

FINAL

PRESENT: Ed B. Beattie, Chairman; Lou Gargiulo, Vice Chairman; Mark R. Lane, Selectman; Karen Anderson, Town Administrator; Rachel D. Webb, Assistant Administrator
GUESTS: R. Veno, Police Chief; R. Hilliard, Road Agent; J. Lord, Fire Chief; M. Sikorski, Building Inspector; Chad Roberge, Assessor with Avitar; Ben Lafond, NH Department of Revenue, District Supervisor; L. Stan and K. Sabatini, Hampton Falls Friends of the Bandstand.

Chairman Beattie called the Board of Selectmen's meeting to order at 8:00 AM.

Recognition and appreciation of James Kibler – Conservation of Clay Brook Forest:

Chairman Beattie presented a Certificate of Appreciation to James Kibler: *This Certificate is presented in recognition and appreciation of your hard work and dedication to the Town of Hampton Falls to conserve land. Your efforts have been exemplary, and the residents of this town have benefited from your vision. As a Conservation Commissioner, you have played a vital role in Hampton Falls' town government and have been a positive influence for this community. You have represented the Conservation Commission since 2016 and your knowledge in areas of land conservation has been invaluable. Thirty-two (32) acres of land along the Taylor River, off Old Stage Road, are preserved forever for local enjoyment with the Clay Brook Forest conservation easement. The Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests, together with other funding sources, purchased the easement in May 2021. The property offers residents access to the land for passive recreation with an established trail system used for hiking, snowshoeing, nature observation, and dog walking, and includes a quarter-mile frontage on the Taylor River. On behalf of the residents of Hampton Falls, we thank you for your service and wish you much success in the future. You will be missed both professionally and personally. Given this 19th day of April 2023, by the Hampton Falls Board of Selectmen.* Chairman Beattie stated, James Kibler, thank you very much for all your efforts.

James Kibler responded thanking the town for supporting the conservation efforts, and the support from the Selectmen was incredible. Chairman Beattie congratulated James Kibler and gave him the Certificate of Appreciation, and a *History of Hampton Falls* (vol 3) book.

Chairman Beattie commented that perhaps every Selectmen's meeting should start off with "what is going right in town", to send a different message, as often the more positive things are not seen in the media.

Police Department / Animal Control Monthly Report – Police Chief Ryan Veno: Chief Veno stated that he has spoken with J. Kibler several times, and that he and his wife are great people. He added that the Clay Brook Forest is an unbelievable property, and Chairman Beattie responded saying that it is "the best walk in town".

Chief Veno presented his monthly report and described the following Police Department programs and initiatives that occurred in March.

- Coffee With A Cop, program was held at the Library, after being rescheduled due to snow from January. He reported that it was a successful event with a good turn-out. He continued that himself and Lieutenant Ranauro both answered questions and gave an

FINAL

update on business. There will be additional meetings at other locations and timeframes, to enable different people to attend at different times.

- Met with the First Baptist Church regarding a grant application the church is applying for regarding security upgrades to improve safety and communication with the Police Department. Chief Venio also spoke with Chief Lord regarding the planned improvements. Chief Venio said that it was nice to see a property manager interested in safety improvements and seeking input to cover public safety issues.
- Chief Venio reported that the Police Department applied for a grant through Senator Shaheen's office for a MILO Simulator, that is like a video game using real police equipment that runs thousands of scenarios, from the simplest traffic stop where someone is cooperative, to an active shooter event.
- The Police hiring Test occurred last Saturday, at Great Bay Community College that is the annual test for Police candidates, and there were twenty-two (22) applicants (formerly used to have 100s taking the test), and there were many Police Departments at the test location attempting to recruit applicants. Chief Venio has received one (1) application as a result of that recruiting. He described Hampton Falls as a great place to start a police career, go on a first call and to function as both a Patrol and Police Detective simultaneously. Chairman Beattie asked if people taking that test are certifiable in other states (like Maine and Massachusetts), and Chief Venio responded yes that a few people he had spoken with had taken the Civil Service exam in Massachusetts. M. Lane asked about an update on any other applicants, and Chief Venio responded that the previously interested party went to another Police Department. He mentioned that in California there was a Police Department that offered a \$75,000 sign-on bonus with a five-year contract, so it is just a challenging situation nationwide.

Road Agent Monthly Report – Russ Hilliard: R. Hilliard presented the monthly report for the month of March:

- Inspected all the roads for Winter Road Maintenance for damage, and he provided a list of damaged roads which is being addressed.
- Road Salt, year-to-date, the Town received 448-tons and one (1) bin is still one-half (1/2) full, that is approximately 100-tons.
- Plenty of Sand and Salt mix is left-over, that should be enough for next year.
- 14 Culverts are flowing properly.
- Beavers have returned and are starting to plug-up some areas around the culverts at King, Curtis, and Sanborn Roads.
- Frost Ban signs were taken down on March 25, 2023.
- New England Paving is going forward paving Glenwood, today.

First White Good Day – May 6th Preparations: Chairman Beattie commended R. Hilliard for organizing and preparing the Brush Dump for the White Goods first Saturday of the month and Brush Days on the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays. He said that the Brush Dump looks immaculate. R. Hilliard responded that he is getting it ready for a State Inspection, removing any and all violations.

- New signs for the Brush Dump are ready to be picked up.

FINAL

- New dumpsters have been ordered and arrive by mid-week the first week of May.
 - One 40-yard dumpster for material
 - One 30-yard dumpster for Metal
 - ELM is on back-up notice with a Trash Truck, in case more material is received than can be accommodated with dumpsters.
- R. Hilliard asked the Selectmen to consider consolidation of the hours the Brush Dump is open to 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM noon, for both the White Goods 1st Saturday of the month, and for the Brush Dump hours the 2nd, 3rd, and 4th Saturdays so that all the hours will be the same.

MOTION: To approve the Brush Dump hours of operation to Saturdays from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM noon.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

K. Anderson said that the Town will know ahead of White Goods Day what items people plan to bring, from their pre-payment at the Town Clerk's office. Additionally, she continued that she wrote an article for the upcoming May-June 2023 Newsletter with detailed information about the White Goods Saturdays (first Saturdays of the month May through October). M. Lane said that people quickly learn the hours. K. Anderson said for the first one May 6th, that she will have Brush Dump stickers to sell on-site the first time, and receipts to issue for people who don't know to pre-pay fees ahead of the Saturday at Town Hall, because they don't want to turn anyone away. M. Lane asked if anyone has expressed interest in the position of Brush Dump Attendant, and K. Anderson responded that R. Hilliard has one temporary helper signed up Tanyon Ziolkowski and another person has also agreed to temporarily help.

Chairman Beattie asked several questions:

- Can Brush be dumped on the same Saturday as White Goods Day? R. Hilliard responded yes.
- Do people need to have a Brush Dump sticker for both Brush, and also for White Goods? R. Hilliard responded yes; people need to have a Brush Dump sticker to use the Brush Dump.
- R. Hilliard continued that if residents do not have a Brush Dump sticker, they will be turned away until they can obtain the sticker to gain entrance to the Brush Dump.

R. Hilliard presented a Worksheet for a non-emergency Highway Department project for removal of road-side brush along all Town roads, with brush hauled to Brush Dump and some chipped, at a projected cost of \$1,600 per day. He said that he received a quote from Urban Tree for the same work at a price of \$1,900 per day. R. Hilliard said that he has done this work for the Town the past three (3) years, and that he has utilized Urban Tree for Cherry Picker tree work. There was discussion about capping the amount of work to four (4) days maximum, as R. Hilliard said that there is more work to do this year than in prior years.

MOTION: To approve the proposed work by R. Hilliard to Remove Road-side Brush on all Town Roads, with a cap of four (4) days maximum, at a rate of \$1,600 per day (\$6,400 total), payable from the Budget line item 573.

FINAL

MOTION: L. GARGIULO
SECOND: M. LANE
UNANIMOUS

MOTION: To approve the Road Agent's monthly March 2023 Core Services bill in the amount of \$8,827.00
MOTION: L. GARGIULO
SECOND: M. LANE
UNANIMOUS

Taylor River Pond Dam Inspection: K. Anderson reported that the NH Dam Bureau has notified the Town that the Taylor River Pond Dam, under the Taylor River Bridge is in need of vegetation maintenance. Vegetation was noted within fifteen feet (15') of the footprint of the dam and needs to be removed in order to preserve the buffer for inspection, access and maintenance/repair. Specifically, vegetation around the fish ladder needs to be removed, one (1) tree on the right embankment needs to be removed, brush needs to be removed along the upstream embankment and within fifteen (15') of the overflow spillway.

R. Hilliard called the State regarding this work and was told that this was for informational purposes only, and that the State is taking care of it.

Chairman Beattie said that years ago the State wanted to remove all the dams in the state, and Hampton Falls fought that idea.

Fire / Ambulance / Emergency Management Report – Jay Lord, Fire Chief: Chief Lord added to the prior conversation about the State wanting to remove dams, that when the State proposed to remove the dam for Whittier Pond, that he fought that proposal to take out the dam, because the water in Whittier Pond is used for firefighting purposes for Route 1. His understanding was that the State was proposing the idea to enable fish to spawn upriver and then return to the ocean, without having to encounter dams. He said that he would continue to fight that proposal by the State to remove dams, specifically for Whittier Pond, and Chairman Beattie agreed with him.

Chief Lord reported the Fire Department's monthly report is on track for one-call-per-day, as this is the 108th day, and they have had 109 calls year-to-date. During March they did some medical transports and a couple of Mutual Aid calls to Hampton and one to Salisbury to assist with fires.

Chief Lord reported that the Fire Department is doing well with staffing, with two (2) people in Fire One training, one (1) person in Recruit School (that is a combination of Fire One and Two with the result being fully certified), and a couple people in EMT training. He has been able to be a conduit for reimbursing training costs through State ARPA funds.

The contract for the Mini-Pumper Fire Truck is in process. A deposit of three-quarters-($\frac{3}{4}$) of the price will reduce fifteen-thousand-dollars (\$15,000) off the end price, funded from Ambulance

FINAL

Transports. Chief Lord described a two-(2)-year build-out, so the Fire Department expects to receive the new Ambulance by May 2025.

The LEOP (Local Emergency Operations Plan) meeting scheduled for today, following this meeting, is canceled, because the State has not, yet signed the contract. Chief Lord needs to schedule four (4) meetings in May and June, each ninety-(90)-minutes, with the first one with all three (3) Selectmen, and thereafter with only one (1). The significance of the LEOP is that it ties into the Hazard Mitigation Plan (which makes the Town eligible for grant funding), it identifies a succession plan, and is renewed every five (5) years. He wanted to schedule the next meeting following the next 8:00 am Selectmen's meeting on May 17th.

Building Inspector, Code Compliance, Health Officer Monthly Report – Mark Sikorski:

M. Sikorski presented his monthly report and said that building activity is increasing due to the Spring season. He said that he was at 12 Frying Pan Lane, on a site review, and there are four (4) trees on the front of the property that may need to be added to the list for tree work by the Town and/or Unitil. He continued that one is dead and hanging over the street, and three (3) others need limbing. All trees are located between the stone wall and the street. Chairman Beattie asked R. Webb to add those trees to the list to be considered at the Planning Board's scheduled Site Walk the next morning by the Planning Board and Unitil.

M. Sikorski reported a code enforcement issue on Weare Road that was brought to his attention by a neighbor regarding a significant wetland intrusion with an overburden of commercial storage, so he is beginning the enforcement process. Chairman Beattie asked if the State was aware of the violation, and M. Sikorski responded that he will be filing a report with the State as part of the process.

OLD BUSINESS

Financial Reports: General Fund Balance: \$1,474,390.11: K. Anderson reported the General Fund balance at \$1,474,390.11 and said that she received an email from the Treasurer yesterday stating that the current manifest balance is \$790,000. She continued that the Assessor is working to complete the tax bill process so that the Town is looking to have the tax bills to residents within two to three weeks, so that the Town will have revenue coming in again as a result. K. Anderson continued that the LAS School payment will be held back until more cash is available as that is a payment of over \$500,000. She reported that at the end of the first quarter, with a target of twenty-five-percent-(25%), the budget is at twenty-three-percent-(23%) so the accounts are in good shape.

M. Lane asked K. Anderson for clarification about the LAS School check request, specifically how far ahead is the check requested? K. Anderson explained that the school takes their approved budget and divides it into twelve (12) payments, and she works with the School Treasurer Karen Ayers, to let her know that the Town needs to adjust their payments a partial amount.

The payment for Winnacunnet is only \$150,000 so that can usually stay on schedule. Chairman Beattie said that he went through the Expenditure Report and that it was nice to see the percent

FINAL

spent to date, and K. Anderson responded that she added the previous year column for comparison purposes, and Chairman Beattie said that it was very helpful and appreciated.

Executive: Payroll Warrant, Accounts Payable, and Escrow Warrants: K. Anderson presented the following Warrants for approval by the Selectmen: Payroll Warrant #599 dated April 13, 2023, in the amount of \$33,921.80; Accounts Payable Warrant #838 dated April 13, 2023, in the amount of \$782,745.83 (includes the school payment); and Escrow Warrant #28 dated April 13, 2023, in the amount of \$9,382.90.

MOTION: To approve Payroll Warrant #599 dated April 13, 2023, in the amount of \$33,921.80; Accounts Payable Warrant #838 dated April 13, 2023, in the amount of \$782,745.83; and Escrow Warrant #28 dated April 13, 2023, in the amount of \$9,382.90.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

Revaluation: Chad Roberge, Assessor with Avitar, and Ben Lafond, NH Department of Revenue District Supervisor, presented a review of the Revaluation and Assessment Review process and timeline, schedule and procedures as a required “kick-off” meeting. B. Lafond said that he would be checking files for credits, exemptions, current use, etc. K. Anderson said that she completed all the recertifications for all the Elderly and Veteran’s exemptions files, and they are ready to be inspected. B. Lafond said that himself and staff would examine the files and make a report within a year.

In terms of the Revaluation, B. Lafond stated that as of April 01, 2022, that the ratio of assessments to market value was sixty-five-percent-(65%), and that it is possibly lower than that now a year later. He said that values do not change consistently as commercial may increase by 20%, whereas single-family-residential may go up 40%.

C. Roberge explained the revaluation process that he will verify sales up until March 2023. There will be some data correction to the files to match the sketches to what is on the ground, while conversion to a different methodology is utilized than the prior vendor, for example added categories include riverfront, waterfront, marsh, and views. The review is anticipated to be complete by mid-May with preliminary notices in June, and hearings in July for residents’ questions.

Chairman Beattie asked if attributes were being added to the revaluation methodology, and the response was yes. C. Roberge said that the Revaluation method is different and comprehensive. B. Lafond stated that the method will be defined in the USPAP Report generated by Avitar once the revaluation is complete. The State will review to make sure all components are included. He asked if a Data Collection Manual is available to the Town? K. Anderson responded that she had not seen one, so C. Roberge said that he would get one to the Town. B. Lafond said that the Data Collection Manual can be useful to assist answering questions posed by the public. B. Lafond asked C. Roberge if there was going to be a Field Review and if there was going to be any public relations or promotion about it. K. Anderson said that there have been a number of informational pieces in the Town Newsletters and on the Town’s Website to get the word out to the public. B.

FINAL

Lafond stated that the Field Reviews are done by car, without an employee exiting the vehicle, so he said that the Town may get questions about that activity. B. Lafond confirmed that there is no Bond required.

B. Lafond explained that Avitar inspects all of the sales, and then the State follows and completes a sampling of twelve (12) of those sales, by sending post cards in advance of their visit giving the property owner notice.

C. Roberge explained that he anticipates older homes to receive more appreciation with this revaluation than last time, because older homes were more depreciated in 2017 and 2018, the depreciation model for analysis is different now, and also because of the real estate market with supply and demand that now older homes may be appreciated at higher values than previously.

Chairman Beattie said that this is one thing that people pay attention to because it affects their wallets, and because it is a source of revenue for taxes. C. Roberge said that the spectrum for value has gotten closer together due to demand. K. Anderson stated that the purpose of the Revaluation is make sure that the tax impact is equitable. She said that generally 10% of people will pay more in taxes, 10% will pay less, and 80% will pay a similar amount, and the revaluation realigns the equity of properties in town.

M. Lane asked C. Roberge about when residents receive their new assessed values, will they also receive any comparable data to give them context about how the rest of the real estate market did? C. Roberge responded saying that the letters are generated per property, but that there is not the capability to provide an analysis to generate a ratio for each property. He said that he thought the letter would include the Town's changed value, as a whole. K. Anderson said that there would be links so that residents can look up whatever property in town to compare. M. Lane said that most people want to know if they are paying more or less, so residents want to understand how much their house went up compared to the average in town.

Chairman Beattie said that the Selectmen receive monthly reports of property transfers in Hampton Falls, so they are aware of the price differences between assessed value and sales prices. He asked what number the State was aiming to achieve with the revaluation? He continued that the last time the revaluation was completed the values were less than 90% when the study was done, and he wondered if it was being done right. B. Lafond stated that the goal is to get to 100% market value. Chairman Beattie stated that today properties in Hampton Falls are valued at 63% of market value, and C. Roberge stated that when the revaluation is done it will be at 100%.

Chairman Beattie asked which tax bill will be affected by the new revaluation values, and the response was the November 2023 tax bill. B. Lafond asked if there will be informal hearings available to meet with the Assessor, and C. Roberge responded yes, in late June and early July. B. Lafond said that the State monitors and observes those hearings. C. Roberge said that the USPAP report would be available around August 1st.

FINAL

B. Lafond asked how are people notified of their right to an abatement, and the response was that the information is on the back of the tax bill. B. Lafond stated that there are three approaches to value, namely, 1) cost, 2) sales, and 3) income, that is mostly used for commercial properties. He asked if there was any commercial property in Hampton Falls, and C. Roberge responded that there is quite a bit along Route 1 but nothing that will require an income approach, as it is mostly warehouse-type uses. B. Lafond said that the process will change all the neighborhoods, the depreciation tables, land curves, out buildings, etc. C. Roberge said that all of the data will be available online, so that residents can examine it ahead of deciding whether they want to schedule a hearing to discuss their revaluation. He also stated that the manual descriptions will be available on Avitar's website for anyone to research.

B. Lafond asked who was going to be valuing the Utilities, and the response was Avitar. B. Lafond asked if there were any Special Uses in Hampton Falls, like an amusement park or manufacturing plants, and C. Roberge responded that there is a campground, but that Avitar would be valuing that use.

Contractually, the schedule requires completion of the revaluation by August 31st and the MS-1 submitted to DRA for September 2023.

Sale of Rescue 5 pick-up Fire Vehicle– Sealed Bids: K. Anderson described that this is the surplus Rescue 5 pick-up Fire Vehicle that the Selectmen decided to sell at sealed bid last month, that has been sitting in the parking lot. The four (4) bids received were opened by Chairman Beattie. K. Anderson stated that the revenue received from the sale of the truck will go into the General Fund to offset taxes. The bids received were:

#	Name of Person/Company Bidding & Location	Amount of Bid	DECISION
A	MMS Northeast, Inc., Hampton Falls	\$2,600.00	Deny
B	Jeff Newcomb, Hampton Falls	\$1,000.00	Deny
C	Russ Hilliard, Hampton Falls	\$3,501.10	Accept
D	Asian Auto Services, Plaistow	\$2,632.12	Deny

MOTION: To approve the sale of Rescue 5 as surplus equipment to Russ Hilliard, in the amount of \$3,501.10. Vehicle to be towed from lot within seven (7) days, as noted in the bid specifications.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

Brush Dump Fence Bid: K. Anderson reported that one (1) bid was received for the fencing at the Brush Dump (along Drinkwater Road) from Central Fence of Hampton Falls in the amount of \$9,066 for stockade, or \$10,855 for black chain link. M. Lane asked if this was for a smaller area than the first bids previously received last year, and the response was yes, this was just for Drinkwater Road, and a little bit on Parsonage Road. All the Selectmen expressed their surprise that the metal fence bid was more expensive than the wood fence, and all agreed that a wood fence was what was needed at that location, as the purpose of erecting a fence there was to screen from sight the views into the Brush Dump from Drinkwater Road. L. Gargiulo asked if the proposed four-(4')-foot height was tall enough? R. Hilliard described that due to the existing

FINAL

slope up, along Drinkwater Road, with the fence to be located on top of the existing high ground, a four-(4') high fence will work. The proposal is for a four-foot (4') fence a distance of one-hundred-and-thirty-feet (130'). When the fence gets closer to the corner, and the ground slopes down, the fence height is proposed to be five-(5')-feet high for a distance of thirty-five-feet (35'), and continue around the corner a distance of twelve-feet (12') to the gate. L. Gargiulo asked where the money is coming from to fund this proposed project, and K. Anderson responded the Town Improvement Capital Reserve Fund, and there is an adequate balance in that fund.

MOTION: To move forward with Central Fencing proposal at the Brush Dump in the amount of \$9,066 for stockade cedar fencing.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: E. BEATTIE

Discussion: M. Lane asked R. Hilliard if the trees along Drinkwater Road would be impacted by the fence installation, or if the trees needed to be cleaned up to accommodate the fence? R. Hilliard explained the proposed location of the fencing between the trees and the concrete wall. M. Lane asked if there would be room to plant additional shrubs in front of the fence in the future, and R. Hilliard said yes. M. Lane asked about the maintenance costs of a cedar fence, and L. Gargiulo stated that you can water seal them but they typically last ten to fifteen years.

UNANIMOUS

Use of Frying Pan Lane Fund – Recreation Container: K. Anderson stated that based on the Board's direction she checked with The NH Charitable Trust (NHCT) who referred her to the Terms of Award for the Frying Pan Lane Fund which states that the expenses covered would be for charitable purposes with the specific fund purpose language as: *"The Purpose of this Designated Fund is to support the Town of Hampton Falls in the areas of the donors' interest which includes: historic preservation, literacy, conservation, patriotic activities, town beautification and arts and cultural activities"*. K. Anderson continued that the storage container has been paid for with funds from the Recreation Commission Revolving Fund, and the storage container is scheduled to be delivered today. L. Gargiulo asked where the storage container was going to be located, and K. Anderson responded at Governor Weare Park along the fence and it will be shielded to make it look attractive. She said that the storage container will provide the opportunity to consolidate storage of Recreation Commission equipment that is currently housed in various people's garages and basements, such as: holiday lights, solo stoves, and equipment that has been used, and it is going to be put into the padlocked storage container. K. Anderson continued that Jason Farias is going to donate labor to fix up and re-grade the parking lot, replace the wood barrier going onto the fields (the Town will supply the materials), and improve the appearance of the shed, to make the whole area more attractive. L. Gargiulo asked if Arborvitaes could be planted in front of the storage shed, and K. Anderson responded that she believed the plan was to paint and to install some fencing to screen the storage container. Chairman Beattie thanked Jason Farias for his efforts, and that it was never a question of need. He continued that it is a good use of the money raised over time by some other people present, to improve that area.

Other Selectmen's Old Business: There was no Other Selectmen's Business.

FINAL

OLD BUSINESS PUBLIC COMMENT: There was no Old Business Public Comment.

NEW BUSINESS

Newsletter Review: K. Anderson requested the Selectmen's approval of the current draft of the May-June 2023 Town-Library-School Newsletter for distribution. She said that there is a lot of information in the Newsletter about the Solid Waste Days and what the Town will accept, and how to get a Brush Dump Sticker and pre-pay with the Town Clerk. She continued that there is also an article about the Revaluation.

MOTION: To approve the release of the May/June 2023 Newsletter.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

Notice of Lien Execution: The Tax Collector has reported that she has executed liens for unpaid 2022 taxes as of April 12, 2023, in the total amount of \$63,124.29 including interest and fees. The Notice of Lien Execution applies to twenty-five (25) different property owners. The Selectmen acknowledged receipt of the Lien Notice.

Merge Liberty Elm and Town Improvement Accounts: The Liberty Elm Tree project was put together by the Town Improvement Committee as part of the Tricentennial. The tree project is complete and the Town Improvement Committee is now "ad hoc" and will meet if and when necessary. In order to consolidate accounts, K. Anderson proposed that the two (2) funds be merged into one Town Improvement Fund. The \$5,618.48 balance of the Liberty Tree Fund would be merged with the \$660.95 balance in the Town Improvement Fund and would be available, to not only take care of the Liberty Elm Trees if needed, but also for other Town Improvements. There is a Maple tree on the Town Common that an Arborist should evaluate, as one example. K. Anderson said that the Town is trying to simplify the number of separate accounts, and the Selectmen all agreed with that approach.

MOTION: To approve the merger of the Liberty Elm Tree Fund with the Town Improvement Fund into one Town Improvement Fund.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

Use of Town Hall Meeting Room: K. Anderson presented a proposal for the Lincoln Akerman School (LAS) to use the Town Hall Meeting Room for the 7th & 8th Grade school dance on June 8th, 2023, as they did last year. She said that last year, the event was successful and LAS left the Meeting Room exactly as it was before they started. Chairman Beattie said that he thought this year is one of the largest classes at LAS at 32 students.

MOTION: To approve the use of the Town Hall Meeting Room for the LAS School Dance, on June 8th, 2023.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

FINAL

Use of Bandstand – Friends of Bandstand / Cool Wheels: K. Anderson presented the Hampton Falls Friends of the Bandstand's proposal for twelve (12) concerts being planned for the 2023 season, with four (4) having the Cool Wheels at the same time. Thursdays, June 22 to August 24th from 5:30 PM – 8:00 PM with two special events Sat., July 22nd from 2-5 PM and September 10th from 1-3 PM.

In the past, the Friends of the Bandstand paid for an additional Porta-Pot during the concert season. With the Town taking over from the Recreation Commission the management of the Town property, the Town has ordered the second facility during the time of the concerts at the cost of \$510.00. If the Selectmen want to establish a fee for the use of the Town Common by the Friends of the Bandstand, the \$510.00 is the specific expense that the Town incurs for the events and had previously been paid for by the non-profit organization. The minutes from the Selectmen's October 5th, 2022, when the Board previously discussed establishing fees were provided to the Selectmen in advance of the meeting, for context. The Friends of the Bandstand is not part of the Recreation Commission, they are a separate 501-C-3 organization.

MOTION: To approve the use of the Town Common for the Summer Concert Series contingent on receipt of the Insurance Certificate, and to waive the \$510.00 fee for the 2023 concert series.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

Discussion: Both Chairman Beattie and M. Lane agreed for the need to establish a fee schedule for the use of the Town Common.

UNANIMOUS

Elderly Exemption: K. Anderson reported that one (1) application has been received for an elderly exemption. The resident qualifies based on age, assets, and income. Map 2 / Lot 87

Veterans Credits: Two (2) applications have been received for 100% Disabled Veterans Credits – the applicants qualify based on years of service and proof of 100% Service-Related Disability.

MOTION: To approve the Elderly Exemption for: Map 2 / Lot 87.; and, to approve the two (2) Veteran's credits for Map 4 / Lot 2 -1A.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

NEW BUSINESS PUBLIC COMMENT: Lyn Stan and Karen Sabatini spoke on behalf of the Hampton Falls Friends of the Bandstand, to request permission to dispose of the antiquated 2001 sound system, that is no longer used. L. Stan stated that when the Town accepted the donated equipment it was stated that if the Friends of the Bandstand Committee ever dissolves, that the system should revert back to the Town. L. Stan stated that it was originally purchased for \$5,000 and was donated to the Town by Pam Fitzgerald. K. Anderson said that she thought it appropriate to request the Selectmen decide on the disposition of the old sound system.

MOTION: To approve the disposal of the old sound equipment by the Friends of the Bandstand.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

FINAL

UNANIMOUS

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: April 5, 2023

MOTION: To approve the minutes of April 5, 2023 as written.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

NON-PUBLIC SESSION:

Motion to enter Nonpublic Session made by L. GARGIULO seconded by M. LANE.

Specific Statutory Reason cited as foundation for the nonpublic session:

RSA 91-A:3, II, Personnel. *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.*

Roll Call vote to enter nonpublic session:	E. Beattie, Chairman	YES
	L. Gargiulo, Vice-Chairman	YES
	M. Lane, Selectman	YES

Motion: PASSED

Selectmen Present: E.B. Beattie, Chair; L. Gargiulo, Vice-Chair; M. Lane, Selectman

Other persons present during nonpublic session, Non-voting: Karen Anderson, Town Administrator.

Entered nonpublic session at 9:37AM.

General description of matters discussed and final decisions made: The Board discussed departmental succession planning.

Motion to leave nonpublic session and return to public session by L. GARGIULO, seconded by M. LANE.

Motion: PASSED

Public session reconvened at 9:55 AM.

ADJOURNMENT:

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 9:56 AM.

MOTION: L. GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

VOTE: UNANIMOUS

Next Selectmen's Meeting is Wednesday, May 03rd, 2023, at 6:00 PM.

Minutes prepared by Rachel Webb, Assistant Administrator.