

TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
May 27, 2020
Zoom Meeting

1. ROLL CALL: A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was conducted Wednesday, May 27, 2020 virtually without a physical location in compliance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Orders #12. Participating were Dave Gilbert (Chair), Denise Ricciardi (Vice Chair) and Councilors Phil Greazzo, Bill Duschatko, Melissa Stevens, Bill Carter and Lori Radke. Also participating virtually was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Chairman Gilbert stated I'd like to call the May 27, 2020 meeting of the Bedford Town Council to order and as Chairman of the Council I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is no physical location to observe this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that they are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access live on BCTV Comcast Channel 22 or streaming online by going to the Town website and choosing BCTV under "departments" and clicking on Channel 22. They are utilizing an online platform called Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Council have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform. If interested, the public can call into this meeting by contacting the Town Manager rsawyer@bedfordnh.org or calling 603-792-1300 to receive the call-in information. If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via the phone please email us at: councilors2@bedfordnh.org. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Chairman Gilbert took a roll call attendance: Bill Carter-here, Bill Duschatko-here, Phil Greazzo-here, Lori Radke-here, Denise Ricciardi-here, Melissa Stevens-here, and Dave Gilbert-here. Town Manager Rick Sawyer was also joining the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Gilbert stated that public comments can be made now if you are on the phone by dialing *9 and then wait until we call on you. We will also read any comments that have been sent to councilors2@bedfordnh.org

Chairman Gilbert asked Mr. Sawyer if any comments had been received through our email address or if there was anyone on the phone who have dialed *9. Mr. Sawyer stated that he hadn't received any correspondence and there was nobody on the phone, but resident Kathleen Bemiss was participating in the Zoom meeting and wanted to comment.

Kathleen Bemiss would appreciate the Zoom meeting being available on the Town website, so the residents could easily access it without having to access the Town Manager. She thought they would have better input. She wanted to discuss the Telecommunications Committee and the attitude and perception she had witnessed from the Town Council members. She thought at the last meeting members of the Town Council were very dismissive and in some cases rude regarding the work that the Telecommunications Committee had done. The Telecommunications Committee met 17 times with a quorum since it was initiated back in 2018 and she didn't think that the Town Council members were aware that the Telecommunications Committee doesn't focus on telecommunications any longer. It has expanded to the Zoning ordinance for the right-of-way as well as the Town-wide broadband. She felt that the Chairman in particular was very dismissive last meeting. She wanted on the record that she felt that decisions should not be made before the meeting and that people's testimony should come into account.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Appointments to Boards and Commissions

Chairman Gilbert went through his slate of appointments.

Planning Board

Hal Newberry – Regular
Priscilla Malcolm – Regular
Steve Clough – Regular
John Quintal – Alternate

Zoning Board

John Morin – Regular
Len Green – Regular
Melissa Stevens – Regular
Neal Casale – Alternate
Dave Gilbert – Alternate

Parks & Recreation Commission

Spencer Hawkes – Regular
Jimmy Astarita – Alternate

Historic District Commission

Lisa Muskat – Regular

Conservation Commission

Maggie Wachs – Regular
Patricia Grogan – Regular
Stephanie Jones – Alternate
Janet Tamulevich – Alternate

Energy Commission

Bart Fromuth
Tom Elwood

Water & Sewer Advisory Committee

Mike Sills

Highway Safety Committee

Madonna Repeta

BCTV-WBNH Board

Peter Macdonald

Andrew Hanson

Cemetery Trustees

Steve Wiggin

Town Treasurer

Thomas Sauser

Library Trustee Alternate

Jerry Hanauer

Councilor Duschatko stated that the Telecommunications Committee was set up as a sunset committee and there were no terms for the members. He would like to make a motion that the current members be reappointed. He didn't believe they ever received a notice that they had a term. Chairman Gilbert said were vacancies on the committee, so that's why it was on the list. Whoever wanted to stay on the committee was okay with him.

Councilor Radke had a concern with the Energy Commission. She stated that Jeff Kerr was a member and requested to come back although the Chair was recommending that he not be reappointed. She would like to see him on the committee. Her recommendation was to appoint Bart Fromuth and Jeff Kerr and ask Mr. Elwood if he would be willing to go to the Historic District Committee where there was an opening.

Councilor Stevens wanted to make sure they were appointing the right number of people to the ZBA, because she thought they had one new member that they could add to that board. Chairman Gilbert stated that she was correct. Len Green was going from alternate to regular, so Elizabeth Jude would be appointed to fill his alternate term expiring in 2021.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know what they were going to do about Energy Commission. She wanted to know if Jeff Kerr knew that he might not be reappointed. She wondered if they had brought him in to speak to everybody like the new candidates if they might have not had an opportunity then to tease out whatever the issues were there. She knows they have a difficult time getting volunteers, so she hates to lose people that were active participants. Chairman Gilbert stated that the decision was made not to bring in the members who were on boards already, because they really didn't have enough time to do it with the Zoom meeting. They probably should have. Councilor Stevens didn't think it was a practice that they normally do. They don't normally bring in current members if they are up for reappointment. Chairman Gilbert agreed. In the past, they haven't had current members come in to interview and also it's not a given that current members automatically are reappointed. Mr. Sawyer agreed with both statements. Chairman Gilbert stated that he's making a recommendation. Councilor Radke has come up with a

recommendation. As a board, the seven of them need to talk it out and decide which way they want to go and then take a motion and vote.

Councilor Carter expressed the same concern as Councilor Radke and Councilor Stevens when it comes to Energy. As a new Council member, he never had the chance to ‘meet’ the Energy Commission due to COVID-19, so he has some reservation about having some competition concerning that on the Energy Commission.

Councilor Duschatko mentioned that they weren’t reappointing another incumbent on the Planning Board, and wanted to know what the difference between the two. Chairman Gilbert stated that Mr. Hawkins’ attendance was very poor. He only made 25% of the meetings last year and that was unacceptable. He thought if you are going to be on a board you need to participate, especially Planning. That was his only issue with that appointment. Councilor Duschatko wasn’t suggesting they should automatically reappoint incumbents. He thought it was a good idea to have some fresh ideas.

Chairman Gilbert stated that he had no problem with Jeff Kerr, he just felt that Tom and Bart were better candidates. There are seven of them. He’s not making this decision by himself. He suggested they make a motion to appoint all of the people they’ve talked about, except the Energy Commission and then they can vote on that separately.

Councilor Stevens wanted to make sure some of the folks they interviewed that were not being appointed to the slate were offered other committees. Chairman Gilbert stated that the people that were not being appointed were asked if they wanted to participate in another committee and the people that are not on the list did not want to do that. Councilor Stevens mentioned Janet Tamulevich who was on HDC. Chairman Gilbert stated that they are asking her to serve on the Conservation Commission. She said she didn’t have a problem with it when they asked her.

MOTION by Councilor Carter that the Bedford Town Council appoint the members of the certain boards and commissions except for the Energy Commission as stated by the Chairman. Seconded by Councilor Duschatko.

Roll Call Vote: Bill Duschatko-aye, Lori Radke-aye, Melissa Stevens-aye, Bill Carter-aye, Denise Ricciardi-aye, Phil Greazzo-aye, Dave Gilbert-aye. Motion Passes – 7-0.

MOTION by Councilor Duschatko that the Town Council accept the Chairman’s recommendation of Bart Fromuth and Tom Elwood. Seconded by Councilor Ricciardi.

Roll Call Vote: Denise Ricciardi-aye, Bill Carter-nay, Bill Duschatko-aye, Phil Greazzo-aye, Lori Radke-nay, Melissa Stevens-nay, Dave Gilbert-aye. Motion Passes – 4-3.

b. Appointment to Utilities, Poles and Wires Committee

Chairman Gilbert stated that this was an appointment that he could make and he made it. Councilor Radke had volunteered and he approved, so she would be the 3rd person on the Utilities, Poles and Wires Committee. Councilor Radke accepted the appointment.

c. Recognition of Retired Board Members

Chairman Gilbert stated that they appreciate the citizens of our community who volunteer to serve on the various Town boards. Every year, the Town Council recognizes those board members who have resigned or did not see reappointment when their term was up, and he would like to recognize them. He read the list of retired board members:

Receiving Certificates of Appreciation

Dean Wilson – Water & Sewer Advisory Committee –1 year
William Carter – Conservation Commission –1½ years
Sheila Quick – Parks & Recreation – 3 years
Gigi Georges – Zoning Board – 4½ years
Dave Gambaccini – Conservation Commission – 4 years
Janet Tamulevich – Historic District Commission – 6 years

Receiving a Plaque

Karen McGinley – Planning Board – 2007–2020 – 13 years

Councilor Radke wanted to know if they would be sending a letter or any form of acknowledgement to Mr. Kerr for his time on the Energy Commission as well. She wanted to know how they handled those situations when they are not selected. Mr. Sawyer stated that for those who didn't get reappointed, they would create a new list so the Council can recognize them at their next meeting.

d. Other New Business – None.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Other Old Business – None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Interviews – May 13, 2020

MOTION by Councilor Carter that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the interviews of their May 13, 2020 Town Council. Seconded by Councilor Duschatko.

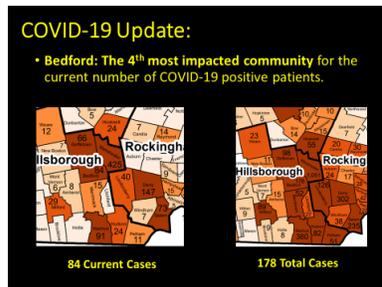
Roll Call Vote: Phil Greazzo-aye, Denise Ricciardi-aye, Melissa Stevens-aye, Lori Radke-aye, Bill Carter-aye, Bill Duschatko-aye, Dave Gilbert-aye. Motion Passed – 7-0.

b. Public Session – May 13, 2020

MOTION by Councilor Radke that the Bedford Town Council accept the minutes of the May 13, 2020 meeting as drafted. Seconded by Councilor Carter.

Roll Call Vote: Denise Ricciardi-aye, Bill Duschatko-aye, Phil Greazzo-aye, Bill Carter-aye, Melissa Stevens-aye, Lori Radke-aye, Dave Gilbert-aye. Motion Passed – 7-0.

8. TOWN MANAGER REPORT



- 1) Motor Vehicle Registration – The lobby of the Town Office Building is open 10 AM – 4 PM for motor vehicle registration and other bill payments ONLY. At risk members of our community or anybody else who is not comfortable coming in with the general public can make an appointment for weekday morning 8-10 AM by contacting the department at 472-3550 or MV@BedfordNH.org. They encourage people to continue taking advantage of online or mail in options whenever possible as maximum occupancy in our lobby is 4 customers. Please wear a face covering and keep a 6 foot separation to others when coming to the building. Offsite payment options can be found on our website <https://www.bedfordnh.org/819/Online-Bill-Payment>.
- 2) The Library is offering contactless curbside pickup of library materials for cardholders 10 AM – 2 PM, Monday - Saturday. They are currently seeing 100 requests a day.
 - Place request on Bedford item by using the [online catalog](#) or by calling 472-2300.
 - We will call you when your item(s) is ready for pickup.
 - Before you leave the house for the Library, or when you arrive, call 472-2300. We will then check the item(s) out to you and place your item(s) on the table outside the main entrance. After the staff person has returned to the building, come to the table to pick up your items.
 - Return in the outdoor book drop between 10 AM - 2 PM, Monday – Saturday.
- 3) Bedford Cares – continues to provide service to members of our community who are in need of assistance with such things as shopping and picking up of prescriptions. If you need their support please reach out to them at 792-1319 or on <https://www.facebook.com/BedfordNHCares/>. He thanked Councilor Ricciardi.
- 4) Bedford Sewing Battalion – has been a tremendous resource for the community by providing thousands of masks to anyone who needs them. I truly appreciate their efforts. They can be reached at: [facebook.com/groups/222249565687445/](https://www.facebook.com/groups/222249565687445/).
- 5) The last day to make party affiliation changes prior to the September 8th Primary Election is Tuesday, June 2, 2020. [A form](#) on the Town Clerk’s website can be filled

out and mailed in. You can check your affiliation through the Secretary of State's website at <https://app.sos.nh.gov/Public/PartySearchResults.aspx>

- 6) Filing for office registration period is June 3rd – June 12th.
- 7) Please register your dog(s) prior to June 1st in order to avoid any late fees.
- 8) Tax bills are on schedule to be issued by the end of May with a July 1st due date.
- 9) The Bedford Farmers Market opens June 16th and continues on Tuesdays from 3-6 PM through September at the old Harvest Market parking lot.
- 10) The deadline for applying for elderly, disabled, blind property tax exemptions and veterans, disabled veterans tax credits is June 1st. Please contact the Assessing Department at 472-8104 or visit their website for more information <https://www.bedfordnh.org/149/Assessing>
- 11) June 27th – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Highway Garage, 19 Chubbuck Road.
- 12) Update on Route 101:



- 13) 2020 Census – Bedford currently has a response rate of 79.2% which is third in the State which means we have taken a step back since my last report. I would love to see Bedford be the first community to reach 100%. Please complete the Census by going to <https://my2020census.gov/>. It truly takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

11. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Councilor Carter stated that the Conservation Commission approved a Dredge and Fill for the construction of Foster's Place, which is the road connecting Technology Drive and Commerce Park North. There was a request for a variance to put in a pool that was going to be within 34 feet of the wetland. They worked with them to lessen the size of the pool and they would be going in front of the ZBA. There was a request for replacement of a shed. They had an update from Chris Wells, Director of Piscataquog Land Conservancy about lands in Bedford regarding their easements. They had a discussion concerning social distancing protocols on Town land. Keep social distancing on trails and pick up your trash. He asked people to keep their speed down on New Boston Road and McAllister Road and other side roads. He asked the Town Manager to pass that along to the Police Chief.

Councilor Radke mentioned her comment at the last meeting about first responder stipends and how she was hoping the State would recognize others on the front lines like the Transfer Station workers. She was pleased that the Union Leader did an article recognizing DPW especially the Transfer Station workers. The DPW was doing a nice job

on the tennis courts. They are resurfacing them and they look beautiful. Congratulations to all BHS seniors who were graduating next week. There are 28 graduations all together. Thumbs up to the administration who did a really nice job organizing it in light of COVID-19 and giving the students a chance to walk across the stage.

Councilor Ricciardi stated that in addition to Bedford Cares, she urged everyone to take a look at Taste of Bedford.net. If you go to that website, it's something she's trying to orchestrate to help the local restaurants survive. She asked residents to take a peek at that and support our local restaurants.

Councilor Stevens echoed Councilor Radke's comments about BHS students and also wanted to recognize those students moving on to other schools. Although she's excited for remote learning to end, she's appreciative of a lot of great teachers stepping up with little notice to make all these changes. She talked about Bringing Bedford Free Stuff on Facebook. It's a Facebook group for anyone in Town who have items that could be passed on to someone else. There are over 1,000 members.

Chairman Gilbert thanked Councilor Ricciardi for her efforts with Bedford Cares. He congratulated Councilor Radke for her effort with the Bedford High School senior signs that she's been helping provide for the graduating seniors. He mentioned speeding on Joppa Hill Road coming south out of the residential tree area just before you get to the farm building at the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill. The Police were out there doing speed studies. He urged anyone that had comments about any street to let the Police know and they can help. The Governor is speaking again on Friday about COVID restrictions. Mr. Sawyer stated that they should have more information on Friday at 3:00. Chairman Gilbert stated that the EFJP was anticipating having a summer camp. They are waiting to see what the Governor says.

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

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Councilor Carter to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Ricciardi.

Roll Call Vote: Bill Carter-aye, Bill Duschatko-aye, Phil Greazzo-aye, Lori Radke-aye, Denise Ricciardi-aye, Melissa Stevens-aye, Dave Gilbert-aye. Motion passed – 7-0.

The meeting ended at 7:43 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Boufford