

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
June 22, 2022**

Present: James Bailey, Chairman; Meleny Nagy, Selectwoman; Iris Campbell, Selectwoman; Laura Buono, Town Administrator.

In Attendance: Ernie Butler, Maryann Baker, Keith Cobbett, Laurie Jutzi, Leigh Bosse, Riche' Colcombe, Sean Burt, Judy Thibault, Katherine Charrette.

Chairman Bailey called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

1. OPEN SESSION

Sean Burt – Mr. Burt spoke with regard to the decision the Board made at their last meeting to change some of the parking on Depot Street from angle parking back to parallel parking. Chairman Bailey said they are considering it for the other taxpayers on the road. He said they can consider other options, but it would make the road a lot safer. Mr. Burt said he didn't know the Board was going to talk about that at their meeting because he didn't receive a notice even though Ernie Butler said he had told him it was going to be discussed. Mr. Burt stated that taking away 8 parking spots on that road is taking away 32 customers a day to his business and he feels it will negatively impact his restaurant. Selectwoman Nagy said she voted in favor of changing and although to some it feels as if it was a quick vote, she said they all know the area and know how tight the parking situation is. They want to make that ambulances and fire trucks can get in and out of there as quickly as possible. Selectwoman Nagy reviewed the amount of parking that is available in the area and said there is a plan for more signage so that they are easier to find. Mr. Burt said people coming into town are not going to look for a parking spot in a different area. Chairman Bailey said that Mr. Burt bought that business 23 years ago with no parking and commented that he has had an opportunity over the years to purchase property to enhance his business and he decided not to. Chairman Bailey said it's not that they don't want to help him out, but it's not the Town's responsibility to provide parking for businesses. Mr. Burt said he feels it's the Town's responsibility to be pro-business and taking spots away that have been there for 8 or 9 years when an alternative would be to remove the sidewalk that goes nowhere. Chairman Bailey said they are pro-business and there is more to it being a simple removal of a sidewalk – it's a project which will cost roughly \$100,000 and said it wouldn't solve a lot and then you have to change a few driveways. The discussion continued with regard to the cost and what it would entail. Mr. Burt said changing the parking is going to drive people away to which Chairman Bailey disagreed. Mr. Burt said he is someone who keeps his building looking nice and has donated many hours to the community and feels a common solution can be reached. Chairman Bailey said when the parking was voted on to change it to angled in parking years ago, and there was no discussion at that time and that wasn't made by this Board. Ernie Butler, Road Agent, spoke about his reasoning to change the angled parking back to parallel. He said he didn't bring it forward to hurt Mr. Burt's business, he did it for safety and paving the road. If he moves the banks back, he should put culverts and catch basins in down the entire way before it's paved. Mr. Butler said they need to make a decision whether or not he's going to pave it this year or move the banks back and put in culverts all the way down through. He said part of the problem may be that people park long vehicles in the angled

spaces and it makes it tighter because they don't want to get too close to the curbing. Mr. Burt feels that Mr. Butler doesn't have to put in all of that money to simply move the banks and pave it. This was discussed. Katherine Charrette spoke gave her opinion as a business owner and feels that this is an opportunity to take the time to figure out a solution. She said it's her opinion that when land comes up for sale, it's not up to the downtown property owners to buy it to make up for municipal deficiencies and also noted that signage was discussed during the downtown charette as well. Riche' Colcombe spoke and said she was at the Board's meeting a couple weeks ago when the decision was made to change the parking back to parallel and asked the Board to look at it differently and said she feels the decision was made fairly quickly and without giving consideration to other options and hearing from others as is done with other issues. Chairman Bailey said the decision was made and they can look at other options and consider them all. He said one option that has been brought up is the land where the Mobile Station was on. He said if they purchase that and turn it into municipal parking, he would like to see it going on a warrant article because he doesn't want to spend taxpayer money on parking for businesses without the taxpayers having a say in it. He said they can also look at moving the road back, but it will be an expensive endeavor with drainage, and that needs to be considered. Selectwoman Nagy said the entire Board is open to discussing more options for downtown parking and they are not looking to get businesses out of this town but trying to enhance the area without removing any of the sidewalks. The sidewalks on Depot Street were briefly discussed and Mr. Burt said the sidewalk they are speaking about removing doesn't go anywhere where there is one on the other side that goes all the way down. Selectwoman Nagy apologized to Mr. Burt for not reaching out to him prior to making a decision at the last Board's meeting to change the spots back to parallel parking. Ms. Charrette asked what the community outreach is for making a decision like this and said she feels that there are other safety concerns that should be discussed through outreach and went on to outline her opinion of how that should be handled. Chairman Bailey said when the State put them lights in, that changed the whole downtown and said that meetings are posted where they're supposed to be posted and it was noted that the sidewalk discussion was called out on the posted agenda. He said there has been a lot of thought on the parking on Depot Street and they are just trying to take care of a safety concern. Leigh Bosse said whatever decision they make on the old Mobile lot isn't going to solve the parking problem because people are parking there now. Ms. Colcombe said she would like to ask the Board to reverse the decision made at the last meeting so that further discussion can take place. Selectwoman Nagy said she feels they should reevaluate the angled parking and doesn't think they should get rid of any sidewalk. She said they can look into different angles to see if that can be done without taking away any parking. Chairman asked if there is a motion to rescind the vote and to reconsider other options. Selectwoman said no, because if it's rescinded then the road won't be paved in time. Chairman Bailey said they don't want to pave it and then have work that needs to be done to the road. Selectwoman Campbell asked Mr. Butler if he has to pave the road this year to which he replied "no". Selectwoman Campbell would like to keep the road the way it is until they find out if there is a chance to obtain the old Mobile lot. If that doesn't happen, they will have to review whether or not to spend the money to work on Depot Street to include widening, drainage, etc. She said when she drives down Depot Street there is a black truck that always parks and sticks out and it's narrow and uncomfortable to drive down and said she would like to rescind the vote. Selectwoman Campbell moved to rescind the vote of June 8th to change the parking on Depot Street to parallel. Chairman Bailey seconded the motion. A vote was taken. The motion passed with a vote of two in favor and one (Selectwoman Nagy) opposed. Chairman Bailey said they will look at other options.

2. TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS RE: HISTORY ALIVE REQUEST

Trustee of Trust Fund Members, Riche' Colcombe and Judy Thibault met with the Selectmen to bring forward a request they received from History Alive for funding from both the Mildred Nelson Fund as well as the Manahan Trust Fund. History Alive had originally requested \$1,500 from the Mildred Nelson Fund which is for funding children's activities in Hillsborough and \$2,000 from the Manahan Trust Fund. The Trustees of Trust Funds acted on the requests at their last meeting by approving \$3,000 from the Mildred Nelson Fund and voting to approve \$2,000 from the Manahan Trust. Since the Board of Selectmen also have to approve requests from the Manahan Trust Fund, the Trustees have brought it forward to them. Laurie Jutzi, a member of History Alive's Committee, explained their current financial situation and noted that members of the committee have donated some of their own money for past events. This year, in honor of Hillsborough's 250th Anniversary, there are additional events added to the weekend as well as a third location (Kemp Park). She said that, coupled with their grant application not being approved and local business' being tapped out, has left their funding efforts short. The funding was discussed as well as whether or not the Manahan Trust Fund is an appropriate fit for this type of request. Ms. Buono asked if they had approached the 250th Committee to ask for sponsorship/funding and was told that they had not but could certainly do so. At the conclusion, the Board felt the Trust Fund should not be used for these types of events and Chairman Bailey moved to deny the disbursement request for the Manahan Trust Fund. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

3. BOARD BUSINESS

Museum Painting – Ms. Buono brought up the proposal from Rose Garden Hands LLC in the amount of \$59,902.00. She said that based on the condition of the paint on the building it doesn't appear to be lead (no crocodile cracks), and the Fire Chief said he remembers the old paint being scrapped in the past prior to the building being repainted. Chairman Bailey said prior to the painting being done, the clapboards on the Butler Park side of the building should be checked because there are some which will need to be replaced. Chairman Bailey moved to award the contract to Rose Garden Hands LLC in the amount of \$59,902.00. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. The motion passed with a vote of two in favor and one (Selectwoman Nagy) abstaining.

250th Beach Event – Ms. Buono reminded the Board of the Town sponsored event at Manahan on June 25th which will include a cookout and waterski show. She said the permit for the water event has been approved by the State. The ski team will be there by 11:00, the beach employees and lifeguards will all be there as well as miscellaneous volunteers to assist with parking and police detail. Both Selectwomen Campbell and Nagy will be attending and helping if needed.

July Meeting Schedule – Ms. Buono said she would be on vacation July 13th which is a meeting date and asked the Board if they would like to change the schedule of meetings for the month or simply have only one meeting on the 27th unless something comes up which would require them to meet. The Board felt that skipping the meeting altogether and meet on the 27th unless another meeting is required.

Parks Committee Update – Parks Committee have met and right now are working on a plan to beautify the park by the Sawyer Bridge. They would like to use some funds from the Dana Crain Fund (up to \$1,200) for some planters to hang on the bridge, flowers, and plantings for that area.

Laurie Jutzi, a member of the Parks Committee, explained the beautification plan. The planting of clover in that area was also briefly discussed. Chairman Baily moved to approve up to \$1,200 from the Dana Crane Fund for the purpose of beautification. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Ms. Buono said she also spoke with Scott Yeaton with regard to a couple of concerns at Grimes Field that Joyce Bosse's had brought up at the last Board meeting. She said with regard to the wording "do not climb" which is on the white wood, Mr. Yeaton has recommended leaving it there since climbing takes place. Mr. Yeaton also said the flagpole needs work on the base which is scheduled for this summer since they were unable to get to it last summer. She said he isn't concerned with the pole falling over but when there is a flag on the pole, it vibrates the entire pole when the wind blows and that makes him uncomfortable. With regard to the cable fencing, some of the area has already been replaced but it should really all be replaced. Chairman Bailey said the areas that need work should be checked and wrapped again with duct tape if necessary and we should look into continuing to replace it in sections.

Annual Filtration Grant - Ms. Buono has received the annual request for funds for the Filtration Grant and requested the Board make a motion to authorize her to sign the paperwork as she typically does each year. Chairman Bailey moved to authorize Laura Buono to sign the necessary paperwork with regard to the filtration grant fund request. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

Community Building Follow up – Ms. Buono said she has been in touch with the Division of Parks and Recreation on the State level with regard to the property that and have been told that the Town is required to maintain public outdoor recreation access on the property and that must be in perpetuity under federal law. They said there is a process to ask for an allowance which would have to be approved through the National Park Service and signed off by the Secretary of the Interior which allows for the discontinued use (in this case the transfer of ownership), but it requires the Town to find substitute property in kind to replace the area being transferred. Selectwoman Nagy said that is a simple fix by substituting it with the old vegetable stand on Henniker Street which is currently for sale. Ms. Buono asked if she means having the Town purchase the property as a substitute in order to donate our parcel for the Community Center. Selectwoman Nagy clarified and said, or to have them purchase it for this purpose. Chairman Bailey said now that we're aware of the 250' setback from the river, he's not sure how this parcel will even work. Ms. Buono asked if the Board would like her to invite Ms.

Youth Services – Ms. Buono reported that Chelsea Mather had applied for a grant from the New Hampshire Empower Youth Program, and recently received word that the application was approved in the amount of \$112,500 which is earmarked for staff training/hiring/salaries. Ms. Buono said her plan is to make one of the staff members a full-time licensed clinician and bring in a PG Supervisor, as well as increase all staff training in community mental health. The Board congratulated Ms. Mather on this achievement.

4. LONG-TERM PROJECTS:

Woods Woolen Mill – Ms. Buono reported that all buildings have been removed from the site and EPA is currently working on contaminated soil testing and removal.

Sidewalk Project – Ms. Buono said she and Robyn Payson have a phone meeting on Monday with Dubois & King to discuss the amount of time it has been taking to get the updated overhead costs approved with the State because it seems to have stalled. She said she is trying to find out how to push this along in order to prevent more time being lost.

2 Bridge Street – Ms. Buono said there is some funding in the recently passed housing bill for demolition. She said once they have the application process finalized which is expected in July, she will find out if our project of removing the building at 2 Bridge Street qualifies and if so and if the Board is interested, we can apply for funding of the project.

Associated Electric – Ms. Buono said there is a walk through scheduled for tomorrow afternoon of the old Associated Electric buildings and property in order to take a look at the condition of the buildings and what is stored in them. She said she will be joined by the Building Inspector, Building Maintenance, Police and Fire Departments. Selectwoman Nagy said she would like to join as well. Riche' Colcombe asked if members of the public can attend to which she was told no, this is a staff walk through to take note of the conditions and contents.

5. MANIFEST MOTION

Chairman Bailey moved to authorize the Selectmen to sign check numbers 017625 – 017659 a/k/a Vouchers 24, 25 & 25A in the amount of \$199,759.01 (includes 213 direct deposit stubs) and Accounts Payable Check numbers 027364 - 027429 a/k/a Voucher 26 in the amount of \$1,045,755.91. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

**A/P Checks include payment to HDSD in the amount of \$839,113.78

6. CONSENT AGENDA

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Consent Agenda for June 22, 2022. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

- Welfare Lien Discharges – Map 26 Lot 86
- Intent to Cut – Map 7 Lot 174 Hall Road
- Gravel Tax Levy Map 7 Lot 90 in the amount of \$244.78
- Dept. of Revenue PA-28 Form

7. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Selectmen's Minutes of June 8, 2022. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Nagy. A vote was taken. Motion passed with a vote of 2 in favor and 1 (Chairman Bailey) abstaining.

Chairman Bailey moved to approve the Selectmen's Minutes of June 14, 2022. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chairman Bailey moved to adjourn at 7:52 p.m. Motion was seconded by Selectwoman Campbell. A vote was taken. Motion passed unanimously.

A true record.

Laura Buono
Town Administrator

Approved by:
Hillsborough Selectboard

Date: _____

James C. Bailey III, Chairman

Meleny Nagy, Selectwoman

Iris Campbell, Selectwoman