

TOWN OF NEWMARKET, NEW HAMPSHIRE

TOWN COUNCIL REGULAR MEETING

May 4, 2022 7:00 PM

Council Chambers

Minutes

Approved May 18, 2022

Councilors Present: Council Chair Toni Weinstein, Councilor Megan Brabec, Councilor Scott Blackstone, Councilor Katanna Conley, Councilor Brian Ward, Councilor Joe Lamattina and Councilor Colin White, Sr.

Staff Present: Town Manager Stephen Fournier.

Chair Weinstein convened the meeting at 7:00 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

AGENDA

PUBLIC FORUM

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Forum at 7:08 PM.

Kristin Berthiaume spoke on behalf the non-profit Project Prom/Project Graduation group and asked permission to install the Senior Class Picture banners on the light poles downtown like they were displayed the past two years.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Forum at 7:10 PM.

PUBLIC HEARING

1. Reclassifying the Class VI Portion of Neal Mill Road to a Class A Trail.

Chair Weinstein opened the Public Hearing at 7:10 PM.

Glenn Dodds, 21 Neal Mill Road, said the property cannot be developed and questioned the necessity to reclassify the Class VI portion of the road to a Class A Trail.

Ellen Snyder, Johnson Drive, spoke on behalf of the Conservation Commission and said the Commission fully endorses the change. She explained that the Town of Newfields changed their portion of the road to a Class A Trail 2 years ago and it makes sense for Newmarket to convert its portion of the Class VI Road to a Class A Trail.

Chris Rowe, Tasker Lane, said he is the Vice President of the local snowmobile club. He voiced concern over the change and said he felt it was not necessary. He felt it would eliminate access to cyclists and snowmobilers that currently use the road for recreation. He said the bridge installed was put in by one of his organizations who also contributed \$20,000. toward it. He is against the change. He said he and his volunteer groups maintain the road and there doesn't need to be improvements to it; it's in good shape. He doesn't see the need to reclassify the road.

Ellen Snyder explained that the access will not be changed and everyone using the road now will be able to continue to use it. The change to the Class A Trail will give the Conservation Commission an opportunity to apply for grants to make improvements to the trail, like adding gravel and drainage improvements.

Chair Weinstein reminded everyone that the public hearing was for Councilors to hear public comments; it is not a debate.

Chair Weinstein closed the Public Hearing at 7:16 PM.

TOWN COUNCIL TO CONSIDER ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES

April 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes

Councilor White made a motion to Approve *the April 20, 2022 Meeting Minutes*, which was seconded by Councilor Conley.

Motion was Passed by a vote of 7-0.

REPORT OF THE TOWN MANAGER

Request – Pole Banners: Town Manager Fournier said that at the beginning of the pandemic the Town worked with the school of find ways to celebrate graduation because Seniors were not permitted to hold a traditional graduation ceremony with the understanding that it would end when regular celebrations returned. The Town allowed the senior class portrait banners to be installed on the light poles. The Town Manager explained that there is no policy for non-governmental entities to put banners on the light poles downtown. The Council has to take into consideration liability, cost and fairness. The Town Manager drafted a policy for the Councilors to consider. He suggested they approve the current request under “no policy”, but moving forward, future groups will have to follow an approved application process.

Councilor Ward said he has no problem allowing the banners to be installed this year but agrees that a policy should be put into place for future requests.

Chair Weinstein asked that the current Project Graduation Group relay this information to next year's group.

The Town Manager will let the Public Works Director know of the decision and to work with this

year's group to install the banners.

Policy Enactment: The Town Manager is currently looking at a number of internal policies that deal with the day-to-day operations of the town, including "work from home policy", IT policy manual as well as other operational guidelines. In other communities these are considered a rule or regulation, not a policy. A policy is traditionally a high-level overall plan supporting general goals and acceptable procedures. The Town Manager proposes to amend the administrative code allowing the Town Manager or Department Heads to enact a rule or regulation. He will propose an amendment to the administrative code at a future meeting.

Sewer and Water Impact Fees: The Town Manager has received the final presentation on the proposed changes to the Sewer and Water Impact Fees. The Director of Environmental Services and the consultant will be at the next meeting to present this to the Council.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilor LaMattina reported on the Energy and Environment Committee meeting held last night. He informed the Council that the Chair Peter Nelson is resigning from the Committee and Ellen Read will assume his position until there is another committee appointment. There are now 4 vacant seats. The Committee will be meeting with Revision Energy next month to get updates on the Solarize Newmarket campaign. They are also working on the Community Power coalition and Peter is getting information from electric companies. They will be drafting a resolution with help from the Town Manager on the verbiage for the Council to consider that basically states the town would like to commit to using renewable energy by 2030.

RESOLUTIONS IN THE 2ND READING

1. Resolution #2021/2022-30 – Debt Policy

Councilor Conley made a Motion to Approve Resolution #2021/2022-30 – Debt Policy, which was Seconded by Councilor Ward.

Town Manager Fournier explained that the town's auditors and Municipal Resource Inc. advised the Town to adopt a Debt Policy.

Motion was passed by a vote of 7-0.

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

Councilor Conley Moved to Approve Resolution #2021/2022-31 – Reclassifying the Class VI Portion of Neal Mill Road to a Class A Trail, which was Seconded by Councilor Brabec.

Town Manager Fournier explained that the change will ensure that it will remain a Trail and not be converted to a Road.

Councilor Ward asked to confirm that people currently using the trail will not see any change to accessing it. Town Manager Fournier said that was correct. Motion was passed by a vote of 7-0.

3. Resolution #2021/2022-33 - Naming of Certain Streets in Town

Councilor Conley made a Motion to Approve Resolution #2021/2022-33 – Naming of Certain Streets in Town, which was Seconded by Councilor White.

Town Manager Fournier said that the street names were approved by the E 911 Coordinator.

Councilor Brabec asked if the Council had authority to name town streets. Town Manager Fournier said that the Council does have that authority and he thought it would be a good way to honor certain individuals by naming a town street after them.

Councilor Ward put a plug in for Wentworth Cheswill and thought he would worthy of a street named after him. He owned most of South Main Street and donated it all to the Town.

Motion was passed by a vote of 7-0.

RESOLUTIONS IN THE 1ST READING

1. Resolution #2021/2022-33-Authorizing the Issuance of Refunding Well Water Treatment Facility Bond

Chair Weinstein read Resolution #2021/2022-33 into the record by title only without objection.

CORRESPONDENCE TO THE COUNCIL

Town Manager Fournier received correspondence from Kathy Zochi in reference to her great uncle Henry Wajda who was a famous horse jockey and resident of Newmarket. The family is requesting support from the town for them to apply for an historic marker to be placed near the Calvary Cemetery in honor of Henry Wajda. The Town Council had no objections to the historic marker. Town Manager Fournier will let the family know that they can proceed with the process through the State.

CLOSING COMMENTS BY THE TOWN COUNCILORS

Chair Weinstein suggested having a running list of potential street names available for future developers to consider when naming new streets. She will contact the Historical Society for suggestions. Town Manager Fournier said that they can keep them on file at the Planning Office.

Councilor Brabec mentioned the recent Supreme Court Opinion regarding Roe v. Wade. She said other communities are offering safe havens. She will investigate what other communities are doing and look into what Newmarket can do.

Councilor White questioned a section of road near the Mobile Home Park off of New Road and the name of the section, he thought was Central Street. Town Manager Fournier suggested he contact the Public Works Director.

Chair Weinstein mentioned that May is “no mow may”. The month of May is when pollination is crucial. She suggested the town pick a public town owned spot and not mow for the month of May to promote “no mow may” and to put up signage explaining the benefits to nature.

NEXT MEETING

May 18, 2022

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Weinstein adjourned the meeting at 8:02 PM without objection.

Respectfully submitted,

Wendy V. Chase
Recording Secretary