

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL ORGANIZATIONAL & REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
March 15, 2021
10 MEETINGHOUSE ROAD**

1. ROLL CALL: A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held Monday, March 15, 2021 at the Bedford Meeting Room, 10 Meetinghouse Rd. Present were Dave Gilbert (Chair), Denise Ricciardi (Vice Chair) and Councilors Bill Carter, Lori Radke, re-elected Councilor Bill Duschatko and newly elected Councilors Kelleigh Murphy and Sue Thomas. Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer and Town Clerk Sally Kellar.

Chairman Gilbert opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Chairman Gilbert led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. TAKING OATH OF OFFICE BY NEW COUNCILORS

Town Clerk Sally Kellar swore in Bill Duschatko, Kelleigh Murphy and Sue Thomas.

4. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR

MOTION by Councilor Ricciardi to nominate Dave Gilbert for Chairman. Seconded by Councilor Duschatko. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

Chairman Gilbert took nominations for Vice Chair.

MOTION by Councilor Duschatko to nominate William Carter for Vice Chair. Seconded by Councilor Murphy. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0

5. BOARD & COMMISSION ASSIGNMENTS

Chairman Gilbert read the appointments of Councilors to Boards & Commissions:

BCTV-WBNH

Primary: Denise Ricciardi
Alternate: Bill Carter

Conservation Commission

Primary: Bill Carter
Alternate: Denise Ricciardi

Energy Commission

Primary: Sue Thomas
Alternate: Lori Radke

Highway Safety Committee

Primary: Lori Radke
Alternate: Kelleigh Murphy

Historic District Commission

Primary: Lori Radke
Alternate: Denise Ricciardi

Parks & Recreation Commission

Primary: Dave Gilbert
Alternate: Sue Thomas

Planning Board

Primary: Bill Duschatko
Alternate: Kelleigh Murphy

Poles & Wires Committee

Lori Radke

Telecommunications Subcommittee

Primary: Bill Duschatko

Water & Sewer Advisory Committee

Primary: Bill Duschatko
Alternate: Bill Carter

Zoning Board

Citizen Primary: Dave Gilbert
Citizen Alternate: Sue Thomas

6. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

7. NEW BUSINESS

a. Letter of support for the Old Bedford Road sidewalk grant application

Mr. Sawyer stated that it was a request from the Public Works Department and the Planning Department who have been working on a grant application that would require Town Council support if they were to go any further with the grant application. It's part of the every 2-year program that the State puts on called Transportation Alternative Program (TAP). It's funded from the Fixing America Surface Transportation Act (FAST Act) The request is for a 3,800 linear foot sidewalk along Old Bedford Road. When Mr. Foote designed that road, it was designed with all of the drainage improvements that would be needed if a sidewalk were ever added, so it's just the addition of the curb and sidewalks. He showed on the screen the summary map from the Bicycle & Pedestrian Master Plan. He pointed out that the yellow highlighted roads were about 13 miles of roads in Bedford

that were proposed to have sidewalks on them according to that plan from 2014. One piece of that is between Memorial School and Route 101. They are seeking Town Council support to authorize the Chairman of the Council to send a letter of support for the project. It's a \$500k sidewalk request and the grant requires a 20% match, which is \$100k and they have the full \$100k from the Old Bedford Road senior living project. That project provided \$100k that would serve as the full match, so there is no additional cost for the local taxpayer.

MOTION by Councilor Radke that the Bedford Town Council support the grant application through a letter from the Chairman for the Transportation Alternative Program for the construction of approximately 3,800 lineal feet of sidewalk along Old Bedford Road. Seconded by Councilor Thomas. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

a. **Other New Business** – None.

8. **OLD BUSINESS** – None.

9. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

a. **Non-Public Session – February 10, 2021**

MOTION by Councilor Ricciardi to approve the minutes of the February 10, 2021 Non-Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Duschatko. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 5-0-2 (Murphy and Thomas abstained).

b. **Public Session – February 24, 2021**

MOTION by Councilor Radke to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2021 Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Carter. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 5-0-2 (Murphy and Thomas abstained).

10. **TOWN MANAGER REPORT**

- 1) The most recent election we had 3,018 voters or a 15.6% turnout down from the 2020 election where we had 3,710 voters or 20.5%.
- 2) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford has increased their number of cases with 46 current COVID-19 positive patients. I strongly encourage all residents to follow the CDC and State of NH recommendations for protecting yourself including wearing a face covering, washing hands as often as possible, and to get vaccinated when permitted.
- 3) Drought – Bedford and a much of southeastern NH remains in the condition defined as “Abnormally Dry” and northwestern NH remains in moderate drought conditions.
- 4) PFAS – NHDES and Saint Gobain are testing private wells in southeastern Bedford now that the PFAS standards have been adopted into law. It is unknown how long it will take before we know what solutions will be proposed. If you have received a

request for well testing it is critical that you sign the agreement and return the paperwork as soon as possible.

- 5) State of NH Bowman Brook Culvert Replacement Project – The State will be starting a culvert replacement project at the intersection of Route 101, Route 114, and Boynton Street starting in mid-March and running through the summer. While no work is taking place on the roadway surface you should expect occasional lane closures and delays.
- 6) Dog Licenses must be obtained by April 30th. See the Town Clerk.
- 7) Registration for Camp Witzel summer camp and other summer camp programs are now open and information is available through the Recreation page of the Town Website <http://www.bedfordreconline.com/info/activities/default.aspx>
- 8) March 16th – Bedford Library annual Leen Lecture with renowned NH author Ty Gagne on “The Last Traverse”, 7 PM. The event is virtual, signup through the Library website.
- 9) April 17th – Clean up Bedford Spring Event, 9 AM - 3 PM.

11. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Councilor Carter stated that the Conservation Commission will be meeting on the 23th with a full agenda. He talked about the CUB Road Club event on April 17th.

Councilor Radke congratulated Councilor Thomas and Councilor Murphy. The Energy Commission is meeting on March 25th. In the Council’s first meeting in April she will be bringing forward a letter of intent for the Energy Commission to go to Solsmart.

Councilor Ricciardi congratulated Councilor Thomas and Councilor Murphy and the re-election of Councilor Duschatko. She was looking forward to working with everyone. She thought they were going to have a good year coming up. She stated that SB99 had passed and now they need to get it into law and they will see some property tax relief here in Bedford.

Councilor Duschatko stated that the Planning Board met last week and they approved two projects. One is a subdivision of one lot into two lots off of Jenkins Road. The other was the approval of a 16k square foot warehouse for Harvey Construction of off South River Road. It’s a commercial warehouse used primarily for Harvey Construction.

Councilor Murphy congratulated the Bedford Girls Basketball team for their 64-46 victory over BG, which was amazing ending their reign as champions and taking over. Last call for registration for Bedford Little League for A-Ball, AA, AAA and T-Ball. For any questions contact them through the Bedford Little League Facebook page. The EFJH is seeking volunteers to assist with various farm duties. People can go to their website at theeducationalfarm.org and click on the volunteer tab. The Bedford Fire Department wanted to remind everyone that when they change their clocks they should also change their batteries in their smoke alarms. She congratulated Mischka and Officer Mansfield for the successful completion of their K-9 obedience training. Mischka is one step closer to finishing her comfort dog training with the Bedford Police Department.

Councilor Thomas thanked everyone who came out to vote and thanked everyone who voted to elect her. She will do her best and is looking forward to working on all the committees. She also congratulated the girls' basketball team. To play through COVID with masks on and everything they did and then to come out on top. They did a great job. They are great kids. Good luck to the three seniors on the team.

Chairman Gilbert stated that they had Zoning Board tomorrow night and Park & Rec will be on the 30th. He mentioned the trash on the roads and suggested to bring a bag if you walk and clean it up. He also reminded folks to watch their speed.

12. NON-PUBLIC – RSA 91-A:3 (if necessary)

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Councilor Murphy to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Carter. Vote taken – Motion Passed.

The meeting ended at 7:23 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford