Town of Stratford
Board of Selectboard Meeting
Fuller Town Hall @ 3:30 PM
July 13, 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, Maryanne Lister, Brian Hays, Leah Hart, Chris Caron, Chelsea Petereit

Leah Hart: representing the Society for the Protection of New Hampshire Forests (Forest Society), presented information regarding the proposed acquisition and permanent conservation of approximately 331 acres owned by the Grandmaison Family Trust. Leah explained that the property contains significant wellhead protection areas that contribute to the Town's and surrounding community's drinking water supply. She emphasized that protecting the land from future development would help safeguard groundwater quality, preserve natural filtration, reduce the risk of contamination, and maintain the long-term integrity of these important water resources. The project is being supported in part through drinking water protection grant funding due to the importance of the wellhead protection areas. Leah further explained that, if acquired, the property would remain open to the public for traditional recreational uses, including hiking, hunting, and other non-motorized activities, while continuing to be managed under sustainable forestry practices. Timber harvesting would continue under professionally developed forest management plans, and the Forest Society would continue paying Current Use and timber taxes to the Town. The Board discussed public access, future management of the property, recreational opportunities, and the potential impacts of future development if the land were not permanently protected. Members recognized the benefits of preserving the property for water quality, wildlife habitat, public recreation, and maintaining Stratford's rural character. The Select Board voted to provide a letter of support for the Forest Society's grant application. **This motion was approved 3-0.** A letter of support was drafted by the Town and presented to Leah for inclusion with the Forest Society's grant application.

Maryann Lister: Maryann reviewed several tax-deeded properties involving abandoned and demolished mobile homes. Discussion focused on obtaining written statements from property owners verifying that trailers have been removed or are no longer habitable in order to properly support tax abatement requests. Members discussed processing waivers on delinquent properties while avoiding unnecessary expenses associated with tax searches and certified mailings for structures that no longer exist or are uninhabitable. The Board agreed that obtaining proper documentation from property owners is necessary before any abatements are processed and directed that the required statements be secured.

Brian: Brian provided updates on the Town's water and sewer operations, including ongoing maintenance and infrastructure projects. He reported that work associated with recent water and sewer line installations has been completed and that photographs and project documentation have been retained for Town records. Additional upgrades to sewer infrastructure are continuing as separate projects, including work in the Stevens Terrace area. Discussion followed regarding communication and reporting of completed projects. Board members acknowledged that Brian has remained involved throughout each project, overseeing water and sewer connections, inspections, and contractor coordination.

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 Board also reviewed several property maintenance concerns. Complaints were received regarding a property located at 44 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 were being violated and whether additional action by the Town was warranted. It was noted that the property owner, KMH, has contacted the resident and is working directly with them to address the concerns. The Select Board agreed to allow time for the property owner to resolve the matter and will revisit the property in approximately two weeks to determine whether any updates or improvements have been made before considering further action.

Select Board:

Juergens: Rollin Baldwin application received. **Motion 3-0 to approve**

Goulet: discussed continued concerns regarding the timely receipt of project reports and work logs from the Road Agent. Members agreed that accurate and timely documentation is necessary to properly monitor ongoing projects, maintain records, and keep the Board informed. It was agreed that additional communication with the Road Agent would take place to reinforce reporting expectations and improve the consistency of project updates.

Scott: discussed the signal pole located near the library and reported that a local painter had inquired about repainting the pole. The Board discussed completing the painting before installation of the new railroad crossing sign that is expected to be mounted on the pole once it is received. Members agreed that repainting the pole beforehand would improve its appearance and avoid the need to work around the new sign after installation. Ron agreed to contact the painter to determine his interest in completing the work and to obtain a cost estimate for the project.

Manifest: C. Goulet / R. Scott, Jr. approved 3/0 to sign for 6/26/2026, 7/6/2026.

Signed between meetings: Intent to Cut. ATV grant Bog Road Change of scope permission. Email from K. Loiselle, Oath for planning board R. Scott, notice to look at trees that need to be trimmed. Event Permit for Butterfly release.

Old Business: N/A

New Business: Signed Documents: Minutes, SM 6/29,

Reminders: The Board also reviewed upcoming Planning Board and Hazard Mitigation meetings and discussed recent severe weather events affecting the region, emphasizing the importance of continued emergency preparedness planning.

Public Input: N/A
Non- Public: N/A
Meeting Adjourned: 5:30PM
Minutes prepared by: V. Toner