

MINUTES OF THE JANUARY 24, 2024 SELECT BOARD MEETING

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator David Moore, Finance Administrator Christiane McAllister

At 4:00 pm Mr. Houghton opened the meeting and requested a motion on the minutes. Ms. Knab motioned to approve the minutes of the special Select Board meeting on January 10, 2024, and the joint BAC meeting minutes of January 8, 11 and 18, 2024. Mr. Anderson seconded the motion. All voted in favor.

Chair moved on to new business and recognized Mark Connors to discuss the 13-15 Stoneybrook Lane ZBA decision. Mr. Connors shared background information about the application, the Boards discussion relative to the criteria and that at their next meeting a finding of fact would be acted on. The Board generally discussed the decision and looked forward to seeing the findings of fact.

The Board received an update on the Piscataqua Region Estuaries Partnership request for funding. Mr. Connors advised the Conservation Commission would be forming a recommendation or other action at their meeting later that same evening.

Mr. Moore advised the Board that the Town had secured an additional grant to support the Ross Brothers property purchase located “off high street” and adjacent to Stratham Hill Park. He advised he would bring the grant back to the Board for a needed public hearing.

The Board then moved into a budget work session and reviewed guidance from the BAC and compared notes among the Board members about potential budget reductions to achieve less of a proposed increase.

They proposed discussions and asked for input from staff. In the end, the Board agreed to review a new version of the budget with some reductions with a goal of getting to 3.3%. This budget will form the basis of the February 5th hearing on the proposed budget and warrant.