



Town Administrator, Chris Sterndale

Chris Sterndale: Reflections

Steve Soreff, MD

At [the September 12, 2022, Select Board meeting](#), BOS Chair Danis reported that the Town Administrator, Chris Sterndale had submitted his resignation. His last day here will be October 6. She cited what a tremendous job he has done for the town but she was sad to have him go. With that news, this reporter sat down with Town Administrator, Chris Sterndale in his office Thursday, September 22, 2022. Here is what I found.

When I asked him for the definition and responsibilities of a Town Administrator. (TA) He said, although it differs from town to town, basically TA is the chief administrator of town under the directions of the Select Board. As often noted at the BOS meetings, the Select Board is the ultimate town authority. In contrast, the Town Manager (TM), such as in Raymond and Barrington, is a different form of government with specific responsibilities. The TM is appointed by the Select Board and has certain responsibilities to administer. Moreover, the [TM](#) is more like a mayor except it is not an elected position.

Sterndale came to Nottingham in 2014. Prior to that, he ran a non-profit shelter for the homeless in Portsmouth. He noted the move here was “a midlife career change”. He is 53 years old, married, and has two teenage children, “one of each”. When asked about his new job as the TA in Auburn, NH, he saw it as “an opportunity”. Reflecting on that topic he remarked, “I did not see myself working in Nottingham until I retired”.



The Nottingham Sign

He then talked about the changes in Nottingham since 2014. The population had increased by 10 to 15%. The Nottingham population, like other places in America experiencing a significant population turnover. He referred to this as a “transient population”. The word transient has at least two meanings in the context of Nottingham. First, it is that people do not live in the town where they work, And, second people now rarely live in the municipality where they were born. Even before he came to work in Nottingham, he noted that the transition from volunteer to full-time fire firers had begun.

Finally, I asked Chris Sterndale about his time in Nottingham. He said that he helped the town to modernize its government. He cited all the new electronic and online aspects now in the town government. And, the use of technology by the police and highway departments.

I ended the sentiments of Donna Danis, “What a tremendous job he has done for the town but she was sad to have him go”. His last official day is October 6 and his last appearance at the BOS meeting will be October 3. There will be an Interim TA when he leaves. More to follow on that subject.

Good luck Chris.

