

Proposed expansion at Pawtuckaway State Park

Nottingham Board of Selectmen Meeting January 9, 2023.

Steve Soreff, MD

Following a cold but sunny early winter day, the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS) met Monday at 6:30 PM on January 9, 2023, in the Community Center. [The COVID](#) Nottingham: 8 new cases last 14 days; 1212 total (1 new) as of January 9, 2023. Present were all 5 members of the Board, Ben Bartlett, Donna Danis, Tiler Eaton, John Morin, and Tony Dumas as well as the Interim Town Administrator (ITA), John Scruton. Also, there were Tom Duffy and Pam Kelly of the Pawtuckaway Lake Improvement Association (PLIA). The BOS looked at Recycling Center issues, heard about the expansion at Pawtuckaway State Park, and made recommendations on the Warrant Articles.

After the Pledge, the BOS approved the manifests for January 9 and 10 and minutes from January 3. For committees, the Budget Committee will hold a [Public Hearing](#) on the Town Budget, Tuesday, January 10. Planning and CIP will meet later this week. Next Interim Town Administrator (ITA), John Scruton offered his report which led to many BOS actions. The BOS voted to continue to participate with other communities for the Hazardous Household Waste Collection day held at Raymond in September 2023. It then authorized ARPA to replace The container for trash compaction at the Recycling Center (RC) at a cost of \$10,300. Then authorized the ITA to get RFP for a new or used backhoe, also at the RC. Next, the BOS asked for ITA to get bids to replace the Water Pressure Tanks in the Community Center. Although the goal of bids was to get the lowest price, the ITA pointed out the lowest cost did not lead to the best results. Work done at the library and at the Old Town Hall was not satisfactory. The BOS was concerned about the ARPA funds which have been used. There is \$298,000 as of that meeting, there and it has to be designated by the end of 2024 and spent by 2026.

There was a debate about two Town Hall (TH) situations. First, it is suggested that two outside enclosed oil tanks be constructed. Then the buried TH oil tank contents are transferred to the new ones. Next, was to decide oil what to do with the old tank-fill it with sand or remove it. Second, was the BOS concern that there was not as yet the determination as to the cause and extent of the wastewater problem in the TH. That discussion was halted for the 7 PM speaker,

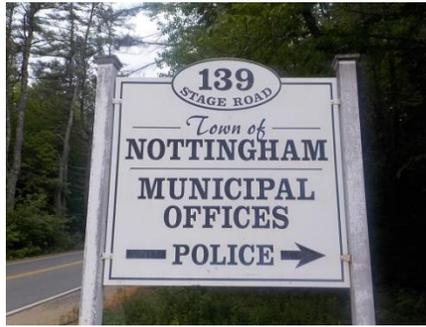


Tom Duffy, Head of the PLIA's Government Relations Committee

At 7 PM, Tom Duffy, Head of the PLIA's Government Relations Committee, addressed the BOS. He began by reading a letter sent by the PLIA to Sarah L. Stewart, Commissioner Department of Natural and Cultural Resources "Ref: Pawtuckaway State Park – Planned Expansion and Request for a Hearing." Here are some of the relevant portions of that letter. "plans in process for the addition of 35 campsites suitable for RV style camping improved with water and electricity at Pawtuckaway State Park. These will be located on waterfront property, directly on the North Channel and across from properties along the Eastern shore of the lake. It should be noted that large infestations of variable milfoil have been discovered there. **We request a public hearing regarding the Park expansion. We would like to see this scheduled as soon as possible at the Town of Nottingham offices before the planning gets much farther along.**

As stakeholders in the stewardship of Pawtuckaway Lake, our members should have the opportunity to discuss their concerns openly and have a more thorough dialogue with Department of Resources officials. The PLIA, the Town of Nottingham, NH LAKES, and the Lamprey River Advisory Committee have all invested many thousands of dollars in conservation efforts within the watershed including but not limited to Lake Hosting for prevention of invasive species, removal of Variable Milfoil in areas directly connected to the State Park rental and launch areas, fire prevention of the forest, water testing, and runoff remediation (non-point source pollution prevention)... But our members and residents have expressed an urgent need to be heard in a public forum. Please inform us when this hearing can be scheduled. We can assist in the arrangements with the Town. " There CC to Ted Gatsas, Executive Councilor; Andrea Lamoreaux, NH Lakes; Town of Nottingham Select Board; Benjamin Bartlett, NH State House; NH Senator John Regan; Amy Smagula, NH DES; Ted Diers, NH DES; Senator Howard Pearl.

He added the PLIA has a good relationship with the staff at Pawtuckaway State Park. And thanked the BOS for support of the Invasive Species Warrant Article. BOS offered incidences where it has sought a cooperative relationship with the Park such as police and fire issues that have not happened. Also, it cited that such a meeting would highlight the town's concerns about such items as the Park's septic tanks, shoreline erosion, and invasive weeds. . It was added in 1998, public hearings on the change of the Park's plans to move the public launch had been effective. The BOS then asked what Duffy wanted. He said that a representative of the BOS to request Commissioner Stewart for a public hearing on the expansion plan. The BOS agreed and Ben Bartlett would ask for a public hearing.



The BOS then reviewed each Warrant Article (WA) as to whether it recommended it. The following information notes parts of WA, some of the discussions on it, and BOS votes on each WA. Article #A: Operating budget (OB) \$4,541,263 (Four million five hundred forty-one thousand, two hundred and sixty-three dollars). The estimated tax impact is \$3.08 per \$1,000 of property valuation. It was noted if all the other WA passed, they would only increase the OB by 1.4%. BOS recommended 5-0. Article #B: \$90,000 to be added to the previously established Town building maintenance and repair expendable trust fund. There is zero estimated tax impact. BOS recommended 5-0. Article #C: \$400,000.00 (for highway reconstruction and maintenance work for work on Flutter Street and Oak Ridge Road top coat to protect the base), Deerfield Road (reconstruction), or other roads in Nottingham if a priority arises. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.48 per \$1,000 of property valuation. There was a BOS discussion on how best to explain to the voters this article. This could be done at the Deliberative Session (DS) and through a voters' guide. BOS recommended 5-0.

Article #D: \$90,000.00 to be used for engineering projects including culverts on Kelsey Road and Cooper Hill Road and the library parking lot. The sum is to come from an unassigned fund balance. A majority vote is required. There is zero estimated tax impact. BOS recommended 5-0. Article #E: \$6,000.00 to be used for improvements to the library entrance including accessibility for ADA-compliant door opening device. The sum is to come from an unassigned fund balance. A majority vote is required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.007 (less than 1 cent) per \$1,000 of property valuation. BOS recommended 5-0. Article #F: \$100,000.00 to be added to the Highway Truck Capital Reserve Fund previously established. A majority vote is required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.12 per \$1,000 of property valuation. The BOS noted this was needed to offset future major expenses for that truck purchases. BOS recommended 5-0.

Article #G: \$100,000.00 to be added to the Fire Vehicle / SCBA Capital Reserve Fund previously established. A majority vote is required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.12 per \$1,000 of property valuation. BOS recommended 5-0. Article #H: \$20,000.00 to be added to the previously established Revaluation Capital Reserve Fund for the purpose of performing a statutory revaluation of property every five years. The sum is to come from an unassigned fund balance. Majority Vote Required. There is zero property tax impact. BOS recommended 5-0. Article #I: To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate the sum of \$10,000.00 to be added to the Invasive Species Prevention and Eradication Removal Expendable Trust Fund previously established. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.01 per \$1,000 of property valuation. The BOS expressed concern none had been used. It was reassured with major milfoil infestations, expensive chemical treatment and divers would be soon used. BOS recommended 5-0.



Article #J \$40,000.00 for the purpose of purchasing the necessary fuel, supplies, equipment, and maintenance to run the ambulance and billing services for 2023; and to authorize the withdrawal of \$40,000.00 from the Ambulance and Equipment Replacement Special Revenue Fund created for this purpose. Majority Vote Required. There is zero estimated property tax impact. BOS recommended 5-0. Article #K: To see if the Town will vote to establish a Police Technology Equipment Expendable Trust Fund for the purchase and major repairs of technology equipment for the Police Department including but not limited to mobile data terminals, cameras, servers, radios, tasers, radar units, etc., naming the Board of Selectmen as agents to expend and further to raise and appropriate \$10,000 into the fund. Majority Vote Required. The estimated tax impact is \$0.01 per \$1,000 of property valuation. BOS recommended 5-0.

The BOS looked at 2 citizen petitions WAs. The first was a need for an amendment at the DS because of an incorrect date. "Shall we rescind the provisions of RSA 32:5-b, known as the tax cap, as adopted by the town of Nottingham, NH on March 14, 2023, so that there will no longer be a limit on increases to the recommended budget in the amount to be raised by local taxes?" This was a technical issue. The BOS did not vote on it. The second was "Shall the Town of Nottingham raise an appropriate \$40,000 for the calendar year of 2023 in order to contract with a property management firm to make repairs to facilities as needed according to priority as determined by the Select Board and to provide maintenance of facility grounds?" The BOS thought the DS should clarify the term property management firm so that individual contractors could be hired. BOS recommended it on 3/2.

In closing the ITA informed the BOS that Fire Chief reported all but one vacancy filled and the department is now on 24-hour shifts. The BOS would decide on the WA order and which member would introduce and address each WA at the DS. The BOS then adjourned.

