Town of Stratford
Board of Selectboard Meeting
Fuller Town Hall @ 3:30 PM
June 29, 2026

Call to Order: 3:30PM by Harry Juergens

Selectmen present: Harry Juergens and Ron Scott, Jr, Charlie Goulet
Others present: Suzanne Goulet, Vanessa Toner, Celia Mockler, Maryanne Lister, Brian Hays, Chuck Stinson, Mario Audit

Maryann/Celia/Mario: The Select Board met with residents and the towns Dog Officer/ Health Officer, Mario Audit to discuss ongoing concerns regarding a neighboring property where a large number of dogs are being kept and where residents believe additional animals may soon be housed. Residents expressed concerns about frequent and prolonged barking, particularly during nighttime hours, which they stated has disrupted their ability to enjoy their homes and affected their quality of life. They also reported strong odors that they believe are originating from the property and expressed concern that the addition of more animals could further increase the nuisance. During the discussion, residents questioned whether the number of animals being kept on the property complied with state regulations and asked what authority the Town has to address the situation. Concerns were also raised regarding the welfare of the animals, whether the property owner is residing on the property full-time, and whether the property has adequate utilities to properly care for the animals. The Board explained that New Hampshire law does not establish a maximum number of dogs a person may own and that the Town currently has no ordinance limiting the number of animals on a property. The Board further explained that enforcement action cannot be based solely on complaints and that documented evidence is required before the Town or other agencies can take formal action. The Select Board encouraged all affected residents to maintain detailed written logs documenting dates, times, duration, and nature of any excessive barking, odors, or other disturbances. Residents were also advised that signed statements from multiple neighbors would help establish a documented pattern if future action becomes necessary. The Board discussed the potential involvement of the Health Officer if conditions appear to present a public health concern and advised that any concerns regarding animal welfare should be reported to the appropriate animal welfare authorities for investigation. Select Board members stated they would observe the property from public vantage points, where permissible, to better understand the concerns expressed by residents and will continue to monitor the situation as additional documentation is received.

Brian: Updates were provided regarding water system repairs, leaks, meter replacements, service line work, and backflow prevention installations. Several properties were discussed concerning completed and ongoing work, and routine maintenance will continue. Conversations with property owners regarding compliance requirements, including the installation of backflow prevention devices, will be documented. The Select Board discussed a request to pump the septic tank at a property on Spur Road. Following an inspection, Brian reported that the septic system was in poor condition, with an unsafe and deteriorated tank cover, unknown structural integrity, and indications that the system may not be functioning properly. The Board determined that the Town's septic pumping service is intended only for properly functioning residential systems and is not equipped to service failing or hazardous septic systems. Due to the potential liability, the Board directed Brian to advise the property owner to contact a licensed septic contractor for service, as the Town would not perform the pumping. This motion was approved 3-0.

Suzanne: reviewed the upcoming Hazard Mitigation Plan meeting schedule for September 2, 9, 23, and 30 at 5:00 p.m. Board members emphasized the importance of attending these meetings to complete the Town's Hazard Mitigation Plan, which addresses emergency preparedness for natural disasters and other emergencies, including flooding, severe weather, and evacuation planning. The completed plan is necessary to maintain eligibility for certain state and federal emergency management and grant funding opportunities. The Board discussed the need for repairs to the Veterans Monument and agreed to begin seeking a qualified contractor to complete the necessary masonry and concrete restoration work. The process for adding veterans' names to the monument was also reviewed. It was noted that requests must be accompanied by a copy of the veteran's DD214 or other acceptable proof of military service before any names can be approved for inclusion. The Board also reviewed several property maintenance concerns. Complaints were received regarding a property located at 42 Pleasant Valley Road involving reports of possible unauthorized structures and other activities occurring on the property. Board members discussed the complaints and agreed to investigate the matter further to determine whether any local or state regulations are being violated and whether additional action by the Town is warranted.

Select Board:

Juergens: Discussed a request from Bruce Blodgett regarding placing a gate or chain near his property on Mapleton Road. It was noted that Mapleton Road is a Class VI Road from U.S. Route 3 to the railroad crossing, with the railroad right-of-way extending beyond that point. Bruce's property is located on the opposite side of the railroad. The Board reviewed maps and photographs of the area and discussed the location of property boundaries, the railroad right-of-way, and public access. Members agreed that no obstruction could be placed within the Class VI Road or across the railroad's right-of-way, as the railroad must retain access for maintenance and operations. Discussion also included private property rights, posting land against trespassing, and current use considerations. It was generally agreed that, if Bruce chooses to install a chain, it would need to be located entirely on his own property beyond the railroad right-of-way. Board members agreed that those wishing to better understand the location would visit the site. It was also agreed that Chairman Harry Juergens would meet with Bruce to review the property boundaries and discuss the matter before any further action is taken. No formal action was taken by the Board.

Goulet: N/A

Scott: N/A

Manifest: C. Goulet / R. Scott, Jr. approved 2/0 to sign for 5/26/2026, 6/15/26/2026.
Signed between meetings: Letter for playground encroachment to the Kings, Library Reservations for the Month of July for the Library, Building certificate for Walker.
Old Business: N/A

New Business: Signed Documents: Minutes, SM 6/15,

Reminders: N/A
Public Input: N/A
Non- Public: (2)
Meeting Adjourned: 5:45PM
Minutes prepared by: V. Toner