

**TOWN OF BEDFORD  
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES  
January 10, 2024  
10 Meetinghouse Road**

**1. ROLL CALL:** A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, January 10, 2024, 10 Meetinghouse Road. Participating were Bill Carter (Chair), Lori Radke (Vice Chair) and Councilors Phil Greazzo, Sue Thomas, Dave Gilbert, Kathleen Bemiss, and Michael Strand. Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Chairman Carter opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

**2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Led by Councilor Radke.

**3. PUBLIC COMMENTS** – None.

**4. CONFIRMATION OF THE APPOINTMENT OF POLICE CHIEF**

Mr. Sawyer was pleased to submit his appointment of Daniel Doudi, current Interim Police Chief and Deputy Police Chief, and longtime resident of Bedford, as the Town's next Police Chief. He was convinced that Dan was the best person for the job given his vast knowledge of Bedford having held every uniformed position within the Department, starting as a Patrol Officer in 1991, and becoming Deputy Chief in 2018. Dan has a Bachelor of Arts in Business Management and a mix of experience having come up through the ranks and living here in Bedford. It has provided him with the foundation to be extremely successful as Chief. This appointment came following a period where he had conversations with many people inside and outside of the organization, which helped bring clarity as to what qualities and skills the next Chief needed to have. Following those conversations and knowing that he was interested, he met with Dan several times and it was clear to him that he was the best person to lead the organization at this time. The position was posted for internal applicants and the Council also completed an interview with Dan. He was always impressed with Dan's professionalism and willingness to work, often behind the scenes, to get the job done while always respecting the chain of command and his commitment to the safety of officers, residents, and visitors.

**MOTION by Chairman Carter that the Bedford Town Council confirm the appointment of Daniel Doudi as the Police Chief for the Town of Bedford effective January 11, 2024. Seconded by Councilor Thomas. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

Chief Doudi thanked the Town Manager for bringing his name to the Town Council and for the Council to confirm his appointment. He was very humbled and overwhelmed over the last couple of weeks and very appreciative of everybody, the Town Council, Department Heads, the support over the years. He was looking forward and was eager to work in leading the Department and working for the Town of Bedford.

Chief Doudi received applause and a standing ovation.

## 5. PUBLIC HEARING

Chairman Carter read a letter he received from the Government Finance Officers Association.

*'We are pleased to notify that your annual comprehensive financial report for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2022 qualifies for GFOA's Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting. The Certificate of Achievement is the highest form of recognition in governmental accounting and financial reporting, and its attainment represents a significant accomplishment by a government and its management. When a Certificate of Achievement is awarded to a government, an Award of Financial Reporting Achievement (AFRA) is also presented to the individual(s) or department designated by the government as primarily responsible for its having earned the Certificate. This award has been set to the submitter as designated on the application. We hope that you will arrange for a formal presentation of the Certificate and Award of Financial Reporting Achievement and give appropriate publicity to this notable achievement.'*

Chairman Carter thanked Matt Mannino for reaching this achievement. It had been many years in a row receiving this achievement.

### a. First public hearing on the proposed 2024 budget

Mr. Sawyer stated that the changes the Council made to the budget since it was submitted in October produced a tax rate impact of \$0.46/1,000 bringing the new Town total projected tax rate to \$3.75 if nothing else changed. At their last meeting there was change made by the Council where they didn't have all of the breakdown for how that change would impact the sewer fund and BCTV. They were recommending that the Council move a new bottom line budget for all capital and operating expenses to the 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing that reduced that budget from the December meeting to that 2<sup>nd</sup> public hearing.

*Chairman Carter opened the public hearing.*

Jon Snow, 10 Heather Drive, stated that on October 25<sup>th</sup>, Rick Sawyer presented a longevity program. He was there about a year ago talking about in the last 10 years they've lost about 100 personnel from Police and Fire. The Town had done a pretty good job in addressing recruitment, but they haven't done their due diligence in working on retention. This plan was brought forward by Rick. It was well received by everyone; he spoke to a lot of people in Town. He thought it was a really good stride in a positive direction for retention. He'd been there for 21 years and the one thing he would say was there were very few instances where he felt appreciated as a Town employee. He was also a lifelong resident of the Town. He applauded Rick for bringing the plan forward. He asked that \$225,997 be added into the budget. He wanted to know what the impact would be on a \$600K house; he thought it would be around \$30 for the year. Mr. Sawyer confirmed that he was in the right ballpark. Mr. Snow stated that when they're looking at the total impact of somebody's tax bill, they were talking about a couple cups of coffee. What that meant to the people that serve the Town was incommensurable from they could understand sitting on that side. It may not seem like a lot to them, but for them it was a huge amount of money. What they talk about was they want to train their employees so well that they could leave and get a job anywhere else, but you want to treat them so well that they want to stay here. A plan like this starts that ball moving forward that they would

start retaining employees. 100 employees in 10 years was a lot. There were very few of them left that had stayed for 20 years, 21 years, or 25 years. They've got a whole group of young people and they want to see every one of them come here and have a very long successful career here. Something like this with a minimum tax impact had a hug impact on keeping everybody here. That was his ask of the Council for this.

Chairman Carter thanked the members of the Bedford Fire Department for showing up.

*Chairman Carter closed the public hearing.*

Councilor Bemiss stated that this was her pet project. She thanked Mr. Snow for bringing it forward. They definitely appreciated their employees. The current program was put in place in 2009. In reviewing what was going on in the communities around them, Bedford was at the really high end. She thought it was interesting that he said he didn't feel appreciated yet they were already at the high end. She thought they needed to look at the program and figure out how they could achieve that goal of keeping people happy, and making sure they were feeling appreciated and loved, but were doing it in a responsible best business practice way. They needed to look at it more. Chairman Carter thought those were the feelings of the Council. It was going to be one of their initiatives this year to make it where everybody was in agreement.

Councilor Strand stated that's where Councilor Bemiss and he agreed to disagree. There were 3 different plans presented. He appreciated the good faith gesture to continue the discussion, but thought they workshopped it pretty excessively. That's why he presented an option that was approximately half of what the Town Manager had proposed and built in incentives based on his experience, looking at when people often leave, getting somebody to 3 or 5 years. He reworked it to try to incentivize getting past times where they may look at another job. Make sure it aligned when often people were having kids and had big expenses and hadn't been there 20 years yet where the step program started to kick in for union or non-union. He asked the Council to consider looking at an incremental version between this session and next session. To not do nothing compared to the Town Manager proposed model, which he didn't think was unreasonable.

**MOTION by Councilor Thomas that the Bedford Town Council move the recommended 2024 Municipal Operating and Capital Budgets to the second public hearing, which is scheduled for January 24, 2024 in the following amounts:**

	As Moved on 12/13/23	To Move on 1/10/24	Change
General Fund	37,404,499	37,404,499	-
Recreation Day Camp	107,491	107,491	-
BCTV	498,310	492,736	(5,574)
Sewer Fund	1,792,526	1,787,071	(5,455)
<b>Total Appropriation</b>	<b>39,802,826</b>	<b>39,791,797</b>	<b>(11,029)</b>

**Seconded by Councilor Radke. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

## 5. NEW BUSINESS

### a. Discussion with Emma Dolan, Community Education Coordinator, YWCA NH regarding an upcoming program on the prevention of domestic and sexual violence

Mr. Sawyer stated that the Council had been looking at the best ways to educate the residents on how to identify and respond to issues of domestic and sexual violence and ultimately prevent them from happening. The School District had been working with the YWCA of NH to bring workshops to the classroom and they reached out to them to see about programs that would target young adults and the general population. Chairman Carter and he met with Emma Dolan and talked about the YWCA and the '*In Their Shoes*' program that they were targeting to present to the community in the springtime.

Ms. Dolan stated that she worked with YWCA NH located in Manchester; a local non-profit. She worked in Reach Crisis Services. Reach Crisis helped people experiencing domestic violence, sexual violence, stalking, and trafficking. They provide 24/7 crisis line services, help people access emergency shelter, file domestic violence petitions, go to court with them, whatever the community needs from them. She goes into communities, schools, high schools, college campuses, and educates people on the signs of domestic violence, how to access services if they needed support and how to identify the difference between a healthy relationship and unhealthy relationship, and load people up with the resources they need. '*In Their Shoes*' was a more popular offering for education outreach. It was a 'choose your own adventure' in terms of an unhealthy relationship. It was great for a community setting. It wasn't tied to any age range; it was appropriate for teenagers all the way through to adults. She explained how '*In Their Shoes*' worked: get together, go over the rules, everybody splits up into groups and is assigned a certain character. They would be assigned a character card and given one of two options for every aspect of life: school, family members, work decisions, etc. The goal of the activity was to pull out of their own thoughts and what would that person with that background and that family life do; not necessarily what they as adults would choose. They would take on the identity of a 16 year-old or a college age student and what they would really do and follow their story through certain barriers in life, different resources they could access. They get together at the end to talk about different stories that they went through, what was surprising to them and what they learned. They talk about their resources and if any of the stories hit home for anybody and where they could access that support. '*In Their Shoes*' was a great activity to start the conversation about unhealthy and healthy relationships. It's awkward and uncomfortable, but she professionally makes people uncomfortable. They talk about all the things that nobody wants to talk about. They were the experts in domestic and sexual violence, so they were happy to lead those conversations and help parents to have those open conversations with their kids.

Chairman Carter stated that she was working with the School on the same issues. Ms. Dolan was happy they were interested in community initiatives, because she could be in the schools all day, but the students were going home to their family; it would be great to have everybody on the same page and see what those conversations looked like.

Mr. Sawyer stated that he and the Council would be working together in the spring to find the right venue to promote it, get the word out and encourage people to come to the event,

families and teenagers especially. The Reach Crisis hotline information was added to the Town website under the *Community* link.

Ms. Dolan stated that all their services were free and confidential. They got all their funding through grants through the NH Coalition Against Domestic and Sexual Violence and other funders interested in their work.

Chairman Carter stated that it wasn't just a School thing, it was a Town thing. This was their way to say they understood, and this was the way they were going to go with it and be able to put things together.

Councilor Bemiss wanted to know if the School would have an opt-in or opt-out program and was mandatory or not mandatory. Ms. Dolan stated that it wasn't mandatory. She had been working with the School Board for about a year to try and get more consistent conversations happening, because it was required for all high school age students to be talking about interpersonal violence. How it looked in health classes or wellness classes may vary. She works through the counseling department offering 'if you want' services; not necessarily you had to attend. In other schools where it had been required of students, they always provide those conversations in a trauma informed way and offered in-school services first. They would meet with the school counselors, principle, all of the supportive people in the school, so if at any point students were activated during the conversation they weren't offended if they went to their support person outside of the classroom.

Councilor Bemiss wanted to know if they still had the 'Stand by Me' program in the schools. A member of the audience stated that they do it in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Councilor Bemiss stated that there was a program called 'Stand by Me' that encompassed a lot of this and it was mandatory. She wanted to know on the Town side, what they were envisioning as far as the venue. Mr. Sawyer stated that it was to be decided. He was hoping to find a non-school property to show it was separate from what was happening in the schools and encourage families who didn't have kids in the schools as well. He thought breaking from the School was an important piece to it. Finding a venue where they didn't know if they were going to have 50 or 150 people show up to an event was hard to find when you didn't use the schools. Councilor Strand added a neutral venue that might be fun. Councilor Greazzo mentioned the Stevens Buswell building if it was open, Town parking lots, Library parking lot. Councilor Gilbert stated that if the Stevens-Buswell building was finished they could seat at least 150 people on each floor. Mr. Sawyer responded not given their CO requirements. Ms. Dolan stated that it required a large space; somewhere they could move around. They could do it at YWCA, but it was outside of Bedford.

Councilor Bemiss wanted to know if with this particular program they could correlate anything to the youth at risk survey. Ms. Dolan stated that this program was developed by the Washington State Coalition Against Domestic Violence and it was based off of true stories and their survey results. That's how the Bedford School District and YWCA NH started working together. This program was in and of itself was research based, based off of true stories, and encompasses a lot of the other issues that they may be seeing with youth such as mental health concerns, substance use dependency, anything like that it addresses. This program was teen dating violence edition, so it was more geared towards youth concerns, but it was appropriate for adults to participate in it too.

Mr. Sawyer stated that adults would learn how to speak to their teenagers about this and be better prepared on what signs to look for in relationships and so forth. Chairman Carter mentioned putting something on the website as they got into that timeframe. Mr. Sawyer stated that they would have to do marketing campaigns on BCTV, social media and the newspapers, but given their time commitment up through Town Meeting, they were talking April or May. Ms. Dolan stated that April was Sexual Assault Awareness Month.

Councilor Strand wanted to know if there was a higher rate of opting in with female students versus male students and if there was a way to attract more participation proactively. The real power could be educating some dummy before something happened versus triage and reactivity, which also could be a trigger for people who had been through some of those situations. Ms. Dolan stated that it was always her take on prevention education. By the time she's having those conversations with teenagers, it's a reactive approach. It should be starting at elementary school age in in terms of boundaries, etc. The reason she recommended this program was because it was always so well received. It was as fun as the conversations could be. Those conversations are usually very heaving. It was formatted in such a trauma informed way and getting people up and moving and talking about things that they don't normally talk about in a way that kind of seems like a game; it made people more comfortable. It allows them to access resources at the end should they ever need them. This was the only activity she's found that had high participation from boys and girls. They both had a fun time doing it, because the characters are boys and girls. It was a much more inclusive and accessible activity. This was an easy way to start the conversation if there was a concern that something was happening with a student or a child and weren't sure how to approach it in a way that won't cause an argument or cause tension or distrust.

Councilor Greazzo wanted to her to explain what a 'trauma informed way' was. Ms. Dolan stated that a trauma informed approach meant they assume everybody had experienced some form of trauma, so when she spoke to people she was going to be more mindful of the verbiage that she used and the language of which she was talking about those things. A trauma informed approach was recognizing and assuming everybody has that trauma, so they should tread lightly and make sure they were handling with care.

#### **b. Educational Farm at Joppa Hill annual update**

Jessica Gilcreast, Chair of the Board and Chris Bandazian, Board member and President of the corporation came forward to present. Ms. Gilcreast read the EFJH mission:

*'Our mission is to preserve a working farm for the purpose of providing people of all ages with interactive educational experiences that create powerful connections with New Hampshire's agricultural past.'*

Ms. Gilcreast stated that they were a working board, not a governing board; everyone on the Board had a job and a role and they all put in many hours to operate the Farm. They have one full-time employee; the rest of the work was done with the Board and volunteers.

## Joppa Hill Educational Farm

# 2023 Annual Report



**Our mission**  
Our missions to preserve working farm for the purpose of providing people of all ages with interactive educational experiences that create powerful connections with New Hampshire agriculture.

**Our report this year highlights the work that our board, staff, and volunteers have put in to operate our community farm.**

**The success of the farm would not be possible without the generosity of our community and the dedication of our volunteers and staff.**

**Contact Us**  
603-472-4724  
contact@theeducationalfarm.org  
www.theeducationalfarm.org

## New year, new look

**NEW!**

This fall, we unveiled a new farm logo. The new logo was created for us by Heather Bastos. We also introduced a brand guide to allow for a more consistent look and feel.



**KIM WALL** PUBLIC RELATIONS / MARKETING  
Kim Wall joined the board in 2022 after several months as a staff member. She has worked in marketing and communications for over 20 years, a career spanning non-profit, private, industry, and higher education. Kim has a BA in Communications, from UNH with a minor in Art and an MS in Organizational Leadership from SNHU. She completed the Master Gardener program with the UNH Cooperative Extension in 2016, and her husband, Seth, moved to Bedford in 2012, where they are raising their two daughters and two spoiled dogs.

### Board members behind the scenes

**CHRIS BANDAZIAN** PRESIDENT  
Board Member starting in 2007. Lawyer with a Law Practice in Manchester, NH. Member of the NH Legislative Commission on the Environmental & Health Impacts of Pesticides, Chemicals, Pesticide Community Service, including serving on the following Bedford Boards & Commissions - 4-term Town Councilor, Planning Board, Energy Commission, Parks & Recreation Commission, BCTV & MBNH Radio Board.

**JESSICA GILCREAST** CHAIR  
Board Member starting in 2020. Librarian at Bedford High School. Former Board member and Conference Chair for the NH School Library Media Association. Former President of the Manchester Police Wives Association. Jessica grew up in Bedford and now resides in Bedford with her husband and two children.

**MARK NICKLIN** CO-VICE CHAIR (PROPERTY & MAINTENANCE)  
Mark is the owner of Country View Landscapes, LLC located in Goffstown, NH. He has 30+ years of experience in the landscaping excavation industry. Country View specializes in landscaping, hardscaping & forestry mowing. Mark joined the board in 2022 but has a longstanding history with the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill. Mark has frequented the farm since growing up in the Amherst area and it holds a special place in his heart. Mark spends his free time, hiking, biking and traveling with his family.

**ROBERT PETROSILLO** CORPORATE DONORS  
Robert's professional experience includes various roles in the field of Marketing, with companies such as Beekun and Coca-Cola Northeast. Currently, he is a Consumer Marketing Manager for LEDVANCE, the makers of SYLVANIA General Lighting products. He has an MBA in Marketing and Communications from Saint Joseph's College of Maine and is currently enrolled in the MBA program at SNHU.

**JEFF MONHEIT** MEMBERSHIP/ANNUAL APPEAL  
Jeff grew up in the NYC area but recently moved to Bedford with his wife, daughter and parrot (see the May 22 issue of Bedford Living to learn more about his parrot). He studied engineering at the University of Rochester and has worked as a Master Technician and a Technical Director in the Live Events industry. After having his daughter, it made sense for him to become a stay at home Dad. Jeff and his family live close to the farm and it has been one of their favorite places to visit in Bedford. Jeff is excited to help out where he can to improve the farm for everyone.

**DAVE GILBERT** TOWN LIAISON  
Board Member starting in 2018. Central Account Manager at Raytheon Technologies. Bedford Town Council Member, Member of Bedford Zoning Board of Adjustment and Bedford Parks & Recreation Commission. Member of Bedford Men's Club (former President). Member of Benefactor and Protective Order of ELKS (EPOE). Former member of Bedford Bulldogs Athletic Booster Club, Bedford High School. Former President, Joppa Hill Educational Farm Chairperson.

**BRIAN RICHARDS** TECHNOLOGY  
Board Member starting in 2023. Director of Development at CommonPlaces Interactive. Brian has played a founding role in several startups in the online marketing and information technology space throughout his career, with 25 years of experience building websites and online portals. Brian grew up in Bedford and now lives in Manchester with his wife and daughter. He can often be found singing or playing his banjo or bass in local music venues. Brian is looking forward to contributing his technology skills to help improve the farm's online presence, and to helping make the farm a better place for our kids as well as future generations.

### Educational Programs

- This year we provided educational programming to **288 youth** through our Summer Camp, Counselor-in-Training program, and Field Trips.
- We offered **8 dynamic weeks of summer camp** for children ages 5-8.
- Each week had a different theme based on animals living at the farm. Campers had the opportunity to explore the sprawling farm and forest grounds, interact with the friendly animals, engage in **hands-on learning** experiences, and more with the support of knowledgeable and enthusiastic guides.
- We proudly offered **small instructor-to-child ratios** to facilitate the best camp experiences for our campers.



**MEG PETROSILLO** EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMMING  
Meg is the Chief Operating Officer of a small education curriculum company and the founder of The Bedford Mom. She has her master's degree in Curriculum and Instruction from Lesley University. She is passionate about the field of education and supporting elementary teachers. She is excited to share her knowledge and experience to support the educational goals of the farm.

**KATIE SCHELZEL** FARM MANAGER, SUMMER CAMP DIRECTOR  
Katie joined the team in 2022 after volunteering for a year on the farm. Katie has a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration with a concentration in Organizational Leadership, and is currently enrolled in a Master's of Business Administration program. Katie is passionate about the fields of agriculture and animal husbandry, and her commitment to continuous learning in these areas is evident in her daily work at the farm. Katie is a former recipient of the NH Union Leader's 40 Under Forty award, with an extensive background including nonprofit leadership, program development, and youth recreational camps. While not at the farm, Katie is an active "horse show mom," and can be found with her daughter, preparing for the next show season.

### The Farm Stand

- The farm stand sells **locally made goods**, and our own **farm-fresh eggs**.
- Operated with love and dedication through over **600 volunteer hours** in 2023.
- The farm stand is a vibrant space that helps sustain our farm.
- With every purchase, you're investing in the farm - the heartbeat of a community that understands the profound impact of supporting local.



**AMANDA UNDERWOOD** SECRETARY, FARM STAND MANAGER  
Board member since 2020. Mandi has worked as a Family Medicine Physician Assistant for 21 years at DMC Primary care, the last 6 years in their Bedford office. She was formerly involved with the Bedford Parent Teacher Group for 9 years with 2 of those years at the Executive Board level. A member of the USJF Community Garden for 10 years, she and her family are regular volunteers in the gardens as well as with the barn and animals. She has been the Farm Stand manager since its inception in December 2020.

### The Gardens

- By March our **40 plots** were filled with a waiting list for 2024.
- In June we held an **Open Garden Day** where 50 families joined us for refreshments, free pollinator flowers, tours and information.
- A weekly **garden newsletter** provided awareness of insect and pest issues, crop ideas, and garden techniques.
- The gardens also supplied flowers and vegetables to "meals on wheels" and the Joppa farm stand.
- Colby, an **Eagle Scout** along with his family, built a patio and pergola that will be expanded in the coming years.



**BETSEY GOLON** GARDENS  
Betsey Golon joined the board in 2023. With over 20 years of experience in the field of organic gardening, she has managed the Sabatelli's Laska Shaker herb garden, acted as their herbist, commissioned agent and director of their internship program for 20 years. She is currently the herbist/horticulturist for George Washington's Mount Vernon Estate in Virginia. Betsey moved to Bedford in 2020 and found her "Common Ground" in the Joppa Hill community garden. She is a hands-on grandmother at the Golon Compound of her son Nicholas and became a new bride recently when she married Jim Flanagan of Bedford.

### Our Events

- 2023 we opened our gates to over **2,000 participants** in farm events.
- From our Easter Egg Hunt, to Halloween on the Farm, and our Fall Fair, every event echoed with the spirit of community offering fun for all ages.
- Our **Summer Concert Series**, a new event, struck a chord of success, resonating through the fields with melodies and little dancing feet.
- Other successful events included a **Pollinator Party**, our annual **Snowball Gala**, **Tinkergarden**, **Paint and Play with Miss Jen**, **Karla's Fitness Fun**, **Empress Alchemy Healing**, **Miss Kat**, and **Music with Miss Allie**.



**JILL GRANUCCI ANDERSON** CO-VICE CHAIR PROGRAMS & EVENTS  
Board Member starting in 2022. Originally from Connecticut, Jill is proud to have Bedford, NH as her home. Jill has a Bachelor's Degree in Marketing and has a minor in Hospitality from UNH. Currently, Jill is the Head of Employee Experience and Communications at Medicus in Windham. Before Medicus, Jill held the role of media buyer for advertising agencies in Boston and Manchester, NH. Jill is passionate about making the State of New Hampshire a great place to live, work, and raise a family, and is excited to help to continue to build the farm's brand in the Greater Bedford Community.

**SASHA RICHARDS** EVENTS / PROGRAMS  
Sasha has experience as a Business Development Coordinator with a concentration in training programs. Previously a project manager, director of client relations, and Vice President at 4800 Media Group. Her expertise is in project management for companies ranging from small businesses to international corporations. Sasha spearheaded a community outreach program to make advanced technology accessible to middle school students. Both the Farm and Farm and Forest School are near and dear to Sasha's heart. Throughout the pandemic, Sasha and her family found space in the Farm, before becoming a board member. Sasha began volunteering in the Farm stand to give back to the Farm.

<h3 style="text-align: center;">Our Animals</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• In 2023, we strengthened our relationship with the <b>University of New Hampshire Cooperative Extension</b>. With their guidance and expertise we delved into the art of rotational grazing and best management practices .</li> <li>• The ducks received a new shelter, another successful <b>Eagle Scout</b> project (thanks to Jaden and his family!)</li> <li>• Our farm family expanded with <b>new chickens and sheep</b>.</li> <li>• The cows received a <b>new shelter</b>.</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;"><b>ANDREA BEJTlich</b> <small>ANIMAL SUPPORT</small> Andrea volunteered at the farm from 2007 to 2016. She began volunteering again at the beginning of 2022. Andrea has a Bachelor's of Science degree in Wildlife and Conservation Biology. Her professional experience is water quality based with a focus on outreach and education. She currently works for the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services, writing and managing grants. In her spare time, Andrea enjoys taking her dogs to the park and photographing the farm animals. Andrea loves the farm and is excited to educate the public about the animals.</p> </div> <h3 style="text-align: center;">Our Volunteers</h3> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Managed by our Farm Manager, our dedicated team of nearly <b>100-volunteers</b> is the lifeblood of our 35-acre working farm .</li> <li>• These selfless individuals, ranging in age from 1 to 85, contribute over <b>3,500 hours annually</b>, tending to our animals, gardens, and farm stand .</li> <li>• Having an impact greater than labor, they find comfort and a sense of <b>community</b> in our farm. Families come together, fostering a deep connection to our land and animals, while others find solace in nature, escaping the hustle and bustle of life.</li> <li>• The growing <b>waitlist</b> to join our volunteer family is a testament to our enduring spirit.</li> </ul> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: center; gap: 10px;"> </div>	<h3 style="text-align: center;">Looking ahead</h3> <p style="font-size: 8px;">Our goal is to make 2024 one of our best years ever by making thoughtful and deliberate changes to our operation . This comes with difficult decisions, but in the end moves us closer to our goal of constructing an <b>educational building</b> for the community .</p> <h2 style="text-align: center;">Financial Snapshot</h2> <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; align-items: center;"> </div> <p style="font-size: 8px;">The decrease in profit reflects the farm reinvesting in the organization by purchasing a <b>new tractor</b>, a <b>new gator</b>, a <b>cow shelter</b>, and hiring a new <b>Farm Manager</b>.</p> <p style="font-size: 8px;">In 2024, the board is projecting increased revenue, decreased expenses, and no additional full time employees.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;"> <p style="font-size: 8px; margin: 0;"><b>JAIME FAGAN</b> <small>TREASURER</small> Board Member starting in 2022. Owner of The Bookkeeper NH, a full service bookkeeping company here in town. This is Jaime's first board position. Jaime is excited to bring process improvement and efficiency to the farm. Former coach for Bedford Little League's Challenger Division.</p> </div> <div style="text-align: right; font-family: cursive; font-size: 24px; color: #e91e63; margin-top: 10px;">                 thanks for your support             </div>
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Councilor Radke wanted to know what a pollinator party was. Ms. Gilcreast explained that it was planting flowers that pollinate to attract bees.

Councilor Greazzo mentioned a school that wanted to build at the farm and what happened with it. Ms. Gilcreast stated that the Joppa Farm and Forest Preschool wanted to put up yurts, but the conservation easement wouldn't allow for it. They are there are out there in the winter; they are an outdoor preschool. Councilor Greazzo confirmed that the conservation easement wouldn't allow them to create a structure. He wanted to know if they created their educational building if that that was something they were able to utilize, and Mr. Bandazian responded yes. That was one of the primary purposes for it.

**c. Educational Farm at Joppa Hill request to relocate the Municipal Zone identified in the Conservation Easement**

Mr. Bandazian gave a history and overview of the Farm. In 1999, the property was slated to be 100 homes. Some of the lots were sold off and developed. In 2001, the owners let the Town bring forward a bond measure and purchase the whole property. At the time, the plan was to tear down the barn, cottage and another house that were there, because they had been neglected for decades. In 2002, Lakewood Farms received a lease from the Town to begin an educational farm on 35 acres. That entity became the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill. In those early days the barn was used for everything: summer camp, public events, fairs, etc. In 2003, the Town started developing the recreation fields. In 2005, the Council approved the existing conservation easement language; it was basically the same. The Bedford Land Trust easement that had been used for other properties, except the recreation zone, 9 acres, was described as it existed. The existing Education Farm was allowed to continue and that was municipal zone potential created with the Town Council able to move forward that beginning at the end of this year. At that time, the Town engaged its first study of the Fire Department because of inadequacies at the Safety Complex. There was a thought that there ought to be a fire station in that part of Town. There was a piece of land at the corner of Joppa Hill and Golden Drive that was deeded to the Town for fire use, but it's the most treacherous piece of land you would ever want to put a piece of fire equipment on. In subsequent years, the Town experimented with the Hilltop Station at the Air Force Tracking Station and various other things. Those were thoughts that the Council wanted to keep open on that property in 2024/2025. There was also discussion at the time of making it a floating zone; that the



location could be picked and there were Town Council minutes to that effect attached to the easement, but the easement gets priority and that location was at the corner of Joppa Hill Road and North Amherst Road on the west side of Joppa Hill Road continuing as far north as you had to go to get 25 acres. It mostly involved wetlands and not a developable property without a lot of dredge & fill. In 2007, the Town developed concerns about the barn structure being used for that purpose. Everybody did their engineering and agreed that it should not be used for that purpose and began using a tent for outdoor activities. As a farm, its an entity engaged in teaching people about conservation. Virtually everything they did was outdoors anyway, but they could use indoor plumbing and a place for refuge in severe weather as well as doing programs throughout the year. In the winter they didn't have a tent, so there was no shelter, no indoor plumbing. Every building including what they intend to build was Town property. He would like to think that their non-profit organization would exist forever, but it wouldn't. This property and its use would be a Town asset. When the existing lease ran out in 2065, the non-profit would go on, but it would have its own life and they would over that period of time develop the capital assets in property. Eventually when that matures, they would develop an endowment to fund operational use and ultimately it becomes just a governing body that deals with policy.

Mr. Bandazian stated that they would like to build a smaller building sufficient to house 24 preschoolers, two sessions a day, five days a week. The demand was there. They would also like to build a stable style larger building that would function as shelter programming space for campers up to 100 people, as well as for events, and Town use. Their property was open to the School District at no fee and could use those buildings.

Mr. Bandazian stated that they had come a long way. They rehabbed the barn, which was about \$250M project. They completed that two years ago. Since then, they've built their building fund up to \$104K. It was really humbling and very much appreciated that their donors support them to that extent. They were going to make a big ask of them in the upcoming year or two to fund the building. Bill Jean from Fulcrum was providing them with his expertise as were Stone River Architects. He would like to move forward with the plans this year and bring it to the Planning Board over the course of the year and see where they stood with funding. He hoped to have 25 \$25K donors by 2025 and they would be able to use the building for a wedding or event in exchange for their donation. That would be enough seed money to get them started on the carriage house building. There were some economies that would go with developing the whole property at once. They would love to work with donors and be creative in what they could do as a 501C3.

Mr. Bandazian stated that dovetailing and overlaying was the easement on the property that was held by the Piscataquog Land Conservancy. The land that the Town had the right to use was not useful land. They all had to go through a process, Town and Piscataquog Land Conservancy, to see what they wanted to do. He thought there was an opportunity over the course of 2024 to have a meeting of the minds if that was the desire. Where it impacted the Educational Farm as there was a little bit more flexibility if it's municipal zone in that it would allow outsourcing more clearly or less ambiguously. The way the easement was drafted, it says that there were some permitted uses added to their standard conservation easement that were allowed unless they were prohibited in the Prohibited Use section. In the Prohibited Used section, it says all these things are prohibited unless they were in the allowed section. There were a number of issues that would benefit the Town in having it clarified. Having part of the municipal zone overlap

the Educational Farm where there was the most economic and foot traffic would be beneficial to the Educational Farm. He didn't think it was essential from their point of view. They could do what they needed to do by hiring personnel, but their donors who donate \$25 or \$100 would like to see them improving the programs with facilities rather than paying personnel. He thought after the election and they had their retreat, it would be a good agenda to look at the various things that he's mentioned. As a neighbor, he would like to see it remain open space with better parking for the existing activity level. He's sure the Piscataquog Land Conservancy would like to see it remain open space. There was probably some area where the Town's needs might be satisfied. Ultimately this was a Town property, so he wouldn't think that the overlay that he was suggesting, and the Town's interest were mutually exclusive.

Ms. Gilcreast stated that the Joppa Farm and Forest Preschool had a waitlist and their summer camp fills up. Ms. Bandazian stated that their camp could triple and serve more age groups if they had shelter. Ms. Gilcreast stated that they turn people away every year.

Chairman Carter wanted to know what they were expecting from the Council. Mr. Bandazian stated that they were asking the Council to begin engaging in the process. Councilor Radke thought they should do a study committee. Mr. Bandazian stated that he would be happy to participate. For now, they wanted to introduce the building and get community support in constructing the building. He thought it would be a fantastic asset. Their ask was that they begin to do a study of how the easement might be enhanced in a way that was beneficial to everybody: Piscataquog Land Conservancy, Town Council, Town people, abutters and Educational Farm.

Chairman Carter wanted to know when the easement was up. Mr. Bandazian stated that the easement wasn't up, but the first opportunity to legally modify it was December 1<sup>st</sup> of 2024. He had a process that Ms. Hebert agreed with involving hearings with the Conservation Commission, Planning Board and Town Council. Any changes would have to be palatable to the Attorney General, Charitable Trust Division and to the Piscataquog Land Conservancy. They may get through the exercise and find that there was no change. People might want to keep it that way for 20 years or forever, but they've explored those opportunities with the Piscataquog Land Conservancy. He was confident that there was interest in discussing it. Right now, they had them pretty much hemmed in for the property as its currently configured. Councilor Gilbert clarified that it was December 31<sup>st</sup>, not December 1<sup>st</sup>. That was the first chance they had to modify it.

Councilor Radke mentioned that several acres were in Amherst. She wanted to know if they had to include Amherst or did Amherst have a separate easement. Mr. Bandazian responded that they did; 120 acres of the Farm were in Amherst. There was a perception that Bedford owned quite a distance in on the west side of Joppa Hill, but it was really a narrow strip. Councilor Gilbert stated that the Piscataquog Land Conservancy didn't have anything to do with the Amherst part, only Bedford.

Councilor Bemiss stated that after reading through the easement documentation, she thought the only piece that could be changed was the 25 acres and where that was located. She didn't think that the rest of the easement could be opened up. Mr. Bandazian responded that it could. There was a provision that allowed it to be, but it wasn't a simple process. It allowed it to be changed by written agreement between the easement holder

and the Town; it was much more complicated. Councilor Bemiss wanted to know if the preschool was privately run, and Mr. Bandazian stated that it was part of the Farm. They contract out some of the services. Mr. Sawyer clarified that it was their school. They had a contractor that helps them run it. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know why they weren't able to build a structure. Mr. Sawyer thought his question was more about when they were proposing to have a for-profit school come in and build yurts and run a for-profit organization. The easement holder would not permit that to happen. Councilor Greazzo didn't know that it was for-profit. He thought it was a non-profit but separate from the Farm but confirmed that now it's the Farm that was operating it.

Councilor Bemiss mentioned them having weddings and banquets and had trouble with operating a commercial entity banquet facility in a residential area. Mr. Bandazian stated that it was contemplated in the land use plan. When the Town Council reviews it, he suggested they look at the 2002 Dufresne-Henry Master Plan for the property and see the extent of development that was contemplated back then; how much Town taxpayer investment was contemplated. Mr. Sawyer stated that the expansion of agritourism, a definition in the State legislature, by State law had dramatically changed that for farms all over the State that they couldn't prohibit things like that that bring people to a farm if they were also learning about the farm when they were there.

Councilor Strand wanted to know if they were considering expanding the age groups for the summer camp; it would be welcomed. Ms. Gilcreast stated that this summer they would be adding 9-12 year olds. It was in high demand, so they were trying to make it happen. Councilor Strand stated that he was one of them.

**MOTION by Councilor Strand that the Bedford Town Council establish a study committee to evaluate the request to amend the conservation easement and relocate a portion of the municipal zone and to review the proposal to construct the carriage house and stable building at EFJH. The study committee is authorized to pursue a topographic survey and wetlands delineation of the existing municipal zone. Seconded by Councilor Thomas.**

Councilor Radke wanted to know if they wanted to do it now or waiting for the new Council. Councilor Gilbert stated that they could set it up now, but they didn't need to initiate it until they had their retreat and new Councilors.

**Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

Chairman Carter didn't think that Councilor Gilbert could vote. Councilor Gilbert thought he could vote; he's on the Council. He didn't have a financial interest. He was just a board member just like Chairman Carter and the Conservation Commission. Chairman Carter stated that he was just making sure. Councilor Gilbert stated that if he was off base, Mr. Sawyer would tell him. Mr. Sawyer stated that his advice for Councilor Gilbert would be to not vote on this and not raise the appearance of any conflict of interest.

Councilor Gilbert recused himself from the vote.

**Motion Passed – 6-0.**

Councilor Gilbert mentioned that the EFJH was having their annual Snowball on February 17<sup>th</sup> at the Bedford Village Inn. He urged people to look at their website to get tickets, sponsorships, auction items. Etc. He asked for support by coming out to the event.

Councilor Thomas mentioned the 'growing waitlist to join the volunteer family', which she thought was amazing. For any organization to have a waitlist for people to volunteer showed that it must be doing something right. Mr. Bandazian stated that that was their adult education program. They were quite structured in how their volunteers conduct various things. Councilor Gilbert stated that a lot of families did it together.

Councilor Radke stated that a couple of years ago her daughter was a camp counselor and had a great experience. Ms. Gilcreast stated that not many towns could say that they had a free farm that they could visit 365 days a year and spend quality time with family. It was a really special place. They were fortunate to have it in Bedford and to have as much support as possible so they could keep growing. It's not Charmingfare Farm, there was no admission fee; that's not how it was structured, and she liked that. In order to do what they want to do, they had to seek donations and grants and community support.

Chairman Carter thanked the Fire Chief and his volunteers for the burning of the greens. It was very well attended, a great event.

#### **d. Award of bid, New Ambulance**

Mr. Sawyer stated that the new ambulance would replace the ambulance purchased in 2015, which had current mileage of approximately 94k miles. The new ambulance would be one of three total ambulances in the fleet and was expected to be in service for at least 7 years. The Fire Department conducted a bid opening in November for an RFP that had been advertised in the fall and four proposals were received. The proposals ranged from approximately \$353K to \$410K with delivery times ranging from 2-4 years. The funding would come from the capital reserve account established for this purpose. After careful review of all bids submitted, it was recommended to award the contract to Sugarloaf Ambulance and Rescue Vehicles in the amount of \$362,041. He thanked Captain Tierney and his team. There was a lot of work that went into every vehicle purchase to put the bids together and review them. He thanked the whole team for their efforts.

**MOTION by Councilor Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council award the ambulance purchase bid to Sugarloaf Ambulance/Rescue Vehicles, in the amount of \$362,041 and to authorize the Town Manager to execute the contract. Seconded by Councilor Radke. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

Chairman Carter mentioned the 2-4 years and Mr. Sawyer stated that the contract they went with was on the 2-year end; that was part of why it was chosen. Unfortunately, it extended the timeframe that they had to keep the current ambulance. Councilor Bemiss pointed out that they had four great bids. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if one of the bidders was the business that was doing Police vehicles on Route 101. Mr. Sawyer didn't believe so. That company only did fit-up of vehicles; they didn't do the full construction. They would install radios and do the lettering and decals and that type of work.

Chairman Carter thanked the members of the Fire Department for their service to the Town. It was well warranted.

**e. Other New Business**

Councilor Greazzo mentioned an email from Mr. Sawyer regarding the lawsuit against 3M where the Town attorney recommended that they didn't pursue that, because the State would take the money if they were awarded any. Mr. Sawyer stated during their conference call with the attorneys when they were pursuing the joining of a multi-jurisdictional lawsuit that was already in place nationally, he raised a concern that he was aware of other lawsuits in the State where the State pre-empted the municipalities from getting any of the revenue from the larger lawsuits. In this case, when they informed the Attorney General's office of their intent to pursue joining the lawsuit, they responded back saying the Town had some limited ability to do that, but in reality they already entered a suit on the Town's behalf; on behalf of all municipalities in the State. Unless the Town found something that was outside of the lawsuit that the State had already filed, there was very little advantage for them filing or joining another lawsuit. Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if indemnification of the towns was part of that suit. Mr. Sawyer didn't believe that it was. Councilor Greazzo stated that was why he believed they should still pursue it. Councilor Strand wanted to know if that would be something still to be gained even if the benefit was limited. Mr. Sawyer stated that they could pursue that with the Town attorney to see if that existing lawsuit that was in place even provided for what they were looking for. He wasn't confident that it was. They may have to file a completely separate lawsuit to get what they were looking for. He would follow-up on those points and report back to the Council. Councilor Greazzo didn't think it hurt to have their separate lawsuit. If the State wanted to take the money from them that was fine, but then they were approaching it on two fronts rather than just relying on the State to do it for them. He didn't support waiting for other people to do things for him, especially when it came to government. Relying on the State to hopefully do something like they waited for them to hopefully do something with Saint-Gobain. Luckily, Saint-Gobain decided to close on their own. The State didn't do anything for that situation either, so he thought waiting for them regarding a lawsuit against a national entity wasn't in their best interest. He thought they should pursue it on their own. If the State decided they wanted to take the proceeds if they get any, that was something they could address at that time. He still thought they should be pushing for indemnification. Mr. Sawyer stated that there were Councilors who had no idea what they were talking about, because it was only dealt with, with the PFAS Committee. He thought it would be important for the Town attorney to speak with the Council about it and have the full Council advise next steps. It was intended to be on the evening's agenda to ask the Council to enter into the national lawsuit that was ongoing, but with the recommendation of the Town attorney after speaking with the Attorney General, it didn't make sense to bring it forward. If they would like to pursue other avenues, they could have that conversation and have the Town attorney come to a future meeting or non-meeting with the Council and have that conversation.

Councilor Strand thought where there wasn't consensus, would the real goal be to achieve indemnification. If an individual lawsuit could offer that opportunity it was worth it. He wanted to know if the AG or the State provided any timeline or update in terms of where they were. Mr. Sawyer responded no. Their lawsuit had been filed; it was an existing lawsuit. He didn't know the timing of when hearings were expected in that case.

Chairman Carter thought they needed to find the bullet points that take them away from what the State was doing.

Councilor Greazzo stated that he saw something reported in the Union Leader about a class action lawsuit for private individuals and wanted to know if Mr. Sawyer had any information on how folks in Town that were affected could join that class action and who they could contact. Mr. Sawyer stated that his only knowledge was what he read in the newspaper. They could make that available through the PFAS page; put a link to that. Councilor Strand wanted to know if that would be something that could be worth considering. The Deputy Town Manager was busy, but he knew PFAS related special projects were one consideration and some PR outreach for people who could be affected could offer some value. Mr. Sawyer stated that they would look into it to the extent that the Town could be involved in something like that. He would want to get advice to make sure they were on good ground to do something like that. If they could at least make the press release available through the Town website that would be a good first step.

Councilor Bemiss wanted to know if it would be useful for the Council to put together some sort of position statement from them regarding SB2 before the Election; some bullet points to what their thoughts were. She didn't think that both sides were being prepared.

Councilor Strand wanted to make sure they weren't overstepping any boundary that was delineated by the creation of that commission. He could definitely sympathize. If they were allowed an opinion, he thought they should potentially have one. Councilor Bemiss didn't know if they even all had the same opinion. She just wanted to put it out there and think about it. Councilor Radke thought maybe put it on the next agenda to have a conversation. Councilor Strand wanted to make sure they could and Mr. Sawyer stated that they could. They've absolutely taken positions on Charter amendments and revisions. Councilor Radke thought they should be taking a position. Councilor Bemiss thought they should be taking a position and doing some education. Not a big, long blurb, but just the things that were important to understand. Chairman Carter thought she should send her bullet points to Mr. Sawyer and they could put them together for their 24<sup>th</sup> meeting.

Councilor Greazzo wanted to know if that would be something that would be on the ballot with or under the recommendation of the commission, separate or not at all. Mr. Sawyer stated that their comments wouldn't be on the ballot. They could produce them and send them to newspapers as an editorial or letter to the editor or do their own presentations at their meetings. The Council's comments did not get added to the Commission's recommendation. Councilor Radke stated that it was a warrant article, and wanted to know if they could they put a recommendation. Mr. Sawyer stated that his understanding was no. Councilor Radke wanted to know if it was because their Charter didn't allow it. Mr. Sawyer stated because the recommendation was from the Charter Commission that was specifically elected for that purpose. It wasn't a Council action. Councilor Radke stated that she was going to check. She thought the Council had the ability to recommend on every article. Councilor Strand wanted to know if it included the vote tally of the Charter Commission. Councilor Greazzo thought it just said they support or didn't support. Councilor Bemiss thought it just said the Charter Commission supports it. Councilor Radke wanted Mr. Sawyer to look into it. She knew that in the town she works in, the Select Board did a recommendation for every article. She didn't know if it was run differently, because they were a Charter form of government. The RSA may not allow it.

They would have to go into that detail whether or not a Council or Select Board could actually put a recommendation on based on what that RSA was. Mr. Sawyer stated that there were very specific recommendations to the Charter Commission by the Town attorney as to what the language of the question would be and what the common language afterwards would be, which was presented to them in December. He fully believed they couldn't put anything on the ballot under that question, but he would have the Town attorney send them an answer. Councilor Bemiss thought a position statement.

Mr. Sawyer stated that the last time this question was before the voters, there were many articles in the newspaper written by Councilors. The Councilors held signs, they campaigned very strongly against two Charter amendments that were done the same time. One was creating wards for Councilors and the same provision to have SB2.

### **3. OLD BUSINESS**

### **6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

#### **a. Public Session – December 13, 2023**

**MOTION by Councilor Thomas that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the December 13, 2023 Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

#### **b. Non-Public Session – December 13, 2023**

**MOTION by Councilor Thomas that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the December 13, 2023 Non-Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

#### **c. Non-Public Session – December 20, 2023**

**MOTION by Councilor Thomas that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the December 20, 2023 Non-Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Gilbert. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

### **7. TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

- 1) Mr. Sawyer thanked the Council for confirming Chief Douidi. A pinning and swearing in ceremony was on January 11<sup>th</sup>, 9 AM, Bedford Safety Complex. The public was welcome. It would be livestreamed on BCTV YouTube channel and likely Channel 22.

Councilor Radke wanted to know who was administering the oath and Mr. Sawyer stated the Police prosecutor, Atty. Leduc.

- 2) The last day to register to vote prior to the January 23<sup>rd</sup> Primary Election is January 17<sup>th</sup>. Same day registration is available at the polls.



- 3) The filing period for open elected positions is January 24 – February 2.

Open Town Elected Positions:

- Three Town Council positions (3-year terms)
- One Library Trustee (3-year term)
- One Trustee of the Trust Funds (3-year term)
- One Town Moderator (2-year term)
- One Supervisor of the Checklist (6-year term)

Open School District Positions:

- Two School Board positions (3-year terms)

- 4) South River Road Police and Fire Complex

- Public Hearing on \$36.5M bond, January 24, 2024, 7 PM, BCTV
- Public Information Sessions, McAllaster Room, Library:
  - January 30, 6:30 PM
  - February 15, 1:00 PM
  - February 20, 6:00 PM
- Virtual Information Session:
  - March 4, 6:30 PM

- 5) Safety Complex Tours, 55 Constitution Drive

- February 15, 6:00 PM
- February 22, 6:00 PM

- 6) Fire Department quarters construction was complete with a CO issued.

- 7) January 14 – Cinema Sunday, “Fahrenheit 451”, 1:30-4:30 PM, Bedford Library. Please register in advance on the Library website. This is a free event.

- 8) January 14 – Snowflake Shuffle, 9:30AM. The race will be conducted on Constitution Drive, Route 101, Liberty Hill Road, and Pilgrim Drive.

- 9) January 15 – The Town Office Building, Library, and Transfer Station will be closed for Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

- 10) January 22 – The Planning Board will hold its second and final public hearing on 3 proposed zoning amendments, 7 PM, BCTV.



- 11) January 25 – Bedford Fire Department Awards Night, 6 PM, Bedford High School Auditorium.
- 12) The Bedford Winter Parking Ban began on November 1st, which requires no parking on public roads between midnight and 8 AM.
- 8) Thank you to the DPW team for their efforts in the recent storms.

## **8. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES**

Councilor Strand congratulated the new chief.

Councilor Bemiss thanked them for having such a collegial working environment. There was an article in the paper about another town and they don't have those same issues.

Councilor Radke wished everyone Happy New Year. She congratulated Chief Douidi. The Historic District Commission had a meeting last night. They met with the petitioner zoning amendment for the realigning of the Historic District. That would be on the ballot. The Historic District Commission voted not to support it. They were going to send that recommendation to the Planning Board. She thought this Historic District Commission chair would be there to talk about it.

Councilor Greazzo congratulated Chief Douidi.

Councilor Thomas stated that the Facilities Communications Committee was working hard trying to create videos and content, get the word out and they were doing a great job for the new public safety facility.

Chairman Carter congratulated Chief Douidi. He congratulated the boys and girls basketball teams. They both won their tournaments. The boys convincingly over Memorial. The girls competing in Londonderry won all three of their games. The girls were playing tomorrow night at 7 PM in the Bedford high school gym.

**4. NON-PUBLIC – RSA 91-A:3 II – None.**

## **5. ADJOURNMENT**

**MOTION by Councilor Gilbert to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Thomas. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:33 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford