

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the April 7, 2015 Workshop Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Coutu the meeting of April 7, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by Selectman Luszey and Selectman McGrath.

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: Roger Coutu, Rick Maddox, Pat Nichols, Marilyn McGrath, Ted Luszey

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Kevin Burns, Road Agent; Charlie Matthews, Library Director; Harry Schibanoff

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Chairman Coutu asked does anyone in the audience wish to address the Board on any matter which we have control. If so, please step forward at this time and state your name and address for the record. Seeing none, I'm going to ask the Board before I move on to the next item on the agenda point of personal privilege. Without objection, I'll move on and make my remarks brief.

Chairman Coutu stated I did not have the opportunity to attend the last meeting of the Board of Selectmen. I want to cease upon this time to congratulate Selectman Luszey and Selectman McGrath. I welcome them both to the Board of Selectmen. I know though at least in the next year for Selectman Maddox and I - we can't prejudge what the voters will do next year nor what we are going to do next year. I think that we're going to have some healthy discussions and I think that you are going to add both of you a great deal to the discussions and help us move this town forward and I look forward to working with both of you.

Chairman Coutu wanted to stated publicly that it was two weeks ago today at this time that I received a phone call that I needed to get to a hospital that my son-in-law had passed away. The kindness, the outpouring of love, your prayers and your thought were deeply appreciated. I speak on behalf of the Coutu and the Golomb family. I can remember the day that my mother passed in my arms and I thought that was tough. It's tougher when you lose one of your own children and all of my in-laws are considered my children. For the outpouring for everything you've said, your cards, your prayers, the food, our families are very, very grateful. With that, we'll move on and I thank you for allowing me this opportunity.

5. ELECTION OF CHAIRMAN AND VICE-CHAIRMAN

Chairman Coutu thanked Selectman Maddox who sat in for me last week. I asked that this be moved so that I have at least a vote in whose elected Chair and Vice Chair. With that I'll open the nominations for Chairman and I will ask the Board does anyone wish to place a nomination.

Selectman Nichols nominated Rick Maddox as Chairman. Selectman McGrath seconded. Chairman Coutu indicated that a second was necessary. Are there any other nominations? I will close the nominations.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to close the nominations and appoint Richard Maddox as Chairman of the Board of Selectmen by acclamation, carried 5-0.

Selectman Nichols nominated Roger Coutu as Vice-Chairman.

Selectman Luszey nominated Marilyn McGrath as Vice-Chairman.

Chairman Coutu noted we'll take them in the order that they were presented. All in favor of the nomination to Vice-Chair as Roger Coutu please raise your right hand - 4.

Selectman Luszey said so be it.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to close the nominations and appoint Roger Coutu as Vice-Chairman of the Board of Selectmen by acclamation, carried 5-0.

Selectman Maddox said I'm getting over my cold and I would appreciate it if the Vice-Chairman would run this meeting so that you don't have to hear me hacking and coughing if I go into a coughing fit.

Selectman Luszey stated the reason I actually nominated Marilyn is because I think its bad practice to have two outgoing seated members as the Chair and Vice-Chair. No election is guaranteed and with that should either of you decide not to run or be defeated; we will lose continuity going forward as a board. I think that's a lot to be asking for a new board to pick up.

Chairman Coutu indicated I'll announce my candidacy at this time. Hopefully there will be some continuity. I do understand where you're coming from.

6. NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Chairman Coutu indicated at this time we'll have nominations and appointments. There are going to be interviews. After the interview is complete, motions can be entertained to nominate and appoint. We can suspend the rules of waiting a week. If you feel that confident that the persons who have applied, and some of them will be a contest because we may have more than one for a vacancy, I will entertain motions and you can vote for or against the motion to appoint or you can overrule the Chair about suspending the rules and not waiting the week.

A. Interviews

1) Benson Park Committee - (3 vacancies - 3 member terms to expire 4/30/2018)

James Barnes (incumbent member)

Chairman Coutu noted Jim you've served on the Benson Park Committee for how long now. Mr. Barnes said for 6 years. Since the Committee was reformed. Chairman Coutu said you presently serve in an appointed position. Are you the Vice-Chair at this point? Mr. Barnes indicated I am the Vice-Chair. Why don't you tell us for Selectman McGrath especially tell us a little bit about yourself, your term on the board, what you enjoy about it, and why you're seeking to be reappointed as an incumbent member.

James Barnes thought I know Selectman McGrath as well as any of you since we both served on the Planning Board for a number of years together. I don't know that I need to introduce myself to any of you but I would like to make a brief statement. Six years ago is when the Benson Park Committee was reformed. While it does seem like a long time, those six years has gone by very quickly. I think the committee and all the volunteers and the employees of the town, especially the Highway Department, have contributed to this park and made it what it is today. It's a gem for the town. It's an attraction for town members and also the surrounding region. I would like to see it maintained that way. I think the challenge coming up in the next couple of years is going to be maintenance and sustaining the park. We're losing a number of our volunteers so we need to find a way of maintaining what we have and continuing with the park and keeping it in good shape.

Chairman Coutu noted we have a lot of committee people here and as I've stated many times and I'll state it again, I make it a habit to watch every single committee meeting every single week. I understand that one of your favorite projects or one of the things you've been working on very diligently in the past two years is the refurbishment of the office building. How are we doing there?

Jim Barnes said I've taking a hiatus working on that project because when I started working again I did not have time to invest in that. That is certainly something we need to do as an overall committee. We need to focus on a couple of these buildings and make sure we keep them in good shape. The office building does need some attention and it will need some investment of time and resources. Chairman Coutu said we're here too. When you entertain your budget and take that into consideration. From day one when I first walked in that park and volunteered to work there, that building to me - the reconstruction of that building in some fashion in rehabilitating it and restoring it is a project that I'd like to see pursued. Whatever we can do to assist you, please let us know. Are there any other questions from any Board members at this time?

Selectman McGrath had one. You mentioned that you're losing members from the committee. Mr. Barnes said not from the committee but the volunteers in town who have done a lot of the work. There's still a lot of people involved with the adopt a spots, the garden areas, and so on. A lot of the volunteers who have been there working during the day, there was a subcommittee if you will of the trails. We blazed a lot of the trails and did a lot of that development work and a lot of those people are saying okay I've put in my time. It's time for somebody else to pick this up.

Chairman Coutu wanted to remind everyone too that the State of New Hampshire declared that - I don't know if it was the State but we were voted the best park in the State of New Hampshire a couple of years ago. Thanks to a great core of volunteers and I consider the Benson Park Committee as you know, you don't have to serve on a board or commission. The time that you guys spent volunteer, we certainly don't pay you for all that you do for our park. It is a gem.

Selectman Maddox noted that this is going to be a question that I'm going to ask everybody so poor Jim gets it first. For your term where would you like to see that committee go? Jim Barnes indicated as I tried to state before, I think what the committee needs to focus on is how do we maintain this park long term. Start putting things into place that will continue to encourage volunteers but also find other ways of funding what we need to do in the park and finding alternatives that don't depend solely on the volunteers or solely on the town Highway Department. I think we have some challenges there.

Jeremy Griffus - Thank you Mr. Chair and members of the Board. I'm Jeremy Griffus, 203 Central Street here in Hudson.

For those that didn't know, Chairman Coutu said Jeremy was a long-time member of the Recreation Committee. He has not sought reappointment. He would have been up for reappointment at this time. He has instead indicated an interest in serving on the Benson Park Committee. Jeremy served I believe for at least two years as Chair of the Recreation Committee. It was certainly two years that I was on the Committee. I continue to serve on the Recreation Committee until the new Chair appoints.

Why don't you tell us why you're interested in serving on Benson Park and what do you see - why don't you just tell us why you're interested in serving on the Benson Park Committee.

Jeremy Griffus said as Mr. Coutu mentioned, I've been a long-term member of the Recreation Committee and serving on that board has been a pleasure. We've accomplished a lot and I see that form of recreation a little bit different than that of what the Benson Park Committee does. When I first started college, I was a forest recreation major before I switched to criminal justice. I've always had an interest in the outdoor type recreation serving on the Rec. Committee. It was tough because a lot of the guys would talk about the sports - basketball, baseball and I'm not much of a sports guy. I'll watch the big games on TV but they're actively involved in the town sports. I feel that most of my interest has been with the youth of Hudson and for the non-structured type sports that serves the town such as playground development, park restructuring, and things of that nature. I feel like I can really step up and accomplish what I'm hoping to accomplish and give back to the town by serving on the Benson Park Committee. I think that answered your question.

Chairman Coutu wanted to note for the record because we worked very closely - we have a beautiful gazebo at Benson Park in memory of Mallory Gray. If it wasn't for you Jeremy, it would not exist today. He took the bull by the horns as did a core group of volunteers. There were days that he and I have had many conversations. We didn't think it was going to become a reality. It's a tremendous success and a lot of credit is due to Jeremy. You served on the original old Benson Park Committee prior to the town taking over the property am I correct? Mr. Griffus said correct. Long before this committee was formed, I was still a member of the Recreation Committee. I served as a liaison for the Hudson Recreation Committee to that group. I'll be honest and say that when that committee was together, it met very few times so I didn't have much interaction with that group although my name was on the paperwork, it was very inactive and I think a large part of that was due to State restrictions and the government just being slow as it was and not much being able to be done out there at the time.

Chairman Coutu asked professionally you work for the Hudson School District. Jeremy said I currently work for the Hudson School District full time.

Selectman Maddox asked the standard question for the week. Where if you're elected where do you see you wanting the Board to go? Jeremy Griffus said it was a tough question because I wish I was more involved with the current committee. I can't say that I've been to many cleanups although I have been to a few cleanups. Since I've started working weekends, it's been tough. Where I see it going, I'm not sure of the current activity but I would like to see some of the unused pieces of that park looked at and see what can be done out there. I know I would love to say I have a way to solve the issue with the train station but I just don't. I wish I could say that I'll be active in making that happen but I know that that's beyond my power. There's many things in that park that's beyond the scope of the Benson Park Committee. I'd really like to focus in on what we can do and what's currently not being used without of course overdoing it because it is a very peaceful park right now and the historical part of that park is in great condition all thanks to the volunteers and everybody and what the Road Agent does out there on his time. It's a big park and I think that there's more that can be done and some big projects that are ahead for the committee.

Selectman Nichols asked do you see more children or more young people activities in the park rather than what's going on right now. Are you looking for baseball fields and that type of thing in the park? Jeremy Griffus said no. That's not what I'm looking for. I'm looking to - are you referring to my response to Selectman Maddox about unused portions or just because I'm...Selectman Nichols said no because that and you are involved or have been involved with the youth. I don't know if I want to see it all turned over to youth because it's for everyone and that's why I'm asking. Mr. Griffus said I would agree to that. I think there's an equal amount of use coming out of that park or going into that park. The playground is a fantastic feature. You see it all over the place. You Google search. That's the first image that pops up or one of the first images that pops up. To answer your question directly, no. There has been a conversation with the Recreation Committee about what can be done up there and I know on the original master plan there has been discussion over by the Haselton Barn passive recreation space, field space, and things of that nature. I would certainly support that as it is a part of the original plan but there's a whole lot more that goes into it. You can't just go in there and plant seed. There's a lot that needs to be done. If I remember correctly, there's studies that need to be done. I'm not interested at all in having the youth necessarily take over. I don't mean to put words into your mouth because I know that's not what you said. No I see it as an equal balance for everybody and just utilizing the park. It's a great park that the town has in their hands and making the best of it.

John Leone (incumbent member) - 30 Flying Rock Road, Hudson. For the record, Chairman Coutu said Mr. Leone presently serves on the Benson Park Committee. You are also John on the Friends of Benson Committee, correct? Mr. Leone said yes I'm currently the Chairman. Chairman Coutu reiterated this is nonprofit. You are Chairman of the nonprofit agency which was the restoration of the red barn for the purpose of storing quite a collection of artifacts that we were able to procure or you were able to procure from its previous owner. John you've been there for a while now so why don't you tell us a little bit about yourself, your service on the Benson Park Committee, and why you would like to be reappointed.

John Leone indicated I've been on the Benson Park Committee in one shape or form for the 5 ½ years now. I've been actively involved in the Friends of Benson Park as you mentioned. I'm currently the Chairman since its founding I guess about 5 years ago. I've been the Chairman of the Building Subcommittee of the Benson Park Committee for a while. Sort of facilitated I guess I'll say the gorilla house restoration a few years back. Yeah primarily under the purview of the Friends of Benson Park the elephant barn project right now is probably our single biggest undertaking. I've enjoyed my time with the Benson Park Committee. I think it's important to actually have a bit of a liaison between the organizations - the Friends of Benson Park and

the Benson Park Committee because we work so closely together. I'm very excited about the things the future holds for Benson Park and I want to be a part of that.

Chairman Coutu said I'll give you a little bit of a plug. If anybody hasn't been to a Friends of Benson spaghetti supper, you're missing out on a great spaghetti sauce and great meatballs. It's awesome. I try to attend them all but I think you and I Pat have gone to almost every one of them. Are there any questions at this time of Mr. Leone?

Selectman Maddox asked where do you see if you're appointed you want to see this committee go. Mr. Leone thought the biggest challenge and I think Mr. Barnes touched on it earlier is volunteerism and trying to renew the enthusiasm around Benson Park. We have seen over the years just gradually but sort of less volunteers showing up for activities and cleanup days, and willing to be a part of subcommittees and I think that's probably the biggest challenge for this group as none of us are getting any younger want to try to infuse some fresh ideas and some new folks involved. One of the reasons the Friends of Benson Park has been trying to facilitate this 5th anniversary celebration coming up is to try to get people to get back on everybody's radar screen and try to get folks to be excited again about Benson Park.

Chairman Coutu recommended that you avail yourself of the Hudson Cable Television to try to recruit volunteers. Have it flashing often if you can.

Selectman Nichols knows John and I wanted to let people know that he gives a stable element to the committee. He's good with taking information and explaining it to the audience, to people. So he offers an awful lot to the committee. I had to say that. Mr. Leone thanked Selectman Nichols.

Margaret McQueeney - 2 Manny Court in Hudson. Chairman Coutu noted you've indicated an interest to serve as a member of the Benson Park Committee. Why don't you tell us a little bit about yourself and your reasons why you would like to serve on this committee. Ms. McQueeney said I've been retired for about a year and a half now and my husband has volunteered at the park. He's also on the Board of the Friends of Benson Park. So what we do is on Fridays if it's a good day, we will open the barn so that we can raise money for the restoration of the barn and we also volunteer on Saturdays working at the barn. From that I just love the park. I love the people who go to the park. I love seeing the plants, the animals, the peace of it all. I guess it's just the love of the park that I have and that's why I would like to serve on this board. I've also worked on the spaghetti dinner. I'm the secretary for the Friends of Benson Park. I am involved in that way. When we're at the park, we do get to meet the people who love it there. One of the things that I find that just is so heartwarming is the little library that somebody built there. I don't know if you've ever read the - they have an address book with visitors sign in. When I read it, it was just heartwarming. It was actually little love letters from the children. It wasn't done as an adult. As an adult, you would put down your name and address and where you came from. This was just from the children how much they love the park and how much they appreciate it. I guess that's why I want to serve on it. I want the park to continue to be a place of joy, peace, serenity and that's my vision.

Selectman Maddox asked if joy, peace and serenity was your answer. Ms. McQueeney said a little bit more. My vision is also with the barn because once the barn has been completed - right now we're working in the front park which is actually the gift shop to help raise money so that we can do the back part which is the museum. I look at the museum as history lesson, lessons on what was there, lessons on animals. I vision the park as a place where kids can come and parents can learn about the trees, the plants, the animals that were there and the animals that currently reside there. I see it almost as an educational opportunity also for the people in this area. Not only the people of Hudson because we have a lot of people from Dracut and surrounding areas. We have people that come from Europe to the park. If you look at Trip Advisory, it's like a top destiny in this State is to go to this park. We have to be very careful because we don't want it built up so much so that it gets ruined. I think that's a fear that I have that it could be trampled on too much I guess. I think of Mount Monadnock how it's gone worn out somehow. So I think that's my vision of the park. It's almost an educational opportunity and I do think that we need - and the spaghetti dinner tried to aim for this - to get some of the young people in the town involved. We tried to have it at Halloween so that kids would come. We want the younger generation to start seeing that well yes we need younger people involved in it too and get them to love it and help.

Selectman Nichols noted it says that you have some knowledge of international marketing. What do you feel is a way to get people to come and volunteer at the park on the weekends to clean up, rake, and do the little odds and ends that keep our park beautiful? Margaret McQueeney said social media. We really need to increase our presence. When people (inaudible) goes to the Friends of Benson's Park and that they like the page and that they share it with everyone. We need to keep sharing it, and sharing it, and sharing it to get more people. It is social media right now.

Chairman Coutu indicated you brought it up so I'll ask the question about young people needing to encourage young people to play a greater role in maintaining the park. From my perspective anyway, I see an awful lot of the volunteering at the park is young people. We have an awful lot of scouting projects that take place. The refurbishment of the shoe was a scouting project by younger scouts. It's an ongoing process. What concerns me is anyone or is there a way for us to motivate the scouts to not just tackle a project and do it and walk away. To tackle a project, do it, and see that there's a greater need for them and the other scouts who work on the project. When they do a scouting project if you're familiar with the process, it's not just one scout. They have to recruit other scouts to work with them to complete the project and they need to supervise and manage that group. How do we follow up on that and get kids to stay involved in the process?

Margaret McQueeney said good question. I guess just talking to them. Just getting people to know the need. I hear it so often people really appreciate everything that the volunteers do. Getting them to come back when they're young like that - I guess I never thought about really the younger kids like you just mentioned. I think more of I guess cuz I see them at the playground the parents with the little ones getting them to be involved because they use the park. I know it's hard when you have little ones to come and volunteer some. I think of them too. That's kind of a group that we don't have involved that much.

Selectman McGrath said I should have asked this question of the other applicants but they're all reappointments whereas Mrs. McQueeney is a new applicant. There's only 3 seats that are to be filled. If we decided to reappoint the other three and you didn't get an appointment tonight...Chairman Coutu noted only 2 of the 3 we've interviewed are reappointment. Jeremy Griffus is also a new candidate. He's asking to move from one to the other. Selectman McGrath apologized. I'm sorry I misspoke but in any event, there's 3 vacancies. If we didn't chose to appoint you tonight would you continue to volunteer and would you seek to another appointment on this board or another? Ms. McQueeney indicated I will continue to volunteer because I love it. If I don't get this, it doesn't change anything for me because I will still work at the barn on the weekends. Selectman McGrath stated it's disappointing I know when you put yourself out there and you may not get appointed but I wouldn't want to discourage you either. Ms. McQueeney said I won't stop doing what I do. I work with my husband on it and we continue.

Chairman Coutu stated you've made a major investment of time and I know it and I certainly appreciate it. You know that. Thank you very much. How would the Board like to proceed? Would you like me to continue with the interviews and move on or would you like to resolve each one of the committees and I ask for your opinion so that the majority will rule here. How would you like to proceed?

Selectman McGrath thought that we should take up each committee at the time because that way the other people don't have to wait.

Selectman Maddox said as long as everybody is here tonight. I think in all fairness if there's somebody that isn't able to be here tonight, we would then defer it. That's just one vote.

Chairman Coutu understood but if there's no objection to proceeding within the scope of each committee.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to suspend the rules and nominate and reappoint James Barnes as a member to the Benson Park Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2018, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to suspend the rules and nominate and reappoint John Leone as a member to the Benson Park Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2018, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Jeremy Griffus as a member to the Benson Park Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2018, carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu told Ms. McQueeney I don't want to dwell on but certainly reiterate what Selectman McGrath was saying is that we hope you'll continue - I certainly know that you're going to continue to serve but I think that the Chair of the committee is here as are the new members. Should there be a vacancy - do you have any alternates on your committee? Mr. Leone said two and both are filled. Chairman Coutu said should there be an opening, I was very impressed by Ms. McQueeney's interview this evening. We certainly would give her high priority I would think. She actually put her name forward and she came here which has been a problem in the past as you know Selectman Maddox. Thank you very much. I want to thank all of the people who applied.

2) Building Board of Appeals - (2 vacancies - 2 member terms to expire 4/30/2018)

Chairman Coutu noted that Mr. Manor is not here. Do you insist that he be here?

Selectman Maddox said I know I've been lackadaisical in my program here. I guess what I'm looking for, and Mr. Manor has a legitimate reason why he's not here. I just think it's important that not only we see these people but the people on the other side of the cameras know who we're appointing. Mr. Manor is a known commodity. I think that that would be something that I wouldn't have a problem making a motion.

Bernie Manor (incumbent member) not in attendance

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to suspend the rules and nominate and reappoint Bernie Manor as a member to the Building Board of Appeals with a term to expire 4/30/2018.

Selectman McGrath indicated that I feel comfortable with Bernie Manor. I've known him since I first went on the Planning Board eons ago. So I've known him for a very long time. He's always been dedicated to the Town of Hudson. So I have no...

Chairman Coutu said I don't know where he finds the time. His wife gives me hell and asks me all the time stop talking Bernie into projects. Great guy. Glad you mentioned that Selectman McGrath.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

- 3) Cable Utility Committee - (3 vacancies - 1 member term to expire 4/30/2017; 2 member terms to expire 4/30/2018)

Chairman Coutu indicated Mr. O'Keefe presently serves as Chairman of the Cable Utility Committee and before he begins I want to say Mr. O'Keefe, again as I do every time you come up for appointment or anytime I see you, I want to thank you for the countless number of hours you put into our cable facility and to our community television programming. I know that you spent countless number of hours week in and week out. You've taken over where the former Chair who recently passed away. You more or less inherited that baby. You've nurtured it. I know he would be very, very proud of you. So Mr. O'Keefe for us as well as for the people on the other side of the camera, could you tell us a little bit about yourself and why in God's name have you asked for reappointment to this committee.

Michael O'Keefe (incumbent member) - Harry and I were just speculating and trying to reminisce about when we both started on the Cable Committee. I'm not quite sure to the date but I'm pretty sure it's approaching 20 years on the Cable Committee. The Board of Selectmen reformed the Cable Committee for that day. I think that was close to 10 years ago. Since then, I've served the Chairman of the Committee. Given the amount of time I've been on it, you obviously realize it's a passion of mine. The last 3 years have been pretty incredible. A good part of that time has been shepherding the project of constructing a new access center at Benson Park. That's been a pleasure to work on and see it completed. I worked on the initial design and then helped facilitate during the construction which is getting close to completing our first year of occupancy in that building. I kind of look at that as a major milestone in Hudson community television that we've achieved.

Now as we move forward, this may answer Selectman Maddox's question. Mike O'Keefe said as we move forward, I think one of the key things to do is to get the community involved even to know that we exist. I'm still surprised when people don't know that we're there. I think our new location certainly has helped. We're not out in the boonies anymore. We're much more visible. I just think there's too many people who don't know that that valuable resource is there. There's even a point where people still think we're part of Comcast. They think Hudson community television is just a part of Comcast Corporation and don't realize it's a town entity and something for everyone to take advantage. It's free of cost and a great way to create informative and entertaining hopefully programming for our community. I think it's a great resource and we'd just like to continue advocating for that. That's why I'm putting in for another 3 years.

In the event it isn't clear, Chairman Coutu said Hudson community television is in NO WAY affiliated with Comcast. The only time we meet with Comcast, and it's been twice in my tenure, is to negotiate a contract on behalf of the Town and we have now I believe a 10 year contract is what we just negotiated last year. Are there any questions?

Selectman Nichols wanted to say that Michael is one of those people that if you have a question and you're not sure, you can call him and he's quick to answer. He'll answer an e-mail. There's no long delay. If you want something put on television, he will do it just like that. He's very easy to work with. He's excellent in his job.

Chairman Coutu noted that's true Mike. No matter what time of day, no matter what day it is even on holidays, Saturdays, and Sundays, you've always responded. Mike O'Keefe indicated I've received a few text messages from you over the years.

Selectman Luszey said given that there's two additional terms that are open and it goes along with Selectman Maddox's question, where do you see cable TV going? What do you envision your role is and to help finding people to fill these roles? Mike O'Keefe said I've got to be honest with you. Sometimes the committee and HCTV sort of the lines get blurred. The Cable Utility Committee made up of members appointed by this Board, I think its function really is to recommend policy, advise this Board on possible changes, and certainly to some extent promote Hudson community television. Hudson community's final vision as a whole is a broader group and that's where we need to attract the volunteers. I'm not as concerned about having additional members added to the committee. In fact, the committee was expanded a number of years ago when we had more members than were vacancies. The solution by the Selectmen was just to expand the committee. It's actually two members larger than it was originally made. That being said, I think it's more important that we encourage volunteers to join Hudson community television and get involved with that. That's kind of where I'd like to see it. Like I said earlier, that's where I think the committee and other people involved need to focus right now is getting the word out.

Mr. O'Keefe indicated we've recently become more active on social media. There's a Facebook page for HCTV that Jim McIntosh is regularly posting information about what's going on. Some of those things I think are ways we can get the word out a little better.

Motion by Selectman McGrath, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Michael O'Keefe as a member to the Cable Utility Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2018, carried 5-0.

Selectman Maddox asked the Board to indulge us to move 7.A. the Street Sweeper ahead at this time. Without objection, Chairman Coutu indicated we'll go to on the agenda 7. A. and I understand why. Our Road Agent is here. Kevin I believe you're going into surgery tomorrow. Kevin Burns said going in Monday but today is last act. Chairman Coutu said I saw you walking in and you didn't look comfortable.

7. Discussion Item

A) Bid Recommendation - Replacement Street Sweeper

Chairman Coutu indicated we have a bid recommendation for the replacement of the street sweeper. With that, Mr. Burns the floor is yours.

Kevin Burns stated as I'm sure you're aware, the budget passed this year and the budget was funding for a replacement street sweeper to replace our 10 year old sweeper. As I do with this equipment, I re-educate myself every time I go out and buy a new piece because they change so much in between the time we buy one and the next one. I'm really impressed with the model the M6 from Schwarze. It's a horrible name and I always struggle with it. We bought our last sweeper through a purchasing group in Texas. I looked again this year and I found this group out of Michigan - National Joint Powers Alliance. I was actually able to get it. Their bid price was actually cheaper than the people in Texas just by a few dollars but a dollar is a dollar. We've purchased a lot of our fleet through these groups that go out and do the bidding. They get a better price. We buy a sweeper every 10 years. They go out and do bids for hundreds of them. We're able to secure better buying power. It's my recommendation that we buy this sweeper from HP Fairfield. They're right up in Pembroke. The truck components are coming from Londonderry so we'll be able to get the unit serviced locally. It's pretty much the model that everyone is going to in the private industry. I spoke to a company in Lincoln that strictly has these. Our local company in Hudson strictly has these. He's an expert on the sweepers. I had him review my specifications and tweaked them to what he thinks would work best for us. He says this is a 10 year machine we're buying. He knows them better than me. That is my recommendation.

Chairman Coutu wanted to point out is that the motion that I'm going to entertain is going to when we get to the motion, we may have discussion prior to the motion, requires me to mention that we are waiving competitive bidding requirements. What that means is that we are waiving our options to advertise and go out and bid or seek bids on an individual basis and we reach out as far as the Manchester Union Leader would go because we're using them now as one of the media for the advertising. The process which is being recommended by Mr. Burns is one where there are national organization in particular the two that you mentioned - the one in Texas and this organization - who go out and seek bids on their own to try to secure lower prices so that they act as a funneling source so that government agencies and even private contractors can go through them because they can get a better price because they have a - the way I read it when I looked it up on line, there's a process by which they have an understanding of how many they're going to sell so they commit to so many to get the price. This company did beat out the - you said it was just a few dollars. You're right it's a few dollars. In Hudson, NH a few dollars means a lot. I appreciate your going through the process and looking for this other. So it isn't that we're avoiding the bid process. There's a bid process in place only it's not one that we have adopted here because we go out usually on items and advertise locally and we hope bidders come in. We may or may not have gotten bids because some of the companies that do it locally may not have wanted to bid. I applaud you and thank you for that process. He's provided us with pictures and other information. Are there any questions at this time?

Selectman McGrath had a couple of questions. One that just came to me as you were speaking Mr. Chairman. The group that you're dealing with this time is in Minnesota I think and the other one was Texas. I understand the process that they're going through but is there any oversight for that group where the bids that they're getting that they're actually the lowest bids and that they're not taking - there's a reason for them to collaborate like that. Kevin Burns said this organization and the last organization we used in Texas are actually government employees. Selectman McGrath indicated well that's not always the best thing either. Mr. Burns said it's not a private corporation where their stockholders and things making money. They're paid by their local government agency and they're controlled by State law. They have their own RSAs that dictate how they do their purchasing and have all their backup. Selectman McGrath noted there is oversight then for them. Mr. Burns said yes. They're regulated by State law in the State where they're from. New Hampshire State laws are reciprocal with them. I found that as well. They actually supplied me with the RSAs that showed it's reciprocal.

Selectman McGrath's other question that I had reading through your paperwork here, you indicated that you don't have the money in your budget now. You will as of July 1st and that's when the purchase order will be dated. They can't deliver before that time. You also in your material said that you would have the street sweeping done by the end of May. Can you explain the difference there? Kevin Burns said the purchase order will be generated now but it will be a purchase order for next fiscal year. So we cannot make payment or accept delivery prior to July 1st. The sweeping of this year will be done by our existing sweeper hopefully if it stays together which we're having a hard time making it stay together right now. We are trying our best to get everything done by Memorial Day. Selectman McGrath indicated it wasn't clear and it jumped out at me as a difference. Mr. Burns apologized. I was trying to explain the difference between a mechanical sweeper and a vacuum sweeper. Selectman McGrath indicated that's all that I have but I would like to make a comment after the vote is taken.

Going back to the one that we're holding together with paper clips right now, Chairman Coutu asked you feel pretty confident that your men could get it up and running and you should be able to do the town at least one full sweep? Kevin Burns thought we're going to need MacGyver. They're trying their best. I was actually going to bring that up if I could when we were done just for the people who are watching. We're way behind this year because of the snow banks taking so long to go away. Some of them continue to not go away. The amount of sand out there, we can't sweep when it's wet and our sweeper is 10 years old and had 3 more months of life. We are trying our best to get everything done. Our goal is still to be done by Memorial Day. We're trying.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to waive the competitive bidding requirements as outlined in Town Code 98-1(C) and to award the purchase of the replacement Schwarze Model M6 Avalanche mechanical street sweeper to H. P. Fairfield of Pembroke, NH, through the contract with National Joint Powers Allegiance in the net amount of \$257,000 as recommended by the Road Agent and the Finance Director.

Selectman Maddox asked to speak to my motion. I think you hit on it very well Mr. Chairman. I rely on the Road Agent to do the homework. We're only going to buy one of these every 10 years. We're never going to get good at it. If we had gone out to competitive bid, we might have actually paid more and taken monies out of our coffers to do all the paperwork. So as much as this sounds more onerous, then it is. We've bought a number of specialized vehicles for the Highway Department through this procedure. I am comfortable with Mr. Burns and his research and I hope this thing lasts us 12 years. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Selectman McGrath wanted to make a comment. I've known Mr. Burns sort of for a number of years when I was on the Town Council years ago. Mr. Burns was one of our star employees and he continues to be. I just wanted to recognize that and wish you well with your surgery and your convalescence.

Well Mr. Star, Chairman Coutu said you know you have our thoughts and prayers will be with you. I wish you the very best in your surgery and come back kicking and pounding like you always do. Thanks.

- 4) Municipal Utility Committee - (4 vacancies - 1 member term to expire 4/30/2016; 1 member term to expire 4/30/2017; 2 member terms to expire 4/30/2018)

Bernie Manor (incumbent member) cannot attend due to recent surgery

Jeff Rider (incumbent member) - I live at 61 Barretts Hill Road.

Chairman Coutu thought that pretty much everyone is familiar with you here. You presently serve as I believe an alternate member on the Planning Board am I correct? Mr. Rider said no. Selectman McGrath indicated Mr. Rider used to be on the Planning Board a number of years ago.

Jeff Rider said I'm currently Chairman of the Municipal Utility Committee. I've had several years of experience in the private sector in water and sewer departments and operations. I believe I was one of the charter members of the original Water Utility Committee before it was merged with the Sewer Committee. I've also spent before they were merged, I was also on the Sewer Utility Committee. That's pretty much my background.

Chairman Coutu believed it was two years when we merged the committees into a Municipal Utility Committee correct sewer and water last year or two. How's that working Mr. Rider? Jeff Rider stated very good. Even when they were the two separate committees, I believe there were 5 members on each committee 3 of the members were on both committees anyhow. It pretty much acted as a joint committee. It is working out very well.

Chairman Coutu asked are you still meeting like at 5:30 in the evening as...Mr. Rider said 5 o'clock. It makes it hard for a lot of people to see. One of the questions that was posed to me and it was posed to me by a member of this Board as to why we insist that all committees be televised but yet the Municipal Utility Committee is not being televised. Would you object if we insisted that this committee also be televised so that the sewer and water users are aware of what's going on? Mr. Rider said I would not but I do know that there are some members on the committee that would prefer that not happen. Whatever the reasons are, I don't know but they have expressed that desire. Chairman Coutu said that was strange. It's the only committee that's ever expressed that desire I guess. I know I'm of a mind that all committees should be televised for obvious reasons - full disclosure. I know it acts in somewhat of an informal manner but it gets the job done but I'm a strong advocate of having every committee televised. Are there any other questions of Mr. Rider at this time?

Jeff Rider indicated one of the things I would like is I'd like to be able to get to a full membership. Ever since the two committees were merged and the membership went from 5 to 7, we never had more than 5 members. If there's anybody who's interested in working with us, we certainly would appreciate having them volunteer for the committee. Some of the things that we're working on is we're continuing to work with the staff to improve collections for the water and sewer rates and close a couple of loopholes that some people seem to be taking undue advantage of as far as the regulations go. We're also looking at asking for the master plan for the water system to be updated.

In the past, Chairman Coutu said we've had a tremendous relationship with the City of Nashua obviously. We have to because we're dumping over there and we own 12.5 percent of the sewer facility. We had a great relationship with the utilities manager and there's a new one. Have you had any opportunity to interact with him and what has that been? Mr. Rider said no I have not had that opportunity. Chairman Coutu thought we ought to reach out to him because there's a potential for - we need to start looking for the potential of buying a larger portion to satisfy our needs because we're almost at maximum capacity here in town. If we're going to have any industrial expansion and our buildings are filling up. There have been a lot of requests lately

and we've granted them all. I keep seeing that number 55,000 and it never changes but we keep increasing. People have asked for more opportunity for larger gallons per day and we've been granting them. I know it's depleting.

Jeff Rider said I do know Nashua is in the process of upgrading their treatment plant. It's going to expand it vastly which would keep our percentage the same but it would enlarge our gallonage. Chairman Coutu asked would you consider entering into a conversation with them about the cost of us buying a greater share if the opportunity arose. I know we have money available. Mr. Rider said I'd be glad to.

Selectman Maddox was going to take it to the next step. I think that I've been a Selectman for 11 years now and I've never met or heard from the Nashua Wastewater Treatment. I think it's time to have a joint meeting with the Municipal Water Utility, Pennichuck, and sewer. Our infrastructure - our water and our sewer, are really the drivers in my mind for industrial growth. To see how we can do a better job of gaining more gallonage but also to know what their plans are. If they're deciding they're going to need spend X amount of dollars and we have to come up with 12 percent of it, it would be nice to know in advance. I think that a written invitation to come to a workshop in May or June, something that works for them, but be able to have that kind of a discussion.

Chairman Coutu said I know that in my conversations with Mayor Donnalee was that we would get ample notice. I agree. I think that's a great topic for one of our workshops to have them come in and see if we can get them to come here to meet with us so that we can put a face with the organization in Nashua as well as a face to Pennichuck. Whenever you want to put it on the agenda let me know and I'll get a hold of the Mayor and make it happen.

Jeff Rider didn't want everybody to leave here with the impression that there is no dialog that takes place. We do meet with the staff over there. Our staff primarily meets with their staff to discuss budget items, future projects, and things like that. There is a dialog that does take place. I just personally have not had a chance to meet with them. Chairman Coutu indicated we had a great rapport with Mario. Mario obviously retired so I'd like to put another face to it so that we - we own 12 percent. We ought to know who's running our system and what their future plans are. As Selectman Maddox alluded to, we own 12.5. If they're going to do a major overhaul, we have to pay 12.5 of the bill, we don't want to get slapped with a \$1.5 million without having some advance knowledge. It will deplete our reserve considerably as you know. Your committee should be totally involved. Here's a topic for a workshop. Are there any other questions?

Selectman McGrath stated you mentioned that your committee isn't at full capacity and that it hasn't ever been since it was expanded to 7 members. Does it make sense to reduce the committee to 5 members or is it important that we try to seek out other volunteers to fill those 2 vacancies? Mr. Rider said it would be nice if we could get the full 7 because obviously the broader experience is always good. We've gone two years without it being filled. It maybe something this Board might want to take a look at because with 7 member slots, the number that we need for a quorum is fixed. With 2 vacancies if we have 1 or 2 people out, we don't have a quorum. Selectman McGrath asked has that ever happened where you haven't been able to hold a meeting. Mr. Rider stated a couple of times it has. Selectman McGrath noted it might make sense to consider reducing that committee to 5 members. Maybe we're going to be looking at appointments at the end of the year so at that time it might make sense to have that conversation.

Chairman Coutu said either that or at the time we do the workshop. Selectman Maddox is our official recruiter. I'm going to sit down with Mr. McIntosh and see if we can put something better together for Hudson community television for all of these vacancies. We'll do something with the local paper. We'll mount some sort of a recruiting effort and then we'll see where it stands and then maybe it would be applicable after we've done an exhaustive search I guess for lack of a better term if we're getting nowhere if we reduce the size, then the quorum number required depletes and it makes it easier for them to hold their meetings. So I agree. Selectman McGrath said it can be a real issue if they can't have a meeting and there's something that really needs to be addressed. Chairman Coutu said someone for example is invited and they show up and they don't have a quorum and they have to send the guy back to Pembroke, NH or whatever because he was going to talk about a utility matter. I agree. Thank you Jeff.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Jeff Rider as a member to the Municipal Utility Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2018, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Bernie Manor as a member to the Municipal Utility Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2018, carried 5-0.

5) Planning Board - (1 vacancy, 1 member term to expire 12/31/16)

Jordan Ulery (incumbent alternate) - 37 Webster Street although you can't find it because the driveway is on Baker Street. That's in the town section. I've been an alternate on the Planning Board for several years now. I'd like to apply for the position of the full time position that Ms. McGrath made available.

Chairman Coutu indicated that would open his seat as an alternate so there's an alternate on the Planning Board. How long have you served Jordan presently? Mr. Ulery said 4 or more. Chairman Coutu said it seems like yesterday you recruited him. I remember when you recruited him. You were voting and this guy stopped you. Jordan Ulery said that's the nice thing about voting though because you get a chance to talk to everyone.

Selectman McGrath had a question. Even though I've served with Mr. Ulery over the last few years, I wasn't part of the process when you interviewed. So I don't know what your thoughts are about development and your role on the Planning Board. Jordan Ulery said that's the key element. You've seen the operation that I've done on the Board. The question that you asked was the role of development in Hudson. Well the role of development in Hudson is really laid out within the regulations that exist for Hudson. We need to advertise our industrial capacity. We've got several buildings that are vacant down in the industrial park. Work in that area needs to be maintained. We've got some lots that are undeveloped in town in the town section and care needs to be developed though so that they can be properly utilized and the owners of the property receive true value for their property. On the outskirts of town, some of the G sections of town the zoned general sections, larger lot properties can be developed into nicer homes. At the same time, we need to set aside some areas for individuals who don't necessarily need what is commonly referred to as a mc mansion. They need a smaller home and some consideration needs to be given for those individuals. That's why the Planning Board gets a variety of input so that we can care for each one of those things. We have a set of rules in town. Those rules are being evaluated right now by a subcommittee within the Planning Committee and I think that's one of the development processes that we look forward to within the Planning Board in reviewing their recommendations and seeing where they come out and getting those before the voters.

Jordan Ulery asked did I answer your question. Selectman McGrath said not really. Mr. Ulery said what did you want? Selectman McGrath wanted to know I guess what your philosophy is about the development in the Town of Hudson and not necessarily the regulations because they're already in place. Zoning is already in place. We make changes periodically. In fact, there's a joint meeting tomorrow night with the Planning Board, Zoning Board, and I believe Conservation Commission. I'm interested in hearing what your philosophy is about the development and your role in that development because it hasn't been evident to me what that role is over the last few years that I've served with you. Jordan Ulery said I'm not sure I fully understand the question. The Planning Board is in my understanding of it is to operate as an impartial arbiter and evaluator of the applications as they come forward. The staff prepares, and examines, and lays it out for the Planning Board members. The Planning Board members take a look at it and then are guided by the regulations that are in place - the zoning regulations, the conservation regulations, and meshes them altogether. So what will the Planning Board member is to evaluate those, see how they fit within the section of town that's being developed within the roadway. I remember a discussion we had regarding one section of road that the individuals wanted to put a garage up before they put up the house to run the business first and then build the house. To understand what the developer is doing, the builder is doing and to give them as much leeway as possible so that they can develop that within the general regulations that exist. It's not for the Planning Board to advocate for this development or that development at all. It's for the Planning Board to evaluate how that fits in with the entire community. I think over the past several years we've done that pretty well. Selectman McGrath indicated that answers my question. Thank you.

Chairman Coutu said to Mr. Ulery that brings me to pose a question I didn't think I would be asking but I'm going to ask. A member of the committee, the Planning Board once said to the Commission when you're voting on a matter and you're torn between what is right for the community and what is not right for the community, put yourself in the position that this is going to immediately impact you. That's a way for you to make a decision. In other words as an example, I'm going to open up a convenience store in a certain neighborhood. It doesn't quite meet some of the specifications that are required for a business. The people are either all for it, or all against it, or they're mixed. I guess what he was implying was that put yourself in that house. Do you want to convenience store on your street? That's a small example. How do you react to that statement that you if you're convoluted about which way you're going to go that perhaps you ought to think about how does this impact me directly if I were in that neighborhood. Could that sway you one way or another or is that an improper way do you think of making a decision?

Jordan Ulery thought that was an improper way of making a decision. You're guided by the ordinances that are in effect. The ordinances are to me general guidelines. General rules that apply. If you need to make a little blip around an area to allow a driveway to go straight through, or to face the street in the right way, and you need to have a waiver for a specific section so that it's safer or better for the community, yes. For example if there's a structure that's in a business zone and it can redevelop itself so that it fits into that zone where it's already doing business but it needs a modification to get around a corner someplace and that's going to increase the safety of the area then the waiver should be applied. That particular structure should be allowed to go to be developed - the convenience store as you talked about. If the convenient store wants to take a residential property lot and put a business on a residential lot, I would have some objections to that. You need to take into consideration the neighbors and you need to take into consideration the environment in which the - I don't mean environment by plants and trees but the overall picture and where the development is taking place. It's not the role of the Planning Board to force something into a community or into a development but it is the job of the Planning Board to see if they can fit it into that environment or maybe they can't fit it into the environment.

Chairman Coutu said I appreciate your answer. Let me ask you one more question. I'm having a problem with some of the Planning Board things lately. If you were to buy a home on a cul-de-sac with no right of way is there an expectation of privacy that this neighborhood is locked in? Mr. Ulery noted I know what you're referring to. Chairman Coutu was interested because I'm personally looking to prepare a warrant article about cul-de-sacs. I'm not trying to sway you. I'm asking you that if you're a person who buys a home on a cul-de-sac, there's no right of ways coming out of it is there an expectation that this neighborhood is locked in and that's why you buy the home there. Jordan Ulery asked is it private street or is it a public street. Chairman Coutu indicated it's a public street. If it's a public street, Sir there is absolutely no expectation of privacy. That's a

private right of way and anyone can drive down there in any vehicle that is legal on the streets at any time. And since it's a public street, that street can be extended if the town wishes to develop it further. There's a couple of streets for example in Litchfield where you'll go down and you'll see the circle at the end of the cul-de-sac and then the road continues on. Why? Because they developed a wooded land and put more houses up in that area. The same type of thing could happen in Hudson if somebody had a dead end street and then further down the dead end street of the territory was opened to be developed, they could develop it but it depends upon the plan that is brought forward and whether or not the zoning is appropriate, whether there's environmental concerns to be examined, whether or not it would increase or decrease the value of the properties that already exist. That's the whole purpose of the Planning Board is to sit down and evaluate these different things and to see how they fit into it.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman Nichols, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Jordan Ulery as a member to the Planning Board with a term to expire 12/31/2016.

Selectman Maddox indicated as your voting member on the Planning Board - so Ulery drives me crazy some nights but that's good. We need differing opinions. If we had 7 people that all agreed, we wouldn't need the other 6. I think that we need to have diversity, have opinions as long as the goal is the serve - to serve the Town of Hudson.

Selectman McGrath asked to make a comment. I've got to admit that when I saw your name to replace me as a full member on the Planning Board it wasn't a pleasant feeling. That's why I wanted to ask you the questions that I did. I feel comfortable enough after hearing the answers to vote for Mr. Ulery to replace the vacancy that exists. I don't want to see a rubber stamp either. That was my concern. Every plan that comes before is voted on its merits. Whether it meets the zoning and all of the things that go into these plans that come before us but to comment about putting a convenience store in an area where the neighbors object, there's a waiver that can be required if its next to a residential and I forget the number of feet - 100 foot buffer that that business has to be away from. I just want to make sure that that pops into your head when you're looking at developments that are maybe a commercial or an industrial development that we want to attract in Hudson. If it's in a neighborhood and that waiver is required, I think that the concerns of the neighbors has to be weighed a little more carefully. That's just my comments. I'm comfortable voting for Mr. Ulery.

Chairman Coutu said I too for the record had some concerns. Thought I watch the meetings Jordan and you're not bashful. You ask questions and when I see that people are asking questions, obviously there's something that you're not fully satisfied has been explained to you and I think it's very important that people ask questions. Mrs. McGrath gets chewed up sometimes because they think she asks too many questions and there are going to be nights that I'm going to sit here and she's going to ask a question and I'm going to say wow I should have thought of that and it might shed a whole new light. I appreciate your participation and I too will be supporting your nomination and I look forward to seeing you as a voting member and you have a little more say because you'll be able to actually vote on these projects.

Vote: Motion carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu congratulated Jordan. I know it was a tough nudge on your arm to get you to join from alternate to permanent. Thank you Sir.

6) Recreation Committee - (3 vacancies, 3 member terms to expire 4/30/2018)

Carl Dubois (incumbent member)

Chairman Coutu noted Carl is an incumbent member. A very active member of the Recreation Committee. Carl your name and address for the record please.

Carl Dubois, 28 Forest Road in lovely Hudson, New Hampshire. Chairman Coutu asked Carl to tell us a little about yourself - your years of service on the Recreation Committee. Mr. Dubois noted I've been alternate and now I'm a voting member and this will be my third appointment to the Recreation Committee. I've been with the committee for some time now. I've enjoyed serving for the community, the children, and pretty much all citizens in Hudson.

Chairman Coutu indicated Carl is the Easter bunny. These kids are not watching the Board of Selectmen's meeting.

Selectman Maddox said I'm asking everybody where if they're appointed where they'd like to see the board go. Carl Dubois said realistically I think Dave and the Recreation Committee do a nice job at offering programs for all citizens in Hudson. I'd like to see that expanded. I'd also like to see some additional investment in recreation in Hudson in terms of course the big pet peeve of mine - I coach a lacrosse team here in town. We just had practice in a parking lot. It's discouraging. It's hard for the children to practice and better themselves when we don't have the facilities. That's one area I'd like to improve.

Chairman Coutu noted Carl you serve on the new nonprofit organization - the fields committee. I serve as an advisor as the Recreation Director and Karen Bonnie. I want people to know that he's not just active on recreation. We're trying to look at land that we can purchase and see how we can put our tools and resources together between the school side and our side and see if we can come up with some money and find some land to develop into more recreation space which is sorely needed in town. I agree. Are there any other questions of the Board?

Selectman Nichols asked have you people thought of raising funds to upgrade your community center where you have all your meetings, your basketball games and whatever. Have you thought about getting a new floor? That floor is terrible and the kitchen. You really need some help. I don't know if you've thought of those things. Mr. Dubois said absolutely. There is a subcommittee that looks to improving facilities. It's a project subcommittee and realistically it's just more along the lines of trying to improve the parks in town and that is also on the list to try to improve that community center because it's used quite a bit and not just for basketball. There's a lot of basketball that gets played on that floor.

Chairman Coutu wanted to state for the record the community center is a municipal building. If anyone on this Board during the process of deliberating the budget for next year feels that there's any renovating that needs to be done there, that is our responsibility. We might take that up. Any other questions of Carl.

Susan LaRoche (incumbent member) not in attendance

Chairman Coutu indicated Sue LaRoche has had surgery. I've been in contact with her and some friends. She's come along relatively well. Her foot has been operated on. Is it the wish of the Board that we put off or suspend in order to appoint Sue? She's served many years on the Recreation Committee. I know Sue personally for a long time her dedication but whatever is the wish of the Board.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Carl Dubois as a member to the Recreation Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2018, carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu asked Selectman McGrath if you've ever met Sue LaRoche. Selectman McGrath said no I have not. Chairman Coutu said I will make it a point to ask her to come to a meeting so that you can meet her informally because Selectman Maddox and I had talked in the past about we'd like to see people and know who they are as they related to the community. Selectman McGrath indicated I'll abstain on the motion to appoint her where I don't know here.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Susan LaRoche as a member to the Recreation Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2018, carried 4-0-1. Selectman McGrath abstained.

- 7) Senior Affairs Committee - (3 vacancies, 1 member term to expire 4/30/2018; 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/2016, 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/2017)

Lisa Beckwith - I'm actually a volunteer. I filled out an application to volunteer. Chairman Coutu questioned to volunteer at the center as opposed to being appointed to a committee. Ms. Beckwith said correct. Chairman Coutu indicated you just have to walk into the center and tell them you're ready to volunteer and she'll sign you up. Lisa Beckwith noted that Donna had contacted me and asked me to come to the meeting. Chairman Coutu indicated you should not have been. There was a misunderstanding. You know where the senior center is? Ms. Beckwith indicated I actually don't. I was told earlier. Chairman Coutu asked do you know our Director. Lisa Beckwith said I don't. I just moved to the town in November and I thought it would be a good thing to know my town and do something that I enjoy. Chairman Coutu said presently the senior center is open Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday from 8:30 to 4:30 if I'm not mistaken. You're welcome to go to the center any one of those days. Go in, ask to speak to the Director, and tell her what your intentions are. I'm sure she'll put an apron on you, or a broom in your hand, or have you just socialize with people that are looking for somebody to talk to. Ms. Beckwith asked if they do other things throughout the week or weekends also. Chairman Coutu said no. Programs right now are geared for Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. I understand that because our budget passed, that may expand to a four day a week program. They have been under the constraints of not having a budget. This year the voters - we're so pleased - approved our budget and now the funding is in place for them to be able to think about future plans. To answer the question that Selectman Maddox has which is what's the direction of your committee for future needs, or growth, or whatever. I think that albeit as it is, that doesn't mean that might not want to do weekend programming. If somebody can organize a group and they want to do something on a Saturday or a Sunday in the park in the center, the Director can as long as somebody is responsible to open and lock it up when they leave. All those things are going to be entertained now. I'd say the best conversation to have is with the Director. I hope you do go in and volunteer. I think you'd be a great addition.

If there's no objection, Chairman Coutu indicated we're going to go into a five minute recess. The Board is back in session at 8:44 p.m. I had a technical question so I wanted to get it resolved before we interview you.

Gwen Bujnowski - I live at 25 Lawrence Road in Hudson. Chairman Coutu asked could you tell us about yourself, and your interests, and what brings you here this evening. Specifically your interest in serving on the Senior Affairs Committee. Specifically Gwen Bujnowski said I enjoyed spending time with my grandmother who recently passed in November. I feel that this is a way to reconnect with her memory. Chairman Coutu said awesome. How do you argue with that answer? Have you ever done any volunteer work in the past? Ms. Bujnowski said yes. Probably grade school. So it has been some time. I have gone to college, graduated with my Bachelors in Business, and graduated with high honors.

Chairman Coutu said I've been to the meetings so I know you've never been to a meeting. Have you ever watched them on television? Ms. Bujnowski said no. Chairman Coutu said you're not familiar with the machinations of a committee. You've

never served formally on a committee where there's a Chairman and a Vice-Chairman. Ms. Bujnowski indicated no. Chairman Coutu indicated this is basically the same type of structure only some committee meetings are a lot more lenient than others. Conversations go on for a long time. Given that you would be new to volunteering and given that you're going to be working in an area that are generally younger people shy away from and I understand in your response to my answer your reasoning for choosing to want to serve on that committee, what do you think that you could bring to the Senior Affairs Committee? Gwen Bujnowski said a new face, new life, new ideas. Hopefully bring a well-rounded opinion and ideas more or less.

Chairman Coutu noted you made yourself available for this meeting. Are you going to be able to attend a meeting one night per month which is Wednesdays at 7:30. It would be 7 but we have somebody that can't make it until 7:30 so we accommodated him. That would be fine. Are there any other questions of the Board please?

Selectman Nichols asked would you be against trying to fundraise to help the seniors which I think is going to be a coming up thing pretty soon now if they're going to need money and I don't think they have very much right now. Gwen Bujnowski indicated of course I'd be on board with that.

Chairman Coutu asked are we confusing two committees. This committee does not do fundraising. Selectman Nichols thought that they would have to because the Council on Aging can only go so far with what they give and they're saving for the bus. They've furnished the whole inside. They've done all that. Chairman Coutu indicated this committee is a municipal structure. Committees don't do fundraising. I just thought you were confusing that with the nonprofit organization.

Selectman McGrath had a couple of questions. Would you be willing to serve as an alternate as opposed to a full member where you're just starting out? Gwen Bujnowski said sure. Selectman McGrath understood the answer that you gave to Chairman Coutu at the beginning. Have you gone to the senior center or interacted with any of the members there yet? You're grief is new so it will provide some difficulties I think for you especially if you get attached. Ms. Bujnowski said it was good. Selectman McGrath said it's good but you need to recognize that. Ms. Bujnowski said I did ask her (my grandmother) to bring me and she said I wasn't allowed. I had asked her if she was super excited about it opening but she said that I wasn't allowed so I don't know if she was clear on the rules. Selectman McGrath asked you haven't gone since her passing. Ms. Bujnowski said I haven't gone period. I have walked around the grounds. I do walk around and I do utilize Benson's often. I don't live far away.

For the record, Chairman Coutu said it appears that there is a rule - I don't know who made the rule but young people are not allowed to go into the building for whatever reason. Selectman McGrath said they didn't send me away. Chairman Coutu said we'll have a discussion about that. No young people are allowed in the building. Don't try it again Marilyn. Any other questions for Gwen. Seeing none, thank you Gwen. We'll be making decisions in a moment.

Nancie Caron - I live at 11 Berkeley Drive in Hudson. The main reason I'm here tonight because I would definitely love to be on the Senior Affair Committee. I'd like to be able to bring growth to that committee. I did a lot with senior citizens at the present time. I work at the senior citizens at Fairview here in Hudson the Inn. I love to listen to their stories. I also deal with the seniors in Nashua at the Hunt Community. You'd be surprised when you listen to I wish the Town would do this, I wish they would do that. I know they can't come to these facilities here in Hudson but I listen to them. I've been doing that for quite a while now and I think I can bring a lot to this committee.

Chairman Coutu wanted Nancie to know that I also go to Fairview and I talk to seniors. I participate in a lot of activities. I hear where you're coming from. Nancie are you a member of the senior group? Nancie said I am. I have been in and out of the building many times. I deal with Lucille Boucher. You know Lucille Boucher and Lori Bowen are just unbelievable the work that they do. They really need the help there. Considering the budget constraints we've had in the past two years, Chairman Coutu said they've done a phenomenal job. I can't say enough about them. Ms. Caron said they're hard workers. The more people that can help them. I'd like to see that membership at 650 now I'd like to see it 700. Chairman Coutu said it's a slow crawl but we're averaging about 7 new members a week now. It's growing. We'll get there. In 7 more weeks we should be there if you should be at 700. Nancie Caron indicated that's definitely a goal.

Selectman Maddox asked if you're appointed where do you want to see that board go. Ms. Caron said my main thing, again, like I said is to assist Lori. I know she's only there 3 days a week but I'd like to see more people come in to help her and Lucille Boucher too. When I go down there, its unbelievable how hard that those ladies work down there. The Bingo to see the light in their eyes when they play Bingo. Chairman Coutu noted Shirley tells me all the time. She does the calling I believe.

Selectman Nichols asked do you have ideas of new activities for the seniors. Nancie said yes definitely. More trips. I'd like to see Lucille do more trips. Shorter ones. I know they're going to Washington and they've gone to Atlantic City. I'd like to see shorter trips. I know the ladies in my complex they love taking trips. They don't want to go on long buses for 2, 3 hours. They want something like Maine to get lobsters and stuff like that. More trips. Bring in more speakers - the Police Department to come in to talk on fraud; the Fire Department to come in to talk about fire prevention. The complex I live in, I run the committee there and I'm always bringing either the Fire Department in, or the Police Department to come in, or Detectives to come in to talk to us about fraud, or these phone calls that we get. I'm looking to expand more things like that.

Chairman Coutu asked if there were any other questions or comments. Seeing none, thanks Nancie. I hope to see you more often now.

Susanne Hovling (incumbent member) - Chairman Coutu noted that Sue has served I believe since inception of this committee. She's also the former Director of the Senior Center in Pelham, New Hampshire. Please state your name and address for the record and a little bit about yourself.

Sue Hovling 60 Lawrence Road, Hudson. I've been a Hudson resident for 52 years. I grew up in Litchfield and went to Alvirne. All my children went to Alvirne. When I went to work in Pelham, I worked there for 36 years and I said when I retired I would like to do something in my own town of Hudson. Hopefully with the senior center that would hopefully be built by the time I retired. It didn't quite happen but almost. I retired in 2/11 and the senior center was built in 2014. I've been very active in the committee. I helped on the interviewing committee for Lori. I bring 36 years of experience and all the ups and downs of running a senior center. I'm interested in being part of the new strategic plan for the next 3 years which we're going to attempt. I've been from across the country to see every senior center in every State that I could possibly see when I was a member of the National Council on Aging. I've seen every kind of collaboration that you can imagine between different organizations in senior centers and parks and rec. in senior centers. I think the more collaboration you can do with people, the better off you are. School is another one.

Ms. Hovling noted there was one senior center that was built with one lobby and two wings. One wing was the parks and rec., one wing was the senior center. The seniors used the gym equipment and the pool of the park and rec. during the day and the kids came in and used the senior center at night as a meeting place and they had a cafeteria. It worked beautifully. One city built a senior center between the city, the veteran's organization, and the senior citizens. They all fundraised and they bought the old training ground of the San Francisco 49ers. That's their senior center. It's a campus. Of course it's a big city. In Alaska they have a little store front with people that just come and eat in one portion of Alaska and the other portion Anchorage as a state of the art senior center a block big. So there's all kinds of funding, all kinds of different ways to run senior centers.

Chairman Coutu asked a question of Susanne I wish I had asked the other candidates because there's been a lot of e-mails that have gone between myself and other people relative to this topic. I'm interested in people's opinion about it. Do you see a possibility of young people interacting with seniors at the senior center in Hudson, New Hampshire? Susanne Hovling said somewhat. Sometimes it works. Sometimes it doesn't. To be honest with you, we've tried it. It depends. What are you talking young people? Chairman Coutu said I haven't been around the country going into senior centers but I know the machinations of a lot of senior centers in the northern Middlesex area. I know that there's mentoring that goes on between certain age groups and seniors. Some of the kids like to do projects. One of the projects is to go in and volunteer in the senior center, and work with seniors, and ask them questions, and fill out a paper about their experience. Scouting groups like to come in and do a co-op activity like filling Easter baskets, or Easter eggs. There are a lot of projects. I'm hearing - I'm going to put it right on the table - that the doors are going to be closed to kids at the senior center. Ms. Hovling said I hadn't heard that. Chairman Coutu said it was disturbing to me. Ms. Hovling commented I worked with the Girl Scouts just a couple of weeks ago. Chairman Coutu noted there was a lot of objection to it. I got 2 or 3 e-mails and I got a couple of phone calls. Susanne indicated I came in and we worked on blankets and everything went...Chairman Coutu said the people who interacted with them told me that it was a great experience and other people told me they didn't want it to happen again. I just want to know what direction this town is going to go in.

Selectman Nichols said if I remember correctly it was for seniors only. I believe that was one of the things that the lawyer wrote up. That's why I think they object to the children in because it is seniors only. They don't object to mentoring the young people. They would go to the rec. center. They would go to the Community Center. They would do anything they can to help the young ones but when this center was built, they wanted a place for themselves - just for the seniors. That's the calls that I had. Those are the things that I heard because I go up there at least once or twice a week when I can. I try to get up there a lot. These are the things that I heard. I don't mean to disparage the young people by any means. I like kids. I love the young ones. I get a kick out of them. The seniors had waited so long for their own home and then right now - I don't know if that will change - but right at this minute they do not want to share.

Selectman Luszey thought this actually should be put on the agenda as a future topic. It's inappropriate for this conversation during an interview process but I think it would be appropriate as an agenda item to get out clearly what is meant by membership to the senior center and participating and volunteering at the senior center. Susanne Hovling said it would be an appropriate subject for our committee also.

Selectman McGrath asked where you were the Director of the senior center over in Pelham did you have any experience with seeking out any types of grants or money available from other areas as opposed to just the residents of the town funding that. Ms. Hovling said yes. Selectman McGrath asked is that something that you would try to utilize on this committee. Ms. Hovling indicated I have written grants. I'm not a grant writer. I once wrote a grant for a computer by hand because I didn't have a computer and got the computers. Selectman McGrath wanted to know if you know the location or the availability of other funds that the town could seek. Ms. Hovling said if you go on the computer there's a gold mine of grants. There's NH charitable organizations. Selectman McGrath said that's my point you're familiar with that. So that would be a benefit to this committee.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Susanne Hovling as a member to the Senior Affairs Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2018, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Nancie Caron as an alternate to the Senior Affairs Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2017, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Gwen Bujnowski as an alternate to the Senior Affairs Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2016, carried 5-0.

Selectman McGrath asked to make a comment about Ms. Bujnowski. I think that this will give you adequate time to get familiar with the committee and whether or not it's something that you want to continue to pursue.

- 8) Sustainability Committee - (6 vacancies, 1 member term to expire 4/30/17; 4 member terms to expire 4/30/2018; 1 alternate term to expire 4/30/2018)

Leo Bernard (incumbent member) - 3 Bungalow Ave. I've lived here 47 years. I've done a lot volunteering. I've been on the Budget Committee. I'm on the Cable Committee. I've been on a lot of these committees that are vacant and just willing to serve again on the Sustainability Committee.

Chairman Coutu said Leo you serve as Chair of the Committee and you and I have had conversation before about the leadership role of a Chairperson and control of the meetings. I find that when I watch the committee meetings there's a lot of conversation that goes on. Everybody is talking at the same time again. You had it under control for a while. You think you can pound that gavel a little louder sometimes and get them under control and have them respect the Chair? That's all I ask. You do an outstanding job.

Leo Bernard indicated at next month's meeting is re-election of officers. So I might not be Chair.

Chairman Coutu wanted to say before we go any further, you guys have done an outstanding job with road cleanup. I know that you run around with your truck, and you're feeding them water, and making sure they all have proper vests. I know you're coordinating with the Police Chief. I think it's great now that we're concentrating on neighborhood spots and we're going out and we're cleaning. I know you have a proposal that will come before us for Old Derry Road. So we'll discuss that. I want to applaud you and your committee because aside from just meeting once a month, you're actually putting words to action and you're going out into the community and you're doing things. It's a very, very positive note for the Town of Hudson to see that and I want to thank you and your committee. That was a next step for you guys to be involved in. You've got Girl Scouts involved. There is a way to do it. You also had Planet Earth involved. They sent out a core group of volunteers to go out and work with you to accomplish one or two cleanups. They donated stuff for the event. I thought that was fantastic. That's all under your leadership Leo so I want to applaud you for that. Are there any other questions of Mr. Bernard?

Selectman Maddox said the Sustainability Committee is a morphed committee between the Energy and Recycling. I know it's going to annoy Selectman Luszey but it's almost that time to be thinking about the trash contract again. I just want to know where you believe that the committee should be headed. Leo Bernard said when the contract comes up I believe that's all handled by Kevin. We never see anything come up to us. When Ted was on, he was very upset about that. Selectman Luszey indicated it used to be solid waste. Mr. Bernard didn't see how it's going. It's in Kevin's hands for that and we just try to educate the town in recycling and getting more stuff done. Now since we've combined energy, we're getting more out on energy savings and stuff like that. I know the contract is coming up but I don't know where this committee is going with that. Like I said, it was taken away from us because of something a long time ago and I don't want to bring up what happened.

Leo in terms of the comment you made about educating the public, Chairman Coutu noticed that there are more articles in the paper about energy and conservation. I know that there's been discussion about you're talking about the future. I know that there's been conversation about bringing in guest speakers to talk about different energy, conservation matter that the Board would like to hear. Is that a direction that this Board is going to - you'll see it continuing in that direction? Leo Bernard said yes. The town did have an energy audit and we just got a copy of it all. We're going to go through it and see if there's anything that we can probably bring up and talk to you guys again about. Is this something we can do with the town or can we do something to get it going? We just got it last month a copy of it all. The committee is going through it. We're going to be talking about it at our next meeting and see where we go from there. We want to see more energy stuff come up. We've done a lot of with recycling but we want to try to get the energy part in too because like I said, we're combined now and we want to see both ways go energy and recycling.

Chairman Coutu asked what do you think is the problem with recycling that our numbers are stagnant. We're at that 25 percent threshold. We were at 28. Mr. Bernard said we were at the 30 and then we dropped down. I don't know why we dropped. We were at 30. Chairman Coutu said we were at 25 and we got up and now we're back down to 25. Do you think maybe by doing a television show or something like that? I know it's been talked about. Mr. Bernard said we're doing the committee and talking more recycling. I don't know about doing a show. I know I've been asked to try to get a show on cable TV but I just don't see a direction there and none of the committee members are - so I'm not sure how we're going to go with that. Chairman Coutu was just saying it's something for the future. I'd like to see recycling. Some communities are getting up to 40 - 50 percent. We're stagnant at 25. I'd like to see us get back to at least 30. Mr. Bernard said I'd like to see it back at 30. When we hit the 30 goal, we brought it up and did another higher goal and it went down instead of up.

Chairman Coutu said the point is the reason why I'm doing this is for the people on the other side of the camera to understand that the more we recycle the more we save on our trash contract and the amount as of now. If you can get more stuff out of your rubbish barrel into your recycling barrel, and there's a lot of people out there that I think are guilty of it because I can see it sometimes sticking out of a barrel. I see cardboard. I see bags full of cans. It should be in the recycling barrel. That's tonnage that we're paying for that we shouldn't be paying for because recycling is free. I think that should be the message. I'd like to see your banner back up here but I think you lost a couple of banners in the process of moving them.

Leo Bernard said I'm also upset about seeing those yellow barrels too. People are paying for that yellow barrel. The yellow covers. They have to pay for that extra trash barrel. I see a lot of them and I just can't see why they can't get another recycling barrel and do more recycling than throwing it in the trash. Every time I see a yellow one, I just shake my head. Chairman Coutu indicated we'll see how the new contract evolves and what we can do. Thank you Leo.

Robert Cooper - I live on 16 Meadow Drive in Hudson.

Chairman Coutu asked Rob could you tell us what it is that brings you to want to serve on the Recycling Committee and have you ever attended any of their meetings. Mr. Cooper said I have not attended any of the meetings. I've been a resident here in Hudson since 2001. We've participated some in town sports but in terms of the government of the town, we haven't really had much participation. It's been my desire to become more involved in the community. We are more and more invested in New Hampshire as the years go by. We have 2 children who are at UNH, another one who is going to be going to either NHTI or Manchester Community College. We don't plan on moving anywhere. So the desire is to become more involved in the community and contribute in areas where I'm able to. Chairman Coutu commented and said you're an empty nester. Mr. Cooper said no. We have 7 children.

Selectman Maddox asked if you're appointed where would you like the Sustainability Committee to head towards. Rob Cooper said one of the things I think would be very good if there was more done by way of energy to understand how we could conserve energy. I pay a lot for electricity and what we do in our house is that we have a lot of the high efficiency bulbs in there. We recycle the bulbs that have the mercury in them. We recycle batteries. I'm collecting a lot of the oil that I've used when I was maintaining my own vehicle to bring down and get that recycled. So the whole idea is to make certain that folks understand that when you invest in your environment, that's a very worthwhile investment.

Selectman Luszey said if I hear you, your desire would be to expand the committee's scope to include the entire community and not just the facilities within the town government. Mr. Cooper said absolutely.

Debbie Johnson - Chairman Coutu indicated she will be at the next Selectmen's meeting.

Linda Kipnes (incumbent member) - 23 Nathaniel Drive. Chairman Coutu noted Linda was formerly the Chair of the Energy Committee. Linda Kipnes indicated I was the one who petitioned it to start and when it started, I became Chairman and we went through some up times and some down times. We joined with recycling and became Sustainability. I think it's been a really good (inaudible) together. Lots of the recycling people are involved in energy and were interested in promoting recycling so it's been a good thing.

Chairman Coutu commented I learned something this past week that I didn't know and I thought of you when I heard it from her. You do the barrel - one of the medians. Ms. Kipnes said yes at the Sagamore Bridge. Chairman Coutu said I never knew. Sometimes there's artificial flowers with a flag. The barrels that they have on the median. I said wow if we had people that would volunteer to do that around town, it would liven up those medians. I have a bone of contention with the medians. They let the grass grow through the cracks. The State did an overhaul last year but they ought to do it a little more often. Ms. Kipnes noted I'd like to see some more work done in that area but that's another issue. Chairman Coutu said you did originally an energy audit in town and that's why we changed a lot of these light fixtures. So now you're doing an additional audit. Linda Kipnes said no we had an audit done after the lights were done. There was an audit done that recommended a number of things for each of the different buildings including things like door sweeps and more insulation around windows. Some of those things were done and I think maybe lots of them were not done. One of the recommendations was more insulation in the roof of this building. I'm pretty sure that that was not done. So one of the things we're doing I resurrected that audit that was from a few years ago and I passed it out to other members of the committee. Some of whom had not seen it. We're going to try to go through it and see if there are things that can be done. Chairman Coutu said it must have made you feel good when you were sitting back there and hear Rob talk about energy because a lot of people are leaning towards the recycling thing but we need to focus as well on energy conservation because that's money in our pockets.

Linda Kipnes said we have always tried not only to do energy savings for the town buildings but also to bring information to people. We have spots that run on a scroll on the cable TV with little tips about various energy savings. Chairman Coutu said brush your teeth without running the water. Gallons of water are going down the drain. Linda Kipnes said that's right. I hope all of you shut the water off. Dry your clothes outside on a rack.

Selectman McGrath said the same as for one of the other committees - the Utility Committee. This Sustainability Committee has 6 vacancies and only 4 applicants. Are you short on members as well and does that pose a problem for you having meetings where you don't have a quorum? Ms. Kipnes said I don't remember that we've been short. We have never had a

problem with having a quorum that I can remember. We occasionally have cancelled a meeting if it's around a holiday. We've just cancelled. Selectman McGrath was looking at the agenda and it says that there's 6 vacancies and only 4 before us.

Steve Malizia noted there are a couple members who didn't reup. I can't think of their names off the top of my head. Ms. Kipnes indicated Jason Shoemaker did not reup and Frank Rosier evidently did not reup either. He didn't say he wasn't going to. Jason had told us. Mr. Bernard said Frank is still thinking about it. He said his work and stuff...Ms. Kipnes said Jason had told us that he was not going to come back because he's been traveling a lot. Frank I was surprised. We have gotten several new members fairly recently. I thought we were in pretty good shape. Selectman McGrath wanted to make sure that there wasn't going to be a problem with this committee as well and something that maybe we should look at reducing the number of members but if it hasn't posed a problem yet then we can just...Chairman Coutu said the only meetings I can remember they haven't have is meetings that you've cancelled because of a holiday, or it was too close to Christmas. Leo I remember you suggesting to cancel. Other than that, you've had more than a quorum. It's a lot of people. It's hard to control the meeting with a lot of people sometimes.

Linda Kipnes stated where I'd like to see us go - I would like to see us get to 50 percent recycling. I don't know how in the world we can do that. We talk about it at every single meeting if anybody ever watches us they would see us talking about it. We have articles in the HLN. We have stuff on cable TV. I don't know how else you can reach people. I really thought that saving money would be the thing that would get people to recycle if they don't care about the environment or whatever. Saving money would be a thing and I'm really surprised that it hasn't been. That only 25 percent - it isn't 25 percent of the people it's 25 percent of the trash. It should be way higher. I'm not sure how we do that. That would be a goal. We just keep trying to reach out to people.

Chairman Coutu commented on the recycling police. Did you hear that Tyngsboro tried the recycling police? They would go out and if you had recycling matter in your regular barrel, they put a fine - a ticket of \$25. They put a stop to that very quickly.

Selectman McGrath asked is it possible that people aren't recycling because it's only done on an every other week schedule as opposed to a weekly schedule? Is that a possibility? Chairman Coutu said anything is a possibility. We could live with that. Selectman McGrath said I recycle. That's most of what I put out because I don't have a family; I only have to put my trash out maybe once a month. The recycling bin is what really drives me to carry that down to the end of the driveway because I'll need to get that barrel empty because the recycling compiles most of my trash that I put out.

Linda Kipnes indicated it could be most of almost everybody's trash is recycled. There are a lot of things that are recyclable. It's really easy. There's just one barrel and you don't have to separate things out. I don't know what the issue is that people are not doing it more. We need to just keep reaching out to them and maybe if the contract is coming up again, we can have a lot of publicity around that, and what the money means, and how we could save money by doing more recycling.

Chairman Coutu stated that people complained that we're spending \$1 million to dispose of our waste and they don't understand that it's their fault. We could be saving a considerable amount of money if we had more people recycling. I think Selectman McGrath is right that we need to look at some studies that have been done in communities that do weekly versus bi-weekly. I think that information would be readily available today. I think we need to find other communities that have been very successful. I know that you people have talked about it at some of your committee meetings. There are some communities that are as high as 70 percent in this country - not locally but in this country. What is it that they do that we're not doing? What can we do to better educate? What programs are out there? Are there discs available from other community television networks that we can bring into our community and show on television and perhaps even have somebody from Pinard come in and sit down with Kevin Burns and one or two members of your committee and do a television program on the purpose of recycling. It has a dual purpose - obviously to save money to the community and two, recycling the product into a use for later on. It's saving the money that's imperative there for the communities not that the recycling into other material doesn't matter; it does because it reduces the cost of the product that's being made by using recyclable materials. I think maybe those are things that the committee can look at.

The other thing that Linda Kipnes would really like to see us go is getting more information out and getting people more involved in alternative energy sources. I've been pushing solar array as poor Steve knows as I call him and whatever. I'm pushing information about that. I would love to see more people in town using solar energy and I would love to see the town have a big solar array. Chairman Coutu indicated I would too at the old dump. I'd love to see an array there. Ms. Kipnes said I talked to the people in Peterborough who are doing it and they're more than willing to come and talk to us so if we can pursue it. Steve Malizia stated that Elvis has actually spoken to Rodney I think it was. Chairman Coutu indicated that's a pet project of mine is if we can use solar farm to do our own municipal buildings - a considerable savings. Linda Kipnes said I would love to get information like that out to people and not just how we can use it for the town buildings but also how people can use it. Chairman Coutu noted the City of Lowell is saving \$3 million a year with their farm doing their municipal buildings.

Just a comment. Selectman Luszey agreed with everything that Ms. Kipnes said but, however, if you recall this Board did not sponsor a Warrant Article that would encourage people to put solar arrays on their house because of the evaluation. I think if we really want to encourage the homeowner to put solar arrays or alternative energy devices on their property, we need to tackle the issue of the appreciation and value of how that's handled.

Selectman Maddox said the reason why this Board did not support it is we don't charge people today. We didn't want to go through the process of assessing their array, figuring out a depreciation value, and then giving them a credit. I think that this Board could by vote of the Board even maybe have to have a public hearing depending upon how it goes that says we do not charge for solar equipment as far as assessment.

Chairman Coutu said that was our position then and I think we're maintaining that position today. If we can adopt a policy...Selectman Luszey stated that's what needs to happen. It needs to be part of Town Code that says it because right now there's nothing that says if an Assessor goes out that they do not assess it. Again I think this is a conversation on the floor of another agenda. Chairman Coutu agreed and I think Linda would love to have that conversation with us.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Leo Bernard as a member to the Sustainability Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2018, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman Luszey, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Linda Kipnes as a member to the Sustainability Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2018, carried 5-0.

Motion by Selectman Maddox, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Robert Cooper as a member to the Sustainability Committee with a term to expire 4/30/2018, carried 5-0.

9) Zoning Board of Adjustment - (1 vacancy, 1 alternate term to expire 12/31/2017)

Charlie Brackett - I live at 21 Old Coach Road, Hudson, NH.

Chairman Coutu said I certainly can understand why you're applying for the Zoning Board because when you initially applied, that was your original intent and there was not a vacancy I think at the time. So you took the Planning Board but your first love being the ZBA. Why don't you tell us the committee - refresh our memories a little bit about yourself and why you'd like to serve on the ZBA.

Charlie Brackett stated my background is in civil engineering. I worked as a consultant engineer for about 45 years, 30 of which was in Boston and the last 15 I've traveled around the country on large design built projects as a project manager. In the early '90s I volunteered and was elected to the Zoning Board for about 10 years and I enjoyed that. In 2005 my company sent me to other parts of the country for weekdays and I couldn't get back for the Zoning Board meetings and had to drop away for the last 8 years. Since then, I've been back. About a year I've retired and my wife wants me out of the house. I thought it would be nice to get back on the Zoning Board as you mentioned. I found that it was full and saw there was an opening on the Planning Board as an alternate. With Selectman McGrath's departure from the Zoning Board, I applied for the alternate position and that's why I'm here today.

Chairman Coutu noted created holes all over the place. Mr. Brackett indicated opportunities. Chairman Coutu stated its opportunity for her as well. I remember the conversation and I watch all the meetings. I've heard your questions at the Planning Board. They've been interesting. People need to ask questions in order to have a better understanding of what's going on. I appreciate that.

Selectman McGrath was happy to see that Mr. Brackett applied for my vacancy on the Zoning Board. He and I served together on the Zoning Board before you departed. I've got to say he's been one of the - I've been involved with the Planning Board and Zoning Board for so many years - I've had the opportunity to know a lot of different members. Charlie has been one of the best Zoning Board members that this town has ever had. Ann Seabury and I were really disappointed when he had to resign because of his employment opportunity so I'm happy to see you back on that Board.

Chairman Coutu said there's an endorsement if I ever heard one.

Selectman Maddox noted that's a board you really can't ask that question. Charlie Brackett indicated I had a lot of opportunity to think of an answer. It goes back to my first tenure on the Zoning Board. When I first moved to Hudson in 1987, it was a different town back then and it seemed like there was a lot of issues that remained on the town boards. It actually went to the State Supreme Court for judgment and I thought with my background as an engineer and I worked in a lot of public sector work for DOTs, contracts, and other things, I thought I could bring that knowledge to the Board and help provide the input to have the Town do the right thing and for the long-term benefit of the town. What I hope to bring back, and I haven't seen what the Board's done in the last 8 years because I have been away but I'd like to bring that back to the board with my input. Not to say that it isn't doing it now but to continue that. I really have not been around the town much so my input would be from a I'd call it a neutral technical point of view which I hope people could take or not take. Again for the long-term benefit of the town. Sometime a lot of the cases come up in the heat of the presentations, issues, and things. Sometimes it's important to think further out to what the town will be after we approve or disapprove the cases that come before us.

Chairman Coutu commented I'd rather have someone serve on a board or a commission, especially commissions, that are neutral as opposed to walking in with an opinion. You need to listen to what's being presented before you make your decision and ask the proper questions in order to reach a conclusion that's in the best interest of the community.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to suspend the rules and nominate and appoint Charlie Brackett as an alternate to the Zoning Board of Adjustment with a term to expire 12/31/2017, carried 5-0.

7. DISCUSSION ITEMS

B) Discussion with Boards and Committees Regarding Status and Goals

Chairman Coutu thought we've had that discussion pretty much. You asked the question of objectives. I brought up the fact that I felt that some of the committees were at times totally out of control. The Chairperson needs to take the gavel and have people recognize that they are the Chairperson. They will direct the conversation. It's very difficult for anybody when you're watching committee meetings to listen to 5 or 6 people talking at the same time. You can't hear what they're saying. I know Marilyn you've had a habit of saying at some of the meetings that please keep it down. Sometimes you can't think because you can't make out what's going on or what's being said. I think that we've lost some of that decorum on a couple of committees and we need to bring it in. When somebody is going on for a lengthy period of time on one topic that could easily be resolved outside of the chamber, I don't want to bring up any specifics because I don't want to point to any one committee but there are things that have been decided, and the policy has been made, and they're still harping on changing it when there was no support to change it. End the conversation and let's move on to a matter that's more important to the committees. Other than that, I think your question this evening about where you think the committees, what direction they're going to go in. I know that we're looking for more substance. That's going to be the direction in the coming year.

Selectman Maddox thought that unfortunately they sat here and kind of heard everybody else so hopefully they got some input. I would hope that all of the Chairmen have a discussion with their boards and committees to ask that very question is where do they think we're going to go? What do they need for support from us? The Municipal Utility Committee I think is my poster child for a lack of a better term. They are responsible for controlling our growth. How our infrastructure is determines whether we can get people onto the municipal water and sewer. I think that we need to be looking at those groups to tell us what we're missing. I know that everybody signed up for various committees and I know some selectmen don't go to those meetings. I would hope that over the next year we bring in some of these committees and have a sit down to say Sustainability as we get closer to the contract what are we as a town looking for. Are there better options? Sending them off to be our research people to see what is out there today. What is the trend that other communities are using to see if they can either get the percentage up, the costs down, whatever? Those kinds of things.

Benson Park. Selectman Maddox thought that as this gem is used more and more, the town is going to have to put more monies into it Mr. Chairman. Again I was looking at this as giving us the information we need and I hate to say the word "budget" but you know you've got to be thinking about that in a few months what we need to be talking about. I was hoping that they could take back to their various boards and committees to give us the input we need before the 3 meeting marathon which is the budget. I was hoping that we could utilize their expertise to give us the information we need.

Selectman Luszey said I have a slightly different take on this agenda item. We interviewed a bunch of people for all these boards. Yes you asked them what their vision is. That to me does not fulfill the spirit of what are the Chairmen of these different boards what are their goals and what is the status of their committees today which is a totally different conversation. I'm not ready to put that particular item to bed.

Chairman Coutu thought that one of the problems that I see in listening to the various meetings that take place is that - and because of the fact that we have not had this is the first year I think that we've gone 3 years now on a default budget. Steve Malizia noted we had two years. Three out of the last five. Chairman Coutu noted there's better reluctance for anybody to come forward and ask for the money because we've told them to hold the line. I maintain I hate hearing that. I like hearing that they're going to hold the line because you don't know whether or not you're going to get a budget approved but if there's a committee who has something of substance to bring before this Board during our budget deliberations, they should come forward. They should step up. They should say that we want to do this. This will accomplish the following and articulate why you think you need the money just as you would if it were a large budget request. It might be a small budget request. It may be a few thousand dollars but there's a reluctance out there to come forward because they're afraid we're going to say no. I never say no when somebody comes to me and an articulate a real good reason why this is going to be good for the community. I'm more than willing to make the investment from my perspective but I want to hear it. I want to see the presentation. I may very well say no but at least they put an idea in my head or our heads and told us some direction that they'd like to go in. We need to look at those things but they need to be able to come forward and articulate that position and their requests. I'm not shy about giving money if I think it's going to benefit the community. I don't want to waste any money. We don't have any money to waste. At the same time if it takes a couple of thousand dollars in a project to sustain and/or rejuvenate a committee and it's going to be good for the community, then that's the direction we need to go in. We can't just say listen I'm going to open up my wallet how much does your committee need. They need to come in and ask us. I think there's been reluctance only because of budget constraints. I understand why. I'm not faulting and of the committee chairmen. They're trying to live within their budgets and I've also maintain that even though we approve a budget if there's something that comes up during the budget year just like a department head, come in and tell us about it. If there's a reasonable request to send people out on a mission whether it's to go get better educated about something, to research a project and its a few hundred bucks or a couple thousand bucks, come in and talk to us about it and don't be afraid to ask us. We've been pretty tight with the purse strings but we are also reasonable when people can articulate a position that makes sense and it's for the

betterment of the community and would be of tremendous assistance to the committee especially for future reference when they're coming back. I don't know. We have committee Chair here now.

Selectman Maddox said I would hope that we've made them sit through all of this they could at least come up and say a few words.

- Recreation Committee

My name is Bob Iannaco. I live at 7 Hilindale Drive and I'm the Chairperson of the Recreation Committee. I believe I've been for at least 3 years now. Just want to talk real briefly about some of the goals and activities that we've been planning. Happy to see that Sue LaRoche and Carl Dubois have reupped but we are still down committee members as well. I believe we're down 2 seats. That's my first goal. I'd love to fill those 2 seats. I think we've been down those 2 seats for a couple of years now. I think it's important - I know Selectwoman McGrath has talked to other committees should we cut down on the amount of board members on some of these committees? I don't think on our committee we really would like to do that. I know a lot of people in town, a lot of parents in town have opinions on the way the Rec. Department is run and I'd invite those people to come forward and apply to be on the Rec. Committee to bring those opinions forward. That's certainly a goal I'd like to see in the coming year or so is to fill those seats. That's my first goal.

Mr. Iannaco stated we've also put together a future project subcommittee. The skate park is something that's been vacant for 2 years. So we started to look at how can we utilize that skate park. I know Dave's going to be coming forward to a future meeting to talk about construction a pickle ball court. It's something that actually Sue LaRoche brought forward. I never heard of pickle ball. If you wouldn't mind I did make some copies of what pickle ball is if you want to pass this around. Again I had never heard of it. I know Roger you've heard of it in the past and it's quite intriguing. It's similar to tennis but it's much more slow paced. It utilizes a paddle and a plastic ball. From what I understand it's an up and coming sport. It was featured on the Today Show. Very, very popular down in Florida. I believe they have a pickle ball league in Litchfield and it's for all ages. It's slow enough pace where seniors can enjoy it but it's not something that I feel like we're going to get inundated with the young people that I know we had at the skate park. I think it's a great idea. Like I said, Dave is going to be researching this getting prices and bringing it forward to you. I think it's inexpensive to develop. We also talked about maybe a shuffle board court. I think the dimensions of this court is much smaller than a tennis court. So I believe we can put a pickle ball court plus a shuffle board court in that area and any age can enjoy it. I think it's a great idea. Like I said, Dave is going to be researching prices and bringing that forward for the Board.

Another goal that Bob Iannaco said we're working on I know Dave has been working with Kevin Burns is to upgrade some of the wood chips at Merrifield, Greeley, and Benson Park and hopefully that will happen this spring. I think there's fund in the park maintenance - a reserved fund. Something that Dave is working with the Road Agent on. Listening to Carl when he was up here for his interview - the fields in town. Something that is a passion for us just to hear that he had to practice in a parking lot on hot top. We'd certainly love to see some type of expansion on some of the fields in town. Very similar when Jeremy Griffus was up here applying for the Benson Committee, we'd love to work more with the Benson Committee to look at more passive recreation at Benson Park. We do not want to build fields to have Little League games or any type of more organized sports but more passive recreation whether it be bad mitten, horse shoes, or things like that. Something that we obviously would have to work much more closely with the Benson Committee. Those are some of the ideas and goals that we've been working on. I'd be happy to entertain any questions that you might have.

Chairman Coutu told Selectman Maddox the Recreation Committee went in the direction that you're suggesting that other committees then - we actually formed a subcommittee but it ended up being the whole committee to look into what their needs are within the community. The pickle ball court is as a result of a piece of property that we have that used to be a skate park. What can we do and what's an area that people have requested. I know that a lot of the members of the committee - I guess its older folk like me that know more about pickle ball. I don't have the ability to play because of my legs but I would definitely play because I was an avid tennis player in my younger years. I won't tell you how old I am but it was many years ago. I have friends that play pickle ball up in Litchfield. They say there's not enough court time up there. There's an overwhelming number of people who are really getting into it. It's becoming a national phenom for older folk who can't keep up with the speed of tennis. Like you said, it's like a ping pong racket only a little bigger. There's a hard core in the center of the ball covered with a plastic - it has the texture and the design of a whiffle ball and its welded or melded together. It gets it over the net but it's not going to kill you. It's not going to bounce off your head because you're getting hit with the plastic first. It's basically the same rules of tennis but not at the speed and you don't need all that agility. I know people that are in the 70s playing this in Litchfield. If you went out there and you saw some of the seniors up there playing. Now the kids are starting to catch on. I think that there's a lack of space. There's a lack of courts in the area. I think it's great. Whether the Board would agree to go there or somewhere else, it's a great idea for that limited space that we have over there. It's not something that would require 60 parking spaces because only 4 people can play at a time. So they might go in one car or two cars. We can accommodate what did we figure 4 or 5 cars there at best. If you had a couple of people playing that and we did have enough room for shuffle board, we can accommodate that and it would be a nice, quiet environment as opposed to a skate park that's vandalized every other day. We did and the Recreation Committee what you was hoping that other committees would do - identified areas of need, how we're going to pursue them, where the funds could come from but they're doing research on various projects now. He's very proud of the direction the committee took. It's under your direction and I was very pleased with the end product. Now we'll see what the result of that end product is going to be.

- Benson Park Committee

Harry Schibanoff thanked the Board for letting me talk. I'm in my last month of being a member of this committee. I don't know if you're aware of that but I did not sign up again. I'm taking a break after 6 years. Five years and nine months as Chairman. It's been quite a ride. I did have some thoughts that I did want to talk to the Board about. I see four major areas of frustration, and goals, and future planning that need to be done by the Benson Park Committee. First of all the train station. The train station has been one total frustration for 6 years. I know it's not this Board's fault because the DOT will not give us permission to move it. That is holding up the installing of water lines in the park, electrical lines, sewer lines, all these things that are adding to the park's problem of the port-o-potties because we can't get water down to the locations where we'd like to put restrooms some day. Again it's not this Board's fault, it's the State's problem and it is just something that we budget for it and then we don't spend the money because we can't do it.

Mr. Schibanoff stated the second major problem is the office. The office as Jim said in his talk, we've been budgeting for some of the repairs. We've done some emergency repairs in the building but it's an historic building and it's got all kinds of restrictions on it. One that's totally ridiculous is that there's three different types of sidings on that building and the preservation people are saying we have to maintain three different types of siding on that building which to me is totally ridiculous because it looks really stupid. That's a budget problem. It's a historical problem. It's something that the committee is going to have to face.

The other thing that everyone has talked about is maintaining volunteers in the park. Harry Schibanoff indicated I sort of call this the "little red hen syndrome". Little red hen was the one who wanted to bake the bread but she wanted help and nobody wanted to help her back the bread. So we seem to have this situation in Benson Park. Everybody loves the park but nobody wants to come in and help all the time to maintain it because it is a volunteer system of maintenance right now. We've got to find new ways to attract people. We have been successful in attracting high school students into the park through cooperation with Alvirne but the hard core volunteers are getting tired. We do have cleanups the second Saturday of each month. This year we didn't have one in April for obvious reasons but we will have one in May and they go through October and November depending on the weather. We need to get that group going again, and make it a vibrant group, and make sure that they get things done in the park.

Finally and this is the questions Harry Schibanoff asked of the candidates for this office is one of governance for the park. The committee makes rules and regulations sort to speak about how things need to be done in the park. This is going to be a particular problem now that we have the amphitheater where people are going to want to use that and there's going to be music. The committee may make rules that you can't have it above a certain decibel level which is in the Town noise ordinances. How is this going to be enforced? Who's going to supervise this? The only way we have right now is through the Police Department. Do we need some sort of staffing in the park in the future? I'm not saying today but I'm saying this is something that the committee has to consider for the future. How is this going to be implemented? These are sort of the major areas of concern that I see as the exiting Chairman and member of the committee. I thought Jim and John did excellent presentations on talking about what's going on from their point of view.

Chairman Coutu indicated that was great Harry. First of all I'm sorry to see that you're not reupping but I certainly understand. You've put in an awful lot of hours and an awful lot of time. You were very supportive of working with us in terms of the senior center coming into the park. What's materialized under your reign is a beautiful dog park that's in full use. I think in the middle of winter sometimes there's people out there with dogs. Some of you were saying they saw some one day when there was snow on the ground. I think it was Ben as a matter of fact. The park has come a long way. It's received a lot of plaudits both State wide and regionally. The northern tier of Massachusetts a lot of people come up here and use the park. This was all done while you were there. That has been first and foremost in mind since I did my first full tour of the park with then Selectman Shawn Jasper. We talked about governance way back then and how we could address the problem of making sure that the park is - it's not a question of maintenance on a daily basis but there's somebody overseeing or watching what's going on. You could have a walkie talkie or whatever and summon police or do whatever. We had always visualized that the office building would be redone and brought up to code and make it habitable for a maintenance person to live there. We would offer somebody housing. They provide their own food or what not and we'd get them a little golf cart and they could ride around the park during the day. At night I wouldn't want them out riding on a golf cart, I would rather they just pick up the phone and call the police and say hey there's a disturbance going on in the park. No one is supposed to be here. We thought of something of that nature but I never expected - not that DOT hasn't been an obstacle in the past but we've overcome several of those obstacles. I never realized or thought that it would be such an obstacle for us to refurbish the office building. When I heard that they're requiring that we maintain the 3 sidings. Again I'm thinking oh my god I'm going to have go back and battle again with DOT. I'm willing to do it and involved the Governor's office again if necessary to try to circumvent some of these ridiculous rules that they've imposed on us.

Chairman Coutu noted the train station has turned out to be an absolute nightmare. This should have been done three years ago. We'd have had water lines in. Selectman McGrath the use of the park has become so great that we're constantly pouring money into portable toilets because we have to have them emptied that much more often. We've had to increase the number. People were going in on the weekend and it smelled. It was horrible. That does not project a good image for our town. That's part of a maintenance issue. Harry and this committee have tried to stay on top of that issue. You've come in and asked for money or we made money available to put in more port-a-toilets if necessary. We've had that discussion with Mr. Yates. Get him in there. Let's get these things done and get them cleaned up. Again it shouldn't be a committee that's managing the

park. At some point we as a Board are going to have to make a decision about do we at this time sit down with Mr. Burns and say this is going to be a responsibility. What are your needs going to be? Is that the direction the park would like us to go in? So we're going to have put a few people together to try to concern the value that we've - to us it's an asset right now and we don't want to depreciate the asset. We want the asset to grow and flourish and become a bigger asset than what we even envisioned. I'm looking for the friends to do great things. I'm looking for volunteers to continue to work. Those numbers are diminishing every year. It seems we have fewer and fewer people showing up for cleanup. Fewer and fewer people are adopting areas now. People think that it's done, it's nice. Its 168 acres. A lot more we can do there and you've got guys like Dick Empey doing the day to day work. If it wasn't for guys like Dick Empey, and your committee, and a lot of other core group of volunteers going in there day in and day out. You got a guy like Dick he's there almost every day. I don't know how he does it. God love him. If we had to pay him, we'd be broke. You certainly would run out of your budget. That would be gone.

Chairman Coutu agreed. We need to take a closer look. This is the reason why we discuss having committee Chair come in is to see what as a board can we do. We need to have a vision. We need you to tell us what your vision is so that we can see if it's realistic and we should bring that to fruition. I think your points are well taken. I think you've given certainly me anyway something to be concerned about because I just don't want to lose this. I don't want us going back to the way it was 10 years ago. Just another parking lot or any place with a bunch of trees, and that overgrowth, and somebody would be starting over 20 years from now saying well this has not been kept up. So we need to have a resurgent of new blood to come in on the committee to go out and volunteer. I hope that we can convince the community to do that. So Harry for your years of service, you have my heartfelt appreciation. I'm sure I speak on behalf of the Board. We know what it takes to serve on a committee and to dedicate. It's not just a meeting every month. You well know that. It's a lot more involved in that plus you serve us on the Trustees of the Trust Fund. You're an elected member of the Board of Trustees. From the bottom of my heart, thank you Harry. We've been friends for a long time now. I so appreciate what you've done for our community. I get elected so I'm the one who throws my neck out there. You, you volunteer. Benson Park all of the extra hours that you put in is amazing. It's greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Selectman Nichols wanted to say thank you very much Harry for the past six years. It's been more than fun. I'll always remember you cutting down the vines. As soon as you got the vines down, they cut the tree down. All those swell things. It has been a pleasure to work with you all these years. You are a gentleman. Chairman Coutu commented that he is. No one will ever say otherwise about you Harry. Thank you Harry. We appreciate your perspective on things. Mr. Brackett I know you wanted to step up here.

Selectman Luszey told the Chairman just before we move off, I have a comment. We talked a lot about the Benson Park and the upkeep of that. I think as we go forward and if we're going to start looking at utilizing town resources to maintain that particular park, I think we should take a look at all of the parks. We have a park sitting over here off of the Merrimack that to your point is a junk. It's a town owned park. It's not well kept up. That's because there quite frankly is not a lot of interest in the public to do that - to volunteer to take care of that park or other parks. I think the reason Benson's got all the publicity is because it was an amusement park. It was a historic area in place. If you take a look at the volunteers that quite frankly are getting tired are the generation that grew up with that park. As we move forward, it maybe time that we look at creating an organization that is responsible to take care of all the parks and not just Benson.

Chairman Coutu indicated we have an organization and it's called the Highway Department. Merrifield Park is what you're talking about. The Recreation Committee just for the record, we have been having conversations with Kevin Burns. There's a problem with some retention there relative to whatever we were to put. We were talking about putting in - we were going to take a large area and we were going to put wood chips in. The Highway Department went out and they looked at it. Now we're talking about building some sort of a retainer. Everything has to be within his budget. Some sort of a retainer so we can do a whole area with wood chips and because the equipment that we have there is in great shape. We've had somebody go out, look at it, and then the picnic area down the bottom going towards the river - I've been there many, many times. It was an absolute and total disgrace. They have gone in. They've removed a lot of the overgrowth that choking vine. They've removed a lot of trees. There were several trees that I was very concerned that they were leaning into the river and kids were climbing out onto. It scared the crap out of me when I saw it and I saw kids out there. They went and removed those trees. Mr. Burns is going to take another look at Merrifield Park.

Chairman Coutu said if you look at our other fields - Sousa Park, beautiful, beautiful field. The one over on 102 behind 7/11, Greeley Street that's beautiful. So they're well maintained and the town is doing it. When we look at Benson Park, Merrifield has been neglected and we made a commitment this year the recreation through the analysis that they did that Merrifield needs attention and Kevin has agreed to once he gets all of his equipment up and running and he gets the streets swept, Merrifield is going to be a project.

Selectman Maddox asked the Chairman if you could help out the elderly. Merrifield is the one on Ferry Street, right? Steve Malizia noted its Merrill. Selectman Maddox indicated now it makes more sense. I was trying to figure out the other river. Chairman Coutu said that's the one I'm talking about the one that's not maintained properly - Merrill. I keep saying Merrifield but its Merrill. I hope that satisfies you old man. There's direction there but we need to have a conversation about Benson Park, and the direction of Benson Park, and how much resource we as a municipality want to put into it, and should we identify it as a need. If we get more land and there are going to be more parks and some of that becomes a reality because we're able to acquire more land - the Fields Committee, the nonprofit that we just formed with the High School, we can generate some revenue to buy some land. We've had people who have stepped forward and talking about donating some considerable land.

It's fine. We're going to build them then the question is maintenance. Do we then sit down with Kevin and talk about a separate Parks Department that just maintains those so that we have accountability for the money we're spending. We have a Park Supervisor. He's got a couple of men that work for him full time and they're out there going in and out of parks and keeping them up to a standard that's going to become expected. They can't always be volunteers. If we're going to take and allow our municipality to take controls of certain lands for certain purposes, then we have an obligation as a community to maintain it.

Just on that note, Selectman Luszey said if we're going to go down that road, I think we should probably put a warrant article together and ask the voters if they want us to do that. Chairman Coutu noted we would have to. Selectman Luszey said we don't need to do that to take the land. We would have to do that to create the budget for it. I'm saying before we even take the land, we should ask them do they want us to be looking at purchasing land or taking land grants because there is a budget that's going to follow to maintain it.

Selectman Maddox indicated I was going another way.

Chairman Coutu asked do you want to ask the question that's going to come to fruition a year and a half out and people are stepping forward now. A year and a half that stuff might not be available. That's the problem with having to go to warrant articles. Selectman Luszey recalled a proposal for a baseball field that could have been built by a developer in town in back of Stop N Shop. This Board did nothing. Chairman Coutu said the Board couldn't do anything. The State - I'm familiar with that whole project. The State told us that it would be temporary at best and that they wouldn't do it. Stop N Shop donated...Selectman Maddox said they didn't want it so it died because we would have had to cut through their property. Chairman Coutu said they would have had to have agreed to give us access through their property to get to that field. There was no other way in or out of that field. Stop N Shop said no instead we'll give you X number of dollars.

Steve Malizia indicated we negotiated some sort of deal when they receive some money; we retain some money and use it for other recreation purposes. The whole field would have been on State property.

Selectman Luszey thought the whole point of the conversation is I mean if we're going to start building fields and taking land and donations for that purpose, we should understand whether or not up front if the voters are going to support it. If they don't support it in terms of a budget, then we'll be putting the land up for sale like we've got now.

Chairman Coutu indicated your point is well taken.

Selectman Maddox thought that we really need to take a hard look at the Highway Department. We have asked Kevin to squeeze more and more road work out of those same people that were the staff 15 years ago. I bet we've probably added 34 or 40 road miles over the last dozen years of all these various developments and projects. I think at some point that is going to burst. So I think maybe it's something we tie together inasmuch that putting - and I'm just throwing out a number here - two people into Highway their summer project is the parks. Their winter project is snow plowing. Again something we need to have a discussion about.

Chairman Coutu thought that might alleviate some of the concern you might have about going to parks. If Kevin were to come in and make a serious proposal and say look if I have to do more maintenance on parks and plus now he has that \$500,000 that the voters approved for him to road work every summer, it's getting draining for him. I don't know how the hell they made it through the winter but they did. They did an awesome job. He's reluctant to come in and ask because we've had tight purse strings. If he were to seriously consider wanting to put a warrant article because if we're going to create a couple of new positions, we would have to go to the voters. If he wanted to create a Parks Division for two people and we articulate in our pitch to the voters that listen we're going to be bringing in more parks. We're going to need a staff to do that and it needs to be under the control of our Road Agent, I would say that if the voters said yes, they're saying go ahead with it and then we have to have a serious discussion with Kevin about where's the cutoff. How many more parks can we probably develop and at what point is the breaking point? Our population is changing too and we need to factor that in. We're becoming a more senior oriented community because New Hampshire is the second best State in the country for seniors to live. We've got that designation. Hudson certainly has a tremendous influx of senior population. The enrollment in the schools is going down. Is it because there's a need for adult recreation outdoors. They have men and girls softball leagues. Men and women's basketball leagues. Pickleball is an example of a senior sport, shuffle board. All of things will be a factor. We need to sit down and have a real good serious conversation with Kevin and Recreation and see what we can come up with. That's an agenda item.

- Sustainability Committee

Good evening again. Leo Bernard said I did find some facts out. It was 26 percent last month and 28 percent this month. I just got the new status. Recycle has gone up. Our committee is doing another roadside cleanup because its earth month and Earth Day is the 22nd of this month. We're planning on having an earth cleanup day on the 18th of this month. The committee has picked a couple of streets that we'd like to do. The two and a half streets are Robinson Road, Old Derry Road and a piece of Lowell Road. The small piece of Lowell Road is from where Stop N Shop is to the Wal-Mart entrance. We want to clean that because they said that looks awful. Those are the places we'd like to clean and looking for your consent if it's okay to do.

Chairman Coutu told Leo what I saw in your correspondence - well the correspondence that went back and forth between your liaison for the road cleanups and the Police Chief and Kevin Burns. They told me that they're in accord. Kevin asked to cut back. He designated areas. Your committee agreed to do those areas and as an adjunct to this only because from Stop N Shop over to Wal-Mart that whole area is a blight when you come off the highway. When I listened to your meeting Leo, the people on your committee who are going to volunteer, they only need 3 or 4. So they don't need a bunch of cars over there. Three or four people are going to be dropped off. They think in two hours they can gut that and clean it. Now it's up to somebody to make a phone call to the State and ask them to cut the hay field that's there. They're supposed to maintain that.

Leo indicated that's a State road and not our road. It's owned by the State. Chairman Coutu noted it's also their land and we're cleaning it because they don't go over there and clean it. Leo said I didn't think you would agree to because it is not our land. I told him I would bring...Chairman Coutu was all in favor of it because it's a blight on the community and I'd like to see that cleaned up.

Selectman Luszy indicated it's within our boundaries. Chairman Coutu noted if they're not going to do it, we'll do it. I don't have a problem with it. I understand that your committee there's two or three people that want to do it. They see it the way I see it. Go for it. I love to see people volunteering.

Motion by Selectman Nichols, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to approve the request of the Sustainability Committee for roadside cleanup as listed on the attached map - Section A of Robinson Road and sections 1, 2, 3, and 4 of Old Derry Road, as well as Lowell Road from Goodwill to Wal-Mart on Saturday, April 18, 2015, from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. as recommended by the Police Chief and Road Agent, carried 5-0.

Chairman Coutu told Leo in regards to your committee, is there anything this Board hasn't heard that we can do to help you guys. Mr. Bernard said no not that I know of. We have done great. We got the information out. We've gone to a lot of events and spread the word out. We're trying to update our old sign and more knowledgeable. We have had problems with Old Homes Day. We don't want to stay there until 11 p.m. and they don't want to move their rules. They don't allow us to have a table but we do the Harvest Fest and all the other stuff that we can to get the word out. We talk about it at our meetings to get more word out to people. The Boy Scouts did come in front of us and since it's earth month, they wanted to do an earth planet party. We agreed and we're combining an earth planet on the 19th at Nottingham. We're going to be having all kinds of events the Boy Scouts are doing and we're getting involved in having a table and talking other stuff to do.

Chairman Coutu asked are we still going to continue to program we have at the school system in terms of having the kids do design a coloring contest so we can keep recycling in their mind. Mr. Bernard was hoping to continue that yes. Chairman Coutu heard it was up in the air. Mr. Bernard said we didn't make it in for this year. It's not going to happen this year because something happened. Chairman Coutu indicated it gives them a focus on recycling. Kids if you can educate them at a young age, they'll take it home to their parents. Mom what are you throwing away that for we can recycle it. Mr. Bernard said apparently Alvirne High School has a recycling committee and for some reason one of our members has finally got in contact with somebody in getting more active with us. We're going to get them involved in doing more things. The Boy Scouts want to do more with us. We're going to try to do more things. Chairman Coutu said it must be you Leo. You're a magnet to creative ideas from people. Leo said it's my committee members. I'm just the middle man trying to hold the circus together.

- Senior Affairs Committee

Chairman Coutu asked Steve Porter is there anything we can do to help you. Steve Porter said first of all I just wanted to give you an update. For the past year it's been a good year for the senior center. We've had a lot of people join. There was an explosion - a bunch of activities and programs have been implemented which is great. We're also going to have some policies coming your way sometime next week. We've been formulating them and reviewed them. We've been very fortunate with a lot of people that have stepped forward and helped out at the senior center. Like you mentioned with the Benson Committee, you can't always rely on that. Going forward, we're looking to embark upon a strategic plan to ensure over the next 3 to 5 years we're going to take a look at what could potentially be needed for the senior center. Immediately at this point in time, we don't have anything to ask of the Board. Down the road, it's quite possible that we will be looking to the Board for any help in the future. We're looking to actually form possibly a subcommittee and get other people involved in addition to the existing committee to take a look at how to best formulate a plan going forward. Typical strategic plan looking at strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and then also looking at any action plans that could be implemented to try to achieve whatever goals or objectives that are determined.

Chairman Coutu said one of the things I like Steve about when I go to your meetings is that you do a lot of homework. You do a lot of computer research on other senior centers and other information that you can garner. I hope that board members picked up on that and do some themselves. They need to contribute in order for it to be a success. This is a relatively new committee. Sometimes it's tough to elicit people to get involved a little more involved and not just sit there and attend the meeting but to participate in the meeting. I know we talked about that. I hope that the strategic planning objectives that are defined - we sit down and we can talk about them. Then we're given direction. We need to have a little more foresight about where our senior population is going to go. We need to look at our senior center and whether or not it's sufficient to accommodate the needs of our community. We have a 4,000 population. I think that by the end of 2016 we'll have reached 25 percent will be members of our senior center. We'll be into that 1,000 number by the end of 2016 and we need to look at some strategy for future use of that senior center and how to best serve our senior population.

Steve Porter stated absolutely. Demographics are changing and it's only going to get a bigger population over time.

In terms of budgeting, Chairman Coutu was glad the senior center has a budget. I know that was a big relief for all of us. Is there anything that your committee needs or would need in the future or do you want to wait until the strategic planning has been...Mr. Porter thought it's best for us to gather together and then formulate a plan and then we'll determine going forward. Chairman Coutu asked does that committee have a budget. We don't have a budget do we. We never asked for money to the Board. We don't have a need for one now. In the future if we were to send them off to something to learn something, we'll see. We'll wait for the strategic plan then. Thank you very much Steve. I appreciate it.

- Library Board of Trustees

Chairman Coutu noted Linda I know you're the Chair of the Library Committee as well.

Linda Kipnes indicated we have recently finished a strategic plan which involved a lot of community outreach. Elaine Brody was instrumental in getting a committee and investigating what the community feels they want from the library. The Trustees are trying to make those things happen. We have started with Sunday hours which started in January and have been pretty successful. We are looking at a marketing plan. The staff has started a draft of a marketing plan and we are looking to get one of the local colleges to help us evaluate the plan, write it up, and implement it to reach out to the community and make sure everybody knows what services we have and that we are providing services that everybody wants from the library. We are looking into a book drop in the south end of town. That was one of the things from the strategic plan that came up. People were interested in having a place closer to the south end of town where the books could be dropped off. So we are investigating that.

Charlie Matthews stated we have a location for that. Friend Lumber has offered to provide a location for the book drop. They're very happy to do that. It publicizes their business. It gives us a presence in south Hudson. We're going to have a nice book drop so it's going to look good on their property. We're going to empty it every day except for weekends. We're working on a schedule to do that. We're going to get one that has enough capacity so that we can accommodate all the books that will be delivered. We think maybe 200 books a day would be the maximum number of materials we would receive in that book drop.

Selectman Luszey asked how does that plan with other businesses putting it in Friends Lumber. Are we going to get some backlash from that? Chairman Coutu indicated they volunteered to take the book drop. I think there were others that were approached. Linda Kipnes indicated we approached several places and other places were not interested.

Chairman Coutu said my question is how much is that going to cost the library. We've got a book drop that's going to have to be purchased - the unit, and now we're going to have manpower to go down and pick up the books on a daily basis. How does that affect your budget? Charlie Matthews indicated we're going to rotate staff. We're going to have a schedule put together for staff to pick up on a regular basis. I don't think we're not going to add staff to do that. That's going to be part of our responsibilities. Chairman Coutu asked how much does that unit cost to hold 200 books. Mr. Matthews said they're expensive. We're talking probably \$4,000 or \$5,000. I'm putting together the proposal for the Trustees. They haven't seen it yet. They'll see it next week. These are well made. They last forever. It's going to be attractive. We wanted to put something on Friend's property that was attractive. It's going to be brand new. It's going to be powder coated. It's going to be probably aircraft grade aluminum. These things are built very sturdy so that if you back a car into them, it's tough to put a dent into them. They're expensive. I've shopped around believe me.

Selectman Luszey said I'm kind of being analytical about this now. South Hudson where are you defining the boundaries of south Hudson? What's the population within that area and within that population how many people would be actually using that book drop? Mr. Matthews said we're not sure. We circulate about 400 or 500 items a day. So we're figuring maybe a maximum of half of that amount would be the positive in south Hudson. We're in the north end of town. We're in the corner of the Town of Hudson. Unlike most public libraries, as a matter of fact just about every public library in this area is right in the center of their community. I think we're very unusual where we're placed.

Selectman Luszey asked a little differently. Have you done a cost analysis on if it's half of that say 200? Over the course of a year, what is it going to cost the town to support the 200 hiccups? Charlie Matthews thought probably mileage is the only cost. Selectman Luszey said no. You have \$4,000 or \$5,000 investment right off the bat. Mr. Matthews said that's true. That's a capital investment that's going to last. Book drops will last 10, 15 years. They're made to stay outdoors. Selectman Luszey said why are they called "book drops" over here that didn't last that long. Mr. Matthews indicated I know the ones I'm familiar with last about 10 years. Selectman Luszey was just saying you haven't done really that type of analysis right. Mr. Matthews was trying to address a need that was expressed in the surveys that we did.

Selectman McGrath was kind of in a completely different area. That is whether or not Friends Lumber by allowing them to place this on their property have they determined through Community Development that it doesn't alter their site plan that they have and all of the parking requirements and everything that goes along with that. That's something that they'd have to have that determination made and I would think that it should be in writing and it should be something that we should make sure

happens. Charlie Matthews indicated that was a concern that they had. I addressed it to John Cashell. John said that they didn't need any permission or any paperwork.

Chairman Coutu asked are you putting the book on the footprint of the property. Did they give you a designated area? I'm familiar obviously with Friend Lumber. It's not in their parking lot. It's going to be up onto that walkway area. Charlie Matthews indicated it's going to be on a sidewalk right next to their main entrance. So we've designated that. Chairman Coutu indicated it's going to be on the pre-paved area. It's a cemented area where the walkway is. It's on the footprint. Mr. Matthews said it's going to be anchored in that location.

Selectman McGrath asked it would be in the area where they'd use for display. Chairman Coutu indicated correct as opposed to be out in the parking lot itself which would change the footprint somewhat. Selectman McGrath indicated if it were also in the area where parking was taking up parking spaces, then it reduces the number of parking. I probably shouldn't say this but Friends isn't terribly busy. I go by there all the time. I guess I'd be okay with that. Chairman Coutu thought they were going to be busy this spring. There's going to be a lot of repairs that people are going to need from the lumber yard.

Chairman Coutu indicated the only thing that strikes me is I listen to the discussion. I watch your meetings. I listen to the discussion about doing the book drop. I know that this was done as a result of the survey that you did. I don't think the initial investment is that much? Have you done in terms of the geography itself - I'm going to go back to where Selectman Luszey was. In your survey did you know how many of those people were from the south end? I define the south end as being everything south of T-Bones. Have you done an analysis of how many people from the south end actually go all the way up to the library to get a book? Charlie Matthews said no we haven't but we had a number of comments in the survey indicating that the residents from the south end of town wanted some kind of presence from the former Hills Library on down going towards Tyngsboro. They wanted some kind of ability to either borrow materials or return materials.

Chairman Coutu asked do you think maybe they were alluding to the old book mobile that we used to have to go around our neighborhood down the south end. Mr. Matthews said yes. We looked at that too. That actually came up in the survey as well. Chairman Coutu didn't understand why you think that perhaps based on a survey there may be as many a couple hundred books even 100 books dropped there every day. How are they getting those 100 books? They're obviously going all the way up to the library. They don't return the old ones? They need a book drop at the south end of town? I'm just having a hard time putting that whole picture in my head. Charlie Matthews said they have to do two trips to return materials. This reduces that to one trip. So they've borrowed the material and then they can return it in a more convenient location. We're hoping that that will satisfy some of the concerns that people have in the south part of town. Chairman Coutu commented I've had a lot of people say to me why don't we have the book mobile again. I know the logistics to that. That's even more expensive.

Selectman Maddox said if you can get 200 people to put books in that drop, you're in charge of our recycling. Chairman Coutu said I hope it works. I really do hope it works. It's worth the...Linda Kipnes said there may not be that many and maybe we don't need to pick up every single day if we find that the use isn't there but if we have a substantial number of people who are convenience by it, then it would be worth our doing. I would rather do a book mobile but that's really not doable right now.

Selectman Nichols wanted to know is this a building or is it just a drop. Ms. Kipnes said it's like a mailbox. Selectman Nichols asked so you can't drive up and just drop the book in. You have to get out of the car to put the book in? Mr. Matthews said you would.

Chairman Coutu stated if I live at the south end and something comes up and I can't get to the library and it's going to be overdue, I'd love to have a book drop and just dump it in the book drop. I'll get out of my car to do it instead of going the few miles to get there. Selectman Luszey noted we're going to pay the mileage now for you to drop it off.

Selectman Luszey asked about the Hills Library. What is your thinking in the strategic plan? Linda Kipnes said there wasn't anything in the strategic plan. Charlie Matthews said the plan really addressed the Rodger's Library - providing library services to the residents of Hudson which is what the Rodger's Library currently does. We didn't factor in the Hills in this particular document. It's not that we're not concerned about it but it's something we didn't address. Selectman Luszey asked if that should be part of that because it is part of your library services. Ms. Kipnes said we are always looking at how we use the Hills and what other ways it could be used.

Chairman Coutu asked could we be part of those discussions when you have them. Linda Kipnes said sure. We welcome any suggestions from people. The SAU has an investment in it and they use the building quite a lot.

Charlie Matthews said this is a common problem. In the State of New Hampshire a lot of communities have built new libraries in the last 10 years and their old libraries are treasured building. They're historic. They're difficult to reuse for one reason or another. They may be in bad repair. I went to a program about a month ago up at the State Library on vacated libraries. There were a number of communities that participated in that particular program. We actually are doing pretty good in the Town of Hudson. We're doing more with the Hills than a lot of other towns are doing with their buildings with maybe the exception in this particular program of Kingston. They have a lot of volunteers working. They're turning their old library into a museum. They have a lot of artifacts that I don't think we have. They're the second or third oldest town in New Hampshire so they do have some significant artifacts that they can display in their museum. That museum is only open 4 hours a week. It's

not a major reuse of the building. One thing if I could say, one thing that was recommended is that you have a visioning session. So you get a number of people from different organization or parts of the community to come together and really think about how you can best utilize that building. Chairman Coutu said I'd like to see that to fruition. That would be a great idea.

Selectman Maddox asked for a copy of the Library's strategic plan.

Chairman Coutu wanted to see hopefully is selected as your liaison will be going to the meetings so we can hear what's going on. For me anyway, I watch the meetings so I know what's going on. There's a lot of things going on at the Library. I will attest to that. I hear some negative comments but a lot more positive comments than I do negative. People think that some of the employees just standing around doing nothing. I've gone in there at night unannounced. I did a recent visit. They may be sitting behind the computer and there's people walking around but I don't expect them to be walking around behind them, tailing them, and jumping up and down yahoo it's me I'm working. I understand. They're basically gatekeepers especially at night. I've gone by and some nights there's little traffic and other nights the parking lot is almost full. I understand. It's the nature of the beast. We have every reason to be proud of our library. Charlie you had big shoes to fill and you did an awesome job. I'm proud of it.

Linda Kipnes agreed. We have a wonderful staff. They have great ideas for programs. We have programs for kids, teens, adults, and older people. We're trying to have something for everybody.

Chairman Coutu said I've been there for a few of them. Some of the scouting projects I've gone there. I've been to some of your tea parties. I try to get there but it's a long ride for me. You have to get a train service or something. That's a long drive.

C) Liaison Assignments

Chairman Coutu asked Selectman Maddox if he would take care of that next week.

Just to fill in a vacancy, Selectman Maddox indicated nobody else fought for the alternate to the Planning Board other than Ms. McGrath. Chairman Coutu thought I did it out of respect because I was going to take one of them. When she said she'd like to do both, I said okay go for it. If that be the case, Selectman Maddox asked maybe we can appoint her as the alternate to the Planning Board.

Motion by Selectman Maddox to appoint Marilyn McGrath as the alternate to the Planning Board.

Acting Chairman Coutu indicated you don't have to appoint her. You are the appointing authority. Selectman Maddox thought we elected them. We voted on him but I don't believe we vote on the alternate. I made the appointment last year. Nobody voted on it.

Selectman Luszey indicated we had this discussion last week.

Selectman Maddox asked about the ZBA. I didn't look at anything else but the Planning Board. Steve Malizia indicated he doesn't have a voting member. Acting Chairman Coutu said she wanted both. Give her both. Unless anybody else asks for ZBA...I wasn't going to go to Planning. I was going to go to the ZBA because I felt that they should have a liaison. She said she would love to do both because that's her - I wouldn't overwhelm her with too much else other than maybe a department or two. As far as committee assignments, that's a humungous responsibility. She's willing to do both, appoint her to both. Selectman McGrath indicated that's what I sought to do.

8. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY THE SELECTMEN

Selectman McGrath - I just have a couple of things. I've been kind of jotting down notes and I'm going to try to do this on a fairly regular basis. Three things that I've noticed or have questions about - one of the things that I did want to mention is that I noticed at the last meeting when I was leaving or coming in, one of the two, that there's a flag deposit box by the side door of the Town Hall that's been placed there by the VFW. I didn't know that that existed. I don't know that a lot of the residents know that it exists here. It's the proper place to dispose of a US flag. The VFW I know has a ceremony every so often. When I saw that, I thought that was a wonderful thing to have it at the Town Hall. The residents can just deposit their flags that they can no longer fly or utilize.

Acting Chairman Coutu was glad Selectman McGrath brought it up. We mention it every now and then and there's been a couple of articles in the Hudson/Litchfield News that it is available here. I use it because I always fly a flag and I take the old one down and I come here. I know Ted that you do.

Selectman McGrath said I'm getting to that point where I have to replace the flag that I have. I just wanted to mention that because I didn't know it existed and I thought it was a great thing.

The other thing Selectman McGrath wanted to mention for residents I received in the mail last week a very official looking document. It looked like it had the seal of the United States on the upper left hand corner. I think you know where I'm going with this. It was very official looking and it had blazoned across the top "official notice". It was addressed to me and it said - I don't remember all of it but the opening was "We are aware of your financial standing and we're aware that your account is

\$11,000.” That was the number they used for me anyway which isn’t anywhere close. It went on to say that they could negotiate or act on my behalf to reduce it down to \$5,500 but if I wanted to pay monthly I could do that. When you get a letter like that, your heart starts beating and it’s like oh my god what is this? It looked so official. I read it carefully and I knew immediately that it was a scam. I called the Attorney General’s Office, Consumer Protection Division, and talked to them about it. It is a scam. For people that watch this meeting if they get something like that that looked official but it clearly was not. It had no details in it about creditors or anything else. It was looking for money. I wanted to put that out there so that if anybody gets a letter like that, I would encourage them number one if they’re really concerned that it does apply to them, that they call the Attorney General’s Office, Consumer Protection Division, and talk to them before they do anything and lose money.

Selectman McGrath indicated the third thing that I wanted to bring up tonight was I noticed today and I guess that this is probably more of a question for the Board but I’ve noticed it over the last few weeks and especially since Christmas. The panhandlers and I know that this Board has dealt with that issue. There’s one in particular and he’s at Market Basket all the time with a sign saying he’s got 2 kids that he’s trying to feed. I read recently where the City of Nashua has developed some sort of an ordinance or they’re working on some sort of an ordinance.

Acting Chairman Coutu said Concord designed this ordinance and it was approved. It looks like it has muster to it. Nashua is now looking at it and they’re going to copy that one. There’s a couple of towns in Massachusetts. I think we ought to do the same thing. Selectman McGrath was going to say that because when I drove by today what occurred to me was - and he may be in dire straits. I’m giving him the benefit of the doubt. But my thought was if his kids are so hungry are social services involved with that family? It raised a lot of questions for me. I thought where I had just read the article about Nashua taking a step towards trying to control that that I’d bring it up tonight.

Acting Chairman Coutu indicated a private homeowner who I know personally offered him a job. He said he couldn’t do it. A local contractor just approached me - if I were to say the name of the contractor, all of you know the contractor, went to him and offered him a job last week. He said that he couldn’t work and the contractor got livid and said you’re nothing but a bum. Oh you’re trying to make fun of me. He said well yeah because you have a sign out there that says you’ll work and I’m offering you a job and you won’t take it. I know that Chairman Coutu keeps telling the story about the woman next door to him offered you a job and you’re refusing to do it. My position is on that is if that sign is false, he is scamming the public. Because you brought it up, I’ll mention it. WMUR TV Thursday evening at some point - so watch WMUR for the ad. They’re doing a whole thing about - this is a blight now on the State of New Hampshire. I’ve seen it out in Colorado. It’s been worse than here and Alabama is another State that I’ve been in. Maybe it’s all over the place. I just hate seeing it in our community because we have resources to help these people. It’s not as good as one guy that said I made \$300 a day on a good day. Tax free I’ll remind you. WMUR is doing a whole story about what we are doing to these people. We are feeding their drug habit. Overwhelming number of these people take that money and buy drugs. So you are enabling these people by giving them money. I saw a preview of the WMUR piece. I hope everybody watches it. I noticed when the guy who’s at Market Basket - he’s not at Market Basket. He’s on our island. When he was a Wal-Mart, I said I think I’m going to go to Wal-Mart and say you know what don’t own that property you do. You don’t have a permit for him to be out there soliciting. They told him to leave that’s why he’s always there. He’s not a Wal-Mart anymore. When I would watch them at Wal-Mart, 80 percent of the people were stopping giving him money were Massachusetts people. That’s the nature of the beast. That Wal-Mart attracts Tyngsboro, Dracut, Westford. It’s stopping people from giving money and as long as they want to give.

Acting Chairman Coutu said I want to look very closely at the ordinance that’s been developed in Concord. I was going to ask the Town Administrator to see if he can procure a copy for us. We can take a look at it and see if it’s a reasonable approach. Probably ride it out a little longer and see if the ACLU challenges it. I’m willing to go full boat. You know how I feel about it. It’s a blight on the community. If someone is in need, I’m more than willing to go out of my way as you would Selectman McGrath or any one of us to get them to social services they need. Like you say if he’s got 2 children at home and he’s out panhandling, is it a scam or does he have 2 children and are the 2 children being taken care of? That would be my first concern. Apparently it doesn’t really matter to him.

Selectman McGrath said it’s something I noticed today. I’ve noticed it a couple of times over the last few weeks and I certainly noticed it at Christmas time. Over at the Pheasant Lane Mall in Tyngsboro, that’s another - I read an article similar to what you just talked about where it was a woman who was panhandling somewhere in Massachusetts. Somebody said to her we can get you some help. She said I can make over \$300 a day doing this. Are you kidding I’m not going to work. It goes along with the item that I brought up about the letter that I received. It’s another scam for the most part. Some people may really have a need but this guy has been out there since Christmas time. I also thought today when I saw him out there, it’s creating a hazard. It’s creating a hazard for the drivers that may want to stop and help him. They get rear ended because they stop short to give this guy some money. I just think that it’s a problem that I’d like to try and address if we can.

Acting Chairman Coutu thought we’re going to take a step in that direction. We have 3 solid maybe 4, maybe 5 solid members who want to do something about. Maybe we’ll take that step this year. We’ll make the plunge and see if the ACLU wants to sue us again.

Selectman Nichols - I have nothing to say at this moment. Thank you.

Selectman Luszey - First of all I’d like to thank all the folks that came this evening and waited it out. Thanks. I also hope that during the assignments that you mix things up. I know looking at the list folks tend to get in a groove and want to stay there. It

kind of goes along with my statement earlier, I don't think it's a real good idea having you two guys at the helm but that's the wish of the Board, that's okay. I do think we need to mix the assignments up so that there is some institutional knowledge going forward should things change. A little bit about this particular meeting. I don't mean this meeting, this night meeting. The workshop meeting. I thought this was great having the committee members come in and talk about what their goals are. I would like to see us ask all the department heads over the course of the year come in once, twice, or even three times at this meeting and have a real workshop. Not just us doing the appointments but really getting down into some of the nits and grits of what's going on in with their departments so that when we're doing the budgets, we can have real good conversations around what their needs are and what some of the challenges are. So give that some thought.

Selectman Luszey noted my last thing is and I know that this Board walked through the grand opening of Comcast about a year ago now. It's been about a year because I've been involved with them almost that long with Mooremart. Just so that this board is aware and I'd like to shout out a thank you to them, they are holding it's called "Comcast Day of Caring". This year they are supporting Mooremart. They're going to packaging about 1,200 to 1,400 boxes for us on April 25th. It's great to have those types of businesses within our community that outreach in all different manners.

Acting Chairman Coutu said they've also helped you in many other ways. Selectman Luszey said they certainly have. Acting Chairman Coutu said they've been a great partner since they came into our community. I'm very proud. Selectman Luszey said they've been a partner with Mooremart for years actually.

Selectman Maddox - Thank you Mr. Chairman on two fronts. As you can hear, I cough at times. It was great today and all of a sudden this afternoon I started coughing again. Thank you very much. Selectman Luszey questioned Vice Chair really because you're the Chairman. Selectman Maddox said he's the Chairman tonight. Selectman Maddox thanked Chairman Coutu for those of you that are keeping track.

Selectman Maddox had a couple of things on my radar here that I've been reading the newspaper and they're talking about the downshifting. I think that maybe we want to have our delegation represented come before this Board and explain some of the downshifting possibilities that could be coming in from the State. People say Hudson you raised our taxes. Well we really didn't we're just covering the cost of somebody else's expenses. I'm hoping that we can at least get an explanation from somebody on the delegation to say this is what might happen or this is what's going to happen so we have some knowledge before it lands in our lap. The last thing I saw over the diannium I think it was a quarter of a million dollars. Again that's probably in flux until the budget is finalized. Steve Malizia indicated it goes to the Senate and it has a different version. They reconcile it. Selectman Maddox indicated it is something we need to be on top of.

Next item. Selectman Maddox stated at our last meeting, and Chairman Coutu wasn't at it but he watched our meeting, it was so exciting. We had those people come in to talk about they wanted to extend the water line and we said no. Just so everybody is aware, they called and wanted to talk to me. I said when I call the Chairman and I said I don't think so. I think, again, I met with them and Mr. Malizia in Mr. Malizia's office. All we really talked about is I think they need to take advantage of what the town is offering which is not what they want but is something that we have used at every other development. If somebody ties into that water line for the X number of years, they get a percentage of that. Steve Malizia noted it's a reimbursement. Selectman Maddox said they told us how wonderful Manchester Water Works is and we said we're not Manchester Water Works. We basically said we're not as mature as they are. We're still paying off..Steve Malizia interrupted and said mature as far as how long we've run it. Selectman Maddox said they probably don't run the water lines to places where they'll never pay for themselves. We're still getting out from underneath that burden if you would. I said there are options. You should look at them. You should also look at what you're going by and maybe there's some people that would want to sign up. Just so everybody is aware.

The last thing - Selectman Maddox indicated there's been a couple of Thumbs about cul-de-sacs and why the Planning Board isn't protecting the people on the cul-de-sac. That was a private agreement between the developer and the homeowners. The Planning Board didn't know that existed until somebody brought it to our attention and actually never gave us a copy of it that I know of. I see the Thumbs about how we're abandoning those citizens; it's really a civil matter. It is not something that the Planning Board said you must have these covenants. For whatever reason, they have them on those lots. We're not in charge of them. We didn't require that they have them. That is the skinny on that. Chairman Coutu indicated they have taken our advice and they have retained counsel. Selectman Maddox indicated that's where it needs to go. Chairman Coutu said that's the direction I gave them and they have retained counsel. I've been in conversation with them. Again Selectman Maddox commented the people reading the Thumbs think the Planning Board isn't helping them. We can't. It is really a private agreement. Again the Planning Board is never that I can remember other than condo associations and you get involved in some of those things. It sounds like a pretty interesting agreement if it is what they say it was. You can't cut the lot lines which is what this is trying to do. That is not something the Planning Board has control of.

Chairman Coutu indicated they retained counsel. I told them this week as a matter of fact in conversation I had with them. You did what I suggested you do and can no longer counsel you. You have a lawyer. I don't know the legalese of land, covenants, and that's all - I never bought a property that was on a cul-de-sac. As a civilian, it just seems to me that if you buy a house on a cul-de-sac, there's an expectation. This is your little neighborhood. My neighborhood and Selectman McGrath I'm sure you would remember my neighborhood - Rita, Rena, Rega when they tried to bring it through many years ago, there was 75 homeowners in front of the Planning Board saying not in my neighborhood. Now that I live there, we have a tranquil 4 or 5 streets one way in one way out. Somebody is going to put 150 homes in the back and they want to cut through. I'd be a little

upset. There's a little expectation of they're not going to be able to do that. I know in my heart of hearts they can. I know it can happen.

Selectman McGrath said I was just going to say I was going to mention it at the last Planning Board meeting I was at and I forgot. I remember being told by somebody and I don't remember who either the Chairman of the Board at the time or the Town Engineer that we were dealing with but that cul-de-sacs are meant to be temporary. That's what I was told that they were meant to be temporary. That the expectation was that they were always going to be able to go through to the next lot if they needed to. If the development came in and wanted to utilize that, that was the expectation. I think that a lot of most probably that buy property on cul-de-sacs expect it to stay as a cul-de-sac. I don't know what the truth is anymore. Things have changed and now we're getting plans with 7,000 foot length cul-de-sacs. That's what I was learning first. That was when I was learning first so many years ago is what I was told. Cul-de-sacs were supposed to be temporary.

Selectman Luszey asked to comment on something Selectman Maddox said about the water line. In our general read there's an article in the Town and City specifically about the infrastructure specifically water and sewer in the State and how bad shape it is. I think we did make the right decision in doing what we did the other night. Chairman Coutu said we're not giving this house away. It took a long time to get it where it is today and we're not about to give it away. Why do they think they can call us individually and suggest that we should be giving them access to our lines when there's a way for them if they want to access it to make money not make money and break even and still access it. We're not going to just give it away and let them make a profit.

Selectman Maddox didn't disagree and that's why I made you all aware that I met with the Town Administrator. Chairman Coutu said I told you we shouldn't meet with him. Selectman Maddox said we talked about being business friendly. Chairman Coutu said I know but we're not going to give the water works away. Selectman Maddox said I know. Chairman Coutu if that's what it takes to put it to bed. I was adamant. I did not want to meet with them. We talked about it. We're not going to just give away the house. Selectman Maddox said that would be a decision of this Board. Based on the decision they made the last time it is not going to move.

Chairman Coutu - I have nothing except to thank you all. I wish you the best of luck sitting in the chair. I'm look forward to sitting down there. I want to thank Sergeant Cayot for lending me this orange tie. I asked him if I could borrow it to work. It brought us so much luck in Reno when we were recertified. I wanted to wear it at my first official meeting. Sergeant Cayot leads us in our CALEA team and he inherited because the previous person who was managing our team retired and moved on so we had to find somebody and Sergeant Cayot took over. In the short period of time, he did a fantastic job. We were very successful so I'm wearing this in his honor in appreciation for all the work that he did and I'm wearing his tie. You know something David as much as I made fun of your orange tie, I kind of like it and you're probably never going to get it back.

9. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 11:14 p.m. by Selectman Luszey, seconded by Selectman McGrath, carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Donna Graham, Recorder.

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Roger E. Coutu, Chairman

Richard J. Maddox, Selectman

Pat Nichols, Selectman

Marilyn McGrath, Selectman

Ted Luszey, Selectman