



Photograph from Rockingham Alert's Facebook of the fire at Pawtuckaway State Park

Nottingham Board of Selectmen Meeting August 8, 2022
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After another very hot summer day with moments of showers, the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS) met Monday at 6:30 PM on August 8, 2022, in the Community Center for the 14th time this year. For the record, here is the [COVID -19 report](#) for Nottingham: Nottingham: 12 in the past 14 days; 1129 total (0 new) as of August 5, 2022. None of the BOS wore masks. Present were 4 of the Board, Ben Bartlett, John Morin, Tony Dumas, and Donna Danis as well as Town Administrator, Chris Sterndale. Also present were residents concerned with E 911 changes from Lamprey Drive, Chief Jaye Vilchoc, and Roger Richard. The BOS focused on the Pawtuckaway State Park fire, Lamprey Drive, CIP, townland sale, Code of Ethics, and an easement.

After the Pledge, Fire Chief Jaye Vilchoc reviewed for the BOS the fire at the Pawtuckaway State Park. It was reported Sunday, July 31, 2022, and took four days to contain and put out. Here is one description by the [NH Department of Natural & Cultural Resources](#) [offered](#) on August 2, 2022. "Wildfire in Pawtuckaway State Park under investigation. Wildland firefighters are currently working to contain a wildfire which may have been sparked by an illegal campfire situated in a remote section of Pawtuckaway State Park in Nottingham. The fire's location, near the Boulder Field area of the park, makes it difficult to get water to the site. In addition to the challenges for firefighters caused by current weather conditions – with temperatures in the 90s and high humidity – the fire is burning deep into the forest's duff layer,

forcing firefighters to dig deep in order to extinguish all embers. The fire was reported Sunday afternoon after being spotted from the Pawtuckaway fire tower and is estimated to have started late Saturday evening or early Sunday morning.” The Chief reported over 100 firefighters from 21 different communities as well as state rescuers responded. It was in an area difficult to access and fight. He thanked the Nottingham Police Department for the use of a drone, the many units that helped, and the people who provided food and water to the firefighters. The fire had burned 3.5 acres. He recommended better access roads to those areas of the park in the future.

The BOS returned to its manifests, and minutes. For Committee, Planning was dealing with boundary issues with Shea Concrete on Route 4 and the development on Smoke Street. There were no Assessing Duties that night. The Town Administrator, Chris Sterndale said all the E-911 recommendations had been sent to the state, except for the issue of Lamprey Drive. Sterndale has been in consultation with an owner on that drive for a road construction project to complete the original plans for the drive. Pending those negotiations, most of the residents would still be on Lamprey Drive and it would have two entrances and exits. Within 90 days the naming process for that drive should be complete.



Lamprey Drive where it starts off Dolloff Dam Road.

Next, the BOS reviewed a Code of Ethics developed by Donna Danis. Most agreed with it but wanted another 2 weeks to study it. It was called common sense and could be a model for not only the Board but also for other town committees. The BOS authorized the Conservation Commission to complete the easement process on the Capron property on 311 Stage Road. Then the BOS wrestled with 2 parcels of land on Stage Road which the town acquired by deed because the taxes had not been paid in the 1980s. Neither one had any road frontage, but at least one of the parcels had an abutter interested in it. It was noted that land in Nottingham was going for \$100,000 for 2 acres. With the potential for subdivisions, the BOS decided to put the 2 parcels individually up for silent bidding.

The BOS looked at the CIP budget estimates from the various Departments. Its concerns were where how to apply the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds, the constraint of the vote-passed tax cap, and the major culver projects on Kelsey, Barry, and Cooper Hill. With that in mind, the BOS will start to hear from Department heads in August and September. This will be in preparation for a tough budget year. Then it looked at the Recycling Center's problem with glass. There is no longer a market for recycled glass. The BOS decided to pay a group in Rochester to handle its recycled glass, although it remained concerned with the cost of running the Center. One advantage of utilizing that Rochester site is that glass trucked there, the same truck could return with needed gravel.

Just as BOS was about to go into a Non-Public session, Roger Richard of 62 Garland Road addressed the BOS. He told it that a week ago Saturday he had been threatened, insulted, and called not printable names by one member of the Recycling Center crew as he was trying to bring in a large amount of cardboard to be recycled. He felt intimidated by the Center workers. He said they banned him from the Center. He wanted the BOS to know about that and wished it would take action against that employee. The BOS thanked him for coming forward and then went into a non-public session.



Roger Richard addressing the BOS