

**TO: DAVID MOORE, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR**  
**CC: MIKE HOUGHTON, SELECT BOARD CHAIR**  
**FROM: NATHAN MERRILL**  
**DATE: MARCH 21, 2022**  
**RE: PARKS, AREAS & FACILITIES NAMING POLICY**

I am writing to request naming of two town-owned facilities in honor of people “of historical or cultural significance” and “particularly identified with the land or facility.” (Policy criteria 1.c. and 1.d.)

The names I propose are for facilities owned by the Town for more than 12 months (criteria 2) and the proposed names are not “similar to existing parks, properties or facilities” (criteria 4).

In accordance with the Policy’s procedures, I submit to you the following under part a:

- i. I propose naming “Meeting Room A” at the Municipal Center the “Joan Sewall Room” in honor of the longtime Stratham Memorial School food service director.
- ii. Generations of Stratham youngsters recall Mrs. Sewall’s home cooking in our school cafeteria (originally located in what is now the Town Clerk’s lobby, but later in today’s “Meeting Room A” after the school was expanded). From her famous homemade apple crisp made with fresh Bunker Hill Orchard apples each fall, to the savory smells of her baked chicken wafting down the halls, to her buttery soft scratch-made dinner rolls, we were all fortunate to have such a nutritious and high quality school lunch available each day at SMS. Mrs. Sewall is also fondly remembered for allowing students to pick menu items to be served on their birthdays, and for her broad smile and good humor in the kitchen. I cannot think of a more appropriate person for whom to name this room.
- i. I propose naming the livestock barns at Stratham Hill Park in honor of my late grandparents, James & Lorraine Stuart.
- ii. Jim & Lorraine Stuart shepherded the 4-H livestock programs at Stratham Fair for nearly 30 years, from its founding in 1967 until their ‘retirement’ circa 1995. The two of them lived for Stratham Fair weekend – it was a perennial highlight of every year. They relished their jointly held role in supporting generations of 4-H youngsters in the show ring. They were responsible for setting up and taking down the livestock pens, tents, and other infrastructure each year, as well as coordinating judges and other volunteers, orchestrating ribbon and trophy supplies, and every other conceivable detail with UNH Cooperative Extension staff, including longtime 4-H coordinator Lynn Garland, for whom the 4-H exhibits building is now named. Jim & Lorraine’s volunteerism and community involvement in Stratham expanded far beyond

the fairgrounds over the years, but leading the 4-H livestock programs for all those decades was unquestionably their greatest pride and joy.

In accordance with procedure a. iii., I submit the following written public support for these naming nominations:

- “I would support both of your naming ideas. Being on the receiving end of both your grandparents’ assistance at the fair, and Joan’s nutritional goodness at the school, I can attest to their worthiness!” – Bruce Scamman
  
- “I think the naming of town owned spaces is great. The names you suggested are both top of the list. Jim and Lorraine worked very hard for the fair, and I remember Joan working in the school kitchen. No one was more dedicated to the town than these [folks].” – Florence Wiggin

If more public support is required, please let me know and I will reach out to more people for additional comments.

I appreciate your consideration and look forward to hearing from you with any questions.