

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
October 13, 2021
10 Meetinghouse Road**

1. ROLL CALL: A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was held on Wednesday, October 13, 2021, 10 Meetinghouse Road. Participating were Dave Gilbert (Chair) and Councilors Sue Thomas, Denise Ricciardi, Bill Duschatko, and Lori Radke. Also present was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Councilor Bill Carter had an excused absence.

Chairman Gilbert opened the meeting at 7:00 PM.

Councilor Kelleigh Murphy participated by phone because of a family emergency.

MOTION by Councilor Radke that the Bedford Town Council allow Councilor Murphy to participate in the meeting via telephone. Seconded by Councilor Ricciardi.

Roll Call Vote: Thomas-aye, Radke-aye, Gilbert-aye, Duschatko-aye, Ricciardi-aye, Murphy-aye. Motion Passed.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Chairman Gilbert.

3. PUBLIC COMMENTS – None.

4. NEW BUSINESS

a. Appointments to Boards & Commissions

MOTION by Chairman Gilbert that the Bedford Town Council appoint Deborah Evans to the Conservation Commission as an alternate with a term to expire 2023; appoint Gregory Handy as an alternate on the Conservation Commission with a term to expire in 2024 and the Telecommunications Subcommittee; appoint Kelly Tope as an alternate on the Historic District Commission with a term to expire in 2024 and as an alternate on the Parks & Recreation Commission; appoint Danielle Evansic to serve on the Southern NH Planning Commission as an alternate and the Water & Sewer Advisory Committee.

Councilor Radke stated that the term on the Water & Sewer Advisory expires in 2023 and the term to expire on Parks & Recreation is 2023. Mr. Sawyer added that the SNHPC alternate position expires in 2022.

Seconded by Councilor Thomas with the terms as discussed.

Roll Call Vote: Murphy-aye, Ricciardi-aye, Duschatko-aye, Radke-aye, Thomas-aye, Gilbert-aye.

- b. Approval of a budget transfer in response to the PFAS investigation around the former fire station at 10 Meetinghouse Road**

Chairman Gilbert postponed this agenda item until after they have a non-public discussion.

- c. Other New Business – None**

5. OLD BUSINESS

- a. Other Old Business – None**

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- d. Public Session – September 22, 2021**

MOTION by Councilor Radke that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the September 22, 2021 public session. Seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Roll Call Vote: Thomas-aye, Radke-aye, Duschatko-aye, Ricciardi-aye, Murphy-aye, Gilbert-aye.

- e. Non-Public Session – September 22, 2021**

MOTION by Councilor Radke that the Bedford Town Council approve the minutes of the September 22, 2021 non-public session. Seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Roll Call Vote: Murphy-aye, Ricciardi-aye, Duschatko-aye, Radke-aye, Thomas-aye, Gilbert-aye.

7. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

- 1) COVID-19 Pandemic – **Bedford currently has 37 current COVID-19 positive cases** and has had a total of 2,439 cases. 54.5% of NH residents are currently vaccinated with Bedford having 58.3% fully vaccinated residents. He strongly encouraged anyone who can be vaccinated to do so.
- 2) The dedication of Hawkins Field took place on Saturday, October 9th. He thanked the Hawkins family for their participation, the Men's Club for putting on a great event and providing food, the DPW, Jeff Foote and his team, for getting the field in

a beautiful condition, and BCTV for supplying the sound system and doing a recording of it. The family was really happy that the Men's Club, the community, and the Town Council took these steps to honor Mr. Hawkins.

- 3) National Fire Prevention Week – October 3-9, 2021, “Learn the Sounds of Fire Safety” is the theme. Please take a moment to talk to your children about what a smoke or carbon monoxide detector sounds like and to discuss what to do if they go off. Also discuss how to get out of your home and designate a meeting place.
- 4) National Red Ribbon Week October 23-31, 2021, “Drug Free – Looks Like Me” is the theme this year. Please join us in recognizing this week by decorating your home, mailbox or fence. Several Town buildings and grounds will be illuminated in red during the week.
- 5) National Prescription Drug Take Back Day – Saturday, October 23rd between 10 AM and 2 PM. Residents can dispose of their prescription drugs at the Bedford Police Station, 55 Constitution Drive 24 hours a day, 365 days a year, but we bring special attention to issue on the National Prescription Drug Take Back Day.
- 6) October 24, 2021 – 10-digit dialing for New Hampshire calls. Users can dial 988 to reach the existing National Suicide Prevention Lifeline after July 16, 2022.
- 7) Trick-or-Treating is scheduled for Sunday, October 31st from 6–8 PM. Participation is completely optional and we encourage those who participate to do so in a safe manner. Anyone not wishing to participate please indicate by leaving your outside house lights off during this time period.
- 8) Master Plan – The Planning Board has scheduled a public hearing on the Master Plan for November 8, 2021 at 7 PM.
- 9) November 9th – December 9th – Filing period for citizen petition zoning amendments.
- 10) October 16th – Clean Up Bedford Fall Event, 9 AM – 3 PM.

8. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Councilor Thomas mentioned that at the Energy Commission meeting they had a guest talk to them who is in the very early planning stages of potentially putting in a gas station on Route 101 towards the west side. They had a whole conversation on EV charging stations. EV charging stations are becoming a big deal as they move more towards electric vehicles and they spend a good amount of time talking about where they could be put in in Bedford.

Councilor Radke mentioned that they had a Highway Safety Committee meeting and had a couple of requests for signs: a deer crossing sign and a speed limit reduction sign on Joppa Hill Road. She thanked the volunteers that came in for boards and if there is anyone else that is interested in being a volunteer, please do so.

Councilor Duschatko mentioned that at the Planning Board meeting they approved four new apartments located on South River Road over the Nasar Jewelers store. It's a conversion change of use from a commercial location to a residential. One of the four will be designated as workforce housing. This required a waiver. They also approved some

signage that's involved with the new tenants at the former Car Components facility on South River Road by Ray Wieczorek Drive. It's a nice re-use of an old vacant industrial building. It's a tenant that serves the public and has public contact. There are three others that are in the process of moving in, but they are more just business to business locations.

Councilor Riccardi mentioned that tomorrow is the 4th anniversary of Children's Environmental Health Day. She led the effort four years ago and Governor Sununu each year continues to sign the proclamation. It's to raise awareness and educate everyone about the importance of clean air, water, safe food, and consumer products as well as healthy environments for children's wellness and development. She was proud that the 4th anniversary recognizes this important day on the State's official calendar protecting the safety, health and wellbeing of our children. It needs to be a top priority for our State's government. In honoring this day, it's a commitment that can truly make a difference. They've gone through the pandemic, they have been affected with the PFOA water issues plaguing large portions of the State. The health of our families should be foremost in our minds and they need to remain diligent and work together as community and a state to resolve these issues.

Chairman Gilbert thanked everyone who came out for the dedication of Hawkins field.

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

MOTION by Councilor Radke to go into non-public session per RSA 91-A:3 II (e) Consideration or negotiation of pending claims or litigation which has been threatened in writing or filed against or by this Board. Seconded by Councilor Thomas.

Roll Call Vote: Murphy-aye, Ricciardi-aye, Duschatko-aye, Radke-aye, Thomas-aye, Gilbert-aye.

The public meeting ended at 7:18 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Dawn Boufford