



Recreation Department left to right Emma Breslend, Kortney Dorow Duball, and Bridget Hart.
Nottingham Board of Selectmen Meeting December 27, 2022.

Steve Soreff, MD

Following a cold but sunny early winter day, the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS) met Monday at 6:30 PM on December 27, 2022, in the Community Center. [The COVID](#) report for Nottingham: 1-4 new cases in the past 14 days; 1204 total (2 new) as of December 27, 2022. Present were 4 members of the Board, Donna Danis, Tony Dumas, Tiler Eaton, and John Morin, as well as the Interim Town Administrator (IAT), John Scruton. Also, there were the Nottingham Parks & Recreation Department (NP&RD) staff -Kortney Dorow Duball, Director, Bridget Hart, Assistant Director, and Emma Breslend, Program Supervisor.

After the Pledge, the BOS approved manifests on 12/27. For committees, Budget met last Thursday and working line by line cut about \$80,000 in the Town Budget (TB). The BOS will meet this Thursday, December 29, and review these changes. There will be a public meeting on the TB on January 10, 2023. . Planning looked at a subdivision on Mooers Road. The 300th reminded folks to take off their commemorative license plates on December 31. For Assessing, BOS approved 3 Land Use Change Tax LUCT). The BOS praised the work done by the Police and Highway Departments during the recent huge storm last weekend.



The community and water supply well was drilled at Marston in the spring of 2021 and later connected electrically and enclosed in a shed.

Interim Town Administrator (ITA), John Scruton began his report. He presented the BOS with three options to designate the community well at Marston. One was no testing and regulations. Second, a Non-Transient Non-Community with water testing water supply without a certified operator. A third is a Transient Non-Community with extensive testing and a certified operator. The BOS selected the second option with ARPA money for it.

The BOS set the Town Deliberative Session (TDS) for Saturday, February 4, 2023, with the snow date either February 6 or 7m depending on when the School Deliberative Session (SDS). The SDS is planned for the week of February 6-10. BOS also approved its 2023 meeting schedule generally, the 2nd and 4th Mondays of the month. The ITA continued his report. There has been a delay in obtaining the second ambulance. The origin is two factors-supply chain issues and a change of chassis from Dodge to Ford. The result is an increase in cost. Chief Vilchoc requested 55K which includes 30 K as a contingency. The BOS approved 30K for it to be covered by ARPA funds.



Nottingham Parks & Recreation Department

On schedule at 7 PM, Nottingham Parks & Recreation Department (NP&RD) staff - Kortney Dorow Duball, Director, Bridget Hart, Assistant Director, Emma Breslend, Program Supervisor addressed the BOS. This highly qualified professional staff noted the 3 ways that recreation was an essential public service. It has an economic value such as promoting public spaces and community activities. It increases the community's health and environment. And, it is of great social importance. They then voiced their concerns about the BOS use of the Revolving Recreation Fund (RRF) to meet the 4 % Tax Cap. They said the Fund fluctuates and decreases their ability to provide services to the less fortunate in the town. They said it was a short-term solution with long-term consequences. The BOS suggested higher participation fees.

They were particularly concerned with paying staff from the RRF. They cited ethical concerns. The BOS said it was in a difficult place with the 4% Tax Cap in the face of inflation. The BOS offered to move staff benefits to RRF and not have it include staff salaries in that fund.

The Recreation team also noted their long-term retention concerns. They were interested in performance reviews and merit rises. They noted staff salaries in another regional town were higher. The BOS thanked them for their presentation and work and said it would revisit the retention issue later. It also asked them for long-term projections of activities and revenue.

ITA resumed his report. The water at the SAU office has a high iron content. That makes it undrinkable and also stains things. A filtration system would cost \$7,000. The BOS said it was not a priority expense. The Trustees of the Trust Fund requested a discontinuance warrant to end 3 funds: Van Dame from 1898 for school equipment with a balance \$104.52 last activity 2016; Drowns Dam Beach Fund, 1963, recreation, \$121.93, 2016; and Recycling Center, 1995, Capital Reserve Fund, \$90.00, 2008. The Trustees' reasoning for this warrant was that the state law called for the discontinuation of any fund which could not be sustained. These 3 qualified on that criteria. The BOS said on Van Dame, first to check with the school and keep Center Fund for future options.



ITA then added a number of pieces of information. He listed a number of Highway Department trucks with problems. These include the 550, still under warranty, needs a new motor, 350 in the garage with electrical issues, the 302, in the garage for a short fix, and 10 wheeler has a wiring harness issue. He then outlined significant Town Hall building problems. There are broken wastewater pipes. There is a pressure tank issue. And finally, the underground oil tanks need to be removed and replaced by 2 outside walled-in oil tanks. The BOS wanted the tank removed and the check for any oil leakage. He also cited other problems with the gym lights, its water smells of hydrogen smell, gym ceil tiles issue, not up-to-code electrical panels, and outside lighting that needed to be addressed. At the Recycling Center, disposing costs have gone up by 4%. And, in response to a BOS question, the Ballot Clerks received a one-dollar pay increase in 2019. Also, the town's 2021 audit has been done and delivered.

Danis circulated the draft of the BOS article for the Town's Annual Report. Before closing the BOS public session, it held a Public Hearing. Its purpose was that the town accepts money from other towns for their use of Nottingham Police details. The revenue was \$42,073. Then the BOS went into a Non-Public session.

