



Nottingham Board of Selectmen Meeting October 17, 2022
Steve Soreff, MD

Following a rainy but pleasant fall day, the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS) met Monday at 6:30 PM on October 17, 2022, in the Community Center for the 19th time this year. For the record, here is the [COVID -19 report](#) for Nottingham: 1-4 new cases in the past 14 days; 1161 total (3 new) as of October 17, 2022. Present were 3 members of the Board, Ben Bartlett, Tony Dumas, and John Morin, as well as the Interim Town Administrator (IAT), John Scruton. Also present were members of the PLIA, several department heads, and residents who spoke at the end of the long meeting along with other residents there to observe the session. The BOS meeting focused on culvert problems, Pawtuckaway Lake, budget issues with Parks & Recreation, Police, and Supervisors of the Checklist as well as many concerns advanced by town residents attending the meeting.

After the Pledge and the acceptance manifests and minutes, there were committee reports. Budget will be meeting every Thursday starting November 3 with department heads. Planning has been busy and is dealing with the loss of its administrative support. CIP will have a report by January 2023. The 300th had a successful [Cilley Burial Ground tour](#) on October 15 and a [Vintage 1860 style baseball game](#) on October 16. There will be a [Chowder Contest](#) on October 29th. Marston's parking lot was paved.



Marston paved

Interim Town Administrator (IAT), John Scruton gave his report. He noted that his name needed to replace the prior TA's name in the [New Hampshire Municipal Association's](#) (NHMA) legal advice system. The BOS voted to do so. There would be increases in the town's health insurance's costs. The BOS will add to the budget by becoming paying its membership in the [Strafford Regional Planning Commission](#) (SRPC), since the town has benefited from its services. The culvert on Birch Tree Lane (the old name North River Road) has collapsed. The lane now has a 2-ton vehicle limit. This represents a construction problem. Furthermore, there are 3 other major culvert projects which cost about 1 million dollars to repair along with the engineering expense of \$100,000 for them. It is recommended to get the engineering done now, so it is ready for possible grant opportunities. He estimated that there would thousands of dollars for the camp roads' maintenance for these newly town-voted streets. There is also a dent in one of the wheels of the Recreation vehicle. His hours for this week would be Wednesday and Thursday with the possibility of Friday and next week of Oct 24, Monday, Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The BOS also approved a Public Works Mutual Aid Agreement and several Intent to Cut pieces.

Next Neil Santos, the head of the Milfoil Team (MT) of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association ([PLIA](#)) addressed the BOS on the lake's "Milfoil Status and Outlook". Since milfoil was first discovered in the lake in 2015 its spread has been dramatic. In 2015, 35 gallons of milfoil were removed; in 2022, it will be about 440 gallons extracted. In that time, it has spread and jumped from 1 area to 16 areas.

FROM THE PAWTUCKAWAY LAKE IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION
TO OUR NEIGHBORS AND FRIENDS:

WE NEED YOUR HELP.....

Not too long ago, Pawtuckaway was one of the few lakes in NH without a milfoil infestation. No longer. Unfortunately, we now have milfoil outbreaks in multiple areas around the lake.

Uncontrolled, milfoil can make portions of a lake completely impassable.

The good news is that we have volunteer divers who will jump in, literally, to mark new infestations, and the PLIA has a strong volunteer removal crew who have had success in quickly pulling and bagging hundreds of gallons of the invasive weed.

BUT.....to keep invasive milfoil in check, we need your help as you enjoy the lake.

Here's what you need to know:



- Milfoil fragments can enter our lake on any watercraft launching from *anyplace* on Pawtuckaway.
- The pieces can float, travel by currents and waves, and then attach to the lakebed in depths from 2 - 14 feet.
- After a few days, they appear looking like big light green bushy squirrel tails rising from the lakebed.



Here's how you can help near your home or as you travel the lake:

1. Keep your eyes open for this easily identifiable plant; if you spot it, take a photo and note or GPS its location. **NOTE: Do NOT attempt to remove the plant; only certified divers may do so safely.** Avoid areas with orange milfoil markers. Your prop wash can fragment milfoil, which can take root elsewhere!



2. If you spot any suspicious floating fragment, carefully collect a sample into a plastic bag with damp paper towel and avoid creating other fragments, or simply take a photo and note or GPS its location.

3. Contact our Weed Watcher Co-Chair Steve Soreff at 603 895-6120 (Home), 603 568-3202 (Cell); email soreffs15@aol.com or contact our Milfoil Manager Neil Santos at 603 548-1701, email neilsantos@comcast.net with this information.

Please note the areas of milfoil infestations shown on

the map above, and **BOAT WITH CAUTION!**

THANK YOU THANK YOU THANK YOU

This PLIA, Board issued, flyer shows what to look for and do and the extent of the milfoil.

Santos indicated that up until this year, the PLIA through volunteers have contained the milfoil. However, in 2022, it had to pay for some extractions, although the majority of the removal were done by volunteers. The PLIA deploys Lake Hosts to protect invasives species from coming into the lake, Weed Watchers for early detection, divers, sonar, and drones to locate milfoil, and Certified Weed Control Divers (CWCD) to remove milfoil. There may be a time when our resources cannot meet the milfoil and other invasive species challenges.

Next, the BOS heard from 2 department heads and the Chair of Supervisors of the Checklist. Here are the highlights for each's presentation.



First, Kortney Dorow Duball, Director of Parks & Recreation addressed the BOS. The gatekeepers to the town beach will remain the same as last year. Rec hopes to hire lifeguards at the town beach when camp is in session at \$15 per hour. It wants a new position of Seasonal Facilities Manager. She noted on [Community Clean-up Day](#), the PLIA did a great job restoring the town beach, but the grass has overgrown it again. She indicated the importance of staff attending training programs. There had been significant vandalism to the Story Walk and Bandstand resulting in \$5,000 in damage to its roof. Rec plans 5 Summer Concerts with costs of them increasing from \$11,000 to \$13,000. It plans for more camp scholarships. She reiterated the department's mission to serve Nottingham residents of all ages. Her review of the Department's various programs and events showed that mission had been met.



Second, Police Chief, Fawn Woodman talked to the BOS. She noted salaries were higher due to the cost of living increases and merit advancements. Training expenses have gone up, because of the price of ammunition. The Department will keep a vehicle rather than trade it in when it goes for a new one in 2023. This means it will have 5 vehicles instead of 4. . It is replacing the cruisers' Mobile Data Terminals (MDT). She wants to establish through a Warrant Article an Expanded Trust Fund to provide money in an emergency for the department to replace important equipment such as printers. The ITA suggested she increase her gasoline budget by 50%.



Third, the Chair of Supervisors of the Checklist, Dee Decker, presented to the BOS. She said next year there would be 2 Deliberative Sessions and 1 Town Election. However, with the possibility of the Presidential Primary in December 2023 and the state Constitution Convention, they will be budgeting for an extra election. They want to increase hourly salaries from \$12.50 to \$15.00. With the election site at the school, there is a need for a better filing cabinet with 2 or 3 drawers. The process of transferring from the Town Hall to there has damaged the one they have. They also want a new laptop computer and their own phone.

Just as the BOS was about to go into a Non-Public session, 4 residents spoke to the Board. Although they had different concerns, all had issues with the Recycling Center (RC).



Robin Marshall had several concerns. She wondered why the state was more active in the lake's milfoil issue. She liked the Police Warrant. She was upset that one of the Recycling Center's employees was always on the phone or at the deck and not helping people. Maureen Campaiola wanted the town website to have information about the political parties. The BOS will review the contents of that site and establish criteria for its items. She called a Public Hearing about the use of the [American Rescue Plan Act \(ARPA\)](#) funds. She voiced that there was "no supervision at the Dump". She was concerned if folks could really take stuff home from the RC as they had voted for, could they? Thomas Butkiewicz had 2 issues. He wanted town reports to spell out names rather than use acronyms. Second, he says he has been intimidated more than once at the RC. Finally, Roger Richards suggested volunteers do work at the RC to lower their taxes. The BOD listened. Bartlett suggested the RC should be contracted out.

The BOS went into a Non-Public session. It was a long meeting.