



John Scruton, the Interim Town Administrator

Reflections of the Interim Town Administrator

Steve Soreff, MD

As the Red Sox radio announcer, Joe Castiglione, used to say, “Would believe”, that John Scruton joined the Nottingham in early October 2022 as the Interim Town Administrator (ITA), and his last day in the Town Hall office March 24, 2023. Wow- times flies when you have town to administer. With that in mind, this reporter sat down with John Scruton on Monday, March 6, 2023 to talk about his experiences here.

He began by citing his role as ITA. He served as a consultant in the transition from the old Town Administrator (TA) and the new one. He said the town employees were dedicated and highly committed to their jobs. He called them “hard workers”. He noted that the Select Board were focused and practical. He indicated they were fiscally responsible but also practical.

As he reflected more about his Nottingham experience, he offered several observations. Nottingham, as many other communities and even the United States, has a problem of deferred maintenance. He cited that this year Nottingham has already spent over \$100,000 on repairs to the Town Hall. Similarly, the town has paid over \$600,000 for road work. These repairs included engineering, reconstruction, and paving. In term of both areas, he moved into quoting Robert Frost’s poem [*Stopping by Woods on a Snowy Evening*](#), “And miles to go before...”. For example, the many repairs to come are the waste water issue and the buried oil tank at the Town Hall.

He continued Nottingham is in a transition a small to big town. Clearly, an example of the Fire Department’s changes from all volunteers to now mostly full time fire fighters [operation](#)^[ss1]. Here are three of the major changes he sees to come. First, on list is the [historic Recycling Center](#). Our population has out grown it. It is too crowded and it has difficult traffic flow. One possible new site would be the town’s Sand Pit on Smoke Street. Next on the list of facilities outgrown is the Police Station. And the Highway Department also needs a new building.

He closing he again praised the Town’s employees and its Board of Selectmen. And he was proud of the “good” town’s 2023 budget.

Best of luck to you and thank you, John Scruton. You have served Nottingham well.

