



TOWN OF STRATHAM

INCORPORATED 1716

10 BUNKER HILL AVENUE • STRATHAM NH 03885

VOICE (603) 772-7391 • FAX (603) 775-0517

SELECT BOARD AGENDA

October 5, 2026

7:00 pm

**Hutton Room, Stratham Municipal Center
10 Bunker Hill Avenue, Stratham, NH 03885**

This meeting of the Select Board will be held in the Hutton Room of the Stratham Municipal Center

- I. Call to order
- II. Roll Call
- III. Consideration of Minutes – 9/21/26 and 9/28/26
- IV. Finance Report
- V. Department Reports & Presentations
 - a. Town Clerk update and Budget Preview
 - b. Stratham Hill Park Vision Report – Rockingham Planning Commission
- VI. Informational Updates and Correspondence
- VII. Public Comment
- VIII. Public Hearings, Ordinances and/or Resolutions
- IX. New Business and Action Items
 - a. Trick or Treat Night- October 31, 5:00PM to 7:30PM
 - b. Acceptance of Unanticipated Funds – \$100 Charitable Donation of unanticipated funds from Fidelity Charitable/Kevin Bergesen
 - c. Approval and execution of the Stormwater Management and Facilities Maintenance Agreement for 170 Portsmouth Ave.
 - d. Curbside Collection Request for Proposals Bid opening
- X. Old Business
- XI. Town Administrator Report

The Select Board reserves the right to take up business in any order deemed appropriate by the Chair. A motion to enter Non-Public Session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3 may occur at any time during the meeting. Submission of items to be placed on the Agenda must be to the Town Administrator by 4 pm the Wednesday before the scheduled meeting.



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- XII. Reservations, Event Requests & Permits
- XIII. Review of Recent or Upcoming Board & Commissions Agendas
- XIV. Boards and Commissions Nominations & Appointments
 - a. Appointments for consideration
 - a. Emergency Management Director - Lieutenant Pierce
 - b. Appointments to be voted on
 - a. Health Officer Appointment – Joe O’Callaghan
 - b. Reappointment of Dan McAuliffe, Conservation Commission for a three-year term
- XV. RSA 91-A:3, II(c) Matters which, if discussed in public, would likely affect adversely the reputation of any person, other than a member of this board, unless such person requests an open meeting. This exemption shall extend to include any application for assistance or tax abatement or waiver of a fee, fine or other levy, if based on inability to pay or poverty of the applicant.
- XVI. Adjournment

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 21, 2026 SELECT BOARD MEETING

MEMBERS PRESENT: Board Members Chair Allison Knab, Vice Chair Joe Anderson, participating remotely Tedd Tramaloni

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Tim Roache, Police Chief Anthony King

At 7:02pm Ms. Knab opened the meeting and noted that Member Ted Tramaloni would be participating remotely because he is away from Stratham attending urgent family matters.

Mr. Anderson motioned to approve the minutes of September 9 with the addition of the time of exiting the non-public session as 9:02pm. Mr. Tramaloni seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes

Chief King reported the Police Department is now fully staffed. A new Community Service Officer, David Newman, will begin tomorrow, and the volunteer chaplain position has been implemented. The Deputy Chief position has been posted internally and will follow a three-step process in coordination with the Town Administrator.

The department has received new Walthers pistols, with training and transition planned for October. The awarded \$30,000 live scan machine will be delivered on October 15. All officers have completed the State-required 24 hours of annual training, with most exceeding 40 hours.

The first phase of the budget is complete, and no issues are anticipated for the upcoming year. A broken water heater will require a \$6,000 replacement, slightly exceeding the building maintenance budget line, but overall the department's budget remains positive. An active threat tabletop exercise was completed at CMS, with SMS scenarios planned for November.

Mr. Tramaloni observed accidents were up 78%. Chief King noted that most occur in plaza parking lots. Distracted driving remains an issue. He submitted a grant application to assist with that issue. Recently, he made 22 stops in four hours, with 18 for hands-free violations.

Two new park ordinances will be publicized via the website, social media, and newsletter, with signage being created by Mr. Hickey. Enforcement will follow the educational approach used at Jack Rabbit parking. The new CSO will assist with outreach. Chief King is considering pursuing grants for a side-by-side vehicle to improve park coverage, though it would have limited trail access. Ms. Knab requested ongoing updates.

Ms. Knab recognized Matt O'Keefe and Paul Deschaine, Energy Commission members for their update. Mr. O'Keefe reported the solar array at the police station was fully bought out and now provides \$8-9k per year in savings. The Commission has developed a solar assessment calculator for use with future town building projects and continues to pursue grants to improve feasibility. Mr. Deschaine praised Roy Byrnes, who is not yet a committee member, for his work. They assisted the school district in securing funding for HVAC and thermal improvements. The school will not install solar but completed renovations under budget, allowing investment in windows and roof thermal upgrades.

Mr. O'Keefe provided an update on Community Power. Stratham has participated in the Community Power Coalition of New Hampshire for three years; while the first year brought substantial savings, CPCNH has not outperformed Unitil's default rate in the past two years. The Commission recommended halting automatic enrollment of new meters unless CPCNH's rate is lower than Unitil's. New accounts currently get swept into CPCNH during quarterly refreshes. Opt-out notices are sent, but people rarely take action. Opt-out rates remain roughly equal to new enrollments, keeping participation steady. The Energy Commission is recommending the Board authorize the Town Administrator to inform CPCNH to stop including new residents and small businesses in the refresh, unless CPCNH's rate is below the utility default rate.

Mr. O'Keefe outlined the Commission's larger recommendation: if CPCNH's upcoming winter rates (released late December/early January) are not lower than Unitil's default rate, Stratham should begin the process of withdrawing from CPCNH. Three towns have already started this process, though withdrawal steps are not clearly defined and may take several months to ensure no outstanding supply or reserve costs remain.

Mr. Deschaine explained that reserve balances fluctuate seasonally, often going negative in winter, which can complicate withdrawal timing and may require bonds or escrow, as seen in Hudson's case. Epping is pursuing a more collaborative withdrawal process. The Commission noted alternative options exist, including contracting with a third-party supplier, which may still offer better pricing. Overall, they recommended preparing to move forward if CPCNH continues to underperform.

Mr. Anderson noted the new CPCNH rate should be available in January, allowing the Town to decide whether to withdraw. If notice were given on February 1 with six months' lead time, the withdrawal period would cover winter, with reserves likely positive again by spring or summer. Mr. Deschaine added that while reserve levels are one factor, additional costs such as hedging also affect timing. CPCNH needs a firm withdrawal date so they know when to stop planning for Stratham's electricity load. Because they purchase power in the futures market to hedge for that load, once Stratham's load is removed, those hedging arrangements must be unwound, and customers would need to transition either to a third-party supplier or back to Unitil. Mr. O'Keefe emphasized the goal is simply to begin the withdrawal process, with the final date depending on Stratham's reserve balance and any hedging already purchased on the Town's behalf.

Mr. Tramaloni asked about independent verification of CPCNH's figures. Mr. Deschaine explained that while CPCNH is auditable and relies on third-party data, there is often a reporting delay of several months, complicating timely decision-making. Withdrawal requires a minimum three-month period, often closer to six, and rejoining is not allowed for 12 months.

Ms. Knab expressed a loss of trust in CPCNH due to poor financial planning and decision-making. Mr. O'Keefe emphasized that Stratham joined CPCNH solely for cost savings. Mr. Deschaine noted CPCNH is aware of the Town's concerns and has shown some improvement, including returning to a positive financial position and increasing operating reserves. However, delays in data reporting and long-term reserve projections indicate ongoing challenges. He added that CPCNH may need to add surcharges for several years to reach its reserve goals.

Future competitiveness will also depend on forthcoming PUC policy changes that could raise default utility rates as utilities recover significant under-collected costs.

Mr. O'Keefe explained that CPCNH buys power for Stratham based on total meter load, including residential and small commercial accounts. Because future supply is purchased in advance, large changes in enrollment can create mismatches between purchased and actual load. Discussion followed on how residents can opt out and whether awareness is widespread. While outreach has been done, participation remains steady due to both new enrollments and limited resident action. Mr. Anderson confirmed that opting out is simple, while Mr. O'Keefe noted Unitil now places mid-period withdrawals on a fixed rate rather than a higher variable rate. Despite outreach, meter numbers remain fairly stable.

Mr. Deschaine clarified that CPCNH already understands member concerns; declining participation would not change their ability to respond due to financial constraints. The group agreed to revisit the issue once new rates are released in late December or early January. Mr. Anderson motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to immediately request CPCNH to stop automatically enrolling new meters in the quarterly account refresh mechanism unless the CPCNH rate is below the default rate of Unitil at the time of the refresh. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes. Mr. Deschaine noted this action avoids inclusion in the October refresh. The Board will re-evaluate withdrawal in December or January, acknowledging some legal costs may be involved. Ms. Knab thanked the presenters for their work.

Ms. Knab recognized Mr. Crow from the Stratham Volunteer Fire Department Association, which voted to donate \$5,000 to support rapid sequence intubation (RSI) training, including paramedic wages, classroom and clinical training hours, and instructor fees. The Association plans an additional \$3,000 donation next calendar year. Funds were raised through events and community contributions. The Board thanked the Association, noting the high level of the training. Mr. Anderson motioned to accept the Stratham Fire Department Association donation of \$5,000 for RSI training and associated wages. Mr. Tramaloni seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes.

Ms. Knab moved to public comment. Ms. Saltonstall made comment regarding a personnel issue at the Fire Station. Mr. Choinere spoke, asking for clearer communication about ongoing changes in the department. He would like to see more support for volunteers. Mr. Almon stated that he felt that overall support for volunteers has declined. Mr. Blood stated that the Board should hear from others. Ms. McDonald also gave comment regarding a personnel issue at the fire station.

Ms. Knab opened the public hearing for the Squamscott Fields project with Southeast Land Trust (SELT). Ms. Sommers, SELT's project manager, reviewed the multi-year effort to conserve a 91-acre parcel surrounding an existing Merrill family easement. The property includes forest, wetlands, floodplain, high-priority water supply land, and river frontage. SELT began the project in 2018, secured \$500,000 in conservation funds in 2023, and signed a purchase-and-sale agreement with the Merrills in January 2024. SELT was awarded a \$2.1 million NOAA grant in

July 2025, requiring the Town and SELT to co-hold the conservation easement. SELT will handle monitoring and enforcement under a cooperative agreement.

All due-diligence items have been completed and are under NOAA review. SELT anticipates closing by late October and no later than December 30. Ms. Knab thanked SELT and the Merrills for their long-term commitment and celebrated the significant federal funding. Mr. Anderson expressed concern about public access being limited. Ms. Knab explained the restrictions relate to the property's history as a working farm, but passive public access is allowed and has been carefully considered throughout the process.

Ms. Knab motioned to authorize the expenditure of the \$500,000 in funds out of the Land Conservation Fund. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes. Ms. Knab motioned the Board authorize the Town Administrator to sign the cooperative agreement between Southeast Land Trust and the town. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes. Ms. Knab motioned that the Board authorize the Town Administrator to execute the conservation easement related to the Squamscott Fields property. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes. Ms. Knab motioned to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the documents related to the closing of the conservation easement on the Squamscott Fields property. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes.

Ms. Knab introduced the discussion on naming the road off Winnicutt Road between 119 and 122. E-911 advised that, due to the current numbering configuration, the driveway must be assigned an official road name. Mr. Tramaloni motioned to name the new private road off of Winnicutt Road, Whitetail Way, as recommended by the property owner. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes.

Ms. Knab introduced discussion on the 2004 John Deere loader previously replaced through a DES diesel grant. Mr. Roache explained the old loader had been rendered inoperable, with a hole punched through the engine block. A bid process was completed, but the sole bid of \$800 was rejected at the prior meeting. An unsolicited offer of \$4,100.10 has since been received. Mr. Anderson motioned to accept the bid of \$4,100.10 for the surplus John Deere loader from Rockingham Equipment sales. Mr. Tramaloni seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes.

Ms. Knab moved to old business. Mr. Roache provided an update on the Lane property, noting the Board had previously agreed to use up to \$50,000 from the Heritage Preservation Fund—established in 2011 with the Select Board as agents to expend—to continue rehabilitation work. The Heritage Commission has already approved the use of these funds, and the Board may authorize the expenditure to move the project forward. Exterior work on the tannery building is underway, and septic approval is pending a state permit. With the additional \$50,000, the Town will be able to finish the exterior rehabilitation of the Lane house. Mr. Anderson motioned to expend up to \$50,000 from the Heritage Preservation Fund for the Lane property. Mr. Tramaloni seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes.

Ms. Knab asked about the best way to inform the public of the new ordinance changes. Staff confirmed the information will be shared through the town newsletter, website, and social media, and Mr. Hickey is adding updated language to park kiosks and signage at park entry points.

Ms. Knab moved to the Town Administrator's report. Mr. Roache reported household hazardous waste collection day is scheduled for October 3. Department heads are preparing their budgets, due October 6. The local emergency operations plan grant approved in March is moving forward, and a consultant will be hired. The Union Road culvert repair will be far less costly than expected, at \$4,500 instead of \$30,000. Greenland is holding a charrette on its bridge project related to the Route 33 corridor study. He regrets he will be unable to attend. Preparations for the September 23 Seabrook Drill are complete. Keyless access installation at the municipal building is underway and expected to finish this week.

A draft procurement policy was included for review, with oversight to be handled by the Town Administrator and Finance Administrator. Mr. Anderson noted the Employee Manual update is nearly complete, with a workshop planned for mid- to late October.

RESERVATIONS

Mr. Anderson motioned to approve the use of the Sewall Room on October 1 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm by the Stratham Democrats at the request of Heidi Hanson and to waive the fee. Mr. Tramaloni seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes. Ms. Knab noted that Ms. Richard informed her it has not been the Board's practice to waive fees for political groups. However, since the fee was recently waived for Republican events, it will also be waived for the upcoming Democratic event. She added that the Board should decide going forward whether to discontinue waiving the fee or formally include a fee waiver in the policy.

APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Anderson motioned to appoint Greg Blood and John Cushing to the Stratham Hill Park Association Committee for a term of two years. Ms. Knab seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes. Mr. Anderson motioned to appoint Daniel Whittier and Paul Deschaine to the Stratham Hill Park Association Committee for a term of one year. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes. Mr. Anderson motioned to appoint Patrick Kelley to the Stratham Hill Park Association Committee as an alternate with a one year term. Mr. Tramaloni seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes.

Ms. Knab motioned to appoint Anita Giulietti to the Zoning Board of Adjustment to a three year term to expire in 2028 to fill a vacant term. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes.

At 8:25pm Ms. Knab motioned to go into a non-public session in accordance with RSA 91-A:3, II() and II(c). Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes.

9:05pm Ms. Knab motioned to come out of the non-public session and seal the minutes noting failure to do so may render the proposed action ineffective. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. Roll call: Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes.

At 9:06pm Ms. Knab motioned to adjourn. Mr. Tramaloni seconded the motion. Roll call:
Knab-yes; Anderson-yes; Tramaloni-yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Karen Richard
Recording Secretary

MINUTES OF THE SEPTEMBER 28, 2026 SELECT BOARD MEETING

Fire Department Budget Workshop

MEMBERS PRESENT: Board Members Chair Allison Knab, Vice Chair Joe Anderson,

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Tim Roache, Fire Chief Jeff Denton, Peggy Crosby, Hearshel Vanluven, John Dardani, Josh Crow

At 10:02am Ms. Knab opened the meeting.

Chief Denton presented a budget scenario designed to provide 24/7 medical call coverage through a combination of per-diem employees, call force personnel, and full-time staff. The presentation included multiple staffing scenarios, including options to increase the use of the call force to support expanded coverage. He also discussed options for addressing the increase in medical calls through the addition of per-diem personnel and stipend-supported call force volunteers. The Board discussed the various options presented.

The Board discussed the increased cost associated with expanded coverage in the context of the overall municipal budget. Members acknowledged the costs associated with maintaining the level of readiness and responsiveness expected of a community the size of Stratham. The Board also discussed population growth and the increasing difficulty of providing adequate coverage under the current mix of call force, per-diem, and full-time personnel.

Josh Crow provided a summary of call force participation during overnight hours and reported that approximately three call force members are responding to the majority of overnight calls. He noted that one member accounted for approximately 76% of overnight call responses.

The possibility of adding a full-time Fire Chief was also discussed as part of the overall staffing and budget scenarios. It was noted that a full-time Fire Chief would not be anticipated until at least the 2028 budget year.

The Board agreed that Fire Department staff should continue to refine the budget and staffing scenarios, balancing the use of call force, per-diem, and full-time personnel. There was general agreement that additional workshops may be scheduled as the budget process progresses.

Respectfully submitted,

Tim Roache
Town Administrator

TOWN OF STRATHAM, NH
FY 2027 BUDGET - 4150

10/2/2026

TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR

FUND/ACCT #/DESCRIPTION	PROJECTED									NOTES	% of Change Over Prior Year
	FY 2023 BUDGET	FY 2023 EXPENDED	FY 2024 BUDGET	FY 2024 EXPENDED	FY 2025 BUDGET	FY 2025 EXPENDED	FY 2026 BUDGET	FY 2026 EXPENDED	FY 2027 BUDGET		
TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR											
100 4150 03 112 TC/TC Payroll	142,000.00	145,764.33	146,580.00	157,049.24	171,862.00	181,918.53	186,110.00	118,311.41	186,110.00		0.00%
100 4150 03 201 Office Supplies	4,500.00	3,699.16	5,000.00	2,664.63	4,000.00	3,271.41	3,000.00	1,124.64	3,000.00		0.00%
100 4150 03 204 Dues & Memberships	60.00	40.00	100.00	60.00	100.00	60.00	100.00	95.00	100.00		0.00%
100 4150 03 209 Conventions	600.00	684.50	800.00	1,403.82	1,500.00	1,511.64	1,500.00	520.00	-	Recommend Merging with WS & Train	#DIV/0!
100 4150 03 218 Registry of Deeds	400.00	162.56	300.00	98.27	200.00	33.80	200.00	67.79	200.00		0.00%
100 4150 03 223 Lien Notifications	600.00	195.00	400.00	340.36	400.00	302.50	400.00	262.50	500.00		20.00%
100 4150 03 225 Mileage	400.00	-	200.00	406.82	400.00	588.10	400.00	486.21	650.00		38.46%
100 4150 03 269 Restoration of records	3,000.00	3,104.00	500.00	-	3,500.00	2,349.20	100.00	0.00	3,000.00	Record restoration is done odd yrs	96.67%
100 4150 03 306 Computer Support-Service	11,780.00	11,117.90	12,300.00	12,300.90	12,500.00	12,781.90	13,500.00	5,312.00	13,500.00		0.00%
100 4150 03 308 Workshops & Training	500.00	345.00	500.00	430.00	1,000.00	925.00	1,000.00	0.00	3,150.00	Sending my deputy to certification	68.25%
100 4150 03 317 Service Contract (copier)	-	-	3,000.00	938.00	1,200.00	146.20	1,550.00	1,032.00	1,550.00		0.00%
100 4150 03 318 New Equipment	-	-	200.00	-	200.00	0.00	200.00	0.00	200.00		0.00%
TOTAL EXPENSES	163,840.00	165,112.45	169,880.00	175,692.04	196,862.00	203,888.28	208,060.00	127,211.55	211,960.00		1.84%

Offsetting Revenue (Actual)	FY2023	FY2024	FY2025	FY2026
100 3110 00 000 Property Tax abatements	(420,461.67)	(4,495.42)	(10,289.94)	(58,476.51)
100 3110 00 999 Tax Collector Abatements	0.00	55,547.33	0.00	0
100 3185 01 000 Yield Tax Revenue	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
100 3189 01 000 Railroad Tax	126.44	0.00	592.72	328.94
100 3190 00 000 Interest & Penalties on Tax	26,345.15	41,658.53	33,536.78	20,822.69
100 3190 01 000 2008 Tax Redemption Interest	-	-	-	17.26
100 3190 26 000 Tax Redemption Interest	-	0.00	0.00	0.00
100 3210 01 000 UCC Filings & Certificates	2,085.00	2,572.52	5,402.00	1,787.00
100 3210 03 000 Municipal Agent Fees	29,608.20	29,148.00	30,752.20	19,503.00
100 3210 05 000 Titles	3,398.00	3,472.00	5,177.00	2,180.00
100 3210 06 000 Vital Records	2,079.00	2,520.00	2,313.00	1,331.00
100 3210 07 000 Filing Fees	459.00	12.00	5.00	21.00
100 3210 08 000 Boat Agent Fees	1,631.00	1,425.00	1,748.00	1,400.00
100 3210 09 000 Misc Town Clerk Fees	200.00	13.01	0.00	2.00
100 3210 10 000 TC Mailing Fees	2,128.00	2,073.00	2,065.00	1,567.00
100 3210 12 000 Fish & Game Municipal Agent Fees	(1,657.00)	(3,074.50)	552.00	215.00
100 3220 01 000 Motor Vehicle Permit Fees	2,122,162.90	2,228,091.79	2,403,212.39	1,491,896.61
100 3220 02 000 Boat Fees - Town	6,661.83	5,813.60	6,526.01	5,347.77
100 3290 01 000 Dog Licenses	7,628.94	7,513.00	7,412.50	6,883.50
100 3290 02 000 Dog License Fines	340.00	738.00	744.50	1,038.00
TOTAL REVENUE	1,782,734.79	2,373,027.86	2,489,749.16	1,495,864.26

TOWN OF STRATHAM, NH

FY 2027 BUDGET - 4140

ELECTION, REGISTRATION AND VITAL STATISTICS

<u>FUND/ACCT #/DESCRIPTION</u>	PROJECTED							<u>NOTES</u>	<u>% of Change Over Prior Year</u>
	<u>FY 2024 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY 2024 EXPENDED</u>	<u>FY 2025 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY 2025 EXPENDED</u>	<u>FY 2026 BUDGET</u>	<u>FY 2026 EXPENDED</u>	<u>FY2027 BUDGET</u>		
100 4140 01 201 Supplies	7,000.00	3,916.38	3000	2258.7	7,500.00	2,754.12	5,000.00	(1) Election in 2027; Rails need replacement, some are taped and are spilling out sand.	-50%
100 4140 01 219 Ballot Clerks	9,000.00	9,100.00	2,500.00	2,075.00	6,500.00	1,475.00	1,500.00	(1) Election in 2027	-333%
100 4140 01 220 Moderator/Asst. Moderator	3,600.00	2,700.00	900.00	0.00	2,700.00	900.00	1,800.00		-50%
100 4140 01 221 Meals	4,000.00	2,848.61	1,000.00	998.11	3,500.00	628.26	1,200.00		-192%
100 4140 01 301 Supervisors of the checklist	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	3,600.00	0.00	4,200.00	Requesting an increase due to new annual State requirements.	14%
100 4140 01 308 Workshops & Training	100.00	250.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	0.00	100.00	Recommend merge town clerk training	0%
100 4140 01 317 Equipment Maintenance	650.00	700.00	3,000.00	600.00	1,500.00	1,000.00	1,500.00		0%
TOTAL EXPENSES	27,950.00	23,114.99	14,100.00	9,531.81	25,400.00	6,757.38	15,300.00		-66%

STRATHAM HILL PARK VISIONING INPUT REPORT

August 2026

Stratham Hill Park has served Stratham, NH and the wider community in many capacities since it was donated to the Town of Stratham. Today, the Park is amongst the most popular in the region – often referred to as the “crown jewel” of Stratham. This popularity and shifting demands have increased the need to ensure the Park management aligns with the community vision.

The Town of Stratham began with a visioning process to help identify the needs and wants for the Park to ensure that management decisions align with the community’s vision of the Park’s future. This visioning process began with a community led meeting of Stratham municipal officials and staff held on May 15, 2026. Participants discussed the current conditions, short-term priorities, future opportunities, and regional role of the park. Several recurring themes emerged, including improved maintenance, better visitor amenities, enforcement of park regulations, preservation of open space, and long-term planning for facilities and environmental stewardship. The full set of notes for the discussion are available in Appendix A.



Based on the first visioning discussion, the Town of Stratham contracted with Rockingham Planning Commission to help coordinate and facilitate a public engagement effort aimed at:

- Providing a common understanding of Stratham Hill Park’s current use demands and constraints.
- Identify commonalities amongst user groups on the future vision of the Park.
- Document areas of conflict amongst user groups and potential solutions.
- Develop a visioning document that could be used to help determine future Park management planning efforts.

This effort resulted in two public engagement efforts: an in-person public input session and then a public survey. The in-person June 11, 2026 event was attended by approximately 30 community members, along with key Stratham staff and Rockingham Planning Commission staff serving as facilitators. Rockingham Planning Commission gave a brief overview of background information about the Park, including history, orientation with neighboring properties, available facilities and current use levels. (The background information summary and presentation are available in Appendix B.) Attendees discussed in small groups the wants and needs for the Park to begin to develop a more cohesive vision for management decisions. Prompts in the discussion included discussion of favorite aspects of the Park, identifying what attendees wanted the Park to be know for in the future, identifying needs and opportunities based on future goals, and finally beginning to prioritize those ideas. The full set of ideas captured from these discussions can be found in Appendix C.

To facilitate additional input from the in person session and from those not able to attend, a public survey was launched the day after the input session and was open from June 12 to June 24, 2026. A total of 227 people took the survey and provided 1,616 responses or comments to the survey questions. Residents overwhelmingly value the Park's natural character, trails, and community events. The strongest themes for future action are maintenance, improved signage, better dog management, upgraded playgrounds and restrooms, while preserving the Park's existing natural and recreational assets. The survey summary and full results are available in Appendix D.

FINDINGS

Overall, public input into the desired future vision for Stratham Hill Park vary, but the overwhelmingly people value the Park's natural character, trails, and community events. The strongest themes for future action are maintenance, improved signage, better dog management, upgraded playgrounds and restrooms, while preserving the park's existing natural and recreational assets.

The following themes emerged from the visioning process because of the meetings and survey.

Stratham Hill Park is valued for its natural environment and character:

- Trails, woods, open space, and scenic beauty are the park's most treasured features.
- Residents appreciate the park's peaceful, safe, rural New England atmosphere.
- The fire tower remains one of the park's most iconic attractions.

The Park is seen as community gather place.

- Community events are seen as important aspect of the Park.
- Enhancing the ability to use the Park for formal events and informal meet-ups was seen as positive.

Recreational opportunities are seen as the highlight of the Park.

- Balancing the demands of walkers, runners, cyclists and dog owners on the trails was seen as important.
- Interest in improving other recreational opportunities like playgrounds.

The following are the major concerns and priorities that should be considered with future Park management decisions.

Top concerns:

- A comprehensive maintenance plan for the Park's infrastructure and buildings should be based on short and long-term needs.
- Concerned about better enforcement of existing rules about dogs in the Park or the need to reevaluate rules.
- Signage was needed for better understanding of Park rules and wayfinding, with some indicating a need to clarify rule changes for Stratham Hill Park versus abutting properties.

Short-Term Priorities:

- Modernize the playground facilities and bathroom facilities
- Identify opportunities for using existing buildings.
- Improve vehicle parking rules for the Park and Jack Rabbit Lane.
- Invest in fire-tower preservation.
{Note: The funding for this effort has already been approved by Stratham residents.}
- Improve marketing and communications about Park programs and activities.

Long-term Opportunities

- Development of a "welcome center" or central meeting/information location for visitors.
- Expanded recreational offerings such as more playgrounds, disc golf course, or outdoor fitness programming
- Expanded community programing such as concerts, outdoor movies, more wintertime events, or educational and historical programs.
- Increasing Park accessibility through more ADA-compliant facilities, more benches and rest areas along trails, or better connections between the Park and neighboring areas.
- Including a natural resources protection plan or policy to be in overall Park management decisions.
- Determining mechanisms for funding Park enhancements and maintenance.

The clearest consensus across meetings and survey responses for the future vision of Stratham Hill Park is:

Community members want Stratham Hill Park to remain a natural, community-centered destination that protects its rural character, enhances existing amenities, improves accessibility for all ages and abilities, and supports community events without fundamentally changing the Park's identity. Preserve what makes Stratham Hill Park special while investing in maintenance, accessibility, and carefully selected improvements.

NEXT STEPS

The public visioning meetings and survey that formed the basis of this report was done to help inform future decisions the Town of Stratham may make regarding Park management and investments. Stratham officials and staff may use this report to identify future public input needs, the basis for development of a management plan, or to help inform areas for investment. Due to the complexities of Stratham Hill Park being used in conjunction with abutting town, public and private properties, any management decisions should be carefully evaluated prior to being enacted.

APPENDIX A – STRATHAM HILL PARK CHARETTE MINUTES – MAY 15, 2026



TOWN OF STRATHAM
Incorporated 1716/
10 Bunker Hill Avenue - Stratham, NH 03885
Town Clerk/Tax Collector 603-772-4741
Select Board's Office/ Administration/ Assessing 603-772-7391
Code Enforcement/ Building Inspections/ Planning 603-772-7391

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

Stratham Hill Park Charrette

Friday, May 15, 2026 11:30 AM – 1:00 PM

Stratham Municipal Center

10 Bunker Hill Avenue, Stratham, NH

1. INTRODUCTIONS

- A. Tim Roache started the meeting at 11:35 a.m.
- B. Introductions of Staff, Board, Commission, and Committee members.
- C. Seth Hickey presented a brief history of Stratham Hill Park and explained that the purpose of today is to lead the conversation about what the current park conditions are and what we would like to see for the future of the park.

2. PUBLIC MEETING

- A. Break-out group Discussion (15 minutes each session).

Vanessa Price explained that each table of 4-5 people would discuss each topic of existing conditions, current short-term needs, and the potential of future needs. Each table will have a brief 15-minute discussion on each of these topics and reconvene as a group to share their thoughts.
1. Existing conditions of the site.

Discussion led among the working group tables. The following thoughts and concerns from the discussion are the following:

 - Is the current physical layout of the park servicing the needs of the community? The location and the structures in relation to the park.
 - Bikers, walkers, dog walkers use the park.
 - Frequency of use of the baseball fields, or not.
 - Potential removal of the rental property to have a Welcome Center for the park. The Welcome Center would be a new build.
 - Limited locations of water/electric on site.
 - Are there any habitat/wildlife that are sensitive on SHP that need special protection?
 - There is no shade/ limited shelter near the playgrounds.
 - Location of playground near bathroom and parking is important.
 - 4H Barn – Need to make more use of this location.
 - Parking enforcement needed.
 - Dogs enforcement – leashes; concern there are too many dogs. There is no dog park.
 - Heritage Commission is currently working on information for signage within the park for important

places.

- Need a procedure in place for larger park events.
- Need to establish a continuing maintenance plan for tree cutting.
- No more \$\$ into the stage.

2. Current needs (short-term).

- Dog Park – But maybe not at SHP.
- Horse Pull location – needs a makeover. Location for bandstand/stage?
- More informational signage within the park.
- Named buildings that might have historical significance but are no longer used.
- Keeping open space/filled area to remain- great flexible space.
- Access to the Fire Tower.
- Ice skating location success.
- Modernization of playground – next to pavilion
- Maintain the “food shacks” on site.
- Regulation of dogs/bikes/parking.
- Need facility maintenance plan.
- Need more established parking.
- Looking at parcel 85 for multi-generational use in the future.
- Bathroom adequacy.
- Marketing about park activities.
- Need maintenance plan for tree line at Portsmouth.

3. Future needs (areas of opportunity).

- Skateboard Park (or another location?)
- Dog Park (or another location?)
- Trash cans (dog poop stations)
- Master Plan for tree cutting and viewshed. (update forestry plan?)
- Environmental Assessment & Sustainability plan component and information/outreach/protection.
- New stage areas to have community music night. (Possible with food trucks). The Horse Pull location.
- Welcome center with bathrooms, History of the Park (Coordination with Heritage Commission). The center point of the park.
- Sustainability Program and informational signs.
- Splash pad.
- Environmental assessment.
- Address aging population needs.

- The front pavilion needs a more inviting feel.
- Flower garden trail @ pond area.
- Kiosk area for QR code donations, user fees? To help offset costs.

4. Regional location.

- Capacity to hold large events; need evaluation.
- Visitors from the surrounding community utilize the park.
- Opinion to keep the park as it is.
- “Reorganize” the park to passive vs. active recreation.
- Regional framework needed.
 - Operating budget.
 - Restrictions.
 - Boundary.

B. Future Public Engagement: Scheduled for June 11, 2026, 5:300 PM – 7:30 PM, led by the Rockingham Planning Commission.

- Future of Stratham Park.

3. ADJOURN

The meeting ended at 1:20 p.m.

Minutes completed by Vanessa Price

APPENDIX B– STRATHAM HILL PARK OVERVIEW DOCUMENT INFORMATION AND PRESENTATION

STRATHAM HILL PARK

Overview

Stratham Hill Park has served the community in many capacities since it was donated to the Town of Stratham. Today, the Park is amongst the most popular in the region – often referred to as the “crown jewel” of Stratham. This popularity and shift in demand have increased the need to ensure the Park management aligns with the community vision.

Background

Stratham Hill Park was gifted to the Town of Stratham in 1905 and is a 70-acre parcel of land on the south side of NH Route 33. The Park contains ballfields, playgrounds, picnic areas, memorials, hiking trails, and the iconic fire tower. There are also agricultural buildings, concession stands and a stage that are remnants of when the Park was the site of the Stratham Fair. The Park is outlined in orange on the map.

Adjacent to Stratham Hill Park is the Stratham Town Forest which is outlined in green on the map. The Town Forest is connected to the Park by a series of trails and fields, and also contains additional parking facilities for users of both properties. The interconnect of the Town Forest, the Park, and trails of neighboring properties support a wide range of recreational activities, they also add complexity to management of facilities.

Use of the Park

Stratham Hill Park is used for organized events, smaller community activities, and by individual users. The largest events that occur are the Great Bay Food Truck Festival (approximately 3,000 attendees) hosted by the Town of Stratham and the Exeter Area Chamber of Commerce, and the SPCA Paws Walk which attracts around 1,500 attendees. Seasonal community gatherings like Summerfest and Thursday Night Food Trucks hosted by the Town of Stratham drew a few hundred attendees per event. The three pavilions located in the Park can be rented between May 1 to October 1 by groups for picnics and gatherings. These pavilions are reserved 25 to 60% of the days/times they are available. The trails at the Park, along with the Town Forest, have the highest overall usage. Several area schools use the trails for cross-country and bike races, the Town of Stratham organizes several biking and running events and offers rentals for bikes. Over the course of the year, the trails to the fire tower see nearly 50,000 users, and the trails near Jack Rabbit Lane saw over 115,000 users in 2025.

Additional uses at the Park include the public ice rink set up in the agricultural barn in the winter, use of the playgrounds year-round, and seasonal use of the ballfields and basketball court.

Park Management and Budget

Stratham Hill Park is owned and managed by the Town of Stratham, but several municipal groups also participate in maintenance of the Park. This includes the Stratham Hill Park Association which is tasked with *“improving and developing the grounds and facilities at Stratham Hill Park in order that its usefulness and beauty may be enhanced...for the people of*

Stratham and nearby towns.” Other groups heavily involved in the Park include the Trail Management Advisory Committee, the Conservation Commission, Heritage Committee, the Select Board, and the Recreation Department. There are ongoing management efforts related to the trails and the Town Forest that do impact Stratham Hill Park to some extent.

There are several regulations that impact Park activities, including restrictions on hunting in the Park, limits to resident-only parking off Jack Rabbit Lane in the Town Forest, and allowing dogs to be off leash in certain areas.

The Park currently has an annual budget is around \$120, 000 that includes park maintenance staff and seasonal grounds staff, grounds maintenance, restroom facilities, electricity, general equipment and vehicle maintenance, and park building maintenance. (This figure does not include Stratham staff time related to the organization of recreation programs and community events.) There are currently two Requests for Proposals for replacing the 4H Barn Roof and for work on the Fire Tower.

SHARE YOUR THOUGHTS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF STRATHAM HILL PARK

JOIN THE CONVERSATION

THURSDAY, JUNE 11, 2026 - 9:30 TO 7:30
AT THE STRATHAM MUNICIPAL CENTER
30 BUNKER HILL AVE., STRATHAM, NH

THE TOWN OF STRATHAM IS SEEKING INPUT FROM RESIDENTS ABOUT THE FUTURE OF STRATHAM HILL PARK.

THE GOAL OF THIS SESSION IS TO IDENTIFY NEEDS AND WANTS FOR THE PARK TO IDENTIFY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES THAT ALIGN WITH A COMMUNITY VISION OF THE PARK'S FUTURE.

THE GOAL OF THIS SESSION IS TO IDENTIFY NEEDS AND WANTS FOR THE PARK TO IDENTIFY MANAGEMENT STRATEGIES THAT ALIGN WITH A COMMUNITY VISION OF THE PARK'S FUTURE.

THIS EFFORT IS BEING CONDUCTED WITH THE ASSISTANCE OF THE ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CONTACT VANESSA PRICE, STRATHAM PLANNING DIRECTOR AT PLANNING@STRATHAMNH.GOV OR 603-732-7383, EXT 147

Stratham Hill Park Visioning Session

June 11, 2026

rpc ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION
theRPC.org

1

Introductions

rpc ROCKINGHAM PLANNING COMMISSION
theRPC.org

Vanessa Price –
Director of Planning & Building

Seth Hickey –
Parks & Recreation Director, Asst. Town Administrator

Tim Roache –
Town Administrator

Jenn Rowden –
Assistant Director

Dave Walker –
Executive Director

Maddie Dionno –
Senior Planner

Nicole Berry –
Regional Planner

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Agenda

- Welcome & Session Overview
- Stratham Hill Park Background Information
- Park Experiences Discussion
- Vision Development
- Future Needs and Opportunities
- Prioritizing Ideas
- Wrap up & Next Steps



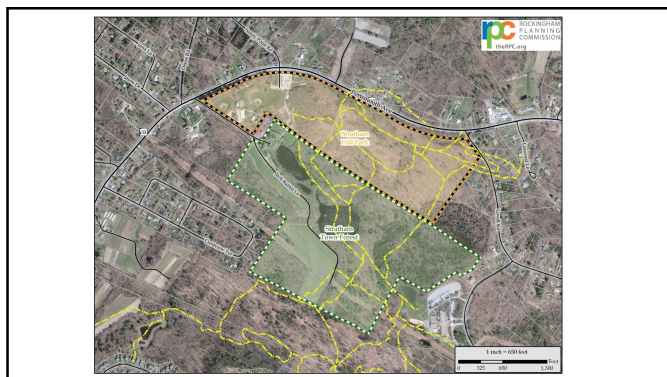
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Session Overview

Purpose: Seek community input on future of Stratham Hill Park.

Goal: Use input to help with a future Stratham Hill Park management decisions.

4



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Stratham Hill Background

- Stratham Hill Park gifted in 1905 “for the people of Stratham and nearby towns.”
- Historically as beacon hill, ski slope, fairgrounds and many other uses.
- Current uses: organized events, community activities, and individual users.

STRATHAM HILL PARK



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Background Plans & Input

- Stratham Hill Park Association By Laws (1993, Revised 2010)
- Master Plan (2019)
- Town Forest Management Plan (2016)
- Open Space & Connectivity (2024)
- Trail Management Advisory Committee Report (2022)
- Existing Town Ordinances

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5/15 Stratham Officials & Committees Input

Short-Term Needs

- Improve maintenance planning (facilities, trees)
- Upgrade playground and evaluate bathroom adequacy
- Enhance parking capacity and regulation
- Add information signage and marketing
- Maintain open space for flexible use
- Improve Horse Pull area (potential stage location)
- Explore multi-generational use
- Continue successful activities (e.g., ice skating)



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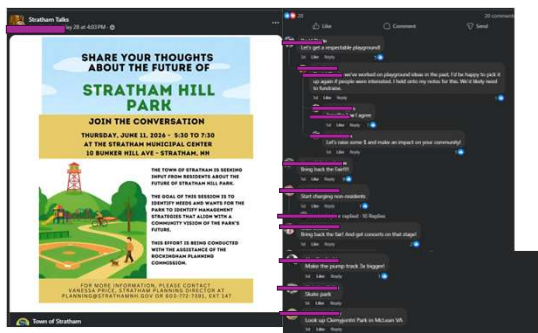
5/15 Stratham Officials & Committees Input

Future Opportunities

- Potential additions
 - Welcome Center
 - New stage/event space
 - Splash pad, skate park
 - Dog park (may be off-site)
 - Flower garden trail and improved pavilion
- Environmental priorities
 - Environmental assessment and protection
 - Updated forestry/tree management plan
 - Infrastructure upgrades
- Infrastructure upgrades
 - More trash/dog stations
 - Possible digital kiosks/fees to offset costs



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11

Use of Park



- "Big Events" – Great Bay Food Truck Festival (~3,000), SPCA Paws Walk (~1,500), Summerfest (~200), Thursday Food Truck Night (~100).
- 3 Pavillion Rentals May 1 – October 1 with 25-60% usage
- School bike/running races, Rec Dept. races and rentals.
- Trail Usage: ~ 50,000 using fire tower trails annually and 115,000 users of trails by Jack Rabbitt Lane in 2025.
- Use of agricultural buildings, ice skating rink, ballfields, playground, and basketball court.

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Park Budget

- Operational Budget ~ \$120,000 for park maintenance, facilities and equipment. Does not include staff time for recreation program and events
- Capital Improvement Expenses
- Current RFPs for 4H Barn Roof and Fire Tower.

ALL OTHER/NON-BUILDING CIP EXPENSES	
100 4909 06 906 ART 14/26 FIRE TOWER	250,000.00
MAINT/PROV	
100 4909 05 923 Town-wide Parks & Rec. Improvements	3,072.33
100 4909 51 922 Stevens Park Parking Lot Improvements	1,892.50
100 4909 52 922 Stevens Park Pavilion	3,045.95
100 4909 52 923 Stevens Park Pavilion	10,000.00
100 4909 52 924 Stevens Park Pavilion	125,000.00
100 4909 59 924 Open space, Parklands & Connectivity Plan	10,000.00
100 4909 60 925 SHP Facilities & Fields Improvements	21,700.26
100 4909 61 922 Fire Tower	15,000.00
100 4909 62 923 Gifted Barn Painting	10,000.00
100 4909 63 926 Park Bathrooms	61,000.00
100 4909 68 922 SHP Area Plan	25,000.00
100 4909 69 923 SHP Area Plan	25,000.00
100 4909 71 923 Police station Parking Lot Paving	4,625.32
100 4909 72 925 Road Reconstruction Program	37,460.40
100 4909 72 926 Road Construction Program	350,000.00
100 4909 74 922 Bike & Pedestrian Transp Improve	5,000.00
100 4909 75 922 State Roadway/Intersection Proj Partip	25,000.00
100 4909 81 924 Stormwater Planning	4,679.00

Park Management



- Owned and managed by Town of Stratham
- Involved groups: SHP Association, but also Trail Management Committee, Conservation Commission, Select Board, Heritage Committee, and Recreation Department.
- Town Forest Management interaction, along with neighboring lands.
- Regulations on user fees, hunting, parking and dog related matters.

13

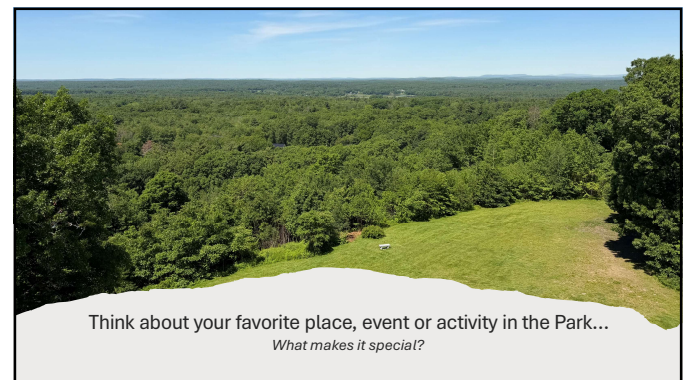
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Agenda

- Welcome & Session Overview
- Stratham Hill Park Background Information
- Park Experiences Discussion
- Vision Development
- Future Needs and Opportunities
- Prioritizing Ideas
- Wrap up & Next Steps



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Think about your favorite place, event or activity in the Park...
What makes it special?

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Agenda

- Welcome & Session Overview
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In the future, the Park will be known for...

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Agenda

- Welcome & Session Overview
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- **Future Needs and Opportunities**
- **Prioritizing Ideas**
- **Wrap up & Next Steps**



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Future Needs & Opportunities

- What is missing from the Park today?
- What should be added or improved?
- What should be preserved?
- What should be changed?



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Agenda

- Welcome & Session Overview
- Stratham Hill Park Background Information
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- Future Needs and Opportunities
- **Prioritizing Ideas**
- **Wrap up & Next Steps**



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Prioritizing Ideas

- **What are the top needs?**
- **What are the priorities for future investment?**



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Agenda

- Welcome & Session Overview
- Stratham Hill Park Background Information
- Park Experiences Discussion
- Vision Development
- Future Needs and Opportunities
- Prioritizing Ideas
- **Wrap up & Next Steps**



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Next Steps

- Follow-up survey for future input – going out tomorrow!
- Summary report developed from input session and survey feedback.
- Stratham make decisions about how to use feedback:
 - More input needed?
 - Develop a management plan?
 - Other information needed?



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Thank you for
caring about
Stratham Hill
Park!

APPENDIX C –JUNE 11, 2026 PUBLIC INPUT SESSION REPORT

At the June 11, 2026 public input session nearly thirty community members participated in facilitated discussion about the future of Stratham Hill Park to help with future park management decisions. The session included presentation of background information about the Park – also provided in the Overview Document in Appendix A – and included small group discussion about a series of questions meant to solicit input about future Park decision. The following is the listing of those questions, along with diversity of responses. Responses have been organized by themes, with slight editing for clarity, but are otherwise direct responses from participants.



WHAT MAKES STRATHAM HILL PARK SPECIAL TODAY?

Community Gathering and Events	Residents identified community events as one of the park's greatest strengths, including: • Summerfest • Memorial Day and Veterans Day events • Veterans Picnic • Easter Sunrise Service • Food truck events (Great Bay Food Truck Festival & Thursday Night Community Night) • Race series and school events • Holiday traditions such as the Christmas tree burn
Recreation and Outdoor Activities	Popular activities include: • Extensive trail system • Pump track and biking opportunities • Dog walking • Wildlife and bird watching • Ice skating and winter recreation • Fire tower visits • Intergenerational outdoor activities
Location and Accessibility	Participants repeatedly highlighted: • Central location within town • Strong neighborhood connections • Ability to walk to the park and school via trails • Free public access with no user fee
Atmosphere and Character	Residents value the park for being: • Peaceful and safe • Simple and unpretentious • Rural and natural in character • A source of local pride and history • Welcoming to people of all ages

FUTURE VISION FOR THE PARK

Participants envision the park becoming known as:

A Community Hub	• Center of the community • Gathering place for all ages • Welcoming center or visitor hub • Venue for diverse and inclusive events
A Recreation Destination	• Expansive recreational offers • Great pump track facilities • Enhanced playground opportunities • Year-round activities and programming
A Prized Location for Natural Resources and Historic Features	• Preservation of rural New England character that celebrates local history • Promotion of protection of natural resources and wildlife habitat • Stewardship of protecting open space and scenic views
An Accessible Park for Everyone	• Improved ADA accessibility overall • Better trail access for people with disabilities • Accessible playground facilities • Additional benches and easier trail access near parking areas

KEY NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

Participants were requested to think broadly about identifying needs of and opportunities for enhancements to the Park:

Recreation and Amenities	Frequently mentioned improvements included: • Year-round restrooms • Indoor heated meeting and education space • Welcome center • Larger or relocated playground • Splash pad • Seasonal swimming pool • Expanded pump track, including areas for younger children • Improved trail maintenance • Water filling stations • Benches throughout the park • Additional waste bins • Bike racks • Formalized parking improvements Other suggestions included: • Pickleball courts • Disc golf • Kayaking • Outdoor exercise classes • Adult softball leagues • Observatory features
Natural Resources and Open Space	• Preserving mature trees and forests • Maintaining biodiversity • Controlling invasive species • Protecting open fields and wildlife habitat

	- Enhancing stewardship of natural resources - Installing bird and bat houses
Community Programming	- Concerts and music events - Theater and movie nights - Farmers markets - Historical interpretation and educational programming - Scout and 4-H activities - Winter events - Dance and cultural programs - Expanded use of existing event spaces
Accessibility Improvements	- Accessible trails, particularly near Jack Rabbit Lane - Better trail markers and wayfinding - More benches along trails - Improved access to major destinations such as the fire tower - Maintaining road access to the summit area - Enhanced pedestrian connections in the Park and with surrounding areas.

TOP PRIORITIES IDENTIFIED

Across all groups, several priorities emerged repeatedly:

Preserve the Park's Character	Residents want future improvements to maintain: - The rural and natural feel - Open space and wildlife habitat - Simplicity and authenticity - Existing traditions and community identity
Investing in Existing Assets	Many participants favored investing in: - Existing trails - Current amenities and infrastructure - Fire tower - Historic structures - Bathrooms and parking facilities - Existing recreational features before adding major new facilities
Improve Accessibility	Strong support existed for: - ADA-compliant trails and facilities - Accessible playgrounds - Improved signage and navigation - Additional seating opportunities or benches
Plan Thoughtfully for Future Uses	Participants emphasized: - Long-term planning and stewardship - Coordinating recreational offerings with other Stratham parks - Ensuring new uses complement existing park functions - Balancing special events with everyday park use
Further Evaluation of Key Topics	Several topics generated discussion and warrant further evaluation: - Whether additional ball fields are needed - Future of the stage and agricultural/4-H buildings - Potential swimming pool or splash pad - Expanded event infrastructure

	• Formal off-leash dog area • Additional parking needs • Potential adaptive reuse of existing buildings
Location-Specific Suggestions	• Expanded playground at the current playground site • Accessible walking trail near Jack Rabbit Lane parking area • Designated off-leash dog area near Jack Rabbit Lane • Potential reuse of the 4-H barn as an ice-related facility • Evaluation of the modular office trailer site • Improved interpretation, signage, and historic information throughout the park

KEY TAKEAWAY

The strongest message from participants was that **Stratham Hill Park should remain a natural, community-centered park while investing in accessibility, maintenance, and carefully selected improvements.** Attendees generally favored enhancing existing assets and preserving the Park's rural character over a large-scale overhaul of the Park, while supporting year-round amenities, improved accessibility, expanded community programming, and thoughtful long-term stewardship.

APPENDIX D – STRATHAM HILL PARK FUTURE SURVEY RESULTS

Between June 12 and June 24, a total of 227 people took the survey and provided 1,616 responses or comments to the survey questions. The online survey was posted on the Town website, put in the Stratham e-newsletter, circulated on social media, posters were hung at Stratham Hill Park, and an email was sent to all attendees from the June 11 meeting.

Of those taking the survey, 78% indicated they live in Stratham, 19% indicated they live in a neighboring community, and just 4% indicated they live further away.

Major takeaways from the survey response were:

Favorite aspect of the Park:

- Nature and beauty
- Trails usage for walking
- Community events, specifically Summerfest and food truck events.
- Fields and sports events

Desired additions or improvements to the Park:

- Desire to not change anything
- Improve situation with dogs being off leash
- Trail maintenance
- Playground improvements
- More enforcement or awareness about Park rules
- Enhanced signage
- Adding off-leash dog area/ dog park.

Identifying missing or needed items in the Park:

- Nothing is needed or missing
- Restrooms
- Better playground facilities
- On and off-leash dog area or policies
- Improved signage (for directions, information, and Park rules)

Items identified as needing preservation:

- Trails and natural areas
- Fire tower
- Off-leash areas for dogs
- Fields and sports areas

The full survey results – including full comments - are available on the following pages of this report and on <https://publicinput.com/report?id=42615>



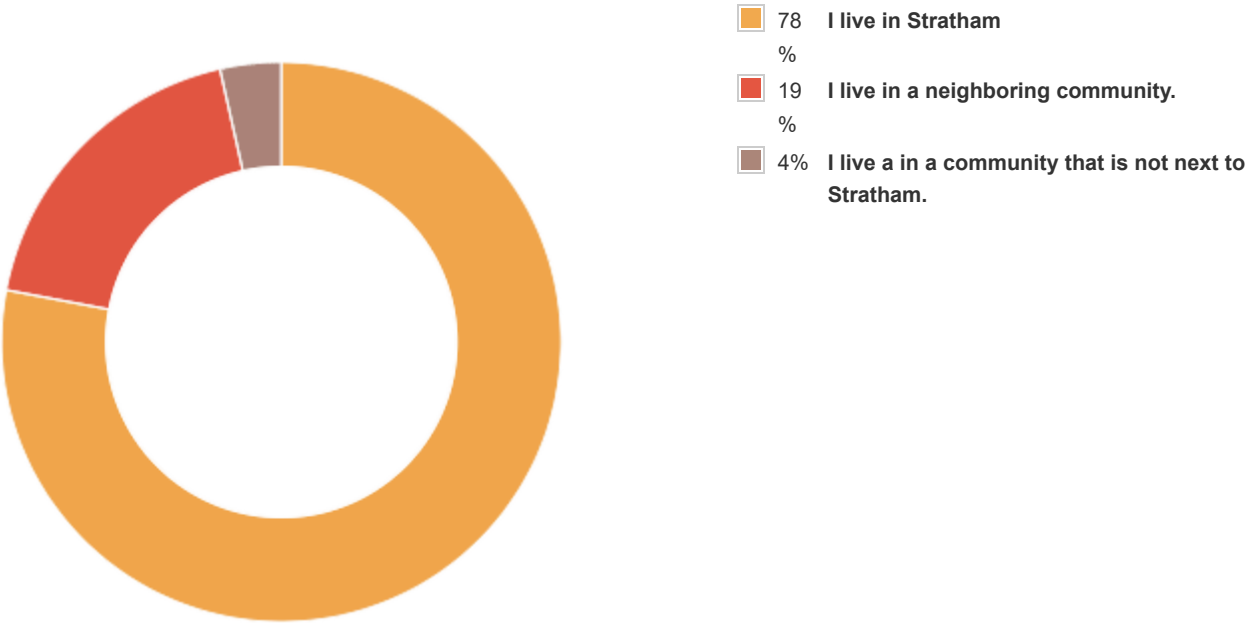
Stratham Hill Park Visioning

Edit

Project Engagement

VIEWS	PARTICIPANTS	RESPONSES	COMMENTS	SUBSCRIBERS
1,941	228	1,007	609	95

Do you live in Stratham, a neighboring community or farther away?



227 respondents

Think of your favorite place, event, or activity in Stratham Hill Park. What makes it special?

The trail system offers a wonderful place to walk with friends, family, and my dog. I have enjoyed sharing the park with visitors to our home, especially the fire tower.

6/25/2026

Walking paths for dogs, events on the green, food trucks

6/24/2026

Being able to walk my dog every day different times of day. I meet many different people have enjoyable conversations and form some lasting friendships.

6/24/2026

I love walking at times when there are few people there - early morning and sundown.

I find the park beautiful. I always have. It was disturbing to see all the trees come down, as well as the shrubbery - shelter for wildlife.

6/24/2026

I've been walking the trails of Stratham Hill Park every since 1990.

6/24/2026

Being in nature being able to walk our dog off leash meeting, other fellow hikers and bikers and dog walkers

6/24/2026

Great place to run, and bring my dog

6/24/2026

The pump track. My kids love it and we spend a lot of time there

6/23/2026

Walking all the trails. Used to love the fair. Wish it was still an event there

6/23/2026

I love that our family goes to SHP for pretty much all the community things we use it for recreation like hiking, running, and ice skating, we use it for scouts, and for baseball, Thursday nights in the park, and school events. It is literally the center of our community.

6/23/2026

The sense of community and bringing people together

6/23/2026

Living in town where I can enjoy outdoors daily with my dog.

6/23/2026

The pump track and the ability to bring my dog off leash !

6/23/2026

My family loved to attend the food truck festival, the 4H fair in the fall, and play on the playground/basketball courts. I think it is such a fundamental part of our town's identity as our meeting place as the heart of Stratham.

6/23/2026

The trails, the old fire tower and surrounding lawn. The natural beauty of the land, a safe place to enjoy nature while exercising, and the vistas are what make it special.

6/23/2026

The trails! We are in walking distance, they are wonderful!

6/23/2026

Nature and beauty

6/23/2026

The fields and trails

6/23/2026

I love the expansiveness and variety of the trails! It is special to have quality trails without needing to head out of town.

6/22/2026

Walking trail system - serene, peaceful and safe place to bring your pup for a walk. Friendly atmosphere

6/22/2026

I love walking my dog off leash on a sunny day, going up the hill for exercise and great views, walking through the woods, and then walking in the big field with tall grass. There are very few parks with that combo of features and I really like how beautiful it is. I take photos of clouds there for paintings!!

6/21/2026

The quiet and peaceful nature of the space. I love to walk / run the trails with my dog (off leash).

6/21/2026

Mountain biking the trails and the pump track with the kids.

6/20/2026

I love how the community all comes together

6/20/2026

Miss the fair - the agricultural exhibits, Ox Pulls, animals, etc. Love walking & running on the trails that are wooded and quiet.

6/20/2026

Used to enjoy The Stratham Fair. I realize that is long gone so I am glad to see the Thursday night Food Trucks and other events that are held there. It's such a beautiful space to be utilized.

6/19/2026

Walking with my dog, food trucks on Thursday, hiking to tower

6/19/2026

Summerfest and visiting the playground.

6/19/2026

The trail across the top of Crocket path. It's very peaceful

6/19/2026

The trails! I love taking my students on walks in the woods and the ability to connect nature with my curriculum.

6/19/2026

I walk and enjoy all the trails at SHP. It is so quiet and untouched for the most part. Being in the woods and seeing the ponds full of wildlife is how it is intended.

6/19/2026

Surrounded by nature and love sitting at top by tower and enjoying the view. Great spot to picnic with family.

6/19/2026

Love the walking trails I take with my dog! Enjoy being able to walk through woods and around the field as well as by beaver pond. It has everything and the fact I can bring my dog is icing on the cake.

6/19/2026

Community events/sports where neighbors & kids can get together & run around.

6/19/2026

Food trucks when the pump track was running good was my favorite.

6/19/2026

Doggies getting to be off leash!

6/18/2026

This is a great place for me to walk my dog off leash. All the people and other dogs are wonderful.

6/18/2026

I like the parts of the park that are natural.

6/18/2026

Hiking and running the trails from the Long Hill Rd entrance.

6/18/2026

Back in the day - the Stratham fair!

What's special are the trails the amenities and the people I meet

6/18/2026

All of the trails but mostly that's it is dog friendly

6/18/2026

Stratham Hill offers wonderful terrain for hiking and dog walking. My dog loves to run the trails and bound around them while being respectful of other guests at the park and responds to his commands.

6/18/2026

The Pavilions and the bike Pump Track. I'd like to see a bigger Pump Track

6/18/2026

The community it has created, I've met so many people that otherwise I would not have connected with. Being out in nature with my dog off leash running around and enjoying playing with other dogs has been such a positive thing for my mental health

6/18/2026

Paws walk, food truck fest...but most importantly a place that I can go to train, socialize, and exercise my dog off leash

6/18/2026

I appreciate the events offered at the town park, but I think there are a few areas that could be improved. The food truck event isn't the best in its current format because the lines tend to get very long. It might work better if the various activities and vendors were condensed into one larger, well-coordinated event to help draw in more people and make the experience smoother for everyone. I'd also really like to see the fair return, as it always brought a lot of excitement and strong community turnout.

Another important point is that dogs should be required to stay on a leash throughout the entire park. This isn't just a preference—it's a matter of safety for both visitors and other pets. Unleashed dogs can accidentally cause injuries, approach children or other dogs unpredictably, or create situations that escalate quickly. Beyond safety concerns, it can also become a liability issue for the town if an incident occurs on public property. Clear and consistent leash rules help protect everyone involved.

Lastly, the large field behind the pump track feels underused. It would be great to designate that space specifically for e-bikes or to build a skate park. Either option would give older kids, teens, and active park users more to enjoy and would better utilize that big open area.

6/18/2026

I bring my dog to the park 4-5 times per week. It is good for exercise and to socialize.

6/18/2026

The fire tower location, trails system

6/18/2026

All outdoor activities

Food truck

Celebrations

6/18/2026

There are areas of the park that are quiet and peaceful even when there are lots of things going on

6/18/2026

Stratham Hill Park is one of the only areas around with trails that are safe and well maintained that also allows off-leash dog walking in selected parts of the park. This is hugely valuable for my own exercise and health and for my dog's.

The park is well maintained and monitored both in the summer and winter and this adds considerably to the experience. In the winter I cross country ski on the wonderfully groomed trails.

6/18/2026

Hiking with my dog on the trails in the woods and in the fields.

6/18/2026

Biking the trails. I did it in a club at SMS and have continued my whole life

6/18/2026

Love the walking trails. Always loved the fair with the kids. Family events. Christmas Eve church service

6/18/2026

Exploring the trails.

6/18/2026

Stratham Fair

6/18/2026

Just a beautiful, peaceful place to walk.

6/18/2026

There is nothing else like it around. I can bring my kids and my dog and between the trails and the pump track there is something for everyone. I grew up in Stratham and my favorite event of the summer was always the Stratham Hill fair. Would love to see that make a come back.

6/18/2026

Walking the trails with my dog.

6/17/2026

It's close by and has a great trail network that is accessible to many.

6/17/2026

The hiking, the playgrounds, the tower. I miss the fair, and my granddaughter LOVES to go sledding.

6/17/2026

I love to walk in the field and on the trails at Stratham hill Park

6/17/2026

walking and bird watching.

6/17/2026

The bike pump track. My son loves to ride his bike there.

6/17/2026

Walking the trails with my Golden Rtriever

6/17/2026

Walking trails in the park are beautiful.

6/17/2026

My early morning walk with my dog and my friends with their dogs.

6/17/2026

Jackrabbit road - the fields and the surrounding trails so that my dogs can exercise and swim and we can be social.

6/17/2026

Walking with my dog on the trails is my happy place. Quiet and peaceful.

6/17/2026

The old fair! I miss that!!

6/17/2026

The park represents so much to so many people. For some, it's a place to gather to enjoy friends, celebrate a birthday or another special event. For others, it's a place to enjoy their favorite recreational activity (mountain biking, trail running, baseball, basketball, (dog) walking, etc.). Regardless, it's a place to bring our community together to enjoy the outdoors. Personally, I enjoy the park for mountain biking and meeting friends and community members. We are very fortunate to have a community forest for so many to enjoy nature - being outdoors.

6/17/2026

Walking trails and dog friendly-
Community events-

6/17/2026

Ice skating on the old pond.

6/17/2026

I love activities that bring the community together, such as Summerfest, Thursday food trucks in the park, the weekly summer bike and trail races, etc.

6/17/2026

I have been walking, running and cross country skiing there for 30 years, it is a treasure and is now close to max and needs some guardrails!

6/17/2026

The park offers a variety of usage for Stratham an Seacoast area residents with easy access to the walking trails that are great year round, mtn biking, pump park, and fields. The Summerfest is a fun community inclusive event.

6/17/2026

I've always loved walking my dog on all the trails...she gets great exercise running thru the woods. I've been going every day for 50 yrs.

6/17/2026

Fire tower - reward for the hike and view

6/17/2026

I like the variety of trails to walk, the bodies of water and that dogs can walk off leash.

6/16/2026

wish that the Stage area could be used more.It was always special at the Fairs.

6/16/2026

The trails through the woods and park are the only thing I consistently do. I love them

6/16/2026

Walking my dog. I have taken my previous dog and current dog there for overc15 years. It is a place where the dogs can socialized and become well rounded tolerant pets.

6/16/2026

I love any event that brings the community out together. I have a young family and we love getting together with other families to enjoy the beautiful park. Food truck nights, bonfire, summerfest, kids sports events, pump track

6/16/2026

We enjoy the events; food truck, summerfest.

Although we are 12 year+ residents of Stratham, we do not use the park for walking as there are too many unleashed dogs!!!!

6/16/2026

I liked when there were concerts at the park.

6/15/2026

Great trail network, pump track

6/15/2026

That the park is open to everyone no matter their reasons for being there. Also really appreciate trash cans and dog poo bags

6/15/2026

We like walking with our Scottish Terrier all through the park and trails we also like the bodies of water. We love watching the kids ride their bikes in the enclosed area with bumps as well as around the park. We enjoy the social events, food trucks and appreciate the restrooms. We really love the paths being cleared in the winter for walks.

6/15/2026

I visit the dog park every day

6/15/2026

I moved to Stratham in 2008, I used to use the park alot with my dogs or walk on the trails alone. It was quiet, relaxing, and naturally beautiful. I have not used the park in many many years even though I am a taxpayer. It seems to have become more of a bike park now. It is completely changed, I got yelled at for walking on a groomed path by the recreation head, I've been almost knocked over from bikers who don't seem to care that they share the trails with people trying to enjoy nature. Not trying to complain, but I honestly haven't been there in years, which is really sad for me as I live within walking distance. Also people don't pick up the poop from their dogs, I wish it was more a local park for local residents.

6/15/2026

Trails

6/15/2026

The walking trails are so well marked and maintained year round

6/15/2026

Hiking

6/15/2026

Summer Fedt

6/14/2026

The trail network, the pavilions, the fields, the hills, the tower, and the activities. The opportunities for walking, biking, skiing, showshoeing, skating, playing baseball even using clean restrooms are fantastic.

6/14/2026

I love hiking the trails. Love being in the woods. The trails are well kept and clean. I do get started sometimes by a biker who doesn't preannounce their presence. It would be super if we had some guidance around bikers use of the park and especially when they approach walkers. (I bike on the roads and we have lots of rules to follow but I do not bike on trails anymore).

6/14/2026

The Town Forest and the fire tower and its natural beauty.

6/14/2026

I have walked my dogs there for over 10 years. The peacefulness and quiet is the best part of my day.

6/14/2026

The peaceful walking trail are precious

6/14/2026

The trails are varied making it an accessible place for many

6/14/2026

Favorite places are Lincoln Rock, the Veterans' Memorials, and fire tower for their history; and the scenic views offered from the tower. Favorite event / activity is Summerfest and the old Stratham Fair, because of how those events bring the whole community together - especially the kids and animals with 4-H.

6/13/2026

Surrounding woods, rural feel, historic charm

6/13/2026

The pump track is one of my son's favorite past times. It's a wonderful place for both younger and older kids to enjoy being outdoors and exercise. There are few things like it on the seacoast

6/13/2026

Favorite event is Summerfest. Favorite thing to do is walk my dog.

6/13/2026

Being in nature

6/13/2026

Not having it overrun with people

6/13/2026

Nature walks with my dog in the trails (not so much the fields). We appreciate the scenery and shade. It's an every day ritual we cherish!

6/13/2026

I think whatever you guys choose to add you ensure continued care & respect of the wildlife within the park. Someone crushed a nesting turlet either by parking on it or mowed over it in the field next to the white house after the weekend of the paws walk. It's cool to have a place to offer up for events, but not at the expense of animals in the park. On a side note, it might be nice if the people that maintain the park are trained on how to approach dog owners who don't follow the rules of the on leash area instead of turning a blind eye.

6/13/2026

I use the park for mountain biking several days a week.

6/13/2026

The quiet, secluded, different terrain

6/13/2026

I love walking the trails and the fields with my off-leash dog.

6/13/2026

Fire tower

6/13/2026

We love Thursday night food trucks. We love the pump track area. We frequent the trails either our dog & like to ride bikes.

6/13/2026

Nice trails close to home

6/13/2026

Thursday food trucks. There is food and drink, a relaxed atmosphere , place for kids to play

6/13/2026

Trails. Stratham Hill and fire tower.

6/12/2026

hiking in the winter with the groomed trails

6/12/2026

The water tower and the Thursday night food trucks. Places where kids can congregate and play.

6/12/2026

Family friendly

6/12/2026

The once abundant wildlife, bird watching.

6/12/2026

Vast trail system

6/12/2026

Walking the trails, the vista from the lookout tower.

6/12/2026

Setting

6/12/2026

I have a long history with the town and the park. But currently I enjoy walking in the park and the areas connected through the trail system. We like to bring visiting family and friends also. I enjoy being outdoors, observing nature, and the quiet and peacefulness of the woods.

6/12/2026

Stratham fire tower

6/12/2026

Hiking the trails

The fire tower

6/12/2026

The trails, and being able to interact with people or dogs that we see all the time.

6/12/2026

Afraid to go to the park with all the loose dogs

6/12/2026

My daughter loves connecting with friends on the playground equipment.

6/12/2026

We love to walk our dog through out the park.

6/12/2026

Walking paths.

6/12/2026

Mountain Biking!

6/12/2026

I enjoy exercising with my dog on the trails daily.

6/12/2026

Nice place to walk or just sit and relax

6/12/2026

I enjoy hiking the trails in the morning, it is peaceful and delivers varied natural landscaping. Second favorite is Friday night baseball where I get to visit with all my stratham family friends and enjoy little league ball.

6/12/2026

Skating in the winter. Climbing the fire tower.

6/12/2026

I love how the trails go thru the woods, that the paths are not pavement.

6/12/2026

the walking trails

6/12/2026

Open space and opportunity for my kids to play.

6/12/2026

Ability to walk dogs all around it on the extensive trail system

6/12/2026

Walking trails

6/12/2026

I love walking the trails.

6/12/2026

Summer community events. Food trucks and bike races.

6/12/2026

Offleash dog walking

6/12/2026

Dog walking trails and off-leash areas.

6/12/2026

It's so accessible. Love to see everyone using the park. Love walking the dog and snowshoeing in the winter. The trails are great, the pump track, paws Walk, the food truck festival, etc.

6/12/2026

The entire trail system, woods, chance to be outdoors

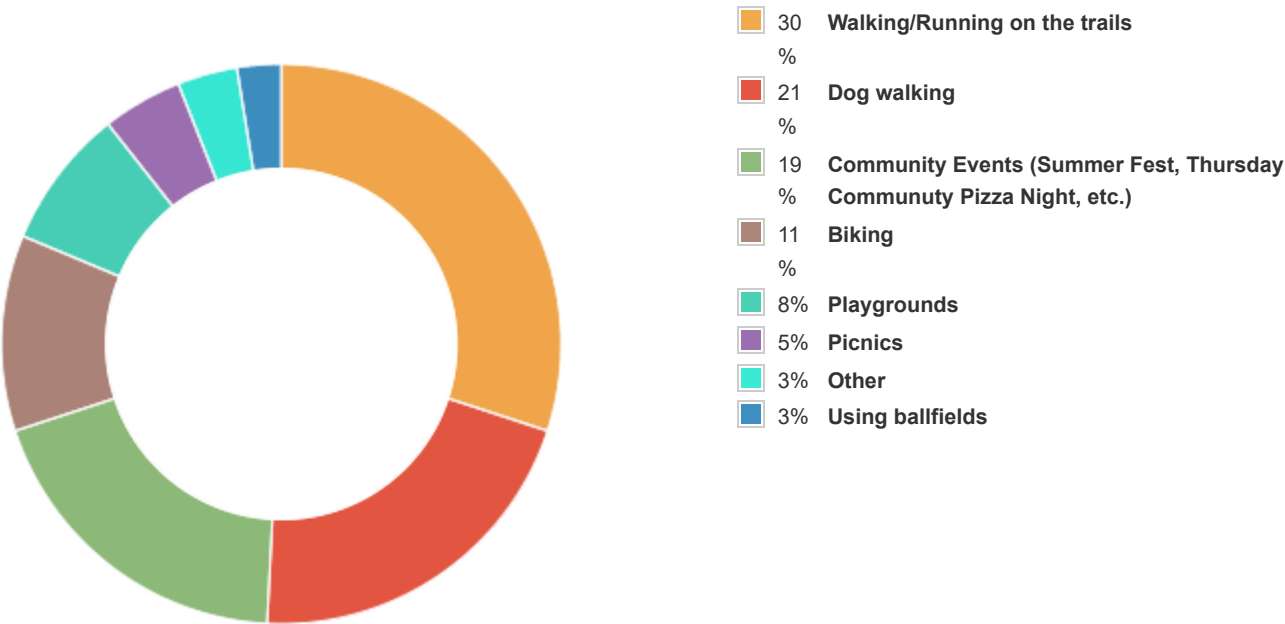
6/12/2026

 All participants

All participants ▾

All Time ▾

What are your main reasons for visiting Stratham Hill Park? Select your top three (3) reasons.



188 respondents

What is missing from Stratham Hill Park today? This could be facilities, programming, amenities, etc.

More restrooms. Continued improvement of trails, signage. Enforcement of town statutes. Informing park users of the integrated nature of the trail system between public and private properties and expectations of respect and use of properties. Occasional benches along trails would be welcome. Perhaps adding story boards to reflect any historical information about locations in the park.

6/25/2026

Pedestrian crossing across Portsmouth Ave. Extremely dangerous to cross / desperately needs a crosswalk and sidewalks to town center

6/24/2026

I like the way things are . The park is very well maintained. I can see there's been a lot of planning regarding the grounds that is systematically being carried out. The bathrooms, although old are adequate and the porta potties are very helpful.

6/24/2026

The barn located in the back parking lot is underused. The floors have been replaced at least two times over the last several years, yet, to my knowledge it is never used.

6/24/2026

The playgrounds are in desperate need of an upgrade!!!

6/23/2026

Nothing is missing. Its natural beauty is enough. No need to change anything at all.

6/23/2026

1 More shade for the larger playground
2 the fair

6/23/2026

Splash pad for kids

6/23/2026

My kids are bigger now but it is definitely missing a better playground.

6/23/2026

A fenced dog park

6/23/2026

There is a large opportunity for better playgrounds
Making sure to keep off leash possible

6/23/2026

I think enhancing the playgrounds so that there are more swings, more areas of play for younger children. A splash pad or other type of place to go on hot days to cool off.

I would also love to see additional programming, maybe even extending food trucks or some other activity into the Fall. A holiday/ winter event would also be fun! Other than the tree burning which is great

6/23/2026

The playground is in need of expansion so young families can stay in town for family recreation.

A splash pad/cooling area for children would be nice.

A staging area where outdoor concerts could take place from spring through fall-- encouraging community to the gather.

An annual Old Home Day Celebration to feature Stratham History and highlight the talents, achievements, and businesses of Stratham residents. Events that highlight the children of the town should also be included.

A community garden--- both floral and vegetable.

6/23/2026

Maybe some summer programming: outdoor exercise classes, yoga or tai chi.

6/23/2026

Better mowed paths

6/23/2026

An area for skateboarding would be great support for the town and its community!

6/22/2026

Clean water stations and more garbage cans

6/22/2026

Dog park

6/21/2026

A snack truck or shack during warmer seasons

6/20/2026

Nothing- I like it how it is

6/20/2026

more promotion of events on social media. the stratham hill park Facebook page is very sporadic with posting information.

6/19/2026

Baby swings , toddler/ child programming (outside of sports), parents night outs, safe spaces to walk with children as many don't anymore due to the dogs

6/19/2026

Water spigot for water for dogs

6/19/2026

A better playground

6/19/2026

I wish there were volunteers to help facilitate on and off-leash dog areas. I love having my dog off-leash in the designated areas, but too many unsupervised dogs are allowed in the on-leash areas. I think there is a way to keep both with some volunteer or park help.

6/19/2026

I think it has it all just as it is now!

6/19/2026

Bike jumps on trails

6/19/2026

I think adding proper dirt jumps would be a great option. There's not much for dirt jumps besides Highland where other states have dedicated dirt jump parks. Colorado's Valmont is a great example.

6/19/2026

Benches

More open spaces not for sports

6/18/2026

Maybe a parking pass for non residents to purchase so the can park in jack rabbit parking lot- the fees could be used for trail maintenance etc

6/18/2026

Sledding, ice skating

6/18/2026

A Bouldering area. Motocross Track. Welcome Center with year round bathrooms. Much larger pump track

6/18/2026

I love it as it is

6/18/2026

The park is a wonderful asset to the town, but I strongly believe it's missing one major element: a true community center. Families in town need a dedicated space where kids can participate in structured activities, especially ones that help keep them active and away from screens. It's unfortunate that the town hasn't invested more in creating opportunities for kids to stay engaged, social, and busy in healthy ways.

A community center could offer programs, indoor recreation, after-school activities, and year-round events that support both kids and families. Right now, it feels like there's a lack of options, and it's a shame that we don't have more resources in place to keep kids connected and involved in the community.

6/18/2026

adequate playground, welcome center, rentals of equipment,

6/18/2026

I enjoy it as is

6/18/2026

I live in a nearby town and would like a way to contribute to the upkeep of the park, perhaps in exchange for the right to park in the residents only lot (maybe a special non-resident sticker?)

6/18/2026

pickleball courts! outdoor concerts in the summer

6/18/2026

public gardens, art, splash pad or water feature that also acts as a way to cool off visitors to the park (check out Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens), nicer playground

6/18/2026

Stratham Fair

6/18/2026

A transition bike park to help kids work on skills like drops

6/18/2026

A larger playground would be great

6/18/2026

I would love to see the Thursday spring trail runs come back.

6/18/2026

Nothing. We're lucky to have all the things that have been added over the last 10 years.

6/17/2026

Clear policies around dog policies and clarifying public vs private land.

6/17/2026

I love the way it is.

6/17/2026

Benches on the Jack rabbit road side of the park

Better signage on the trails

6/17/2026

Nothing! It needs to remain the same! It is a TOWN park. and is meant to be enjoyed by all stratham residents and surrounding towns as if it was their own backyard.

6/17/2026

Year round bathrooms would be amazing. Clearer trail marks.

6/17/2026

Better cell phone coverage. Ha! Just kidding.

One issue I continue to experience is pets being unleashed on the trails and pet waste. It would be great to implement a process or have an animal control officer travel throughout the park trails

6/17/2026

Benches along trails.

Bring back the fair!

6/17/2026

The old ice skating pond

6/17/2026

I think we could have a larger, nicer playground

6/17/2026

It's very well taken care of. Some oversight and guidance about what is allowed and what a citizen can do when they see people breaking rules.

6/17/2026

I love all the social opportunities there, not something I utilize much. increased management of dogs and overbite to prevent electronic bikes which is clearly an increasing problem m, especially this summer.

6/17/2026

More usage of the fields for things like frisbee golf and usage of what looks like an area for outdoor music/summer play programs.

Some of the trails now need to be designated for bikes.

6/17/2026

The Stratham Fair

6/17/2026

The Stratham Fair!

6/17/2026

Better mapping and info at entrances

6/17/2026

A better playground, the ones at the park are really underwhelming and small. My kids would love a gaga pit. A welcome center would also be great where people could rent or borrow balls, binoculars, other park accessories. More programming - concerts, movie nights etc. I love the natural trails through the park but it would also be nice if there were one that was smooth for people who don't feel comfortable with bikes on the heavily rooted trails.

6/16/2026

Simplicity is the way to preserve what is there. Do not complicate anything or it could become a problem instead of a joyful place to enjoy nature.

6/16/2026

Nothing. Keeping the park in its natural state is so important to me.

6/16/2026

enforcement of leash law!!!!

6/16/2026

More sustainable/ecological preservation and planning. Protection of the current wildlife

6/16/2026

More sustainable/ecological preservation and planning. Protection of the current wildlife

6/16/2026

Summer concerts

6/15/2026

More sitting spots on the uphill walking trails to the tower and at the top where the tower is. More portable toilets at the top would be helpful too.

6/15/2026

Larger, better playground

6/15/2026

Summer mahjong night!

6/15/2026

pickleball courts

6/15/2026

How about trying to make it a more well-rounded park versus just a bike park and a dog park it seems like the trails have been used and abused by people who come from Maine and Massachusetts to ride the trails. Bikers disregard the other people using the park

6/15/2026

Splash pad

6/15/2026

Yes, bathrooms, water fountain

6/15/2026

Updated bathroom, dog regulations enforced, educating pet owners.

6/15/2026

Trail signage as it is still easy to get lost even with the improved signage and maps.

6/14/2026

Year round restrooms.

6/14/2026

Nothing. It is a gem!

6/14/2026

More organized trails. It is easy to become disorientated on the trails. It is not difficult to get "lost" as one can travel backwards.

6/14/2026

1. Adequate enforcement of leash rules.
2. More utilization of the stage area for concerts and theatre performances.
3. More utilization of the food shacks for community events.
4. Signage could be improved (directional/wayfinding, educational/interpretive, and rules).

6/13/2026

Full use of existing infrastructure (buildings), enforcement of park rules/etiquette (unleashed dogs, entitled cyclists-not yielding to pedestrians on trails in any way)

6/13/2026

An off-leash dog area/dog park.

6/13/2026

I'd love to see expansion of the playground spaces.

6/13/2026

Shade for playgrounds... slide is scorching in the sun. playground swings for infants/toddlers. same issue with no shade at Stevens field. Stopped walking dog at park as unleashed dogs still running around in the upper park... frustrating.

6/13/2026

A large fenced in off leash dog area.

6/13/2026

Hmm. Not sure. I don't want too much going away because then it makes it less peaceful.

6/13/2026

A few more trash cans would be awesome.

6/13/2026

enforcement of the leash laws

6/13/2026

Building and facilities updates. Layout of main park could be revised for a better user experience.

6/13/2026

Amenities are due for modernization.

6/13/2026

Nothing, leave it be

6/13/2026

Swimming pool and improved playground

6/13/2026

Trails not always clearly marked.

6/13/2026

Splash pad, better playground / play area for kids

6/13/2026

Seating drinking water station

6/12/2026

The geographic location of the land area of the park allows for a once thriving and extensive "Wildlife Corridor" through Stratham and into adjacent towns. Overuse has eliminated this once enjoyable aspect of the park. I feel that there is a need to create quiet areas that buffer the heavy use areas. This could be accomplished in a manner that would greatly enhance the overall use of the park and adjacent lands.

6/12/2026

A dedicated dog park. Dogs should be on leash in the entire park, but there should be a fenced off area for dogs to roam freely.

6/12/2026

Year round rest rooms

6/12/2026

Sometimes quiet and peacefulness of the forest is quite disrupted. Some dog walkers/owners are lacking in consideration for others and for park rules.

6/12/2026

Additional public meeting and celebration areas such as pavilions.

6/12/2026

Better playgrounds for children

Better signage on trails

6/12/2026

Just support for existing natural resources- bring back the larger outdoor skating area. Maybe have a warming shed staffed with someone running a fire, selling hot chocolate, renting skates if there's room. Lights at night. Also maybe a place on site to rent snow shoes or XC skis. Same idea, from a warming shed/barn. Finally, since dogs are invited and allowed in park, need a place to give them water. Spigot/spout or dog bowl/trough/low fountain somewhere near Jack Rabbit area.

6/12/2026

Extended summer care options for children/working parents.

6/12/2026

Signs for where dogs can be off leash. Our dog enjoys the freedom to play. We always leash him if we see another dog on a leash, but signs so people know where it is allowed will help with the confusion.

6/12/2026

Stratham Fair

6/12/2026

Community garden (e.g., small plots that individual residents can use for planting vegetables).

6/12/2026

Fenced off-leash dog area.

6/12/2026

When I visit other town parks and beaches (Newcastle Common. Wallis Sands Beach. etc.) in the Seacoast of NH, I am charged an entrance fee. I think Stratham should charge an entrance fee for SHP, for non-residents of Stratham. SHP is heavily used by non-residents and they pay no entrance fee for use or maintenance.

Also, when people ask to use the park facilities for a private event, there should be a charge. Other towns charge a fee for private use and make no exceptions for fund raising events ...

There are major costs in maintaining SPH and town residents should not be absorbing all of this cost.

6/12/2026

Welcoming of the Town of Stratham to other residents. The 'Town', despite the stated use of the park clearly does not have an appreciation for non-residents.

6/12/2026

More cultural events such as concerts some form of a fair perhaps a community yard sale

6/12/2026

A good playground. A swimming pool.

6/12/2026

I honestly love the varied offerings and think the amenities are fantastic

6/12/2026

Someone to enforce leash rules for dogs. Separate trail for racing mountain bikes - they don't seem to know walkers have the right of way.

6/12/2026

More live music in the summer. A number of years ago there was a summer concert series.

6/12/2026

4th of July fireworks!

6/12/2026

A outdoor fitness park

6/12/2026

Nothing

6/12/2026

An enclose off leash dog playtime area

6/12/2026

Community center for indoor activities

6/12/2026

Permanent food and ice cream stand. Two volunteer cleanup days during the year.

6/12/2026

Pretty good currently

6/12/2026

What should be added or improved in Stratham Hill Park?

Offer a large fenced in area where dogs can play off leash. Perhaps two section, one for large dogs another for small dogs and puppies. There are so many complaints about dogs being off leash it's unfortunate. Let build an environment that addresses both. Plus dog playtime is nice socialization time for pet parents as well.

6/12/2026

👍 21 Agree

Dogs leashed at all times because it isn't enforced otherwise and too many issues . Safety is a concern

6/12/2026

👍 20 Agree

Need to add benches, especially as along the back fields so people can sit and chat, enjoy nature. More signage to remind dog walkers to pick up after their dogs. This is a problem, especially during the winter. Create a membership program that raises funds dedicated to park improvement.

6/12/2026

👍 20 Agree

Making bikers aware of trail etiquette. Slow down around corners. Erosion is worse with more bike use.

6/12/2026

👍 18 Agree

Enforcement of park regulations. This includes permitted users of the park, and those that refuse to leash their dogs.

6/12/2026

👍 12 Agree

What should be preserved in Stratham Hill Park?

Trail system that is maintained for future generations.

6/25/2026

Green space, trails, dog friendliness, free parking

6/24/2026

I love the trails at the park so I hope that the natural feel will be preserved.

6/24/2026

The trees! Shade! The fields. Nature. The size! Why are we trying to expand our beautiful park? The larger it gets, the more people that use it, the less it becomes a place to escape the hectic pace of life.

6/24/2026

Keep it as it is

6/24/2026

What should be changed in Stratham Hill Park?

Clear rules of use, etiquette, and enforcement of those rules.

6/25/2026

Crosswalks and connecting park to other area bike trails and walking paths/ sidewalks

6/24/2026

Keep the area of the park with the paved parking lot for events, etc.

Maintain the back area of the park for enjoying the natural beauty.

6/24/2026

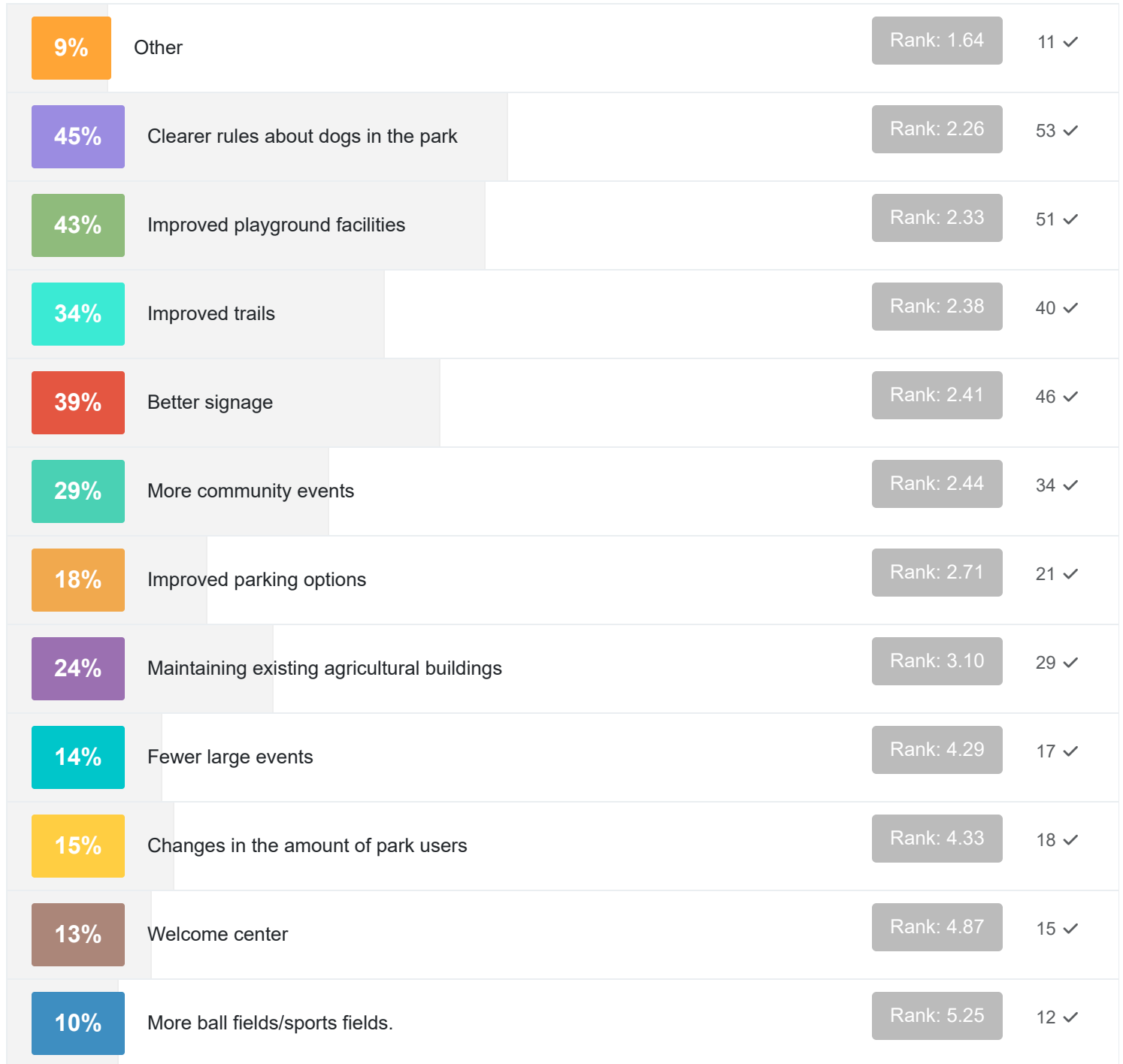
Catering mainly to bicycles

6/24/2026

Nothing

6/24/2026

What are the top needs for the future of Stratham Hill Park?



119 Respondents

Please provide your email address below to receive notice about future efforts related to Stratham Hill Park.

(Note that contact information will not be tied to responses to the survey and no contact information will be published.)

No data to display...



TOWN OF STRATHAM

Incorporated 1716

10 Bunker Hill Avenue, Stratham NH 03885

Town Clerk/Tax Collector 603-772-4741

Select Board/Administration/Assessing 603-772-7391

Code Enforcement/Building Inspections/ Planning (603) 772-7391

Fax (All Offices) 603-775-0517

TO: Select Board
FROM: Vanessa Price, Director of Planning & Building
FOR: October 5, 2026, Select Board Meeting
RE: 170 Portsmouth Stormwater Maintenance Agreement

The Planning Board approved a Site Plan for a Mixed-Use Development at 170 Portsmouth Avenue on September 28, 2026, consisting of an existing single-family residence and the construction of a new approximately 6,110-square-foot office/shop for a residential contracting business. The complete approved plan set and associated specifications are on file with the Stratham Planning & Building Department.

This request is for the Select Board's approval and execution of the Stormwater Management Facilities Maintenance Agreement associated with the approved Site Plan.

The agreement establishes the property owner's responsibilities for the maintenance and repair of the stormwater management facilities. It also expressly provides that the Town of Stratham has no obligation to inspect, maintain, or repair the stormwater management facilities, and that the agreement shall not be construed to impose any such obligation upon the Town. Following execution, the agreement will be recorded at the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommend that the Select Board approve and sign the stormwater maintenance for 170 Portsmouth Ave. Staff will then get the document recorded.

DRAFTED MOTION FOR THE SELECT BOARD'S CONSIDERATION:

I move that the Select Board approve the Stormwater Management Facilities Maintenance Agreement for the approved Site Plan at 170 Portsmouth Avenue, authorize the Select Board to execute the Agreement on behalf of the Town of Stratham, and authorize its recording at the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds.

Enclosures:

- Stormwater Maintenance Agreement
- Approved Site Plan

Return to:
Town of Stratham
Planning and Building Department
10 Bunker Hill Ave.
Stratham, NH 03885

STORMWATER MAINTENANCE AGREEMENT

THIS AGREEMENT, is made and entered into this 5th day of October, 2026, by and between **PACKER BROOK HOLDINGS, LLC**, a New Hampshire limited liability company, with a mailing address of 13 Alden Ave., Greenland, NH 03840-0503 (together with its successors and assigns, the “Landowner”), and the **TOWN OF STRATHAM**, a New Hampshire municipal corporation, with an address of 10 Bunker Hill Avenue, Stratham, New Hampshire 03885 (“Town”), relative to certain real property owned by Landowner located at 170 Portsmouth Avenue, Town of Stratham, Rockingham County, New Hampshire, shown on the tax maps of the Town of Stratham as Tax Map 17, Lot 86, and more particularly described in the deed from Christopher Glen Marston to Packer Brook Holdings, LLC dated March 28, 2024 recorded in the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds in Book 6538, Page 2720 deed for 170 Portsmouth Ave (“Property”).

WHEREAS, the Landowner is proceeding to build on and develop the Mixed-Use Development property for the purposes of constructing a Light Manufacturing Facility and proposed construction within the wetland setback. The project involves constructing a new ±6,110 square foot office/shop for a residential contracting business; and

WHEREAS, the site plan as approved by the Town of Stratham Planning Board on **September 28, 2026** by Notice of Decision dated May 6, 2026 (“Site Plan Approval”), which the complete plan set and specifications of which are on file with the Stratham Planning & Building Department (the “Complete Plan Set”), and which are expressly incorporated herein and made a part hereof, provide for certain stormwater management facilities as shown on the Plan and Complete Plan Set (“Stormwater Management Facilities”); and

WHEREAS, as a condition of the Site Plan Approval, the Landowner is required to own the Stormwater Management Facilities, and the Landowner is required to appropriately maintain the Stormwater Management Facilities on an ongoing basis in accordance with the Stratham Site Plan Regulations; and

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the foregoing premises, the mutual covenants contained herein, and the following terms and conditions, the parties hereto agree as follows:

1. The Stormwater Management Facilities shall be constructed by the Landowner, per the Site Plan Approval and in accordance with the plans and specifications in the Plan and the Complete Plan Set on file with the Stratham Planning Department. Within 120 days of the issuance of a

Temporary or Final Certificate of Occupancy for the use, the Landowner shall provide the Stratham Planning Department an As-Built plan set, stamped by a professional engineer, which shall include details and specifications for the Stormwater Management Facilities.

2. The Landowner shall maintain the Stormwater Management Facilities in accordance with the conditions of the Site Plan Approval and any maintenance plan or schedule which may be set forth on the Plan or within the Complete Plan Set, and any other document references in or any condition of approval of any of the foregoing. The obligation to maintain the Stormwater Management Facilities means that the Landowner is required to maintain all parts and components of the Stormwater Management Facilities, including without limitation all pipes, channels or other conveyances, as well as all structures, improvements, and vegetation provided to control the quantity and quality of the stormwater. The Stormwater Management Facilities shall be maintained as set forth in this Agreement to ensure that the Stormwater Management Facilities are in, and remain in, good working condition so that they are performing their functions as designed (“Good Working Condition”).

3. Further, the Landowner shall inspect the Stormwater Management Facilities on at least an annual basis, or as otherwise may be necessary to ensure that the Stormwater Management Facilities are in, and remain in, Good Working Condition, and to assure safe and proper functioning of the facilities. The inspection(s) shall cover the entirety of the Stormwater Management Facilities including, without limitation, conveyance infrastructure. Deficiencies shall be noted in an inspection report. Beginning in 2027, the Landowner shall submit an annual affidavit to the Town Planning & Building Department no later than September 1 each year, summarizing the results of the inspection, including any deficiencies or other items documented by the aforesaid inspection report. If the Stormwater Management Facilities are found to be deficient in the course of the inspection, the Landowner must submit to the Stratham Planning Department a plan for rectifying the deficiencies within 45 days of the inspection.

4. The Landowner hereby grants permission to the Town, its authorized agents and employees or consulting engineers, to enter upon the Property and to inspect the Stormwater Management Facilities whenever the Town deems necessary. Following any such inspection, the Town shall provide the Landowner copies of the inspection findings (“Inspection Report”) and, if necessary, a directive to commence with any repairs or maintenance found to be necessary and provide a reasonable timeframe for the Landowner to perform the repairs.

5. In the event the Landowner fails to maintain the Stormwater Management Facilities in Good Working Condition acceptable to the Town, the Town shall notify the Landowner of its intent to enter upon the Property and take whatever steps are necessary to correct deficiencies identified in the Inspection Report and shall charge the costs of the inspection and such repairs and/or maintenance to the Landowner. Notice shall be given by the Town to the Landowner by certified mail or other delivery service requiring signature of delivery at the address above no later than 45 days prior to the date upon which the Town intends to commence to correct such deficiencies.

6. It is expressly understood and agreed that the Town is under no obligation to inspect, maintain or repair the Stormwater Management Facilities under any circumstances, and in no event shall this Agreement be construed to impose any such obligation on the Town. It is expressly

understood that this agreement is limited to the repair and maintenance of the Stormwater Management Facilities, in accordance with the requirements of the Stratham Site Plan Regulations, as shown on the complete plan set as referred to in paragraph 1 above.

7. In the event that pursuant to this Agreement, the Town performs work of any nature, and/or expends any funds in performance of said work for labor, use of equipment, supplies, materials, and the like, the Landowner shall reimburse the Town upon demand, within thirty (30) days of receipt of all reasonable documentation of all actual costs incurred by the Town hereunder. Should the Landowner fail to comply with any provisions of this Agreement, the Town shall be entitled to recover any and all of its costs and expenses, including reasonable attorney's fees, incurred in enforcing this Agreement.

8. This Agreement shall run with the Land and shall be binding on all parties having or acquiring any right, title, or interest in or on the Property, until such time as the same may be terminated by the written mutual agreement of the Town and Landowner and recorded in the Rockingham County Registry of Deeds.

End of Text
Signature Pages Follow

Intending to be legally bound, the parties have executed this Agreement on this ____ day of _____, 2026.

PACKER BROOK HOLDINGS, LLC

By: _____
Chris Redmound, Member

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM

Personally appeared this ____ day of _____, 2026, the above-named Chris Redmound, who acknowledged himself as the manager of PACKER BROOK HOLDINGS, LLC, and as such, being authorized to do so, he executed the forgoing instrument for the purposes therein contained on behalf of said Limited Liability Company.

Before me,

Notary Public/Justice of the Peace
My Commission Expires:

Intending to be legally bound, the parties have executed this Agreement on this 5th day of October, 2026.

**TOWN OF STRATHAM
BY ITS SELECT BOARD**

Allison Knab, Chair

Joseph Anderson, Vice Chair

Tedd Tramaloni, Member

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
COUNTY OF ROCKINGHAM

On this ____ day of _____, 2026, before me, personally appeared _____,
_____, and _____, being the authorized Select Board of the Town of
Stratham, known to me or satisfactorily proven to be the persons whose names are subscribed to
the within instrument and acknowledged that they executed the same for purposes therein
contained on behalf of the Town of Stratham.

Notary Public/Justice of the Peace
My Commission Expires:



TOWN OF STRATHAM

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Select Board/Administration/Assessing 603-772-7391

Code Enforcement/Building Inspections/ Planning (603) 772-7391

Fax (All Offices) 603-775-0517

To: Stratham Select Board

From: Tim Roache, Town Administrator

Date: October 5, 2026

Subject: Town Administrator Report

The following report provides an update on Town operations, departmental initiatives, and ongoing projects. It is intended to keep the Select Board informed of significant developments and upcoming priorities.

Tax Rate MS-1

- The MS-1 has been completed by Whitney Consulting and reviewed by staff. It is ready for signature in the Finance Office this week.

Unanticipated Funds

- **Acceptance of Unanticipated Funds:** \$100 charitable donation from Fidelity Charitable/Kevin Bergesen.

Department Head Budgets

- Department heads have received their FY2027 budget templates. Completed budget sheets are due to the Finance Office by October 6.

Planning and Building

- The local Emergency Operations Plan (EOP) grant approved in March has received Governor and Executive Council approval, and the Town has been authorized to proceed. Staff have contacted a consultant and begun the process of updating the EOP. The Planning Department is managing the consultant with assistance from the Town Administrator.
- Planning and Building is researching the emergency access road between Lindt and Rollins Farm to determine ongoing maintenance requirements.

Department of Public Works

- **Union Road Culvert:** An inspection was completed by Wind River Environmental. The inspection determined that the most cost-effective repair is to parge the culvert. The quoted cost is \$4,500. Staff are awaiting a schedule from the contractor.
- **Fire Tower Rehabilitation:** A preconstruction meeting is anticipated in mid-October, with work expected to begin shortly thereafter.

Seabrook Drill and Emergency Management Director

- The Seabrook Drill was successfully completed.
- Staff are continuing the selection process for the Emergency Management Director position.

Fire Department

- Staff are investigating options to maximize the efficiency of per-diem shift personnel. We are scheduled to consult with a labor attorney regarding best practices and appropriate strategies for scheduling per-diem staff.
- Staff are monitoring the next steps regarding ALS services in Plaistow as municipalities consider whether to participate.
- Staff will continue to work with Fire Department leadership to refine budget and staffing models as the budget process moves forward.

Keyless Access System

- Installation of the keyless access system has been completed at the Police Department, DPW, and Municipal Center. Staff are being trained to administer the system, assist employees with access, and distribute access cards.
- The Fire Department will require integration with an updated burglar alarm system. This will result in an additional cost of approximately \$6,500. The total project cost remains within the amount approved by Town Meeting.
- Re-keying of exterior doors will follow to further enhance building security and complement the new access control system.

Stratham Hill Park Planning

- The Rockingham Planning Commission (RPC) will present its recommendations on October 5.
- Staff will take the recommendations under advisement and work with the Select Board and appropriate Town committees to develop next steps.

Energy Committee

- The Town successfully petitioned to remove Stratham from the automatic inclusion of new meters in the periodic refresh mechanism unless the CPCNH supply rate is **below** Unitil's default supply rate at the time of the refresh date. Staff are seeking confirmation that this request has been received and accepted.
- Staff are monitoring the CPCNH supply rate and the possibility of withdrawing from CPCNH membership if the CPCNH rate is not below Unitil's published default supply rate.

Capital Improvement Program (CIP) and Capital Reserve Funds (CRF)

- Work has begun on updating the Town's Capital Improvement Program and Capital Reserve Fund planning documents.
- Staff have met with department heads to complete the planning necessary to support sound long-term capital investment decisions.
- Staff met on September 9 to review draft documents. Work will continue to refine the drafts for consideration as part of the FY2027 budget process.

Policies and Procedures

- Several administrative policies have been reviewed and updated and will be presented to the Select Board for consideration at upcoming meetings, including:
 - Purchasing Policy
 - Fund Balance Policy
 - RSA 91-A Internal Procedures
 - Credit Card Policy
- Staff continue to review additional policies and procedures and will coordinate updates, where appropriate, with the comprehensive revision of the Employee Manual.

Employee Manual Update

- Staff held a review workshop of the draft Employee Manual with Seth Hickey, Joe Anderson, Lori Ruest, and Tim Roache.
- The internal review is ongoing, with the goal of completing the initial review by Tuesday, October 6.
- Following completion of the internal review, staff will discuss next steps, including a process for obtaining input from department heads.
- Before the Employee Manual is finalized, staff recommend engaging a labor attorney to review the final draft.



STRATHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Anthony J. King – Chief of Police

76 Portsmouth Avenue, Stratham, NH 03885

(603) 778-9691 – FAX (603) 778-6183

To: Chief Anthony King

From: Lieutenant David D. Pierce

Date: October 1, 2026

Subject: Town of Stratham Emergency Management Director Position

Chief King,

Following my attendance at the Seabrook Emergency Management Drill on Wednesday, September 23, 2026, I returned to the department and spoke with you about the possibility of the Stratham Police Department assuming responsibility for the Town of Stratham Emergency Management program.

After giving this some additional thought, I would like to express my interest in learning more about the Emergency Management Director position and what the Town would expect from someone assuming this responsibility.

In my opinion, the Town would benefit from having someone in this position who is willing to take a leadership role, identify areas that need improvement, and move the Emergency Management program forward. There are several areas that I believe deserve attention, including updating emergency response plans and forms, reviewing current procedures, improving communications capabilities, and pursuing grant opportunities to obtain much-needed equipment, including updated radios.

Over the years, I have attended numerous Seabrook Emergency Management drills and have participated in various emergency management and leadership-related training programs. My training and professional experience include command leadership, active shooter response, grant writing, critical incident management, emergency management, and ethical decision-making. I believe this experience, combined with my years in law enforcement, would provide a solid foundation for taking on additional responsibilities within the Town's Emergency Management program.

Before moving forward, I would like to learn more about the position, its responsibilities, and the expectations of the Town. I would also like to understand what the Stratham Selectboard envisions for the future of Emergency Management and whether there would be support for making necessary changes and improvements.

If the Town is interested in moving the program forward, I would want to explore opportunities to pursue grants for updated equipment and improvements to the existing Emergency Operations facility.



STRATHAM POLICE DEPARTMENT

Anthony J. King – Chief of Police

76 Portsmouth Avenue, Stratham, NH 03885

(603) 778-9691 – FAX (603) 778-6183

My goal would be to make the facility a more functional, efficient, and effective place to coordinate emergency operations during critical incidents and major events.

I believe this could be an opportunity to strengthen the Town's overall emergency preparedness and provide a more organized and effective response when emergencies occur. However, I also believe it is important to understand whether there is a willingness at the administrative and Selectboard levels to support the changes, improvements, and grant initiatives that may be necessary.

At this time, I am not making a formal commitment to the position. Rather, I would appreciate the opportunity to discuss it further, learn what the Town is looking for, and determine whether my experience, qualifications, and vision would be a good fit for the role.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'D. Pierce', is written over the typed name.

Lieutenant David D. Pierce

Stratham Police Department



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Select Board/Administration/Assessing 603-772-7391

Code Enforcement/Building Inspections/ Planning (603) 772-7391

Fax (All Offices) 603-775-0517

TO: Select Board
FROM: Vanessa Price, Director of Planning & Building
FOR: October 5, 2026, Select Board Meeting
RE: Authorization of Joe O'Callaghan for Health Officer

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (NH DHHS), Division of Public Health Services (DPHS), Bureau of Public Health Protection, oversees environmental health, food safety, and related public health regulatory programs throughout the State.

NH DHHS requires each municipality to appoint a local health officer. The purpose of this appointment is to ensure that every municipality has a designated official who is familiar with state public health laws and is prepared to assess and respond to public health concerns. State law also requires municipalities to support their health officers in carrying out their duties, including providing appropriate training and measures to promote job safety. RSA 128 and New Hampshire Administrative Rules He-P 900 establish the requirements and process for the appointment of local health officers.

Staff requests that the Select Board appoint Mr. Joseph O'Callaghan as the Town of Stratham Health Officer, in conjunction with his current duties as Building Inspector and Code Enforcement Officer. Enclosed with this memorandum is the NH DHHS Local Health Officer nomination form. Following the Select Board's appointment of Mr. O'Callaghan, DHHS program staff will send him a welcome email with information regarding the position and required training. An identification card will also be mailed to him by USPS.

The appointment will remain conditional until Mr. O'Callaghan completes the required three-hour training, "Introduction to the Duties and Responsibilities of the Local Health Officer." Upon successful completion of the training, DHHS will issue documentation confirming his full appointment. The next training session is scheduled for Friday, December 4, 2026. Mr. O'Callaghan will register for the training following his appointment by the Select Board.

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: Staff recommends that the Select Board appoint Joseph O'Callaghan as the Town Health Officer and authorize the submission of the enclosed nomination form to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services.

DRAFTED MOTION FOR THE SELECT BOARD'S CONSIDERATION:

I move that the Select Board appoint Joseph O'Callaghan as the Town Health Officer, authorize the submission of the required nomination form to the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, and authorize the Town Administrator to execute any additional documentation necessary to complete the appointment.



Lori A. Weaver
Commissioner

Iain N. Watt
Interim Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
BUREAU OF PUBLIC HEALTH PROTECTION

29 HAZEN DRIVE, CONCORD, NH 03301
603-271-4524 1-800-852-3345 Ext. 4524

Fax: 603-271-8705 TDD Access: 1-800-735-2964 www.dhhs.nh.gov

To Whom It May Concern,

Local Health Officers are municipal officials with the authority to enforce public health laws and ensure that each municipality has the capacity to assess and respond to public health threats as outlined in [RSA 128 Town Health Officers](#).

Local Health Officers are nominated by their local governing body and then appointed by the Commissioner of the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS). It is the sole authority of the Commissioner to appoint Health Officers into their roles, bestowing their full authority under New Hampshire laws.

Included in this packet are two forms that are required to be completed and returned to the DHHS Health Officer Liaison Unit to nominate a town Health Officer or Deputy Health Officer for appointment. To complete the nomination, please fill out the two forms included in this packet:

- Confidentiality Agreement for Local Health Officers
- Health Officer and/or Deputy Nomination Form

When both forms are fully completed and signed, emailed them to HealthOfficer@dhhs.nh.gov for processing. Once completed, the municipality will receive confirmation paperwork via email from our program. We look forward to receiving your nominations.

Sincerely,

Sophia Johnson

Sophia Johnson, Program Manager
Health Officer Liaison

*The Department of Health and Human Services' Mission is to join communities and families
in providing opportunities for citizens to achieve health and independence*



Lori A. Weaver
Commissioner

Iain N. Watt
Director

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES
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www.dhhs.nh.gov

CONFIDENTIALITY AGREEMENT FOR LOCAL HEALTH OFFICERS
IN NEW HAMPSHIRE TOWNS

This agreement is entered into by and between the New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services, (DHHS), Division of Public Health, and the Health Officer for the town of Stratham, New Hampshire, Joe O'Callaghan ("Health Officer"), (collectively, "the Parties").

In accordance with New Hampshire RSA 128:5, DHHS may request assistance from the Health Officer to support DHHS and its public health activities. Such activities may include, but not be limited to, monitoring properties under Order of Lead Hazard Reduction in accordance with [NH RSA 130-A](#), checking on the status of a food service establishment in accordance with [NH RSA 143](#) or NH 143-A, or assisting with Orders of Isolation and Quarantine or other matters relating to communicable diseases in accordance with [NH RSA 141-C:5](#).

DHHS will provide additional information to the Health Officer at the time of the request for assistance, along with copies of any relevant orders or requirements to be enforced or acted upon, as appropriate. In any request based on NH RSA 128:5, or other law, DHHS may need to share confidential Protected Health Information (PHI), including information that may directly or constructively identify a person who is the subject of a health condition or a DHHS Order.

As a requirement for DHHS to share confidential information, the Health Officer must complete DHHS's Confidentiality training in order to understand the obligations of protecting the confidentiality of any protected health information (PHI) and other confidential information provided to the Health Officer in furtherance of the request.

Upon receiving a request for assistance from DHHS, the Health Officer is required to protect any confidential information by complying with applicable state confidentiality laws, including but not limited to the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act (HIPPA), and DHHS privacy and security policies.¹ These laws and policies will be covered during the DHHS Confidentiality Training. By signing below, the Health Officer agrees to safeguard the confidentiality of information related to the request or the investigation, including but not limited

¹ [Chapter 128 TOWN HEALTH OFFICERS](#);

Section 141-C:10 Disclosure; Confidentiality.;

[eCFR :: 45 CFR 164.512 -- Uses and disclosures for which an authorization or opportunity to agree or object is not required.](#)

to, names, addresses, locations of properties, health information, or personal observations of the subject matter or the person(s) involved in the request, any communications to or from DHHS, including voicemail or email, SMS, and electronic or paper documents received or created as part of the request for assistance.

The Health Officer agrees to maintain all information securely, and to use or share such information only as needed to perform the investigation or requested tasks. The Health Officer agrees, in any report to the local Board of Health, to maintain the confidentiality of identifying or constructively identifying information and only disclose a minimum of information necessary to report to the local Board of Health. The Health Officer shall not share any confidential or identifying information with the local Board of Health, or with any other person. Non-identifying information may be shared with the local Board of Health; however, any identifying information or constructively identifying information shall remain confidential.

The Health Officer shall report any unauthorized, accidental, or inadvertent disclosure of the information provided by DHHS, including PHI, Individually Identifiable Health Information, or constructively identifiable information related to the investigation, to DHHSInformationSecurityOffice@dhhs.nh.gov and the Health Officer Liaison Unit at HealthOfficer@dhhs.nh.gov immediately, but not later than twelve (12) hours from the discovery by the Health Officer. If a security incident occurs after 4:30pm on the weekdays or on weekends, please report the incident to 603-931-0832.

In the event that the Health Officer discovers a conflict of interest (see definition below), the Health Officer shall immediately notify DHHS, remove him or herself from any involvement in the subject matter, and not further disclose any confidential information to any other parties.

This Agreement shall remain in effect for the duration of the Health Officer's three-year appointment by the DHHS, or until termination of service as the Health Officer, whichever comes first. All terms and conditions of this agreement relating to privacy shall remain in effect indefinitely.

The Health Officer may contact the DHHS Health Officer Liaison with any questions relating to this Agreement at healthofficer@dhhs.nh.gov or 603-271-3468.

For the purposes of this agreement the following are defined terms:

Protected Health Information (PHI): All "individually identifiable health information" held or transmitted by a covered entity or its business associate, in any form or media, whether electronic, written on paper, or verbal.

Individually identifiable health information: Information, including demographic data, that relates to the individual's past, present or future physical or mental health or condition, the provision of health care to the individual, or the past, present, or future payment for the provision of health care to the individual, and that identifies the individual or for which there is a reasonable basis to believe can be used to identify the individual. Individually identifiable health

information includes but is not limited to many common identifiers (e.g., name, address, phone number, email address, birth date, Social Security Number).

Board of Health: any local or municipal entity with supervisory authority.

Constructively Identifiable: there is a reasonable basis to believe that the information could be used, alone or in combination with other reasonably available information, to identify an individual who is the subject of the information.

Confidential Information: all information owned, managed, created, or received for or on behalf of DHHS that is protected by federal or state information security, privacy or confidential laws or rules.

Conflict of Interest: A situation, circumstance, or financial interest that has the potential to cause a private interest to interfere with the proper exercise of a public duty.

IN WITNESS HEREOF, the Health Officer agrees to adhere to the terms and conditions outlined above. I further certify that all information contained herein, including any supplements attached, is true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief. The parties agree that this Health Officer Confidentiality Agreement may be executed electronically with electronic signatures, and the electronic signatures shall be valid and binding on both parties. Neither party will contest the enforceability of this Health Officer Confidentiality Agreement on the basis that it was executed electronically.

Signature of Health Officer

Date

Printed Name of Health Officer

Joseph O'Callaghan

Name of Town of Health Officer

Business Address

Stratham

10 Bunker Hill Avenue, Stra

Signature of DHHS Health Officer Liaison

Date

Printed Name of DHHS Health Officer Liaison

HEALTH OFFICER AND DEPUTY NOMINATION FORM



Application Information

Health Officer (HO) ☒ New Appointment ☐ Renewal
 Deputy Health Officer (DHO) ☐ New Appointment ☐ Renewal

Please complete all elements of this form. The information is required per New Hampshire State Law [RSA 128](#) and ensures the ability of the New Hampshire Division of Public Health (DPH) to communicate with Health and Deputy Health Officers during local or statewide emergencies. If the health officer's position is temporarily vacant, please identify one (1) person on the Selectboard to serve as the contact with DPH.

RSA 128:9 requires all nominated people to have a criminal background check on file with the town. Health Officers and Deputies must complete a 3-hour training course within the first year of their appointment.

Town: Town of Stratham Town Manager/Admin. Name: Timothy Roache Email: troache@StrathamNH.gov Phone: 603-772-7391, ext 181	Board of Selectmen Information Mailing Address: 10 Bunker Hill Avenue City/State/Zip: Stratham, NH 03885 Email: Phone: 603-772-7391
Health Officer Information Name: Joseph O'Callaghan Municipal Mailing Address: 10 Bunker Hill Avenue, S Office Phone: 603-772-7391, ext 182 Cell Phone (required): TBD Email (required): jocallaghan@StrathamNH.g Fax Line: 603-772-7391 Date of Birth: 02/02/1965 Background check completed on (date) 9/17/26 Is this background check on file? Yes ☒ No ☐	Deputy Health Officer Information Name: Municipal Mailing Address: Office Phone: Cell Phone (required): Email (required): Fax Line: Date of Birth: 02/02/1965 Background check completed on (date) 9/17/26 Is this background check on file? Yes ☐ No ☐
Primary Occupation: Building/Code enforcement Other: Town Position Type: Full Time (in multiple muni	Primary Occupation: Select Primary Occupation Other: Town Position Type: Full Time (in multiple m
Health Officer Signature: Signature of Selectboard (three minimum): Print Name: Signature: Print Name: Signature: Print Name: Signature:	Deputy Signature: Signature of Selectboard (three minimum): Print Name: Signature: Print Name: Signature: Print Name: Signature:

You may return this form via Email, Post or Fax:

Email: Healthofficer@dhhs.nh.gov
 Mail: Health Officer Liaison Unit, NH DHHS, Bureau of
 Public Health Protection, 29 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH
 03301-6504
 FAX: 603-271-8705 Phone: 603-271-3468

For State Office Use Only:
 Appointment Date:
 Expiration Date:

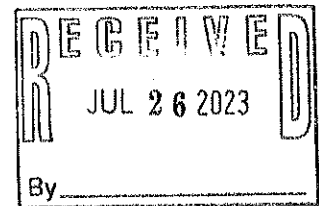


TOWN OF STRATHAM

Incorporated 1716

10 Bunker Hill Avenue • Stratham, NH 03885

Voice (603) 772-7391 • Fax (603) 775-0517 • www.strathamnh.gov



COMMITTEE APPOINTMENT APPLICATION

- | | |
|---|---|
| ☐ Heritage Commission | ☐ Zoning Board of Adjustment |
| ☐ Planning Board | ☐ Public Works Commission |
| ☒ Conservation Commission | ☐ Recreation Commission |
| ☐ Stratham Summerfest Committee | ☐ Energy Commission |
| ☐ Exeter Squamscott River Advisory Committee | ☐ Rockingham Planning Commission |
| ☐ Pedestrian & Cyclist Advocacy Committee | ☐ Other _____ |
| ☐ Trail Management Advisory Committee | |

DAN MCAULIFFE

Applicant Name (print)

Phone #

Address

Email

Registered Voter of Stratham? ☒ YES

☐ NO

Number of Years as a Resident 26

I would like to be considered by the Select Board for appointment to a town/board/commission/committee indicated above because:

I HAVE BEEN A CC MEMBER FOR MANY YEARS

I feel the following experience and background qualifies me for this position:

Dan McAuliffe

Signature of Applicant

7/26/2023

Date