

Town of Northumberland

Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes (draft)

Date: Monday, July 18, 2022

Place: Town Meeting Room – 10 Station Square

Time: 6:00 P.M.

During the meeting wearing of masks is encouraged for all individuals

Selectmen Present: Keith Bronson Chairman, Jim Tierney, Bill Caron

Others Present: Tammy Letson, Nancy Mellow, James Gibson, Sean Durkin, Al Rossetto, Louise Collins, Sue Hartley, Brian Davenport, Terry Hartley, Norm Cotter, Pete Marshall, Courtney McLain, Dr. Ronna Hasbrouck, Judy Fox, Peter J. Pelletier, Lt. William Daisey, Kathy Frechette, Samantha Gray-Young

1. Chairman opens the meeting:

Keith opened meeting at 6:00

2. Acceptance of Minutes:

JT motion WB second all agreed to accept prior meeting minutes

3. Department Head Business: Ambulance and Police Depts.

Jim Gibson – Gibson gives report for Ambulance. 268 calls to date. Down from last year's 271. The new system gives more control over calls to determine if Ambulance is the right department to take the call.

Comstar report will not be available until Wednesday.

The free state class for EMS has two new enrollments. From the previous free class, we gained another licensed tech.

Ambulances are up to date. Still clearing out the old ambulance.

Pete – Since the last meeting there have been 225 calls for service, 3 crash investigations, 12 arrests and 33 car stops which is lower than last year.

There was a track incident where an officer felt he needed assistance. There were multiple disturbances for which a single officer was not enough. Multiple agencies, which included 3 State Troopers, 1 Officer from Twin Mountain, 1 from Berlin and 2 from Whitefield responded and assisted in bring the disturbances under control and helping people leave. Social Media posts about that night are implying it was simply a traffic jam and the police were not needed. Chief Pelletier stressed it was NOT just a traffic jam. The disturbances were enough that the officer onsite felt things were escalating rapidly and therefore put out a call for assistance. Pete Marshall thanked the multiple agencies for coming. He witnessed part of the disturbance and has seen such situations get very out of hand in the past. He also felt the large turnout of officers was a necessity. Chief stated that due to the incident, the track has agreed to have two officers on special detail moving forward instead of just one. Pete Marshall was glad there was a call for backup.

There were questions regarding the fireworks ordinance. It was explained that we are looking at updating the fireworks ordinance, but as the current one was voted in at town meeting, the Board would most likely not be able to adopt a new ordinance outside of town meeting. It was requested that Tammy reach out to the Fire Chief, who currently approves fireworks permits, and ask him to include an onsite visit to verify there is enough space away from neighboring homes and vehicles before issuing the permit.

Kathy Frechette stated there was a loose dog in the Rich Street vicinity. Chief will investigate.

Keith Bronson asked Chief how many active cases the police department is currently working on. Chief knew of 12-18 cases but believed there are more that are with the officers that have not made it to Chief's desk yet.

Sean Durkin asked about gun ranges and the allowed hours of operations. As they are privately owned, the Town cannot regulate them, but the disorderly actions ordinance may be able to assist with curtailing their use during inappropriate hours.

Courtney McLain asked questions regarding why the police allowed someone to sleep in the little ballfield when the park ordinance states the park is closed between 9 pm and 6 am. During the conversation Courtney McLain also asked why the replying officer was driving a vehicle with an expired motor vehicle registration. The matter of the person in the park was explained as the responding officer, who has had prior interaction with the person, felt he would not cause harm to the public nor was he the type to leave garbage and / or paraphernalia behind him. He also did not have any family or friends in the area to go to. The individual could not go to the local homeless shelter as there was a personality conflict with a current resident of the shelter. As the night was warm and clear, the officer felt it was better for the person to stay in the park than to try to find another location to spend the night. The matter of the registration was not revisited.

4. Matters from the public:

Louise Collins, School Board Chairman, wanted to discuss the receipt of a police special detail bill the SAU received. She stated the bill was for \$600 to have an officer at the high school on the last day of school. Dr. Ronna Hasbrouck, Superintendent of Schools, confirmed she did request police presence for that day. Samantha Gray-Young was concerned if the bill was not paid, the police would not respond to future emergencies. Courtney McLain had the same concern. Tammy Letson and Chief Pelletier confirmed that the police would always show up to any reported incident at the school. The reason for the bill was to pay an officer to come in for an unscheduled workday guaranteeing the school had an officer onsite for the full day. This leaves the on-duty officers available to attend to their regular duties and ensuring the officers will not be on the outskirts of town if the school needed their immediate presence.

Bill Caron brought up the topic of obtaining a school resource officer (SRO) ensued. Dr. Hasbrouck and Tammy stated they have already been discussing this option and possible grants available. Other options being researched in lieu of an SRO would be a school Guardian program. Possible WMUR grant to cover cost of School Resource Officer. Also looking into school guardian.

JT motion, BC second all agreed to split cost of PSD bill with school.

5. Town Administrator Business:

- a. Discussion of Brown Road property that abuts Town owned property

Jason Clough and Laurie Cass discussed with the Board coming to their home at 53 Brown Road and finding logs with No Trespassing signs on them on the Town owned property which abuts their property. They have been maintaining and using a portion of the Town property for years dating back to when her grandfather owned the property. After discussion JT motioned, WC second and all agreed to do a survey and lot line adjustment, both at Clough's and Cass's expense and the Board will sell the portion of the land currently maintained to them \$1.

- b. Discussion of public library roof

After a recent storm, the library learned their roof needed to be replaced. As it is not in the budget, it was discussed that it could possibly come from the Town's Municipal Buildings Fund capital reserve fund. The library has asked for estimated from at least two vendors, only one of which has come back with a quote. The Board requested to get at least three different quotes.

- c. Tammy updated the Board regarding some unsightly properties. Known properties have been looked at and Elizabeth Ball, Planning & Zoning Clerk, and Tammy. This list will go to the Planning Board for agreement that they are in violation of zoning ordinances.

- d. Discussion of 441 NH Route 110 property matter

Susan Hartley and her husband met with the Board regarding possible zoning violations regarding the campers on her property. She allows an unscheduled visit from the Planning Board Chairman, Zoning Chairman, and Police Chief who verified that although they are in livable condition, it does not appear that anybody is currently living in them. Tammy explained that State law only allows for one unregistered motor vehicle per property, so Hartley agreed she would register at least one of the vehicles. Tammy

further explained that State law also required that taxes be paid on the campers. This is either in the form of motor vehicle registration or property taxes. Hartley stated that she would dismantle the campers prior to April 1, 2023. She further stated that she would not allow anybody to reside in the campers in the meantime.

e. Discussion of meeting room use by Northern Human Services

Tammy told the Board that Northern Human Services is no longer going to have an apartment in Groveton. Tammy received a verbal request from the local case manager to use the meeting room at the Police Station for rests, breaks, lunches, etc. It was the Board's consensus to not approve that request as the meeting room contains the only restroom facilities for the Police Department and any subjects that might be with them.

f. NHDES drought status

Tammy informed the Board that NHDES issued a drought update showing much of the state is in Moderate Drought conditions. NHDES further stated that the state received 25% to 50% of normal precipitation which intensified already dry conditions. Tammy had discussed this with Reggie Charron who did not believe we needed to put restrictions on our water users at the time. The Board agreed this information should be put on the Town's website, Facebook page and disseminated to the Board's meeting email list.

g. Undeveloped roads follow up

Tammy told the Board the legal opinion received on what to do with the undeveloped roads is to have title research done, then start taxing the last known owner. If it remains unpaid, the Tax Collector will take the bills through the lien and deed process. We can then follow the process for getting rid of tax deeded property.

Pete Marshall asked about the status of Old County Road / Spaulding Hill Road as a landowner informed Pete he was not allowed to travel on the road. Tammy will ask Becky about the status.

h. Other

- a. Tammy asked the board if we could place the tax deeded 80% ownership up for sale. The consensus of the Board was to allow this.
- b. Tammy let the Board know that NH Lottery Commission sent a letter stating that in municipalities which approved KENO 603 at annual meetings, KENO 603 is now allowed at any location that sells NH lottery tickets.

6. Applications/Permits and Warrants:

a. Supplemental Warrant – Quarterly town sewer drains

JT motion, BC second all agree to sign

b. JLMC – nominations and appointments for management/employee representatives (6)

JT motion, BC second all agree to approve all 6

c. Non-Resident Transfer Station Permit Application – 766 Lost Nation Rd

JT motion, BC second all agree to approve

d. Building Permit Application – Map 104, Lot 98 – Hillside Ave.

JT motioned, WC seconded, and all agreed to table the building permit application until they received the following:

- i. A completed survey from a licensed surveyor.
- ii. NH DES approval for any needed fill and cutting of trees (due to the proposed location being near wetlands).
- iii. Design specifications for the proposed building; and
- iv. Specifics on the plan to attach to the Town's sewer line.


JT motion, WB second and all approved to table the driveway permit and to add an as built condition to the building permit when the foundation is started

7. Tax update

Tammy let the Board know that as of the meeting date 93% of the 1st issue tax warrant was collected. Kudos to the taxpayers for a remarkable job in the current economy. Tammy also let the Board know that the delinquent tax balance is approximately \$75,000 lower than this time last year. Most of this is due to Melinda "Min" Kennett, Town Clerk / Tax Collector, working with owners to apply for and receive a grant to assist with paying back taxes. Huge Kudos to Min for helping get this grant approved for so many of our residents.

8. Announcements:

September 2021



NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF
**Environmental
Services**

Drought Update

July 15, 2022

Summary

- As a result of a low snowpack, early spring melt and below normal precipitation over the past few months, "moderate drought" has emerged across the state and "severe drought" has developed along the state's border with Massachusetts.
- Over the past 30-days, the majority of the state received 25% to 50% of normal precipitation, intensifying already dry conditions and resulting in rapid development of drought.
- Stream levels are low across the state and very low stream flows are apparent in the northeast section of the state.
- The state's groundwater level monitoring network indicates a mix of groundwater levels. Of note is a unified trend of low groundwater levels along the Connecticut Valley.

- The precipitation outlooks for July and over the next three months do not provide a strong indicator that the precipitation needed to relieve drought conditions will be received. Temperature outlooks lean toward above normal temperatures, which can exacerbate drought conditions.

The Message

- The public, community water systems, and municipalities should begin practicing conservation. Limit outdoor watering and irrigation to before 7am and after 8pm and to even and odd days. Community water systems, as well as municipalities implementing lawn watering restrictions within town boundaries pursuant to [RSA 41:11-d](#), should report restrictions using the online [Restriction Reporting Form](#).

Drought Conditions


[U.S. Drought Monitor](#)

This week's drought monitor indicates the following:

- 96.59% of the state is experiencing "moderate drought".
- 3.41% of the state is experiencing "severe drought".

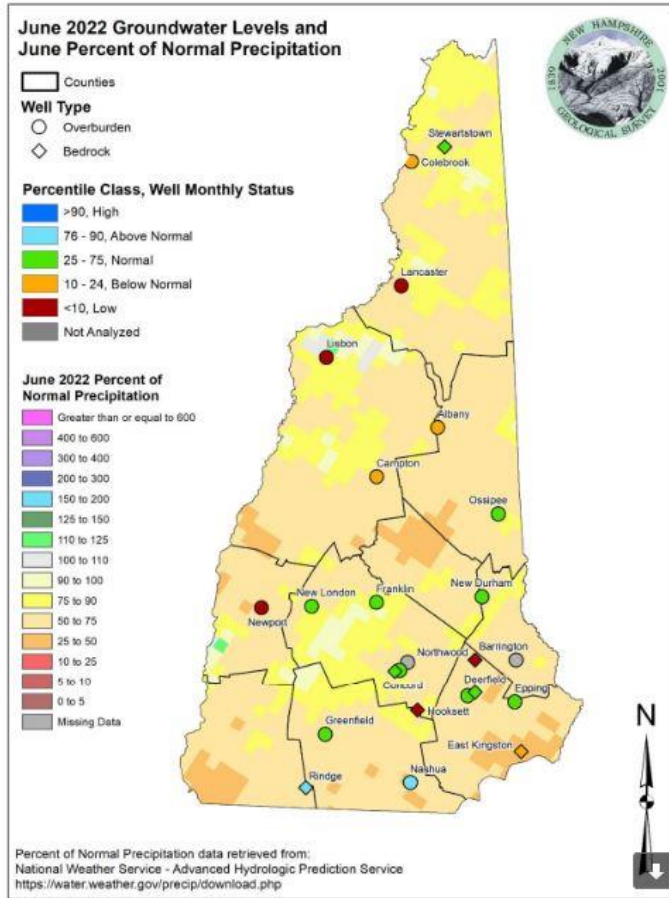


Intensity:

	None
	D0 Abnormally Dry
	D1 Moderate Drought
	D2 Severe Drought
	D3 Extreme Drought
	D4 Exceptional Drought

Hydrological Conditions

June NH Geological Survey Monthly Groundwater Level Report

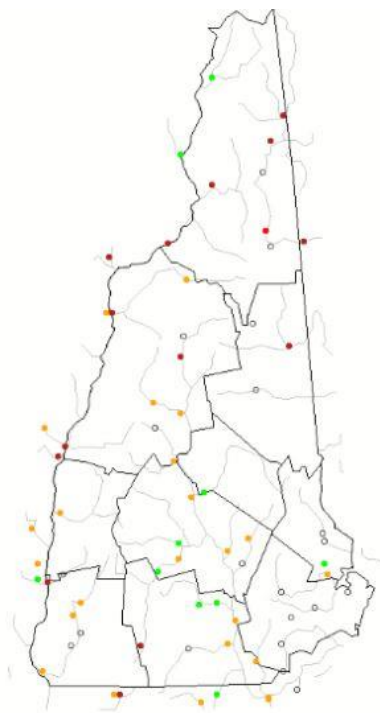


USGS Streamflows

Map of 28-day average streamflow compared to historical streamflow for the day of the year (New Hampshire)

New Hampshire or Water-Resources Regions

Wednesday, July 13, 2022



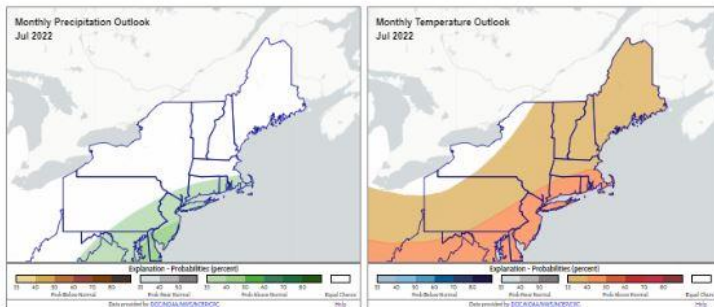
USGS

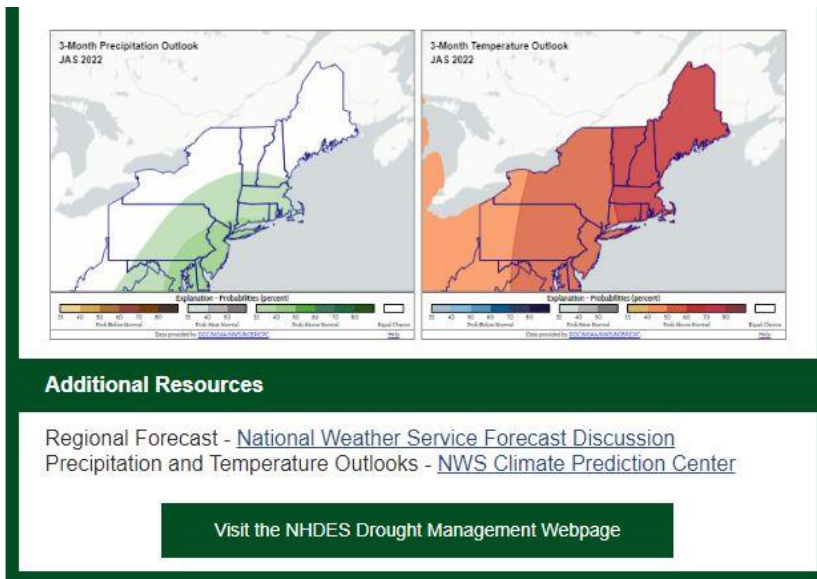


Explanation - Percentile classes							
●	●	●	●	●	●	●	○
Low	<10 Much below normal	10-24 Below normal	25-75 Normal	76-90 Above normal	>90 Much above normal	High	Not-ranked

Forecasts and Outlooks

Precipitation and Temperature Outlooks





9. Non-Public Session: (Pursuant to RSA'S 91-A:3, II ()):

10. Adjournment: Adjourn at 8:11 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Kathan
 Northumberland Select Board Minute Taker

Next meeting August 1, 2022

Minutes approved by Northumberland Select Board Members on _____

X

 Keith Bronson
 Northumberland Select Board Chairman

X

 William Caron
 Northumberland Select Board Member

X

 Jim Tierney
 Northumberland Select Board Member

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