



The Mulligan Forest

Nottingham Board of Selectmen Meeting May 23, 2022
 Steve Soreff, MD

After a warming, sunny day, the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS) met Monday at 6:30 PM on May 23, 2022, in the Community Center for the 11th time this year. For the record, here is the COVID -19 report for Nottingham: 16 active; 1050 total (6 new) as of May 20, 2022. None of the BOS wore masks. Present were four members of the Board, Tiler Eaton, John Morin, Tony Dumas, and Donna Danis. Also present were four members of the Conservation Commission (CC) Sam Demeritt, Susan Mooney, Mary Colvard, and Cheryl Smith. In addition, there were a number of residents of Stevens Hill Road headed by Denyse Shanahan. This reporter attended in person with a mask on. The BOS focused on its Assessing duties, E-9/11, and a public hearing of the CC.

After the Pledge of Alliance, approving manifests, and minutes from April 25, the, BOS heard from committees. The Budget Committee had nothing to report. For Planning a note from Bartlett Which was read.. Marston had the side fencing completed along with sponsor posters on them. New Hampshire Electric Co-op today made the electrical connections from the road side powerlines to the utility shed. For the 300th Morin praised *the Town Meeting* play. Danis noted how well the Charter Day went. She mentioned the letter from Senator Sheehan had not been read. She also cited two individuals who made significant contributions to the success of Charter Day-Joe Welch and Kelly Dallaire. In its Assessing duties, the BOS on the recommendation of Avitar denied one Land Use Change Tax (LUCT) and one Elderly Exemption. Then the BOS approved 6 LUCT, 6 Solar Exemptions, 5 Veteran Exemptions, and 1 Intent to Cut Timber.

The BOS next planned on how to deal with changes due to [E 9-1-1](#) adjustments. It was found that there were fewer house numbers and street name changes than had been anticipated. It scheduled the June 6 BOS meeting as a public hearing to discuss and for comments about any changes. If any residents received notices of changes in either number or name, they should attend that session. The comment period is between June 6 and 27. All changes will be made on July 11. The BOS will also soon plan a meeting to discuss the Recycling Center. It was also noted that the town beach was open last weekend and would be open from this [Saturday, May 28th](#) for the season.



Left to right Tiler Eaton, Sam Demeritt, Susan Mooney, John Morin, Donna Danis, Tony Dumas, Mary Colvard, and Cheryl Smith.

Next the BOS was turned over to a Public Hearing of CC. The CC had been concerned that “**Article #23:** To Reduce our property taxes, shall we direct the Board of Selectmen and the Conservation Commission to use the Conservation Fund to pay off the town’s remaining long-term debt from the 2007 purchase of the Mulligan Forest Conservation Easement? Majority vote required. By citizen petition” passed in the March 8, 2022 election, although it was said illegal by town counsel, it did represent the will of the people. In that recognition, the CC proposed that \$117,000 be taken from the Conservation Fund to pay off the debt on Mulligan Forest. Danis reminded those in attendance of the following procedure in order to withdraw money from the Conservation Fund. It must first be voted on by the CC and ultimately by only then BOS. In this case, the CC voted to take the money. Then the BOS voted to withdraw \$117,000 from Conservation Fund and the amount necessary from the Fund Balance in order to completely pay off the Mulligan debt. The BOS also voted to take \$156,000 from the Fund Balance to pay off the debt on the Fire Station.

After the CC Public Hearing ended, Denyse Shanahan, of Stevens Hill Road, addressed the BOS. She and her neighbors were concerned about two potential major housing developments in that area. One was for 40 acres with a possible 8 to 9 new homes. The other had 60 acres with large road frontage. She said the sub-divisions “ would definitely change the landscape of this lovely road that we all call home.” She and her neighbors liked the bike riding, horseback riding, and walking character of the area. They feared it would be lost with the potential new construction. They sought BOS guidance. The BOS suggested that they consult with the Planning Board, work with conservation groups and talk to the developers.

The BOS went into Non-Public session.