street: Southside four spaces east of Post Office entrance Monday through Saturday. This application is to amend the ordinance to include one spot of 15 minute parking in front of 152 Front Street.

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to close the public reading. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Ms. Belanger said these spaces are not lined. Are we going to mark all four spaces and mark the one closest to the tracks as 15 minutes? Mr. Dean said yes, that's the intent.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to amend town ordinance 103.7 to add one 15 minute parking space on the South side of Front Street closest to the railroad tracks in front of 152 Front Street. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

c. Public Hearing E911 Address Changes

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to open the public hearing on the E911 Address Changes. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Jason Fritz of the Fire Department and the E911 Committee was present to discuss the three proposed changes. The first is to accept the new proposed road name "Sunflower Lane" in the Rose Farm subdivision and number the dwellings built on that road according to chapter 14 of the town ordinance. The second is to change the name of Oak Street Extension to a continuance of Oak Street, and renumber according to chapter 14 of the town ordinance. The third is to renumber the properties on Boulder Brook Drive according to chapter 14 of the town ordinance. Boulder Brook Drive and Oak Street Extension were both identified as issues by the State.

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to close the public hearing. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to name the new proposed road in the Rose Farm subdivision “Sunflower Lane” and to number the dwellings built on that road according to chapter 14 of the town ordinance as depicted on the attached map dated July 13, 2023. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to change the name of Oak Street Extension to Oak Street, making it a continuation of the existing Oak Street, to continue to Sunflower Lane, as depicted on the attached map dated July 13 2023, and to renumber dwellings according to chapter 14 of the town ordinance. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to renumber the properties on Boulder Brook Drive according to chapter 14 of the town ordinance and to maintain the numbering of the multifamily condominium complex as depicted on the attached map dated October 3 2023. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

d. Public Hearing: Grant Acceptance: \$200,000 ECBG Grant

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to open the public hearing on ECBG Grant. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Conservation and Sustainability Planner Kristen Murphy and Renay Allen of the Energy Committee were present to discuss the Energy Efficiency and Conservation Block Grant Program. Ms. Murphy said this was a competitive grant, only 12 awarded nationally. We would be using the 200,000 and combining it with weatherization funds from the state to retrofit 100 manufactured homes within Exeter’s four resident-owned communities. There's potential for up to \$17,000 of retrofits for each resident, which could make a substantial difference in their energy bills.

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to close the public hearing. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Mr. Papakonstantis recognized the work that Ms. Murphy, Ms. Allen, and the Energy Committee did on this grant. He added that Senator Shaheen was here a few weeks ago regarding the grant.

Ms. Murphy said there would be weatherization clinics within each of these four manufactured housing communities. We would then solicit applications which would be vetted through NH Saves. They have an income qualification process. It would go to the first 100 applicants that qualify, 25 from each community. Applicants would receive a home energy audit and get recommendations for changes and upgrades that the resident could choose from. The Resilient Buildings Institute would be the contractors.

Once repairs are completed, we will track and document how much energy savings there is for each, and we would pay the contractor the \$2,000 ECBG portion.

Mr. Dean said Exeter is an energy efficiency leader thanks to the great staff and volunteers we have.

**MOTION:** Ms. Gilman moved to accept the ECBG grant in the amount of \$200,000 to support a project called “Creating Efficiencies” in Exeter’s mobile home parks. Ms. Belanger seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

e. Public Hearing: Grant Acceptance: \$20,000 Moose Plate Grant

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to open the public hearing for the Moose Plate grant. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Ms. Murphy said this is a \$20,000 no-match grant from the State’s Moose Plate program. This will get us closer to completing the list of repairs to Raynes Barn. We have funding from LCHIP, but the work is going slower than we hoped due to contractor issues. A portion of this grant will go to clapboard repair and paint for the exterior. This was a competitive grant application, with only 14 grants awarded.

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

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to close the public hearing. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

Ms. Belanger said this project has been ongoing for a few years, Ms. Murphy has persevered in getting grants and continuing the work at the barn. Ms. Murphy said she’s working on a T-Mobile hometown grant which would get us \$50,000.

Ms. Gilman said she thinks there should be a grants management position with the town. We’ve seen enough evidence of what can be done if we have the energy to get these grants. Mr. Papakonstantis said it would be interesting to see if it comes up with the consultant on the succession planning. He’d like to see the amount of money that has come into the town from grants over the last few years. It has to be in the millions.

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to accept the \$20,000 Moose Plate grant and authorize the Select Board Chair or his designee to execute all relevant paperwork. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0.

## 7. Regular Business

### a. Tax Abatements, Veterans Credits and Exemptions

i. There were no abatements or exemptions considered.

### b. Permits & Approvals

#### i. Holiday Hours

Mr. Papakonstantis said we’re rewarding town staff with additional time off during the holidays. We proposed a full day and two half days. The Board was in agreement. This memo is consistent with what we discussed in September: a half day Wednesday November 22nd and Friday December 22nd, where the

town offices close at 12:30, and on Tuesday December 26, the Town Offices would be closed the entire day.

Ms. Belanger said she preferred noon to 12:30 for the half days. The Board agreed to noon.

c. Town Manager's Report

- i. More DPW Director interviews are scheduled.
- ii. It's Veteran's Day Friday, and Town Offices closed.
- iii. The new tax rate was set last week: \$26.78 per thousand, with the town share being \$6.23 per thousand. We will put this on the website once we finish the tax warrant.
- iv. Today we got a 91-A request regarding Pickpocket Dam from Brentwood. The request is quite extensive and will take some time to respond to it, but we have to get back to them within 5 business days. Ms. Gilman said she wanted to know what the interaction with Brentwood would be. Mr. Dean said we sent an email to Brentwood with the letter of deficiency and the information that we are applying for this grant. We have been contacted by the Brentwood Conservation Commission Chair for a copy of the grant application, so we gave that to her. Brentwood will be discussing this tomorrow at their Select Board meeting.

d. Select Board Committee Reports

- i. Ms. Belanger attended a Planning Board meeting. There was one application, from McFarland Realty Trust, for a site plan review and wetland conditional use permit. This was approved. Ford and some other national car dealers are trying to add electric charging units for the public. At the Housing Advisory Committee we welcomed new member Em Heath and discussed 79-E and the recommendations. The Committee felt the town doesn't need those kind of incentives. We also heard a summary of a Housing Summit by Nick Taylor, who is the Director of the Seacoast Workforce Housing Coalition.
- ii. Ms. Gilman had no report.
- iii. Mr. Papakonstantis said he participated in filming a 20 minute video relative to the proposed Public Safety building. This is just to educate and inform people with the facts. He and Mr. Dean are planning to talk at RiverWoods on this issue next week. Ms. Belanger said she volunteered Mr. Papakonstantis to speak to a new committee to get more people at RiverWoods to volunteer for the town.
- iv. Mr. Papakonstantis said he asked the Trustees to come to the Select Board meeting on the 20th to discuss the roadway. Mr. Dean said we got an estimate from Granese but we're working with them to refine it before releasing it. Mr. Papakonstantis said this will probably require an RFP. What can we do internally? Ms. Belanger said we should bring in Renay

Allen regarding the statue for Jude Hall. Mr. Papakonstantis said we found a different location for her project, near the front of the park.

- v. There is a Holiday Open House at the Independence Museum on November 30th.

- e. Correspondence

- i. There was no correspondence.

- 8. Review Board Calendar

- a. The next Select Board meetings are November 20, December 4, December 18. There may be a meeting between December 25th and January 1 if we need to encumber. The Board will also be meeting at 5 PM this Wednesday November 8th.

- 9. Non-Public Session

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

- 10. Adjournment

**MOTION:** Ms. Belanger moved to adjourn. Ms. Gilman seconded. The motion passed 3-0 and the meeting was adjourned at 7:53 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Joanna Bartell  
Recording Secretary