

GOFFSTOWN BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING OF FEBRUARY 22, 2016

In attendance were Chairman Peter Georgantas, Vice Chairman Mark Lemay, Selectman Collis Adams, Selectman Allen Brown, Selectman Scott Gross and Town Administrator Sue Desruisseaux.

**6:00 pm CALL TO ORDER by Chairman Georgantas**

The Board said the Pledge of Allegiance.

**ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

*Selectman Brown made a motion to approve the public and non-public minutes to the Board of Selectmen meeting of February 8, 2016. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Chairman Georgantas said Supervisors of the Checklist will in session on Saturday, 2/27/16 from 11:00 am to 11:30 am to correct the checklist and to register new voters before the March 8, 2016 Town Meeting. Change of address and party affiliation changes can be made at that time. If you are registering to vote please bring a photo ID, proof of date of birth, and a residence address. Anyone not born in the United States must also bring proof of citizenship. Any person with a disability who needs to be provided with a reasonable accommodation in order to participate, please call Town Hall at 497-8990, extension 100 at least 72 hours in advance so arrangements can be made.

He read a letter to Chief Browne from Josh Gadbois, a Police Academy attendee, commending Captain Kerry Steckowych, who recently taught arrest law at the academy. He also read an email from Mike Pelletier to Chief Browne commending the Police Department on traffic flow at the Primaries. He said everyone pitched in and did a great job. Selectman Gross said he wanted to thank the CERT folks, the GPD, and DPW. All the town departments did an outstanding job. The planning by our department heads paid off and things went smoothly.

Fire Chief O'Brien said they've had an extraordinary last few days. On Friday they had an incident on Blue Jay Lane where a gentleman tried to start a fire on a brush pile using accelerants. It is an example of why we tell people not to do that. In doing that, it immediately flashed back on him. While he was pouring the gasoline it ignited and caught him on fire. He had severe burns to his face and body. He was flown immediately to Boston. He is off of life support now and is improving. It's hoped that he will be discharged in a couple of weeks and go for further treatment. It's a good reminder that when we issue a burning permit, and tell people not to use accelerants, which is the reason why. We have one to two incidents per year where people receive burns because of this. It is a reminder of the danger of using gasoline and mixed fuels.

Fire Chief O'Brien said the other extraordinary incident was at 711 Mast Road yesterday. There was a three alarm fire at the old Jutras Sign building. When we arrived we noticed fire had already broken out through the roof and rapidly extended throughout the building. Every Goffstown apparatus was on scene and we needed seven additional departments to assist us on site. We also had three additional departments covering the town while this incident was going

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on. At the height of the incident we probably had 65 firefighters working on scene. The wind and magnitude of the fire made it very complicated.

We had flaming embers coming off the fire and landing in the neighborhood. It caused a couple of roof fires in the area and we had to send our mutual aid partners to handle them. We've seen photos and videos online. The smoke was visible for miles away. We got a report they could see the smoke from Candia. He commended the Goffstown firefighters, saying if it wasn't for their hard work and coordination, they would have lost more than the Jutras building. The restaurant adjacent to this lot had severe exterior damage, but we were able to contain it so it didn't get into the building. If we didn't have the response we did, we would have lost that building as well.

Goffstown Police Department was outstanding with traffic and crowd control. We had over 300 spectators. CERT came out and assisted with traffic control and he thanks them for the work they did. The Red Cross responded to assist our firefighters with rehabilitation and refreshments. He can't speak highly enough of DPW. They called on DPW to help them out. It's a large building and, because of the collapse dangers they faced, they couldn't access areas that were still on fire. We requested Mike Hillhouse and Ray Gamache to come down with an excavator. They were able to help the firefighters get into where we couldn't. We were on scene for about 9-1/2 hours and would have otherwise been there for 24 hours.

Folks and businesses came out and gave us supplies, drinking water, and refreshments—anywhere from Pizza Market to Jacques Flower Shop letting us use their bathrooms. The outpouring of support from the residents is very appreciated. The fire consumed the entire building. It was well over a \$500,000 loss. It could have been worse. More importantly there were no injuries on scene, and that is a good day. It is still under investigation and we are working with the Police Department and the State Fire Marshall's Office to try to find a cause.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**—6:10 pm—there was no comment from the public at this time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Selectmen's signatures needed on Conservation Easement (Finke, Map 12, Lot 6)**

Park Dunn, an attorney in Concord, said he represents the Piscataquog Land Conservancy, who will be taking the conservation easement on this. We were just upstairs signing all documents except the one the Town needs to sign. He has the Conservation Easement for them to sign and he is a notary public. He passed the document around for the Board members to sign.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said the Board has seen the easement, and our Town attorney has reviewed the document language. The Board had their two public hearings and already voted on this easement. This is just the final document. Attorney Dunn said he will make copies upstairs and will record the document tomorrow. Then he will send a copy of the recorded easement to the Town and to the Finkes, and the original to the PLC. The Board thanked the Finkes for their generosity, and David Nieman of the Conservation Commission for his hard work. Attorney Dunn confirmed the Board members signed the document on behalf of the Town, of their own free will, with not being compelled to do so.

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**DEPARTMENT HEADS:**

**DPW Director Jacobs re: Right-of-Way encumbrance at 34 College Road**

DPW Director Jacobs had a power point presentation. Craig Proulx, nephew of the property owner, and Muriel Kohler, property owner, were present. Muriel Kohler said her nephew would represent her.

DPW Director Jacobs said at the last meeting they talked about the existing wall that is on College Road, and how far back the right-of-way property line is. For the sidewalks they will need to get into this area—pretty far back into the right-of-way. We came to the consensus we will push the wall to the right-of-way line so future Boards don't have an issue with this if things come up.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said the property owners also won't have to deal with it either. DPW Director Jacobs said thanks to Mrs. Kohler. He had a picture (which he displayed) of the property before the current stone wall. It appears to be from about 1994. The existing lawn was pretty flat at the time, but not as flat as it is now. Mrs. Kohler said they got rid of the stairway because it was dangerous to walk to the street from it.

DPW Director Jacobs said it shows what we would be dealing with anyway, coming up College Road. They talked to a precast concrete company who is a representative for Ready Rock. Before we knew the lawn had been flat, we asked what it would entail to put in a retaining wall and slope the lawn. We assumed the previous wall was lower than it actually was. That version of a wall would cost about \$7,000 in material. If you bring the grass to the top of the wall, it adds about \$1,500 to the cost. If you add a cap block that is about an additional \$3,500. Based on what he has seen, he doesn't think the sloped lawn is the way to go since it's not what existed before. It would be roughly a 2:1 slope from the back of the sidewalk. Another option would be to create a mini parapet wall which would stand up from the lawn almost two feet, and it would add a cap block. It adds an additional row of block and an additional \$5,500 to the base cost. So the range is from \$7,000 to \$12,500 depending on the style. The way they left it at the last meeting was that DPW would install the wall. When they go through to put a sidewalk in, no matter what the residents had done, we would have had to build a retaining wall to support the sidewalk.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux asked how they will address the visibility issue coming off of Holly Street. DPW Director Jacobs said that issue goes away when the wall is brought into line. You have almost a full car width and the sidewalk, so they'll be looking over the sidewalk as they look up College Road. There are a couple of things that will mitigate the cost a bit. The section of Holly and College Road sags a little and we will bring up College Road a bit. It would bring the overall height of the wall down possibly.

The company that comes up to do an evaluation before making the wall said the house acts as a retaining wall so there isn't an expanse of earth behind the wall, so it might require a smaller width block. The overall cost could be a little less. There are a couple of things to consider because it is a fairly tall retaining wall. Should fencing go up at the top of the retaining wall? It's not required by code but would be required if it were a commercial construction. It would

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cost about \$600. There is no stair system now from the lawn to the street. But it was in the original wall. It would cost \$1,500-\$2,000.

There is one other option. The cobblestone and limestone are the two finishing types. We would probably go with cobblestone but we talked with Mrs. Kohler about her preference. Her preference is the ledgestone which is a premium face and adds 15%. What is there now is a ready block. It is more of a rough cut base.

Craig Proulx said it is a step block. Last meeting's discussion left off with the demolition. If the blocks are going to be saved, he prefers the homeowners take care of that aspect because it would save a lot of time and effort on the part of DPW. If it doesn't need to be saved, excavating a rock wall is not a lot different from excavating an earthen front. Craig Proulx said they will get rid of it but would like a date so the front yard doesn't end up in the street from any rain. DPW Director Jacobs said that is the last thing to determine. We can talk with the homeowner and set up a date.

Chairman Georgantas asked if DPW Director Jacobs is proposing the Town pay for the whole thing. DPW Director Jacobs said based on the conditions that existed, with the lower of the costs and no cap block—returning it as close to what it was as possible. Chairman Georgantas said if they had their property line where it was supposed to be, it wouldn't be flat because it is so close to the house. Part of the original stone wall was on town property.

Selectman Brown asked why they wouldn't install the sloped option. DPW Director Jacobs said it is a short distance from the house to the wall. Chairman Georgantas said we could give them the option. If they want to make it level they can pay the difference. Selectman Gross asked if there are other materials that can be used. He has seen precast concrete walls that come in sections. You would have to pour a footing. DPW Director Jacobs said these are a little more labor intensive but you save on the cost.

Craig Proulx asked how much of a slope it would be if they go with that option. Chairman Georgantas said it is a 2-1/2:1. Craig Proulx said from the front steps it would go down about 2 feet because she has 4 feet from the top of the wall. Mrs. Kohler said she will now have to rebuild her porch. Chairman Georgantas said unfortunately that is the lot you purchased. At one time you had steps in there. You could put those back in. In the picture of the wall in 1994 there is no porch there and look at how close it is to the road. Mrs. Kohler said the lawn now has been pushed back about four feet from what it was before.

Chairman Georgantas asked for a copy of the power point presentation so they could have a copy of the figures. Selectman Brown said the option with the sloped front lawn won't be as bad as you think it would be. It won't be as steep as it looks. It may look different when against the house. Selectman Adams said it is a graphical representation of the 2-1/2:1.

Town Administrator Desruisseaux asked if we know the property owner's preferences in all of this. Craig Proulx said we'd rather have it straight. Chairman Georgantas asked if they would participate in the cost. Craig Proulx said they don't want to. Chairman Georgantas said they

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built the wall on town property. Mrs. Kohler said they came and marked it off. We did what we were supposed to do. She's been paying taxes for a long time on that property.

DPW Director Jacobs reminded the Board of the stakeholder meeting on Thursday at 3 pm. Town Administrator Desruisseaux said it has been posted already in case there is a quorum.

**Police Chief Browne - Potential public/private partnership with Saint Anselm College**

Police Chief Browne said, knowing that any department applying for a grant needs approval of the Board, we are looking to partner with Saint Anselm College, who will be the recipient of the grant. Part of that requirement is that we are a stakeholder of the grant. The college has a population of about 2,000 students. They are within our geographical boundaries for about 9 months out of the year. Although the student body can present challenges to the services law enforcement provides we think the college has done an outstanding job in partnering with us to try to increase safety.

To further the partnership the college is applying for a federal grant to assist victims of sexual violence. They want to be ahead of the curve when it comes to sexual violence on campus. The grant offered by the Department of Justice is to reduce sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking on college campuses. The college would be the recipient of the grant but we would be part of the compliance of it. It is a \$300,000 grant for three years. It requires campus, law enforcement, and victim witness advocates in the community to partner. There are five 4-day training sessions over the course of three years. We are looking to identify one member of our agency that would be the point of contact for this. It would also commit us to a monthly community response group meeting at the college for further collaboration, to try to reduce victimization and to increase reporting events. There is no cost to the town or the department. All the travel, training, and per diem costs are all included within this grant. The training is currently offered in Oregon and in Orlando, Florida. He thinks the schools choice would be to go to Orlando unless something opens up that is closer.

Chairman Georgantas asked if there is an issue up there now. Police Chief Browne said no. But it is way under reported. This would be for people to feel freer to report to law enforcement so we can identify the perpetrators and make sure they are held accountable. Vice Chairman Lemay confirmed there would be no need for matching funds from the Town for this grant. Police Chief Browne said our commitment is just to go to the meetings.

Selectman Gross asked what other benefits, besides those to Saint Anselm, would we get as a community. Police Chief Browne said there are options in the training. It doesn't necessarily relate just to college students. It can relate to any victims of sexual violence. We would be able to better serve any member of our community by having this training. It is a combined training for sexual violence, domestic violence, and stalking. He doesn't need the Board to do anything. This is just to advise them and make them aware.

**Selectmen's Meeting Schedule**

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said the HDC meets on Wednesday at 6:30 pm. Vice Chairman Lemay said he would attend. Town Administrator Desruisseaux said the Conservation Commission meeting is at 7 pm the same night. Selectmen Adams said that meeting has been

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canceled. The 10 Year Road Plan meets Thursday at 3 pm. You are all invited and it is posted as a potential meeting if enough of you go. DPW Director Jacobs said he has had a lot of “no” responses in the RSVPs. The Planning Board meets Thursday at 7 pm. Selectman Adams said he would attend.

**Consensus Folder**

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said they have an employee status report of a Call Fire Fighter resignation, a Fire Lieutenant retirement, and a dispatcher new hire. There is also a bookkeeper retirement. There is also a Planning/Zoning Administrator new hire. He started today. There is an event permit request for Friends of the Norris Cotton Cancer Center. It is for the Ultimate Prouty Bicycle Ride on July 8<sup>th</sup>. There is a 2012 Tax Deeding request to withdraw Map 19, Lot 25-5 from tax deeding. They are not living at that location so we need to notify them at their new location. And there is the Annual Highway Safety Grant Application.

*Selectman Adams made a motion to accept the Consensus folder. Selectman brown seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.*

**Assessor’s Recommendations**

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said Veteran’s Tax Credits recommended are for Map 10, Lot 7 and Map 6, Lot 24-48. There is a report of a timber cut recommended for 2015 for Map 10, Lot 30-3. There is a recommended tax deferral lien for Map 6, Lot 22-32. There is a recommended elderly exemption for Map 6, Lot 17B-140. There is a recommended solar energy systems exemption for Map 11, Lot 15. There is a current use application recommended for Map 10, Lot 29.

*Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to accept the Assessor’s recommendations. Selectman Gross seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.*

**Out-of-State travel request from Fire Department**

Town Administrator Desruisseaux said at 5d in the Selectmen’s packets is a request from Fire Chief O’Brien requesting authorization to attend the Emergency Services Conference in Boston next month for one day. There is no cost for this conference.

*Selectman Gross made a motion to approve the out-of-state travel request for Chief O’Brien to attend the Emergency Services Conference in Boston. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.*

**SELECTMEN’S DISCUSSION**

**Committee Reports:**

**EDC**

Vice Chairman Lemay said they talked of getting a table at Springfest and having it in the hallway. Selectman Gross said Springfest is April 9<sup>th</sup> and they already have their table. We talked about the EDSAT and are still working on it. We are working on the developer and realtor’s feedback. He brought the committee up to date about the I-293 exit 6 &7. There may be members of the EDC who are interested in attending the meetings. Town Administrator Desruisseaux said for the EDSAT they are looking for a day to come. They only want to come during the day because of traffic reasons. She told them everyone works during the day. Selectman Gross said he’s not averse to a skype meeting. The presenter would present by skype.

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Chairman Georgantas said we would still have the meeting here. Town Administrator Desruisseaux said she will suggest that. Selectman Adams said he prefers they attend.

**Library Trustees**

There was no report on the Library Trustees meeting.

**Parks & Recreation Commission**

Selectman Gross said the meeting was canceled.

**NEW BUSINESS**

Vice Chairman Lemay said at Grasmere Town Hall they are looking to get permission to get started on removal of the staircase and moving of the fire escape. Town Administrator Desruisseaux said before Assistant Town Administrator Horne left there was no talk of scheduling or signing a contract. Vice Chairman Lemay said Phil D'Avanza was under the impression it was going to take place when MerriLoo is on vacation. Town Administrator Desruisseaux said except they didn't get back to us with the schedule or the contracts. We were going to develop a contract with them but they didn't get back to Assistant Town Administrator Horne.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Action Matrix**

Chairman Georgantas said we took care of the easement. Town Administrator Desruisseaux said the Action Matrix hasn't changed much.

**PUBLIC COMMENT** – None.

*6:44 pm Selectman Adams made a motion to enter non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (a) compensation, (b) hiring, (c) adversely affect reputation and (d) lease of personal property. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Georgantas-aye; Vice Chairman Lemay-aye; Selectman Adams-aye; Selectman Brown-aye; Selectman Gross-aye. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.*

*7:20 pm Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to exit non-public session. Selectman Gross seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.*

*Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to seal the non-public minutes. Selectman Gross seconded the motion. Roll Call Vote: Chairman Georgantas-aye; Vice Chairman Lemay-aye; Selectman Adams-aye; Selectman Brown-aye; Selectman Gross-aye. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.*

*Selectman Gross made a motion to authorize the educational degree incentive contingent upon a no past practice memo to the employee. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.*

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*Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to authorize the Police Chief to start a promotional process for Sergeant. Selectman Brown seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.*

*Selectman Brown made a motion to accept the Police Chief's suggested language for Police Dispatch Agreement with New Boston Police Department. Selectman Gross seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.*

*Vice Chairman Lemay made a motion to move forward with three conditional offers of employment for three positions. Selectman Adams seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.*

*7:24 pm Selectman Brown made a motion to adjourn. Vice Chairman Lemay seconded the motion. VOTE: 5-0-0. All in favor. Motion carries.*

Respectfully submitted,

Gail Labrecque  
Recording Secretary

Approved by the Board on 2/29/16 with no corrections.