

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
SEPTEMBER 5, 2023
BEDFORD PFAS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES**

A meeting of the Bedford PFAS Committee was held on Tuesday, September 5, 2023 at the Bedford Town Office Conference Room, 24 North Amherst Road, Bedford, NH. Present were: William Carter (Chairman/Town Council Rep), Michael Strand (Town Council Rep and NH PFAS Commission), Chris Bandazian (NH PFAS Commission). Also present: Rick Sawyer, Town Manager.

Chairman Carter called the meeting to order at 6:27 p.m.

New Business

- a. Review the closure of Saint-Gobain announcement for any potential impacts on remediation requirements in Bedford – The Committee discussed requesting the Bedford delegation submit legislation that would further protect Bedford property owners now that Saint-Gobain is closing. The Committee agreed that it is important that Saint-Gobain be held accountable for current and future contamination including as new federal PFAS standards are put into place. It was determined that Chairman Carter would send a letter urging all State Representatives to work together to submit legislation that protects the health of Bedford residents, their property rights, and shelters them from undue costs of remediation from Saint-Gobain potentially abandoning future responsibility for past actions.
- b. Review the status of the proposed EPA PFAS standards – The Committee discussed that the EPA is scheduled to make a final decision on their proposed PFAS standards on February 24, 2024.
- c. Receive an update on the Bedford Center Road water main extension project – Mr. Sawyer indicated that the main had been completed down to the bridge on Bedford Center Road and that an easement had been recorded that would allow the main to be extended to the corner of Wallace Road and Route 101 through Primary Plaza. It was noted that owners of the Plaza intend to seek reimbursement from the Town Council for the easement in the amount of \$60,000. Due to a delay in getting the easement there is no schedule for completion as the contractor has moved on to other projects. Pennichuck should be issuing the service connection agreements and connecting properties in the coming weeks. The roadway base pavement will be completed soon with final pavement being completed in the spring.
- d. Receive an update on the POET Rebate Program – Mr. Sawyer indicated that we still had not received any applications for the Town program and it appears all eligible parties have utilized the State’s program. Mr. Sawyer said that at some point the State may request that we return the funds as the grant required starting to expend the funds by a certain date and two extensions have already been granted.

- e. Discuss potential legislation for the upcoming NH legislative year – Mr. Bandazian indicated that he has been working on a draft bill that would be an amendment to the State’s Groundwater Protection Act that would help ensure property owners remediation and associated legal costs are paid for by the responsible party.

Chairman Carter adjourned the meeting at 6:59 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Sawyer, Town Manager