

**TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE**  
**TOWN COUNCIL MEETING**  
April 20, 2022, 7:00 PM  
Town Council Chambers  
Minutes

Approved May 4, 2022

**Councilors Present:** Council Vice-chair Katanna Conley, Councilor Megan Brabec, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Joe LaMattina and Councilor Colin White. Councilor Brian Ward via Zoom.

**Councilors Excused:** Council Chair Toni Weinstein.

**Staff Present:** Town Manager Stephen Fournier and Wendy Chase, Recording Secretary.

Vice-chair Conley convened the Meeting at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Committee Assignments:**

**Highway Safety** – Council Chair Toni Weinstein

**Budget Committee** – Councilor Brian Ward

**Energy & Environment Committee** – Councilor Joe LaMattina

**CIP** – Councilor Colin White; Councilor Brian Ward, Alternate

**Conservation Commission** – Councilor Colin White

**Economic Development/Liaison Business Association** – Councilor Megan Brabec

**Planning Board** – Councilor Scott Blackstone

**Ad hoc Riverfront Advisory Committee** – Councilor Joe LaMattina

**Ad hoc Arts and Tourism Commission** – Councilor Megan Brabec

**Ordinance Oversight Committee** – Council Chair Toni Weinstein and Council Vice-chair Katanna Conley

**Parking Commission** – Council Vice-chair Katanna Conley

Councilor Brabec made a motion to approve the Councilor Committee Assignments, which was seconded by Councilor LaMattina.

Motion was passed by a vote of 6-0.

**Public Forum**

Vice-chair Conley opened the Public Forum at 7:03 PM

There was no one from the public in attendance.

Vice-chair Conley closed the Public Forum at 7:03 PM.

## **Town Council to Consider Acceptance of Minutes**

### **April 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes**

Councilor White made a motion to approve the April 6, 2022 Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Councilor Brabec.

Motion was passed by a vote of 6-0.

### **April 6, 2022 Non-public Meeting Minutes**

Councilor LaMattina made a motion to approve the April 6, 2022 Non-public Meeting Minutes, which was seconded by Councilor White.

Motion was passed by a vote of 6-0.

## **Report of the Town Manager**

**FY22 Budget Update:** As of March, 75% of the operation budget has been expended – right on target. Revenues are down with motor vehicles. Inflation continues to be an issue. Traditionally increases range between 2-4%. At the end of March, there is a national increase of 8.5% and increase of the Boston and New England CPI of 7.3%

### **Neal Mill Road:**

The first reading of the Resolution to reclassify a portion of Neal Mill Road as a Class A trail is on the agenda this evening. A public hearing will be held on May 4<sup>th</sup>. Notices will go out to abutters.

**Town Engineer:** We will begin advertising for the position this week.

**Moody Point Storm Water Grant:** We have applied for the grant.

Regional Administrators from USDA Rural Development and NH DES as well as other State and Federal personnel met with us to walk the sites of the projects Newmarket are working on with the \$12 million received from Rural Development grants. They expressed that Newmarket has been successful on how the money was used and the how we are used a model on how other towns should devise their projects.

The Town Manager and Finance Director are updating the remote working policy. During COVID employees sometimes had to work from home and there are other instances when employees may need to work from home in certain situations.

The City of Dover, Town of Durham and Town of Newmarket are conducting a Blood Drive Donation challenge. The Town Manager of the winning town will be taken to dinner at a restaurant within their community by the two Managers of the other two non-winning towns. Newmarket's blood drive will be held at the Polish American Club on May 4<sup>th</sup>. You must preregister in order to donate blood. There will be a raffle for those who donate.

Councilor Blackstone asked the status of replacement of the signs at the Rec. Center and Elementary School. Town Manager Fournier said that Rec Director Gigandet is collaborating with the school, and they should be done by this summer.

## **Department Reports March 2022**

Councilor Conley was excited to see New Road and other projects with start dates. She asked if the WWTP position that they are having a tough time filling will be part of the wage study. Town Manager Fournier said that it would.

## **Committee Reports**

Councilor Blackstone said the Planning Board met on April 12. The project on Exeter Road is on hold because the State is putting in a cross walk at that location. Community Development Director Bart McDonough said that he would contact the state to get that resolved. Eric Botterman was appointed PB Chair and Val Shelton was appointed at PB Vice-chair.

Councilor Brabec reported on the Riverfront Advisory Committee meeting. She said Community Development Director Bart McDonough was present and they were able to fill him in on what the Committee has been working on.

Councilor Brabec reported on the Conservation Commission meeting. She said Community Development Director Bart McDonough was present as well as representatives of pollinator pathways and SELT. They had suggestions on how to protect our trails. There will be an invasives workshop on May 14.

Councilor Ward reported on the Budget Committee meeting. Mike LaBranche was appointed Chair and Chris Wolfe was appointed Vice-chair. They discussed conducting separate budget meetings for the school and town. The next meeting is May 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## **Old Business**

### **Town Council to Consider Nominations, Appointments, and Elections**

#### Melissa Brogle - Conservation Commission - Term Expiration April 2025

Councilor Brabec made a motion to appoint Melissa Brogle to the Conservation Commission with a term expiration of April 2025, which was seconded by Councilor White.

Motion was passed by a vote of 6-0.

#### Michael Provost - Cemetery Trustee - Term Expiration April 2025

Councilor Ward made a motion to appoint Michael Provost as a Cemetery Trustee with a term expiration of April 2025, which was seconded by Councilor White.

Motion was passed by a vote of 6-0.

#### Henry Smith - Zoning Board of Adjustment Alternate Member - Term Expiration April 2025

Councilor LaMattina made a motion to appoint Henry Smith to the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a term expiration of April 2025, which was seconded by Councilor Ward.

Motion was passed by a vote of 6-0.

## **Resolutions/Ordinances in the 1st Reading**

#### Resolution #2021/2022-30 - Debt Policy

Vice-chair Conley read Resolution #2021/2022-31 into the record in title only without objection.

#### Resolution #2021/2022-31 - Reclassifying the Class VI Portion of Neal Mill Road to a Class A Trail

Town Manager Fournier read Resolution #2021/2022-31 into the record.

Resolution #2021/2022 - 32 - Naming of Certain Streets in Town

Vice-chair Conley read Resolution #2021/2022-32 into the record.

**10. New Business/Correspondence**

Correspondence to the Town Council

A letter from the Historical Society relating to the Historic District Ordinance. Town Manager read the letter into the record. He suggested the Planning Board work on it and then report to the Town Council.

Closing Comments by Town Councilors

Vice-chair Conley thanked Town Manager Fournier for his work regarding the reclassification of a portion of Neal Road to a Class A Trail.

Councilor Blackstone congratulated Rec Director Gigandet on a successful Easter Egg Hunt event.

Next Meeting - May 4, 2022

**11. Adjournment**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35 PM without objection.