



The picture is of Conference Room 1, which is the A option for Parks & Recreation's office plan. Pictured from left to right, BOS Ben Bartlett, Tiler Eaton, John Morin, Donna Danis, and Tony Dumas as well as the Interim Town Administrator (ITA), John Scruton,

Nottingham Board of Selectmen Meeting February 6, 2023

Steve Soreff, MD

Following a relatively warmish day following the record-breaking cold of Saturday the Nottingham Board of Selectmen (BOS) met Monday at 6:30 PM on February 6, 2023, in the Community Center. The COVID Nottingham: 9 new cases last 14 days; 1223 total (1 new) as of February 6, 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, Kortney Dorow Duball, Bridget Hart, and Jim Stevens. The BOS looked at a number of town buildings and vehicles with situations, personnel procedures, and the 300<sup>th</sup> funds.

After the Pledge, the reporter complimented the Town Moderator, BOS, and ITA on a very productive and well-done Town Deliberative Session. Next was the approval of the Manifests, and the Minutes. There were no committee reports. Then the Interim Town Administrator (ITA), John Scruton began his report. He said one Warrant Article for the Town Meeting 2024 should be what to do with the about \$30,000 remaining in the 300<sup>th</sup> Fund. It could be, by 2/3 vote, repurposed, or if not, it would go back into the general fund.



The type of Caterpillar backhoe planned for Recycling Center

Next, the BOS approved the \$124,000 bid for a Caterpillar-manufactured backhoe for the Recycling Center. It was by far the lowest of the 3 bids and the price included the necessary added tilting equipment and a trade-in of the Center's Bobcat. The BOS voiced concerns about whether the town's excavator was still needed. It insisted the backhoe be on warranty and only had maintenance work done on it by Caterpillar company. It questioned recent equipment repairs. The backhoe was to be paid for from ARPA funds.

Next Scruton outlined two boiler problems at the Fire Station, The BOS approved an increase to \$56,300 from ARPA to cover these repairs. It also expressed concerns over the pending need for a water-softener system for that building. It asked if that should have been planned for in the construction of the Station. He noted pipes frozen in the Library and Town Hall due to the extreme cold over the weekend. He then introduced changes to the Town's Personnel Policy and voiced concerns over its lack of defined grievance protocols. It was too vague and not clear. The BOS approved the more precise, detailed procedures which included timelines for certain situations.

The BOS was offered two options to expand the Nottingham Parks & Recreation Department's (NP&RD) office space. It has long been acknowledged, with 3 full-time workers and usually at least one intern, they are crowded and cramped with more space required. Option A is to convert Conference Room #1, where the BOS meeting is now, to their office. There are several advantages. These include access to outside and the existing Rec office, and it is close to the gym where many of its activities take place. The BOS' now Conference Room 1 would move to the renovated Community Room farther down on left into the Town Hall corridor. But, before Rec's new office space would be worked on, the Community Room (CR) would be expanded, with new audiovisual equipment, an additional door added, and a wall removed so the BOS could meet there. The cost was about 55 K with funds from Recreation Revolving Fund and WA #7 Town Building Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust fund. Option B was for NP&RD to be moved to the renovated CR with the cost from Recreation Revolving Fund. The BOS held off a decision until after the March 14 vote, the final report of the Facilities Assessment Committee, clarification for the uses of WA # 7Town Building Maintenance and Repair Expendable Trust fund, if it passes, and the full cost for changes to CR had been determined.



The Community Room now with NP&RD storage Photograph by Kelly Dallaire

It was noted that a town snow plow truck was plowing and in turning around knocked over a resident's granite post with a mailbox on it. The resident wanted the town to pay for its restoration. BOS said that the mailbox post was within 25 feet of either side of the center line of the road and therefore it was considered in the public domain. It added that it has never paid claims before. It denies the request.

The ITA introduced a procedure for use of the Old Town Hall. In the past, the Library for its book sale and the Historical Society for its Pie Social had utilized the Old Town Hall. The BOS agreed to a system of working through its TA on an application procedure for use the Old Town Hall.



The Nottingham Historical Society's Pie Social, 2019, in the Old Town Hall. The next Pie Social is planned for Sunday, April 23, 2023

He also reported pipes frozen at Marston during the recent cold spell. He added, in the future, there would be a better-enclosed structure to get water into the Town Hall and Marston would be drained before the winter. The BOS in reviewing the Town Deliberative Session praised it. It will get out postcards to all residents informing them about the March 14 election and directing them to [Nottingham's website](#) where the BOS will have its views on each Warrant Article posted.

The BOS's next meeting will February 27, 2023.