



John Scruton, Nottingham's Interim Town Administrator

Nottingham Board of Selectmen Meeting October 3, 2022
Steve Soreff, MD

Following a cool verging on chilly, but sunny early fall day, the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS) met Monday at 6:30 PM on October 3, 2022, in the Community Center for the 18th time this year. For the record, here is the [COVID -19 report](#) for Nottingham: 0 new cases in the past 14 days; 1153 total (0 new) as of October 4, 2022. Only one of the BOS wore masks. Present were all 5 members of the Board, Ben Bartlett, Tiler Eaton, Tony Dumas, John Morin, and Donna Danis as well as Town Administrator (AT), Chris Sterndale. Also present were a resident of Little River Road, two representatives of Municipal Resources, Inc (MRI) and several other Nottingham citizens. The BOS focused on the Town Administrator position, the Fire & Rescue Department and the budget.

After the Pledge and the acceptance manifests and minutes, there were committee reports. Budget will meet this Thursday and organize its calendar for year. Planning dealt with development on Mooers Road, The 300th had a successful [Chili Contest](#). There will be a [Vintage 1860 style baseball game](#) on October 16, and a Chowder Contest on October 29th. Marston's parking lot is about to be paved.

Town Administrator, Chris Sterndale gave his last report. He noted paving in progress on Case, Flutter, Freeman Hall, Friar Tuck and Little John road. The E-911 changes have been completed. There will be a BOS public hearing meeting on October 31 to deal with unanticipated town money. Life insurance costs will go up by double digits. The **St. Laurent** lawsuit against the WaterCross events and Zoning Board of Adjustment (ZBA) has been settled. The courts upheld the ZBA's decision.

The BOS will decide about the roof over the collected tires at the Recycling Center later at another October meeting. It approved a Public Works Mutual Aid agreement. It formalizes local communities working together and assisting another in a coverage arrangement. The BOS set the budget and CIP process. The Board said it would first meet with department heads at its Oct 17 and 31 session. Next the Budget Committee would work with them.

Next John Scruton appeared before the Board. He is Nottingham's Interim Town Administrator. He comes to Nottingham through [Municipal Resources, Inc](#) (MRI). He has over 30 years of administrating experience. This included administrator positions in Nashua, Rochester, Barrington Goffstown, Farmington, Chester, and Northwood. He began his interim career in 2019. As the interim TA he plans to be in the office 3 days a week. This week he will be here Monday-through Thursday. His top priorities are the budget and human resources. He promises easy access during his interim work here. It might take up to a year to fill the TA position and he was available through the duration. He will shepherd Nottingham on and sailing well. He sees the town in good shape and hopes to keep it that way.



MRI's Michael Magnant talking to the BOS with John Scruton behind him

Following Scruton, was [Michael Magnant](#), the lead person from MRI in hiring a new TA. He outlined the process. He would meet with Board members individually to determine what each want in the TA position. He was looking for the town's unique TA qualifications. Based on that information, MRI would issue an advertisement for it. MRI would screen resumes and send selected candidates essay questions. MRI would next grade the responses and choose which ones to interview. It used this procedure to hire the new Nottingham Police Chief. MRI charges a hourly fee for this process. The BOS did wonder about the need for essay component.



Nottingham Fire & Rescue Department's (NF&RD) Chief, Jaye Vilchock

Then Nottingham Fire & Rescue Department's (NF&RD) Chief, Jaye Vilchock addressed the BOS. He thanked it and Sterndale for their support. August was busy with Rocky Ridge fire and the 300th events. The NF&RD is scheduled for 6 full time professions, but currently there are only 2. He says 2 more are pending and he has 7 resumes for the other positions. There is the issue of pay. He noted the cost of fuel has gone up 25%. The fire station is 15 years old and there is major safety issue with garage doors. There were 2 incidents with them; one a near miss and the other resulted in a broken vehicle window shield. That door repair will cost about \$20,000. He thanked Sterndale for finding about \$37,000 toward the second ambulance. There is a delay in the new ambulance, but its \$75,000 worth of equipment have been ordered and have be covered by a McLean Trust Fund.

He talked about supply chain issues due to COVID-19. He notes a 2005 diesel fire truck blew a gasket and Engine 2 needed new brakes. All the state inspections have been done as well as the hoses have been tested. The state will cover one half of the Rocky Ridge fire at the State Park. Future expense will be for a new ambulance in 2028 and a new fire vehicle in 2029.

Finally, Cathy Cinto, a resident of Little River Road, addressed the Board. She had previously informed the BOS her concerns about buried metal, glass and trash in the town's sand pit. In response to her issues, John Morin had with the Public Works Manager gone out to that site. At the meeting, he assured her that there was no buried metal on that site. There were buried glass but that practice had stopped. There were buried tree stumps. He addressed her concerns.



Cathy Cinto, a resident of Little River Road.

After this eventful and informative public meeting, the BOS went into Non-public session.

