

FINAL

PRESENT: L. Gargiulo, Chairman; M. R. Lane, Vice Chairman; E. B. Beattie, Selectman;
L. A. Ruest, Town Administrator; R. Webb, Town Secretary

PRESENTATION OF THE BOSTON POST CANE

Selectman L. Gargiulo explained that The Boston Post Cane is a tradition begun in 1909 by Boston Post Newspaper owner Edward Grozier. The oldest male citizen, and later female citizens, were awarded the ebony cane with 14 karat gold crowns. This original cane can be viewed in the hallway of the Hampton Falls Town Hall.

The current recipient of the Boston Post Cane, Robert (Bob) Perkins, was born in 1928 and has lived all of his life in the same homestead on Kensington Road. When Bob was a young boy, the Town population was 491. His brother and three sisters stayed close to home growing up until his uncle gave them bicycles. From that time on they had the ability and freedom to travel all over town. Bob sold magazines and Christmas cards on his bicycle. He attended the two-room East School House in Hampton falls with six children in his class. He later went on to the Bentley School of Accounting, traveling to Boston daily on the old steam engines. Bob has remained active in town as Treasurer of the Grange, Hampton Falls Historical Society, and the Helen Batchelder Scholarship Committee.

In 1930, women were included in this elite membership. Here, in Hampton Falls, we have a long-standing member of our community, Teresa D. Hay, who is our oldest woman at the age of 99!! Teresa is grateful for this recognition, but is more reticent and preferred a quiet acceptance of this significant honor. Likewise, she acknowledged that she would like Bob Perkins to retain the cane!! Our heartfelt congratulations to both Teresa and Bob.

Photos were taken of the Boston Post Cane recipient, Robert (Bob) Perkins, together with the three Selectmen, in the Town Hall meeting room.

E. Beattie made a motion for the Town to send flowers to Teresa Hay in recognition of her attainment of the age of 99, and in lieu of her decision to not attend the meeting to accept her honor in person.

MOTION: To send flowers, from the Town, to Teresa Hay in recognition of attaining the age of 99, in honor of her achievement of the Boston Post Cane award.

MOTION: E. BEATTIE

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

CLAY BROOK FOREST CONSERVATION EASEMENT

James Kibler, 9 Toppan Lane, expressed gratitude to the Town, specifically to the Board of Selectmen, Lori Ruest Town Administrator, and Mary Ann Hill Chair of the Conservation Commission, for all of their help and support and for everything they have done to facilitate the preservation of 30.36 acres of forest through the purchase of the Clay Brook Forest Conservation Easement. There have been multiple sources of funding, namely: The Forest Society, LCHIP, DES, and private Donors who have all contributed to finalize the purchase, which is scheduled to close on May 27th.

L. Gargiulo thanked J. Kibler for bringing the community together to preserve the land.

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M.A. Hill thanked J. Kibler for making the initiative to preserve the property, especially due to the interesting wildlife and various species throughout the acreage. Beverly Mutrie inquired if J. Kibler knew how Clay Brook Forest got its name, and he responded that it was because the Clay Brook ran through the property, but he said that he was going to try to find out about the origin of the naming of Clay Brook. The signing of the Conservation Easement document by the Selectmen and the Conservation Commission Chair occurred, and J. Kibler announced that they will be having an event to celebrate in the next few weeks, and will notify the Town when that is scheduled.

MARSH LANE PRESERVE

The Conservation Commission requested that the Board of Selectmen sign a letter to the abutter of the Marsh Lane Preserve requesting permission to grant access to the property to conduct a survey to locate a fence on Town property.

MOTION: To sign the letter to the abutter of the Marsh Lane Preserve, requesting permission to grant access to the property to conduct a survey to locate a fence on Town property.

MOTION: E. BEATTIE

SECOND: M. LANE

UNANIMOUS

SUMMER INTERNSHIP WITH CONSERVATION COMMISSION

The Conservation Commission requested that the Board of Selectmen appoint Taylor Foley to the Summer Internship position with the Conservation Commission for Summer 2021.

MOTION: To appoint Taylor Foley to the Summer Internship position with the Conservation Commission for Summer 2021.

MOTION: E. BEATTIE

SECOND: M. LANE

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ASSESSOR'S REPORT – EQUALIZATION

Assessor Chad Roberge presented five bar charts representing a timeline of 10/01/2020 to 09/30/2021, with 04/01/2021 as the half-way point of the year. He focused on the chart labeled “Median A/S Ratio by Sale Price” and noted the regressive trend line. He said that the Price Related Differential (PRD) is 1.01, where a value of 1.0 would be absolutely perfect. The State deems this within the reasonable range, and that it is not a problem currently. C. Roberge noted that he will be watching this in the future for any changes to that ratio, during the second half of the year. Additionally, the Town will be doing a revaluation in 2023.

E. Beattie raised the concern he has heard from residents of properties of modest, single-level homes, such as Ranch-style homes, that their property values have increased at a disproportionately higher rate of 20 to 30 percent more than expensive properties at the top end of the continuum. C. Roberge responded that it is tough to compare equalization rates of five-years ago to now and assume that all trends have stayed the same. The most accurate comparisons are to compare comparable sales values. There have only been 23 sales since October 2020, on which the data is based, in the charts presented. M. Lane asked for clarification on the Coefficient of Dispersion, and C. Roberge responded that there is a

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Standard Deviation of 10 in the calculation. Additionally, he stated that the assessment should not change unless there is a physical change to the property or a physical error.

ROAD AGENT – CORE SERVICES/INVOICE MONTHLY REPORT

R. Hilliard summarized the monthly report for April. The Board reviewed and approved the April invoice.

MOTION: To approve the Invoice from the Road Agent for Core Services for the month of April in the amount of \$5,198.63.

MOTION: M. LANE

SECOND: E. BEATTIE

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KING STREET AND CURTIS ROAD CULVERT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

L. Ruest opened the two (2) proposals received in response to the RFP issued by the Town for the King Street and Curtis Road Culverts. Jamco Excavations, submitted one proposal, and BCK Excavation, submitted the second proposal.

Company Name & Location	Jamco Excavations 84 Exeter Rd South Hampton, NH	BCK Excavation 688 Exeter Rd Hampton, NH
King St Culvert Town has purchased culvert being delivered next week	\$101,770	\$112,170
Curtis Rd Culvert	\$138,899	\$157,970
TOTAL	\$240,669	\$270,140

R. Hilliard stated that he is familiar with both companies who submitted bids, and that both are capable. The Town is purchasing the King Street culvert, whereas the contractors included the cost of the culvert for Curtis Road in their proposal. L. Ruest stated that the Town had estimated the cost for each culvert at \$200,000, and the RFPs came in lower than estimated. E. Beattie stated the importance of knowing how soon each of the companies could start the work, as this affects the Selectmen's decision of which proposal to choose. R. Hilliard will contact each to see how soon they could schedule and start the work. He also reminded the Selectmen that the Town needs to wait for the approval from the State prior to ordering the Curtis Road culvert.

Request will be made of the Town Engineer to compare the two proposals to make sure they are comparable, and include similar elements. Then call for a Work Session next week to be able to make a decision subject to the Engineer's review.

**NON-EMERGENCY HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT PROJECT WORKSHEET (BEAVER
LEVELER)**

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R. Hilliard presented a request to install a large beaver leveler at Blake/Curtis location for a projected cost of \$1,600. He stated that there is already one located onsite, but he would install a larger one. This project relates to safety and accessibility for installation of the Curtis Road culvert.

MOTION: To install a large beaver leveler at Blake/Curtis location for a projected cost of \$1,600.

MOTION: E. BEATTIE

SECOND: M. LANE

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2021 HIGHWAY PROJECTS WORKSHEET (SCHEDULE WORK SESSION)

The Selectmen decided to postpone scheduling a Work Session until they know the answers to when the two companies (who submitted proposals) could start the work, so that the Selectmen can make a decision on whom to award the contract to.

FIRE CHIEF, AMBULANCE, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT – MONTHLY REPORT

The Board acknowledged the report from the Chief Lord.

POLICE CHIEF, ANIMAL CONTROL – MONTHLY REPORT

The Board acknowledged the report from the Chief Dirsä.

BUILDING INSPECTOR, CODE COMPLIANCE, HEALTH OFFICER – MONTHLY REPORT

L. Gargiulo asked if there were any questions regarding the Building Inspector's monthly report, and there were none. The Selectmen accepted the Building Inspector's report, with no questions.

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORTS OF BOOKKEEPER, TREASURER, TAX COLLECTOR**
- 2. ROUTE 1 CORRIDOR STUDY PUBLIC HEARING, MAY 20, 2021, 6 PM, TOWN HALL**

The Board acknowledged the items in the Consent Agenda for April 2021.

OLD BUSINESS

FINANCIAL REPORTS - GENERAL FUND BALANCE \$134,228.88

**ACCOUNTS PAYABLE/PAYROLL/TREASURER/TRUSTEES OF TRUST FUNDS
WARRANT(S)**

Bookkeeper	Payroll Warrant # 541	\$22,590.31
	Accounts Payable Warrant #769	\$932,072.89

MOTION: To approve the warrants as presented above.

MOTION: M. LANE

SECOND: E. BEATTIE

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PAINTING OF THE INTERIOR AND COLUMNS AT THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY MUSEUM

Tracie Beattie presented information verbally regarding the work at the Historical Society. She stated that the Carpenter has completed his work regarding the decking and the columns. There is a plan to paint the interior of the building as well as the exterior columns. The Historical Society signed a contract with a painter from Amesbury in the amount of \$10,600 for painting the interior of the building. T. Beattie said that the building will need to be completely emptied in order to complete the painting project, and she may explore involving some 8th grade students to help with that project. E. Beattie stated that the goal is to ready the building to be able to host Tricentennial events by next summer July/August 2022. T. Beattie asked if the Selectmen need a copy of the contract signed with the painter and L. Ruest responded, yes. L. Ruest said that the columns only have primer paint on them and need to be painted. The carpenter suggested that the painter be asked if she could also, please complete the painting of the exterior columns. L. Ruest inquired if Certificates of Insurance have been collected for the various vendors anticipated, namely, the painter, moving company, floor refinisher. T. Beattie responded that all of the companies are insured.

ROUTE 1 CORRIDOR STUDY – SELECTMAN LANE REPORT

Mark Lane reported that there is a Public Information Meeting scheduled for May 20, 2021 at Town Hall at 6:30 PM to begin community discussions concerning the Route One Corridor Study. He said the Committee has met once to identify where the traffic is, and what are the problems. He said that everyone wants to discuss specific solutions, however premature, as the information needs to be gathered first, before solutions are identified. One of the biggest questions or challenges for the Study will be how to improve the roadway width, without impacting the Town Common. M. Lane stated that the Study Committee is scheduled to complete their work by November 2021.

OTHER SELECTMEN'S OLD BUSINESS

There was no Other Selectmen's Old Business at this time.

OLD BUSINESS PUBLIC COMMENT

T. Beattie thanked L. Gargiulo for presenting the Boston Post Cane recognition to Robert (Bob) Perkins, and to Theresa D. Hay.

NEW BUSINESS

SELECTMEN'S SUMMER MEETING SCHEDULE

L. Gargiulo proposed that the July and August meetings be limited to 07/21 and 08/18, although the Board may need to schedule some work sessions regarding the culvert work, to be determined. E. Beattie commented to keep the June meeting dates as they stand currently. All of the Selectmen agreed to the proposed Summer Meeting Schedule.

DEPUTY TOWN CLERK/TAX COLLECTOR – JOB DESCRIPTION

The revised job description was presented to the Selectmen by L. Ruest.

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MOTION: To approve the job description for the Deputy Town Clerk/Tax Collector, as presented.

MOTION: M. LANE

SECOND: E. BEATTIE

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TRICENTENNIAL COMMITTEE MEMBER APPOINTMENTS

Two residents expressed interest in Volunteering with the Tricentennial Committee, namely, Linda Keene and Linda Savoy.

MOTION: To appoint Linda Keene and Linda Savoy to the Tricentennial Committee.

MOTION: M. LANE

SECOND: E. BEATTIE

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HAMPTON FALLS SCHOOL BOARD – SPRING 2021 NEWSLETTER

L. Gargiulo stated that the Selectmen do not need to review the School Board's newsletter prior to having the Town send it out, utilizing the Town's E-Subscriber list, contrary to the direction of 05/05/2021. M. Lane and E. Beattie agreed with L. Gargiulo. Greg Parish, Chair of the School Board said that the Lincoln Akerman School is the Town's biggest asset, and they want to reach out to as many residents as possible via their quarterly newsletter. He thanked the Town for agreeing to send out the School Board's newsletter. L. Gargiulo reminded G. Parish that the purpose of the newsletter is to inform the public, and that around election times that no political advertisement nor political statements can be included in the newsletter. R. Webb confirmed that the Spring 2021 Hampton Falls School Board newsletter was posted.

SELECTMEN'S PERMIT APPLICATION – BAND CONCERTS 2021

The Selectmen considered the Permit Application for twelve (12) band Concerts on the Town Common from the Friends of the Hampton Falls Bandstand.

MOTION: To authorize the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen to sign the Selectmen's Permit Application for the Band Concerts 2021.

MOTION: E. BEATTIE

SECOND: M. LANE

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OTHER SELECTMEN'S NEW BUSINESS

- 1) L. Ruest discussed the Tax Warrant, totaling \$5,255,367, that needs signature of the Board of Selectmen. The tax bills are being mailed next week,

- 2) Request for extensions of service – Liquor Commission (Orchard Grille)

The Board found no objection for approval as outlined in the email request for the extension of Service for the Applecrest Festivals.

MOTION: To approve the request for extension of service for the Orchard Grille at 133 Exeter Road at Applecrest Farm, pending input from the two Chiefs.

MOTION: L.GARGIULO

SECOND: M. LANE

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
TOWN OF HAMPTON FALLS**

**MAY 19, 2021 – 6:00 PM
TOWN HALL**

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- 3) Part-Time Bookkeeper position: L. Gargiulo agreed to meet with the candidate.

NEW BUSINESS PUBLIC COMMENT

No Comments were heard at this time.

REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES: May 5, 2021.

MOTION: To approve the minutes of the May 5, 2021 Selectmen's meeting as written.

MOTION: M. LANE

SECOND: E. BEATTIE

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PUBLIC COMMENT No comments were heard at this time.

ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: To adjourn the meeting at 7:45 PM.

MOTION: E. BEATTIE

SECOND: M. LANE

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Next Selectmen's Meeting – Wednesday June 2, 2021, 6:00 PM, Town Hall