

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 12, 2021
10 Meetinghouse Road**

1. ROLL CALL: A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, May 12, 2021, 10 Meetinghouse Road. Participating were Dave Gilbert (Chair), Bill Carter, (Vice Chair) and Councilors Sue Thomas, Denise Ricciardi, Bill Duschatko, Lori Radke, and Kelleigh Murphy and. Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Chairman Gilbert opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Chairman Gilbert.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None

4. PRESENTATION

a. Town Clerk Presentation of the Top Dog

Town Clerk Sally Kellar presented the 2021 Top Dog, Stihl, a 2-year old German shepherd. Steve and Shana Rousseau are his owners. Ms. Kellar stated that they have about $\frac{3}{4}$ of the dogs' licenses renewed and reminded everybody to renew their dog license. Ms. Kellar presented Mr. & Mrs. Rousseau with a basket of goodies for Stihl. She stated that anyone that wants to nominate their dog for Top Dog 2022, send her a photo by the end of the year.

5. NEW BUSINESS

a. Meeting with the Bedford Delegation

Rep. Mullen stated that she sits on the Education Committee and this is her second term.

Rep. Graham stated that he's been up there since he was first elected in 2000. He is the Chairman of the Public Works and Highways Committee, which deals with all of the infrastructure of the State. They've sent the Capital budget to the Senate and they are working on that. He stated that what they will need from the Town and the regional planning people the Council deals with is what Bedford wants to see in the next 10-year Transportation Plan. If they don't work through their regional planners, there is very little he can do to insert something as an earmark. If there are projects that they would like to see, then begin work now, because the hearings on that with the Governor's Intermodal Transportation Committee (GACIT) will start in late summer/early fall.

Rep. Gorski stated that he serves on the Transportation Committee and this is his first term. Right now they are dealing with some bills that are dealing with electronic charging stations in the State. If there is something they can do in Bedford, just let him know.

Niki Kelsey stated that this was her first term and she sits on the Health, Human Services and Elderly Affairs. So far this term all they have been dealing with is COVID related issues. They are doing a lot of vaccine stuff.

Rep. Mullen stated that they were dealing with little issues like Education Savings Accounts, whether or not they can fund religious schools, and school choice issues. There are major shifts in educational policy being proposed this term in Concord. She encouraged anybody who has a question or concern or a comment that they want to be heard to get a hold of not just one of them, but all of them and share their opinions to the best of their abilities.

Senator Ricciardi stated that she represents District 9, which is Bedford and 13 other towns. She currently serves in the Education Committee, Transportation, and Executive Departments & Administration. She mentioned SB13, which is an Omnibus bill on taxes and fees that passed the Senate and is now on the table. This bill lowers business profits tax and business enterprise tax. It's continuing the process of the tax reform that had begun in 2015. The BPT would be 7.5% and the BET would be 0.5%. It provides tax relief for NH employers. NH business tax revenues have exceeded projections every year since they began lowering these rates, even during the pandemic. Business tax reform has been important both in helping NH economy grow before the pandemic and it's helping it bounce back after. Another bill is SB3 is the tax treatment of Paycheck Protection Program (PPP) loans that passed the Senate and its pending right now in the House, Ways and Means. This protects NH businesses from having to pay NH business taxes on those PPP loans. Education is very close to her heart and SB130, the education freedom accounts, passed the Senate and it's on the table. She stated that there were a lot of misconception about this school education freedom account or school choice. One of the things she hears is that you shouldn't be able to send somebody to a religious school or it's going to raise their taxes. There are a lot of myths and fearmongering, so she tries to do her best to give people the facts. She worked diligently on changing the bill. She was not going to support it in its current form. She put in place where it would help the less fortunate children. Children who need to get a better education and can't afford to. They put a cap on it where they can't move or apply for this voucher unless you are a family of four that makes \$70% or less. That really helps to help the unfortunate and less privileged children. This also allows parents to use State adequate education grant, which is an average of \$4,600/year. The education freedom accounts did not establish that figure. That is a figure that has been established by the State. This will be through qualified scholarship organizations for approved educational expenses. It will lower property taxes. An important amendment to this bill is that they are making sure that the local school districts will still receive 100% of their adequacy grant in the first year and then switch to an EFA of 50% and then 25% in the third year. They've also made a legislative oversight committee to monitor all of the impact on the local school districts. She has personally made arrangements to meet with every school superintendent in her district at the end of June to help make the public schools the best they can possible be. Another bill, SB135, the State education aid, passed the Senate and is pending in the House Education. Because of COVID-19, fewer students are attending local school districts and fewer families are signing up for the free and reduced lunch program. This

would mean a drop in State education spending unless the Legislature acts. It would allow towns to use the higher enrollment numbers from 2019 meaning higher education grants for 2021. Also under education is SB82, Kindergarten reimbursement, passed the Senate unanimously and is pending in House Finance. This removes the lag year in State reimbursement for new full-day kindergarten programs. One of the things they are trying to work on is property tax relief. She is the prime sponsor of SB99 and it passed the Senate unanimously 24-0. Long ago the State promised the towns and municipalities 40% of their meals & rooms tax. For over a decade, they've broken the promise. They have not been giving it to towns and municipalities. She put a bill forward that would have them keep their promise. This would be property tax relief to every town and municipality in NH.

Chairman Gilbert mentioned roads and infrastructure and has heard that Route 3A was on the plan to be widened. Rep. Graham stated that it's on the plan, but he's not sure exactly what years and where it is. There is a large problem with funding of any of these projects. The only funding source they have for road construction, reconstruction, fixing, is what they get from the Federal Government. They don't raise enough through the gasoline tax or registrations to do much more than pay for the operations such as snow plowing, etc. and pay to the people that are doing the work. Purchasing all of the required right-of-way along that strip will be expensive. He thought they would see some widening on the F. E. Everett Turnpike before they see the ancillary road that parallels it, but that is paid for by tolls. As they keep doing away with tollbooths, they have less money. It's something the State has to come to grips with; how are they going to pay for their roads in the future. He mentioned electric charging stations and stated that right now if you have a fully electric car, all you pay for towards the roads is what you see when you register your car whereas with a gasoline powered vehicle, every time you fill up, there is a little bit of money that goes into roads and bridges within the State. Chairman Gilbert thought the three big roads in Town were Route 3A, Everett Turnpike, and 101 as far as any kind of increasing lanes or anything. Those are all long-term projects.

Councilor Duschatko stated that the SNHPC reviews road requests for their region and have put in for the widening of South River Road from Hawthorne Drive to the Ray Wiczorek connection. That was originally wished for to begin in 2024 and taking a look at the added costs, it has a fiscal constraint, a negative constraint of \$8m today's money. There is just no way to finance it. He believes they may be eligible for an infrastructure grant earmarked from Senator Shaheen's office. Rep. Pappas ignored this particular need. The other thing that has been scheduled and is still on track is the expansion of the Everett Turnpike from Bedford to Nashua and that includes a completely electronic tolling system at the approximate location of the current Bedford toll booth. That program seems to change from year to year on changes of technology, so it's been a moving target. Rep. Grahams explained that it's been a moving target only in that they started over on the turnpikes in the seacoast area with the fully electronic booths just to see if they could make it work. They did the Hooksett tolls with the current configurations where it's a kind of hybrid. What is proposed for the F.E. Everett and where it will be is still up for some discussion. It will either read your license plate or read your E-Z Pass.

Councilor Radke mentioned HB307, which prohibits municipalities from prohibiting shooting or the use of firearms on public property, so that would change for many

municipalities. She is concerned about SB96, qualified immunity, is an amendment that was attached to this bill. She was curious as to how the delegation felt about those two bills. Rep. Graham stated that he hadn't seen the two amendments so he had no idea what Councilor Radke was talking about, so he wasn't going to commit. Rep. Mullen thought they all felt that way.

Chairman Gilbert stated that if the delegation needed something from the Council to contact them and they would definitely contact the delegation if they needed their support.

Rep. Graham thanked Rick Sawyer for bringing up a bill that was set to pass the House and he reached out to all of them. It dealt with the qualified immunity issue on the House side and what it would mean not just to the Police, but to every other employee and the employers more than the employee, because even if they took all of the right steps with an errant employee, they are still responsible for the lawsuit. He thanked Rick for reaching out. They do talk amongst themselves and to the Town Manager probably more so than to the Town Council.

Rep. Mullen gave a shout out to Rick regarding his work with the NH Department of Environmental Services on the PFOA and all of the contamination issues they have in Town. The NH DES did a presentation for Bedford last week, which residents can view online on BCTV. It outlines not only the history of the contamination in Town via the Saint-Gobain issue in Merrimack, but it looks at the importance of water testing community wide, because they have hotspots that are falling outside of the containment area for Saint-Gobain. She was present throughout the presentation and found that even being neck deep in the issue and thinking that you know about what's going on, she learned a tremendous amount. She encouraged the Town Council and other residents to watch that presentation. All of the contact information for the experts is listed in their resource materials and they are happy to help individual home owners as well as the community.

Chairman Gilbert thought they would be talking to the delegation sometime soon regarding the PFAS issue and what they can do as a town to mitigate this.

b. PFAS Commission Update

Chris Bandazian and Emma Paradis came forward to address the Council. Mr. Bandazian stated that HB737 commission was now in its 2nd year. They are a 5-year study commission. In the first year they formed subcommittees: a health subcommittee, and environmental subcommittee that he's the chair of. Emma is on the Communication Committee. They also have a Policy Committee, which he is on as well. He stated that it had been a little halting due to COVID. The Legislature hasn't had video conferencing resources for them to meet for much of 2020. The NH DES has allowed them to use their GoTo Meeting resources, so they've been able to meet again as a full commission and as their subcommittees.

Mr. Bandazian stated that it is very important for citizens to have their water tested when they are invited to have their water tested. He understands that there is some hesitancy

when they get a letter from a representative of the offender, Golder Associates, but it is very important that people respond to those letters quickly.

Mr. Bandazian referred to a map on the screen.

The State is trying to accelerate the testing throughout the grayed in area, which is the outer boundary of the groundwater management zone according to the consent decree. They have a goal to complete testing in this area by the end of the year. He stated that the Town that they are going to be looking at municipal water in that whole area and they should be devising a strategy right now. Saint-Gobain's board of directors are French and they go on vacation all summer, so if they want to get anything done, they are going to have to get those meetings underway sooner rather than later. They have a maximum contaminant level. Since that meeting last week with the State, ATSDR (Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry) has come out with their update, so there is a 993 page document. The degree to which the pharmacology is understood now is very impressive. There is no executive summary, but suggested Chapter one. He stated to not be too obsessive about this outer boundary of the groundwater management zone in terms of deciding what the right thing to do is for Bedford. If they are sizing water mains, they may want to consider sizing a water main that is large enough to service the other side of 101 or up and down 101. Regardless of whether they are looking at that for this particular purpose or for Town planning purposes in general. They will have the backing of the State and the Attorney General's office and financial resources within that outer boundary limit, but there has been no compromise of their rights as the Town and no rights of individual citizens that have been compromised. In this legislative session, they expect to have Londonderry join them with two members to the Commission. They are dealing with the urgency that Bedford was dealing with in 2016. They are looking at soil standards; there currently is no soil standard. Some urgency to adopt one is the proposed development of the Flatley parcel that sits between Saint-Gobain and the Merrimack River. They have many different soil types and for that reason they see so many varied results very close to each other. They are also a little bit further along in the surface water standard. Those are the main things they are looking at in the upcoming year. He speaks to Mike Wimsatt twice a month and Mike gets to hear from him that it's going too slow. If the Council has anything they want to pass on to the State, they have been really cooperative with them. They have been great partners to Bedford. He also stated that Saint-Gobain when they've called upon them has gone the extra ¼ mile. He showed a map that was a little out of date of the Town's public water system. As part of the work that was done, water was extended down Back River Road. There is a huge area between Back River Road and Jenkins Road that has to get filled in. He encouraged them to map it out and plan on doing the whole thing. It's much easier to do it that way and eliminate some cul-de-sacs if they are able to. He thought it was inevitable that they will be looking at municipal water. He mentioned a Master Plan back in the 90's in preparation for public water, he didn't think they would have ever seen a funding mechanism. He thought they needed to look at it as a great opportunity for the Town.

Ms. Paradis stated that she was the Chair of the Communications & Education Subcommittee. Her job is to take all of the science and boil it down. They've got a real

problem. People don't have access to clean water and the community is confused. They have people on Forest Drive that are scared that they are living in a cancer cluster. They are putting two and two together that their private water has been compromised by Saint-Gobain. She listened to the report of DES and she also has the ear of Mike Wimsatt twice a month and Amy Rousseau almost weekly, because they do need to try and communicate what the needs are of the community. Right now, Bedford is facing a confused community, especially on Bedford Center Road. They don't know where they fit. They are just outside the consent decree that was signed before Bedford got involved. They are behind and need to come up with a plan quickly. She thanked Rick, because she believed he had foresight and was looking forward and when they were doing the road construction on Liberty Hill, he wanted to put it all together. She thought that a water main should be running down Route 101, because they should have access to public water for some of the businesses and community members off those roads. Some of the things that she got from the meeting is that people that have been tested, approximately 40% of the community members are over the legal contamination limit. NH is at 12/ppt, but there is National legislation that is looking to pass in the House and go to the Senate and EPA set standards are declaring that the toxic chemical in looking for the eradication of PFAS and PFOA's and the entire PF community, up to 12 of them, being new and putting strict environmental standards to be eliminated within 180 days. The Communications Subcommittee is doing community meetings and they are going to have an all community meeting just to answer and collect questions.

Mr. Bandazian stated that those that receive Merrimack Village District water, wells 1 and 2 had the granulated activated carbon filtration system going into effect in October of last year. Those were the most highly contaminated wells and were brought offline prior to filtration and that system has been very effective in reducing wells to the non-detect level and that's been consistent in the months that have passed since October. Those people in that part of the system are getting safe water now, which is great. The prior Merrimack Village District commissioners unfortunately made a bad deal with Saint-Gobain and as a result of that instead of having five years with an operating maintenance cost, which they believed they had bargained for, they appear to only have two years, so that expense is going to get passed on to rate payers.

Ms. Paradis stated that there is some legislation happening up in Concord. Rep. Mullen stated that it is HB236, which went through the Senate today, so it has successfully gone through the House and Senate at this point. It extends the statute of limitations from three years to six on claims against Saint-Gobain. The statute of limitations being three years has limited what individual homeowners and communities have been able to do. If they extend from three to six at least they give people a fighting chance of being able to get through not only the process of testing their water, but perhaps the legal process that follows the testing of the water and what happens when the results come back if they're in trouble.

Ms. Paradis stated that she can also submit to Rick a couple of the bills that are coming through. There are some issues coming up from other communities about paying for the water, also labeling of PFAS materials that has become a question that she has been

fielding. One of the other concerns is they have more than several households that have been on bottled water for two years and there is no solution presented today. She has been a little tougher on DES. She thought they were doing the best they can given the amount of resources that they have. There is no proposed solution. There are community members that are getting deliveries whenever Monadnock can and they are doing the best they can, but she lives across the street from someone that has received boxes of bottled water every month for over two years and to her that is unacceptable. It should be unacceptable for the community as well. She knows that with Rick, Chris and herself, they have a team that's fighting for it.

Councilor Duschatko believed that there were onsite filters that were available for houses as well as commercial uses. He wanted to know if there had been any movement to install that type of filter system in those houses that are currently on bottled water. Ms. Paradis stated that she lived on bottled water for two years and the offer at that time was you could buy your own point of entry, which her family chose to do. She thought that was the best solution, because what was offered at that time was a reverse osmosis system by Culligan to be used at your kitchen sink. At the May 6th meeting, she asked DES to eliminate that as something being offered, because her entire family uses every single source of water anywhere in the house. If you only have a point of use and you're only offered one. Councilor Duschatko clarified that he was referring to a system that came in and sat between your water source and your home, point of entry. Ms. Paradis stated that she had to purchase one herself. She was uncertain what was offered. Mr. Sawyer stated that there were a total of four in the first round, but in this current round that has not been offered by Saint-Gobain, either the point of use or the point of entry. Councilor Duschatko wanted to know if Saint-Gobain had offered to put in a water system for the Town. Mr. Sawyer responded not yet and he thought that was so far the most disappointing thing that came out of Thursday night's meeting. Councilor Duschatko wanted to know if there was a tradeoff between a home system, not point of use, versus cost of a water main and if so, which works in that particular benefit. Mr. Bandazian stated that they are talking about the outer boundary of the groundwater management zone. The Town wouldn't be bearing the cost; most likely it would be Saint-Gobain. That would be the cheapest outcome. In terms of annual water bills, when they looked at this, it averaged about \$800, which was about the same as having a private well system assuming you maintained it and the well didn't go dry. This is water that's tested constantly from municipal water sources, so from the State's point of view, that is absolutely the preferred option. Councilor Duschatko stated that speaking as a user of the Merrimack Village Water District, after they put the treatment in the actual taste of the water changed and it has deteriorated. Mr. Sawyer stated that a lot of organics came through the water with this treatment, so it will taste differently. Councilor Duschatko stated that he was sure the water was fine, it's passed the tests, but it is not as good as it was. He thought before they go in and dig up every street in the south/east/west part of Bedford putting in water lines, they should at least look at alternatives. Ms. Paradis clarified that they still can't trace that if they were to cap your well and give you your own water system, they're not sure where things are going to travel. There is so much science that is going to go into this and they still don't know the extent. They might be pointing a point of entry filter system on every single home, which is going to increase costs. There are also risks

associated with that that they are transferring onto to the homeowner with proper disposal of filtration and with the gas system for sure, it's a granulated, activated carbon, it becomes radioactive material, which then is the responsibility of the homeowner to then properly dispose of. There are risks associated with all of it. She implored the Town Council that this isn't going to be a cost borne by Bedford; it really should be borne by Saint-Gobain. This is in their consent decree. The cost

Councilor Murphy wanted to know what they can be doing to better help them with what they are doing on the committee. She wanted to know how they could support them and be more proactive. Ms. Paradis thought it came down to an education issue in Town. Their community is not educated enough and they don't know if it's that really big of an issue. Whatever they can do to amplify the message to get your water tested and to promote others to get their water tested, and to contact Jeff Marts, Amy Rousseau, or Mike Wimsatt. She's passed a lot of it to Rick Sawyer, they need to amplify the message. Residents feel alone as a community member and feel as if no one is really fighting for your own clean water and that's how she felt for years. If they hear anything, direct them to Chris or herself; they have a lot of inside information. Mr. Bandazian echoed what Ms. Paradis said and stated that getting the testing done properly is the most important thing that can be done and that the Town Council can encourage the public to do. They have worked with the State since the beginning of the year on getting a form letter and an address matrix. Anyone can go on that OneStop site. They can see how long it takes Bedford people to respond. Some of that may be distrust, because they are hearing from the engineering consultant for the wrongdoer. If they hear that same information from the Town Council or Town Manager and encourage testing, it would go a long way in speeding up this process. He was very pleased to hear that the State thinks it can get done by the end of the year, but it can only get done if people cooperate and consent to having someone come in and test their water.

Councilor Thomas thought the webinar was fascinating. She would encourage everyone in Bedford to watch it, because she learned a lot and not just about this one issue. They talked a little bit about other contaminants and water. She thought there had to be a lot more education. She knew about the issue, and that it was a big issue and about people on bottled water, but she thought they did a really good job explaining the science behind it without getting too over everyone's head. BCTV is running it and she heard there is a link on the website. It's all about education, and they need a lot more people in town to know what's going on.

Councilor Ricciardi stated that she reached out to Mike and introduced herself to get a full briefing and get completely up to speed. She stated that President Morris' thing is clean water and he's working on some things to help Bedford she and Rick have been speaking to him directly about this. She has gotten emails from constituents saying the testing was so expensive; it cost them \$365. She wondered if there was something they could figure out or put something in place so they aren't spending this kind of money. Mr. Bandazian clarified that within the groundwater management zone there is no charge for testing. When Golder Associates contacts people to do testing they are not charged. What Councilor Ricciardi is talking about is outside of that area. Ms. Paradis stated that people

are choosing to do it on their own and there is a high cost associated with it. Mr. Bandazian stated that the State has worked out a very good deal in terms of getting a discounted price and getting expedited service. Ms. Paradis advised residents to connect with Jeff Marts. They have information and it's on the website, and they have a lot of materials. When people are choosing to get their water tested on their own they are incurring that cost themselves. They can connect with Amy Rousseau if Jeff Marts does not work. Amy has been an asset and she is wonderful, because Jeff is getting overwhelmed. If you are in the consent decree area it is covered. Mr. Bandazian stated that the State can help subsidize the expense. Chairman Gilbert wanted to clarify that the consent decree is the gray area (on the map on the screen) and if you are in that area, the goal of the State is to have everyone tested by the end of the year. Mr. Bandazian stated that was correct. Chairman Gilbert wanted to know if they had to wait for Golder or can you go to them now if you live in that area. Ms. Paradis stated that you should have received the letter from Golder. Mr. Bandazian stated that you have to wait. They have been rolling out based on proximity and that meant that properties had to be adjacent. They defined adjacent as within 60 feet. If one homeowner didn't respond obviously that propagation can't go forward, so that's been a problem. Ms. Paradis encouraged people to contact those people at the State if they not received the information from Golder Associates.

Chairman Gilbert mentioned the northern boundary on 101, and wanted to know if they had any idea when they will move that or have they. Mr. Bandazian stated that they won't move that, because they made their consent decree. Saint-Gobain probably gave up in their minds things that they didn't have to give up and the State gave up things. If some proof could come along that would make them responsible outside of that, but don't count on it. Mr. Bandazian stated that there are 4,700 of these chemicals, and they have standards for four in NH. NH is on point with the science; they have very good science behind the chemicals that they regulate. Should they have an aggregate limit like the EPA does, if they do should there be other contaminants included in that aggregate limit and it would give Merrimack Village District an opportunity to work out a more fair deal with that if the science works out.

c. Other New Business

Chairman Gilbert stated that they had a request from the Historic District Commission Chair and alternate Joe Vaccarello to be moved from an alternate to a regular member.

MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council appoint Joe Vaccarello to a regular member of the Historic District Commission with a term to expire in May 2024. Seconded by Councilor Duschatko. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

6. OLD BUSINESS – None

a. Other Old Business – None

7. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Session – April 28, 2021

MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the April 28, 2021 Town Council Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Thomas. Vote taken – Motion Approved – 6-0-1 (Ricciardi abstained).

b. Non-Public Session – April 28, 2021

MOTION by Councilor Murphy that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the April 28, 2021 Town Council Non-Public Session. Seconded by Councilor Thomas. Vote taken – Motion Approved – 6-0-1 (Ricciardi abstained).

8. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

Mr. Sawyer thanked the delegation for their kind comments earlier and Chris and Emma from the PFAS Commission for all their work. They have been a great resource for him and stays in constant contact with them. The delegation is always there when he needs them. He reaches out and they've been very responsive.

- 1) COVID-19 Pandemic – Bedford has 25 current COVID-19 positive cases. I strongly encourage all residents to get vaccinated if possible and follow commonsense precautions when visiting public locations.

Councilor Duschatko mentioned the graph that showed total deaths by age and wanted to know what the totals were and the time period. Mr. Sawyer stated that if you go to the site it's all broken out. Go to NH Dept. of Health and Human Services site. Councilor Duschatko wanted to know if they keep track of a running tally of average daily tests and Mr. Sawyer responded yes, it's all in there. There's a tremendous amount of data that is on the website. They announced today that next week the vaccination percentages and numbers by community and county would be available.

- 2) Drought conditions in NH have improved slightly over the last two weeks with the area that is defined as "Moderate Drought" reducing by about 10% in southwestern NH. Bedford remains in the Moderate Drought condition. Without a significantly wetter than normal spring it is likely that we will return to severe drought or worse this summer and watering restrictions will need to be considered.
- 3) Sportsman Field – Reconstruction remains on schedule with the pad and turf having been placed over the last week.
- 4) Please register your dog(s) prior to June 1st in order to avoid any late fees for 2021.
- 5) Registration for Camp Witzel summer camp and other summer camp programs are now open and information is available through the Recreation page of the Town Website <http://www.bedfordreconline.com/info/activities/default.aspx>
- 6) The Library has put back in place Storywalk at the Bedford Village Common.

- 7) May 22nd – Grand Opening of the Farm Stand at the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill, 10 AM, with events Noon-6 PM.
- 8) Annual Hydrant Flushing – Pennichuck Water Works has announced that they will be flushing water mains in the Powder Hill area May 10-13 and they recommend avoid doing laundry during this time and have indicated that you may experience low pressure or cloudy water.
- 9) May 31st – Bedford Town Offices, Library, Transfer Station, & BCTV Closed for Memorial Day.
- 10) June 19th – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Highway Garage, 19 Chubbuck Road.
- 11) We just came off International Firefighters' Day, May 4th, in the middle of National Police Week, and coming up on National Public Works Week and EMS Week is the 46th annual National EMS Week. This year's theme is "This Is EMS: Caring for Our Communities" which comes through strongly every day in the actions of our Bedford personnel.
- 12) American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) – Bedford to receive \$2,240,191.06
 - 50% available in 2021, 50% in 2022
 - Must be spent by 2024
 - US Treasury guidance on how they money can be used was released this week

9. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Councilor Ricciardi recognized that May 9-15 is National Police Week. In 1962, President Kennedy proclaimed May 15th as National Peace Officers Memorial Day. She reminded everyone that it was established by a joint resolution of Congress in 1962 to pay special recognition to those law enforcement officers who have lost their lives in the line of duty for the safety and protection of others and to thank all the men and women serving our department and departments across the country and to take a moment to remember officers who have lost their lives.

Councilor Duschatko stated that on Monday there was a Planning Board meeting where they discussed three things. The first one was an extension of an approved subdivision off McAllister Road. The conditions of the subdivision called for some demolition of existing housing and they've extended it for another year. The second item was the establishment of a new private elementary school known as Bedford Academy, which will be located on Eastman Avenue. They discussed a change of use of the facility they are going to take over. They will be servicing preschool – 6th grade. The plans to start with 32 children and the following year grow that to a total enrollment of 78. After some discussion about traffic conditions and concerns they had about potential buildup of queues during pick up and drop off, the Planning Board approved the application. The third item was a conceptual plan on a very exciting and beneficial project to Bedford. It's proposed by the owners of the Bedford Village Inn and Grand Hotel. They would like to expand the property they own to include a condominium development of 9-10 houses that will be age restricted to 55 and over. The property abuts the back of the Grand Hotel and runs up the hillside. He thought it would be a quality project for Bedford. There is a lot of engineering and zoning changes that need to be made and will be the purview of the Zoning Board.

Councilor Duschatko also stated that they reorganized the Planning Board and Mac McMahan is the Chair, he is Vice Chair, and Patricia Malcolm is secretary. He thanked Jon Levenstein for his years of leadership of the Planning Board.

Councilor Murphy stated that the Bedford Police Department would like to remind everyone that May is motorcycle safety awareness month and they would like everyone to give proper distance between a motorcycle and your vehicle, which helps not only the vehicle drive, but helps the motorcyclist have enough time to brake accordingly. She congratulated Lt. Dubowick and FF Mailloux on 15 years of service to the Bedford Fire Department. She congratulated the Bedford Fire Department as they recently administered 2nd doses of the COVID vaccine to high school students. These men and women have worked tirelessly to make sure individuals not only in our community but throughout the State of NH have been timely vaccinated and in some cases volunteering their own time to do so.

Councilor Radke stated that on May 4th they had a Historic District Commission meeting. They approved an amended plan that at 324 Wallace road. They also approved a renovation to an exterior property at 29 N. Amherst Road. Their thought is to keep it very historic, so she's looking forward to seeing improvements on that piece of property. She gave a shout out to all of the first responders. This is a very special month for the Police, Fire, EMS and DPW who work tirelessly keeping this Town running and safe.

Councilor Carter gave a shout out to Archie from DPW. When he and his wife were doing the Cinco de Mayo 5k, they got to walk over to Sportsman Field and he was a great resource on the updates with Sportsman Field. The annual spring work day at Pulpit Rock Conservation Area will be Saturday May 15th at 9:00AM, meeting in the parking lot at the New Boston Road entrance. Bring gloves, trash bags, hand saws, and hammers. They will be doing general work on the trails and some minor bridge repair. Also bring water and bug repellent. If interested, contact Richard Moore of the Pulpit Rock Subcommittee. May 16th is the rain date.

Chairman Gilbert stated that grand opening of farm stand will be Saturday, May 22nd. They will have hamburgers, hot dogs, and drinks.

10. NON-PUBLIC – RSA 91-A:3 II (if necessary)

11. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Councilor Carter to adjourn. Seconded by Councilor Murphy. Vote taken – Motion Passed – 7-0.

The public meeting ended at 8:20 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford