



Donna Danis swearing in the newly re-elected John Morin

## Nottingham Board of Selectmen Meeting March 14, 2022 Steve Soreff, MD

After cold but warming and sunny day, the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS) met Monday at 6:30 PM on March 14, 2022 in the Community Center for the 8<sup>th</sup> time this year. For the record, here is the <https://www.wmur.com/article/covid-19-cases-nh-town/37155089#> COVID -19 report for Nottingham: 1-4 active; 980 total (0 new) as of March 11, 2022. None of the BOS wore masks. Present were three members of the Board, John Morin, Tony Dumas and Donna Danis as well as the Town Administrator, Chris Sterndale. This reporter attended in person for the first time in 2 years with a mask on. The BOS focused on the election results, its leadership issues and a paving contract.

After the Pledge of Alliance, Donna Danis swore in the newly re-elected John Morin for a 3 year Board term. Then the BOS approved manifests for March 7 and 8 and the amended minutes from February 28. From committees, the BOS heard two things. Planning would be meeting soon. For Marston, the Recreation Department is already scheduling Spring ball fields' assignments.

Next the Town Administrator, Chris Sterndale gave his report. As of March 7, 2022, town road weight limits can into effect <https://www.nottingham-nh.gov/home/news/weight-limit-town-roads-0> and appropriate signs were up. He hoped for an early end to these restrictions. The legal challenge to the Planning Board's approval of the Water Cross events has been belayed. The different town departments were already implementing the results of the March 8<sup>th</sup> election, such as the Fire Department obtaining a second ambulance and library looking a new lift. He said the town has budgeted a 4% *cost of living* increase for all full time town employees starting in April, 2022 and he asked the BOS to implement that amount. The BOS approved that increased.

He noted procedural issues involved with the passage of two Conservation Warrant Articles (WA) 16 and 23 [https://www.nottingham-nh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3611/f/uploads/2022\\_town\\_election\\_results\\_2\\_1.pdf](https://www.nottingham-nh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3611/f/uploads/2022_town_election_results_2_1.pdf). WA 16 allowed for the paying off the Mulligan Property debt. However, WA 23 called for moneys to pay off the debt to come the Conservation Fund. But the town's attorney has indicated that the release of that Fund's money can only come about by the approval of both Conservation Commission (CC) and the BOS. In order words, the Conservation Fund could not be released by town vote aka a WA.. The BOS decided to ask the CC for its reactions to the passage of WA 23.

Sterndale continued with a discussion about the passage of WA 20 which dealt with out the Solar Energy Exemption. He said those wanting to obtain that exemption, must apply to the town for it. That application information is on the town website [https://www.nottingham-nh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3611/f/uploads/2022\\_town\\_election\\_results\\_2\\_1.pdf](https://www.nottingham-nh.gov/sites/g/files/vyhlif3611/f/uploads/2022_town_election_results_2_1.pdf). He noted, that the voter approved, E-911 system <https://www.fcc.gov/general/9-1-1-and-e9-1-1-services> will soon to be implemented in Nottingham. However, there will be a required public hearing in this Spring to go forward with that project. The hearing seeks to get public input on E-911 program and the changes it will; bring about. These alternations might changes in some house umbers and new names for certain roads. The BOS approved the holding of that hearing. The E-911 adjustments will done in two phases. The renovations of the Community Center's kitchen and the Old Town Hall are proceeding. Next, doing its Assessing Duties, BOS approved one Veteran's Credit.

The then BOS turned its attention to its leadership positions and committee assignments. It elected Donna Danis as Chairperson and Tony Dumas as Vice Chairperson. It tentatively named Morin as liaison to the Budget Committee, which clearly wanted, Eaton to the Capital Improvement Program (CIP) committee and Bartlett to the Planning Committee.



Brox repaving a road Photograph by Brox Industries

Finally, the BOS moved it traditional role, conducted after annual March town meeting now Deliberative Session, of taking bids for the town asphalt road paving contracts. There is about \$600,000 budgeted for that activity. The price of asphalt material has recently increased by at least 20%. However, Sterndale indicated that there was an alternative to this annual bidding event. Currently, Brox Industries <https://broxindustries.com/> has been doing the town's paving work. It has been doing a good job. Brox has said it would like to continue its current

contract with Nottingham without any cost increase. The acceptance of that contract would not only allow for a possible earlier date for road work to be started but also 'lock' in a favorable price for the work. It was thought, if the paving contract were to go out to bid, the cost would be higher than Brox's contract. The BOS approved the town to negotiate with Brox to continue its work for the town.

In closing the BOS agreed to work with the CC for signs designating Scenic Road which also showed the Nottingham seal and statement 'Defender of Liberty'. After that the BOS went into Non-Public session. It was a busy evening.