

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
July 15, 2020
Zoom Meeting**

1. ROLL CALL: A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was conducted Wednesday, July 15, 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.

7:00 PM – Chairman Gilbert stated I'd like to call the July 15, 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 we 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. We 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. The public can call into this meeting via the instructions that are being shown on the BCTV broadcast. 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 and called on the Councilors and they responded: Bill Carter-here, Bill Duschatko-here, Phil Greazzo-here, Lori Radke-here, Denise Ricciardi-here, and Melissa Stevens-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 responded that no one was on the phone and no comments had been received.

3. PUBLIC HEARING

a. Street acceptances – Pulpit Road, Sprague Mill Road and Lilac Court

Chairman Gilbert opened the Public Hearing.

Chairman Gilbert asked Mr. Sawyer if any comments had been received through their email address or if there was anyone on the phone who had dialed *9. Mr. Sawyer responded that no one had called and no comments were received.

Mr. Sawyer gave a brief summary on the three roads to be accepted and showed their location on a map that he displayed.

Chairman Gilbert closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION by Councilor Carter that the Bedford Town Council accept Lilac Court with a length of 1,054 lineal feet and a 50 foot Right-of-Way, Pulpit Road with a length of 7,190 lineal feet and a 50 foot Right-of-Way and Sprague Mill Road with a length of 770 lineal feet and a 50 foot Right-of-Way. Further, to authorize the Public Works Director to release any outstanding surety on both of these developments upon receipt and recording of the applicable deeds and payment of any outstanding fees. Seconded by Councilor Radke.

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

4. NEW BUSINESS

- a. **New Business – None.**

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. **Old Business – None.**

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. **Public Session – June 24, 2020**

Chairman Gilbert stated that there were three sets of minutes to approve. He mentioned that Councilor Carter had a revision to one of them. Chairman Gilbert wanted to know if they wanted to do them together or do them one by one. Councilor Radke suggested one by one and the rest of the Council agreed.

Councilor Carter had a correction to the June 24, 2020 public session minutes. He stated that at the top of page 5, the roll call vote, it shows that he voted 'aye', but he voted 'nay'. The vote should reflect that and that it passed 4-3, not 5-2.

MOTION by Councilor Duschatko that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the June 24, 2020 Public Session with the correction. Seconded by Councilor Radke.

Councilor Stevens mentioned the roll call vote on page 5 and questioned whether the votes were reversed as well, because there were two motions back to back. Councilor Carter stated that it was the vote on Bryan Lord that he was questioning. It was 4-3 versus 5-2. Councilor Stevens thought that was the vote they took for Charlie. Chairman Gilbert clarified that the vote for Charlie was 7-0 and the vote for Bryan Lord was 4-3.

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

b. Non-Public Session – June 24, 2020

MOTION by Councilor Carter that the Bedford Town Council approve the June 24, 2020 Non-Public minutes. Seconded by Councilor Radke.

Councilor Radke wanted to know if they should seal the minutes before or after the vote. Mr. Sawyer stated that they weren't sealed at the time of the vote in the non-public session and didn't feel that there was anything in the minutes that would warrant it.

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

c. Town Council Retreat – June 27, 2020

MOTION by Councilor Duschatko that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the Town Council Retreat of June 27, 2020. Seconded by Councilor Radke.

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

7. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- 1) COVID-19 Pandemic Update – Bedford remains one of most impacted communities with 44 current COVID-19 positive patients with impacts in some of our long term care facilities as well as the general community. I strongly encourage all residents to follow the CDC and State of NH recommendations for protecting yourself when out completing necessary travel. Those recommendations include staying six feet apart, wearing a face covering and washing hands as often as possible. He mentioned that they received their first GOFERR reimbursement for expenses from the State. They

filed today for their second round of GOFERR funds. He thanked the staff for continuing to do the great work in getting the job done. Our small organization has been significantly impacted by COVID and continues to be.

- 2) Drought – Our dry start to the year now has expanded to having all of southern NH in the condition defined as “moderate drought”. I would encourage all residents to implement water conservation measures now like only watering vegetable garden crops, watering no more than every other day, and watering in the morning or evening where less water is lost to evaporation. Merrimack Village Water District has implemented an outdoor watering ban which impacts those in Greenfield Farms, Cabot Preserve, Jenkins Road, and the Brick Mill Road area who receive their water from Merrimack through Pennichuck Water Works.
- 3) Boston Post Cane Nominations – We are looking for Bedford’s oldest resident. Please submit: Name, Address, Location of Birth & Date, Years of Bedford residency (10-year minimum). The deadline is July 24, 2020.
- 4) Summer Concert Series – Runs every Wednesday night through August 19th at 6 PM at the Bedford Village Common.
 - July 15 - The Sunshiners (Music of 60’s, 70’s & 80’s)
 - July 22 - Sixties Invasion (Show band featuring music of the 60's)
 - July 29 - Bel Airs (Doo Wop Vocal Quintet)
 - August 5 - Judy Pancoast (Award Winning Children’s Performer)
 - August 12 - Timmy Brown
 - August 19 - Tatoo (American Roots Dance Music)
- 5) August 4th – National Night Out at 6 PM, Selvoski Field with a softball game between Bedford Fire and Police Departments.
- 6) 2020 Census – Bedford currently has a response rate of 80.5% which is third in the State. 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.

8. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Councilor Carter stated that the Conservation Commission would be meeting on the 28th. He thanked Public Works for filling the potholes that were reported. He mentioned the Farmer’s Market on Tuesdays in the Harvest Market parking lot. He mentioned that a project he’s working on is a ‘Clean-up Bedford Roads Club’. Residents and groups that are interested should reach out to him at wcarter@bedfordnh.org.

Councilor Duschatko mentioned that last Thursday, he, Councilor Greazzo, and Chairman Gilbert toured Police Stations in Dracut, MA, Hampton Beach, NH and Dover, NH. He was impressed by what can be done and should be done for Bedford’s Police force. He thought they were ‘behind the times’ in having a safe and adequate facility. The Planning Board has a big meeting coming up on Monday with Market and Main who is pushing very hard for this. He has some thoughts regarding statements that were made, but would address those on Monday. If anyone had any thoughts he would appreciate hearing from them. He mentioned that tomorrow they had a Telecommunications

meeting, which is to discuss where they are going to go and if they are going to go in terms of development of better internet connectivity...

Councilor Greazzo mentioned that today was the new deadline for filing taxes.

Councilor Radke stated that she, Councilor Stevens and Councilor Ricciardi would be meeting tomorrow at 4:30 to discuss possible Charter amendments.

Councilor Ricciardi stated that she and Chairman Gilbert met with the Chair and Vice Chair of the Energy Commission and they had a very productive meeting and came up with some wonderful ideas for more prudent ways for energy and energy conservation. The Energy Commission will be meeting next Thursday.

Councilor Stevens stated that ZBA wasn't meeting in July due to lack of applications. The Library would be hosting Popsicle Thursdays in the lower lot 10am – 2pm.

Chairman Gilbert mirrored what Councilor Duschatko mentioned about touring the various Police stations. He was impressed by the staff and there are good things they are doing. It was nice to see these things to make it right for Bedford. The EFJH started their membership drive. If anyone is interested, go to the EFJH website.

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

10. ADJOURNMENT

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

Roll Call Vote: Carter-aye, Ricciardi-aye, Radke-aye, Councilor Stevens-aye, Councilor Greazzo-aye, Councilor Duschatko-aye, Chairman Gilbert-aye. Motion passed 7-0.

Chairman Gilbert forgot to say that he would like to have their next meeting live in August. If any of them have any issues they can contact him.

The meeting ended at 7:29 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford