

**Town of Boscawen
Select Board
MEETING MINUTES
Thursday, February 29, 2024, at 6:00 PM**

In Attendance: Matt Burdick, Lorrie Carey, Bill Bevens, and Katie Phelps

Guests: Gary Tillman (virtual) & Joshua Crawford

Roll Call: completed and guests introduced.

Chairman Matt Burdick called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Consent Agenda Items:

- P&L, Balance Sheet, Check Manifest & Payroll
- Public Minutes for Approval—02/22/24
- EMPG Grant Amendment Award Letter
- ESR #71 UE Pre-Application Review Staff Mtg
- Underwood Engineers Biweekly Mtg Notes 2/15/24
- Appointment Keegan Moderator Pro Tempore

Selectwoman Lorrie Carey noted a grammatical change to the 2/22/24 public meeting minutes.

Chairman Burdick noted the Fisher Engineering Report was removed from the Consent Agenda.

Selectwoman Carey motioned to approve the Consent Agenda as amended. Seconded by Selectman Bill Bevens. Roll Call Vote. All in favor. None opposed.

Conservation Commission Interview: Town Administrator Katie Phelps introduced Mr. Gary Tillman, who was interested in becoming a member of the Conservation Commission. Chairman Burdick noted Mr. Tillman attended the Conservation Commission last week to express his interest. The Commission members were all in favor but had one concern: whether Mr. Tillman would be overextending himself, as he was on multiple committees. Mr. Tillman assured the Commission that it would not be an issue. He was looking to further involve himself in both improving the town and contributing to conservation.

Chairman Burdick read into record: *Whereas, there was a vacancy as an Alternate Member of the Conservation Commission whereas we, the subscribers, have confidence in your ability and integrity to perform the duties of said office, we do hereby appoint you the said, Gary Tillman, resident of said town; and upon your taking the oath of office, and having this appointment and the certificate of said oath of office recorded by the Town Clerk, you shall have the powers, perform the duties, and be subject to the liabilities of such office, until another person shall be chosen and qualified in your stead. Given under our hands this 29 day of February 2024, the Select Board appointed Mr. Gary Tillman as a member of the Conservation Commission.*

SB FM 02.29.24

Department Head Updates: TA Phelps asked the Select Board if they would like to live stream Town Meeting again this year. The Board agreed to live stream Town Meeting. TA Phelps provided a list of the warrant articles for the Select Board to choose to speak about at Town Meeting. The Board chose which articles to discuss individually and as a group.

TA Phelps presented a request from Blue Storm Lacrosse, to use the field outside of the town offices for lacrosse practice until the fields at the school are ready. It would begin Monday, March 4th through Friday, April 5th from either 5-7 PM or 5:30-7:30 PM. They have provided proof of insurance naming the town as additional insured. Selectwoman Carey asked if there were any concerns regarding the conditions of the field. TA Phelps noted that she checked with Public Works Director Dean Hollins, and he had no concerns about the field.

Selectwoman Carey motioned to approve Blue Storm Lacrosse to use the field outside the town offices beginning Monday, March 4th through Friday, April 5th. Seconded by Selectman Bevans. Roll Call Vote. All in favor. None opposed.

TA Phelps noted the Commercial Street archeological survey has been completed and submitted to the Department of Natural and Cultural Resources (DNCR). Nadine Miller, Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer, inquired about the town's architectural survey. The town was unable to conduct one because the building collapsed and safety concerns. TA Phelps stated that before Ms. Miller can sign off on the Commercial Street project, she would like confirmation from the town regarding plans for some form of interpretive signage on Commercial Street. Further, to provide historical information, including pictures and videos to the Boscawen Historical Society. Selectwoman Carey noted she would send Boscawen Historical Society pictures she has taken from the past 3 years. Selectwoman Carey suggested given the limitations of the space of the site, the town should use a saved gear from the site to make a trail marker. It would make it more lateral than wide and serve as a marker for where the mills use to be located. Additionally, they could put a QR code that leads to additional pictures and historical information about the site. Chairman Burdick and Selectman Bevans were in favor of Selectwoman Carey's suggestion.

Selectwoman Carey motioned to approve a marker that incorporates objects from the mill's removal and a QR code that leads to additional historical information about the mills. Seconded by Chairman Burdick. Roll Call Vote. All in favor. None opposed.

The Select Board discussed the Fisher Engineering Report regarding observations of floor trusses at Boscawen Congregational Church and Town Hall. TA Phelps explained that Facilities Director Gary Moore met with the engineer at the Boscawen Congregational Church and the Town Hall to address concerns from the church about their sanctuary floor bouncing. They were wondering if the turnbuckles, which are located within the Town Hall, could be turned to stabilize the floor. The findings stated the most economical way to address the vibration was to add columns with footings at the strut locations. Selectwoman Carey was concerned with the deterioration of the top chord timbers from moisture where they bear on the exterior walls. She noted there has been a concern with moisture on the exterior walls for a long time. When it rains,

the water runs right into the building because there is no drainage to prevent the water from getting in. Selectwoman Carey noted there will be more issues to surface if the moisture problem isn't fixed. She agreed that the most economical way to address the vibrations was to add columns with footings at the strut locations, but the long-term solution would be to add French drains around the perimeter of the building. Chairman Burdick clarified that everything above the foundation, including the sill was the church's responsibility. Selectman Bevans noted only the turnbuckles were the towns responsibility. He said if they took the turnbuckles out, the building would still be a free-standing structure attached to the joists. Selectman Bevans pointed out that the engineering study stated that code does not require that the structure be analyzed or made to comply with the current code. He also noted it said they understood that the turnbuckles on the tension rods have been used in the past to increase tension. TA Phelps noted that the Engineer doesn't recommend using the turnbuckles to tension the rods. Selectman Bevans said FD Moore doesn't know when the turnbuckles were turns last and neither does the church. Discussion ensued. Selectman Bevans stated the engineer basically concluded that if it was not broken, don't fix it, unless the town planned to tear it apart and do a real engineering study. Selectman Bevans felt that if they put the columns up, it would ruin the open space of the Town Hall. Discussion ensued. Selectman Bevans suggested leaving things as is and waiting on any remediation efforts until after the court decision. All concurred.

Chairman Burdick noted the Old Home Day Yard Sale will be on Saturday, May 18th from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM with a rain date of Sunday, May 19th. He mentioned Teenie Weenie's Food Truck will be setting up with a breakfast option starting at 8:00 AM until 2:00 PM.

TA Phelps noted the Girl Scouts will be back selling cookies at the Transfer Station this Saturday, March 2nd from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM.

Chairman Burdick opened public comment at 6:29 PM.

Selectwoman Carey presented the International Maritime Signal Flag to Mr. Joshua Crawford for his work on the Boscawen Town flag.

Chairman Burdick closed public comment at 6:30 PM.

Next Meeting: Thursday, March 7, 2024, at 6:00PM.

Chairman Burdick motioned to adjourn at 6:31 PM. Seconded by Selectman Bevans. Roll Call Vote. All in favor. None Opposed.

Respectfully submitted by Hannah Gardner