

**TOWN OF NEW DURHAM
BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

March 16, 2023, 6:00PM

New Durham Community Room, New Durham, NH 03855

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DRAFT: These minutes are strictly a draft copy and are awaiting amendment or approval at a subsequent, duly noticed public meeting. Amendments to these minutes will be noted in the minutes of said meeting. The draft will be posted on the website as a draft copy for public informational use only.

PRESENT

Marc DeCoff, Select Board Chair
Dorothy Veisel, Select Board Member
Ron Uyeno, Select Board Member

ALSO PRESENT

Nicole Zoltko, Town Administrator
Ellen Phillip, resident
Fred Quimby, resident
Cathy Orlowicz, resident
Christine Evans, resident
Scott Lacroix, Building Inspector/Code Enforcement
Janelle Guarino, Tax Collector

CALL TO ORDER

Chair DeCoff called the meeting to order at 6:02PM.

Roll Call & Pledge Allegiance

Roll call was taken for Board members present. The Pledge of Allegiance was said by those present.

Public Input

None.

APPOINTMENTS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chair DeCoff stated at the last meeting a grant opportunity was discussed and it was indicated at that time that the Boodey Farmstead was not interested; he clarified the Committee was interested but didn't feel they had enough time to adequately pursue it.

Chair DeCoff thanked the residents, poll workers and Town Moderator, Highway Department, Police and Fire Departments who helped ensure a successful election day on Tuesday. He also thanked the school district and suggested a letter of appreciation be sent to the Wentworth School District board.

Town Administrator's Report

Town Administrator Zoltko stated the election results were posted on Tuesday evening; the Town Clerk is available for swearing individuals. She stated there was a three way tie for the cemetery trustee and Ms. Housel researched how to handle that situation properly.

Town Administrator Zoltko explained the hearing schedule for the Pole Tax; she explained it is in regard to the utility poles along the road sides; she stated there have been legal situations with Consolidated Communications over the last few year and the process is that the wording for taxation needs to be changed to ensure the companies are taxed for using the Town's land for the poles. Town Administrator Zoltko stated the contract assessors and Town Counsel are still working through some of the details but they will be moving forward with the public hearing for the pole taxes. She stated a quorum of the Board of Selectmen is required for the hearing; she stated its is potentially worth about \$250,000. She stated if the recent candidate, David Swenson would need to come in and be sworn in prior to the public hearing or Mr. Uyeno could sit on the Board in his place, noting Chair DeCoff will be unavailable due to a previous commitment; she stated the Contract Assessor will also be in attendance. Selectmen Uyeno stated he discussed the issue with New Hampshire Municipal Association and it was confirmed that he can remain on the Board until his position is officially filled or he steps down. The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, March 23 with a snow date of March 27, at the New Durham Town Hall, 7:00PM.

NEW BUSINESS

Appointments

Town Administrator Zoltko stated the Board made nominations and confirmed no input regarding the individuals was received during the two week vetting period.

Selectman Veisel motioned to appoint Scott Lacroix to the position of Health Officer for the Town of New Durham. Chair DeCoff seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Chair DeCoff motioned to appoint Christine Evans to the Zachariah Boodey Farmstead Committee with a term to expire March 2026. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Selectman Veisel motioned to appoint Cheryl Cullimore to the Zachariah Boodey Farmstead Committee with a term to expire March 2026. Chair DeCoff seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Selectman Veisel motioned to appoint Cathy Orlowicz to the Zachariah Boodey Farmstead Committee with a term to expire March 2026. Chair DeCoff seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

OLD BUSINESS

Septic System Management/Health Ordinance Update

Mr. Lacroix presented the draft ordinance for review by the Board. He noted some edits were made per the advice of Town Counsel.

Chair DeCoff motioned to approve the policy regarding waste water disposal systems and subsurface water for Merrymeeting Lake and ancillary water bodies of New Durham. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Maureen Demp, Water Quality Committee, presented the septic system inventory project for review by the Board. She explained the goals and focus of the committee and the testing process over the last few years. Ms. Demp explained the cyanobacteria blooms that have been occurring in recent years which have numerous causes including runoff from camps around the lake with failing septic systems. She stated they have been reviewing all septic systems within 250 feet of a water body in New Durham. Ms. Demp outlined the summary of their findings to date, which have found up to 33% of the properties having systems over 35 years old; 19% of the properties have no records. She stated they still have a lot of work to do to complete all the water bodies in Town. It was suggested the septic information be included with the tax card files as well as the possibility of selling the completed list to septic system contractors. There are some grants available that are being pursued to help with this inventory process as well as potential grants for homeowners who need to do upgrades.

Mr. Lacroix stated when a homeowner comes in for a permit of any sort, they check the age of the septic system and may require it be upgraded if a bedroom is being added on; if the system is over 35 years old, they also require an update. He explained there is also the option of having a “pocket” plan which is an approved plan on file with NH DES, to be used in the event of a system failure.

NEW BUSINESS

Acceptance of Charitable Donations – Boodey Farmstead

Ms. Orlowicz presented a request for acceptance by the Board for cash donations received, totaling \$40. She stated it was received at the Winter Carnival put on by the Parks and Recreation Committee.

Chair DeCoff motioned to accept the charitable donation of \$40 for the Zachariah Boodey Farmstead, received March 6, 2023. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

Abatement Request

Ms. Guarino, Tax Collector, presented a request for an abatement for review by the Board.

Chair DeCoff motioned to approve the request for an abatement for Map 210, Lot 33 which was merged with Map 210, Lot 032 in 2018, in the amount of \$256.76, as of March 6, 2023. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

The Board reviewed the request for selling tax deeded property. Town Administrator Zoltko explained the policy requires a property be offered to abutters. She stated the Town

does not have to sell for any less than the lien amount; she advised if the Board wants to discuss it further, they will need to go into nonpublic session. The Board reviewed the letter from an abutter who indicates they are interested in purchasing numerous abutting, Town owned properties. The Board agreed they want to see the properties before making a decision.

Chair DeCoff motion to enter nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91:A-3 II (I) Consideration of legal advice provided by legal counsel, either in writing or orally, to one or more members of the

public body, even where legal counsel is not present. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Veisel -aye; Selectman Uyeno -aye; Chair DeCoff-aye. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

The Board entered nonpublic session at 7:00PM.

The Board reentered public session at 7:30PM.

Chair DeCoff motioned to seal the minutes of the nonpublic session of March 16, 2023. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Selectman Veisel -aye; Selectman Uyeno -aye; Chair DeCoff-aye. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

FUTURE MEETINGS

The Board discussed the future meeting schedule.

April 13, 2023, 6:00PM

Chair DeCoff motioned to adjourn. Selectman Veisel seconded the motion. Motion passed, 3-0-0.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:35PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer Riel

Jennifer Riel, Recording Secretary