



Conservation Commission, Samuel Demeritt, Chairperson and Susan Mooney, Secretary  
Nottingham Board of Selectmen Meeting November 14, 2022  
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Following a windy and cold but sunny fall day, the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS) met Monday at 6:30 PM on November 14, 2022, in the Community Center for the 21th time this year. For the record, here is the [COVID -19 report](#) for Nottingham: 10 new cases last 14 days; 1179 total (1 new) as of November 10, 2022. Present were 3 members of the Board, Ben Bartlett, Donna Danis, and John Morin, as well as the Interim Town Administrator (IAT), John Scruton. Also present were several Department heads, members of the Conservation Commission, and a number of residents. The BOS prioritized the [American Rescue Plan \(ARPA\)](#) and reviewed all departments' budgets.

After the Pledge and the acceptance manifests, there was a discussion on ways to edit the minutes- by email or at the BOS meeting. It talk was inconclusive, and the October `31 minutes were tabled. There were committee reports. The Budget has the school's default budget and will meet with the department heads. Planning dealt with the Fernald subdivision, Kevin Bascom's property, and Moorer's Road subdivision. It is starting to consider the town's Master Plan (MP) which is supposed to be updated every 10 years; Nottingham's MP is in its 12<sup>th</sup> year. The Planning office has a new land use clerk. The 300<sup>th</sup> had a successful [Veterans Day ceremony](#) in front of the Library at 11 AM, on Friday, November 11, 2022. New Hampshire Public Broadcasting Service (NHPBS) will have on Thursday night, November 17, 2022, at 9 PM, the program [Our Hometown](#) featuring Nottingham. CIP has the School information and Bartlett will represent the BOS on it.

Next Town Administrator (IAT), John Scruton spoke. The agreement for the Fannie Mae legal fees for clean-up was approved. He explained the way to calculate the 4% Tax Cap. It involved the difference between the town's revenue and the town's expenses. The expenses only covered the operating budget and does not include the warrant articles. There was a situation on Sachs Road where a paved driveway also paved part of the town road. As a result, the paved town section has led to water erosion on that thoroughfare. The BOS offered the homeowner the option of fixing the driveway or paving the town road. The BOS will develop the paving driveway criteria process at its next meeting. The proposed name for a subdivision road of Captain Smith was accepted, as it was pointed out that Captain Smith was a patriot soldier in the Revolutionary War.

Continuing, the BOS approved setting the Deliberative Session on Saturday, February 4, 2023, with a snow date later in the week. Since Christmas eve falls on Saturday, December 24, 2022, the BOS approved the Recycling Center to close at 12:45 PM with staff paid for a full day. The BOS also approved Allenstown as the place to receive Nottingham's septic waste. He also noted the not working toilets in the Town Hall that day because of clogged pipes. It was later fixed. The BOS approved one Intent to Cut.

Conservation Commission (CC)'s, Samuel Demeritt, Chairperson, and Susan Mooney, Secretary addressed the BOS. They presented two issues, 1 monitoring conservation violations and 2, one specific area of violations. One region of town that drains into the Little River has had 19 violations over many years with one particular residence having numerous violations. The BOS pondered the idea of enforcement of a violation and the legal costs involved. The BOS is very concerned with the 4% cap. It asked to CC to consider using its Funds for such litigation.



Next, the BOS looked at prioritizing the American Rescue Plan's funds. . The town has \$381, 000 allotted to it and has over another year to use it. First, there was a review of how and where it could be spent as well as where it could not be applied. There was a long list of possible ways to use it. Danis offered two options- the items from the departments like highway and fire

or maintenance for the town buildings, especially the town hall. The BOS preferred the second option but first wanted to hear from the Facilities Committee. The ITA reminded the BOS, it had only until the end of December 2022 to use ARPA funds for the Birch Lane culvert and community well at Marston.

The BOS then spent the rest of the session looking line by line, ways to cut the Town Budget to compile with the voter-approved 4% cap. It was also concerned with getting an estimate of the town's 2022 revenue. The ITA indicated that there might be bigger cuts due to the full-time firefighters' salaries. Here is a partial list of areas the BOS discussed. These were only early preliminary cost-cutting ideas. These were the following: cutting the Lake Host line item of \$5,000 in half, fewer printed Nottingham Annual Reports, no increase in Town Clerk salaries, attention across all departments of postage increases, less Panning Board conference attendance, no money for Master Plan, cutting highway mowing in half, fix and seal fewer town roads next year, check to make sure Social Services are only for Nottingham residents, in Recreation-no scholarships, no lifeguards, and no second maintenance person, and for CC no signboard at Marston, with trails funds cut to one dollar.

The BOS struggled with ways to compile with the 4% cap.

This is what the Warrant Article 26 passed in March 2022 said.

**“Article #26:** Shall we adopt the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, and implement a tax cap whereby the governing body (or budget committee) shall not submit a recommended budget that increases the amount to be raised by local taxes, based on the prior fiscal year's actual amount of local taxes raised, by more than 4%? Majority vote required. By citizen petition.”

The BOS went into Non-Public at about 10 PM. It was a long meeting.