

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Minutes of the October 3, 2006 Workshop

6:30 – 8:45 p.m., Attorney-Client Session, pursuant to RSA 91-A:2 I (c)

1. **CALL TO ORDER** by Chairman Richard J. Maddox at 8:50 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.

2. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** was led by Tim Quinn.

3. **ATTENDANCE**

Selectmen: Richard J. Maddox, Shawn N. Jasper, Kathleen R. MacLean, Kenneth J. Massey & Benjamin J. Nadeau

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant; Tim Quinn, Chairman of the Conservation Commission

4. **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

A. **Conservation Property Stewardship Plan**

Mr. Quinn said the Conservation Commission took almost two years to put this plan together. He recognized their efforts, as well as those of the Open Space sub-committee—Michelle Champion, Linda Kipnes, Jim Battis, Brynn Campbell and Jean Serino. The first part of the document before them was an overview, and the second part was a general stewardship plan. The intent was to include things that they need to consider when designing a stewardship plan for any conservation property, whether it's held by easement or outright ownership by the Town.

The content of the general stewardship plan included purpose, a baseline documentation report, stewardship funding, easement monitoring, landowner contact, enforcement of easements and contingency plans/backups, which Mr. Quinn went through item by item. The baseline documentation was an inventory of the land and its condition. The backup also included a document was a method for obtaining funding to support the plan, mostly the operating expenses of doing the stewardship, such as monitoring the easements and taking corrective action or legal action, when necessary. Easement monitoring is necessary to preserve the nature of the land, make sure it's not being abused and, in most cases, it's an annual inspection. Landowner contact is intended when the ownership of the land remains with owner and the Town has an conservation easement on the land and the landowner becomes the steward. Enforcement of easements is the province of the Community Development Department, specifically the Code Enforcement Officer, with the support of the Conservation Commission. If they hear of a violation, the Conservation Commission will go out and verify it, and then get with the Code Enforcement Officer and do another inspection to determine what should be done about it, and then they contact the appropriate steward. If it's the Town's, corrective measures are taken. If the problem is not corrected within the allocated time, then they begin legal enforcement, through the Town Administrator. Contingency Plan and Backups are for those occasions when the Town is either unable or unwilling to continue stewardship. They would then contact the State DES to carry on the stewardship. Mr. Quinn then expounded on each item.

Chairman Maddox asked where they were in the baseline documentation. Mr. Quinn said they have about a half dozen of the larger ones done, as a result of holding site walks. The information is still in his computer because they don't have a formal system to download them into. A lot of work needs to be done in this area. They need to visit all of them and revisit the ones they have already done to make sure of what they've got, and then get them signed by the landowner—and that has not been done.

Selectman Massey asked if the easements are going to be recorded at the Hillsborough County Registry of Deeds. Mr. Quinn said that's the way they'd like it to be done, but there are several ways of doing it. Sometimes, when they have large developments like Hawk View, the intent is to put it into the plan and have the Town accept the plan and the easement would be part of the plan, not specifically in the deed. They don't like that, but that has been past practice. People who know conservation easements and their legal rights, say they don't have an easement right until it is put into the deed, so he would campaign to do that. Selectman Massey said later on, it talks about ownership change, that the new owner will be visited and appraised of their requirements. His concern would be that, in the selling of the property, the seller failed to disclose that there is an easement, and now the new owner is suddenly being faced with a set of obligations they hadn't anticipated. To him, that would impact the value of the land. Having it as a permanent, recorded easement at the Registry of Deeds would ensure that anybody, after buying land, would, at least, have the ability to know—whether or not they took the time to know is a different area—but they could never plead that they couldn't have know that that existed. Mr. Quinn said he couldn't agree more. They've discussed this in the past and it is the only way to ensure there is a conversation easement.

Selectman Massey said he had two more items, and the first one was, when they talk about code enforcement, if there were any legal restrictions, if the owner had agreed to certain restrictions, what the legal remedies would be for the Town, if the owner failed to meet those. Mr. Quinn said they could be taken to court. Selectman Massey said the easiest one to think about is they allow motorized vehicles on their property. Mr. Quinn said they would be allow to have the Road Agent go in there are drop boulders all over the trail, if necessary. Legally, they could fix it. If it wasn't practical, they could take the owner to court. Selectman Massey said at the very back of the report, it is indicated that the State would be given an interest in the easement, but that doesn't obligate the State to take it over. "In the even the Town fails to fulfil its obligations, the State shall assume control of the easement." Mr. Quinn said that was by RSA. Selectman Massey said the word "shall" was the operable word. Mr. Quinn said yes, sir.

Continuing, Mr. Quinn said they need to start putting money into the budget for site walks. He's heard that it is already in the Community Development Department because they get paid to do enforcement, but they don't do the monitoring, too. Also, they may have occasional legal costs. Use of Conservation Commission funds is allowed for operating expenses, provided there is a budget appropriation for that.

Chairman Maddox asked if the Commission had costs in some sort of form to be able to get into the FY08 budget. Mr. Quinn said yes, he would. Selectman MacLean said that was her question, what Mr. Quinn was looking at for numbers. Mr. Quinn said he was going to do a numeric analysis by acreage. His guess is that for every 20 acres, it takes about an hour to walk the land and do the annual survey. It's not going to be a lot of money. There are 200 acres at Musquash, so that will be 10-12 hours of several people doing that. A lot of time it is done by volunteers, so they could put the money in there and give the volunteers a break, for a change. Selectman MacLean interjected that they could give them certificates. Selectman Jasper said, on the monitoring, as much consistency as possible would be important. Obviously, personnel change, but if every year there was a different person going out there, they wouldn't be as apt to catch the changes. Mr. Quinn said that's why they need to do a baseline report. Selectman Jasper said but they wouldn't get everything in. Mr. Quinn agreed that different people have different capabilities. Selectman Jasper said, as much as possible, the same people should be walking the same land year after year, to ensure the greatest ability to monitor it—or have two people going out, one who's done it before and a new person. Mr. Quinn said that would be a good idea for safety reasons, too. Selectman MacLean asked if the people who would be walking the land would be the Conservation Commission members. Mr. Quinn said that would be unlikely because most of them have day jobs, unless they did it on the weekends. Once they line up the conservation lands and easements and find out where they all are, there's going to be 20, 30 properties that have got to be monitored and asking volunteers to give up that many weekends is pushing the limit. Selectman MacLean asked who would actually walk the property. Mr. Quinn said they need to fund the Community Development Department to do it because they hold the stewardship enforcement obligation. Chairman Maddox thought that's where the intern program would come into play. They would need to figure out how much time they would need, but he felt two college interns could do this quite capably, just like the two engineering interns did with the outfalls this year. If this is put on the back of Community Development, he didn't think it would get done; it would be a low priority. But, if they have a specific time frame it would take to have someone do this, and they picked up another intern, when one of them is in the office doing paperwork for Tom's next project, inputting data from their field work, there would be two out in the field. They would get a lot accomplished for reasonable money. If volunteers do the work, they won't have consistency because their criteria wouldn't be the same. Selectman Nadeau said the recommendation for interns was just what he was going to suggest. Selectman Massey said except they don't meet the criteria they just talked about, which is consistency, because they are not going to have the same two interns every year. Chairman Maddox said they can photograph and they have use of a GPS device, so they can indicate that at point whatever, there is erosion of whatever, so the following year, they can look for that erosion; they just need to have the same procedures. Selectman Jasper said that concern can be satisfied by trying to get people to commit for two summers—like a Junior and a Sophomore. With the right planning, that could be accomplished. With that much acreage, no one is going to remember too much, anyhow. Mr. Malizia said that's the way it worked this year with the two engineering interns, a Junior and a Sophomore. There was a relationship that when one leaves, the other would be the most senior, and then the next guy comes in, so there is a continuous process.

Chairman Maddox said they would be looking for Mr. Quinn to provide the number of man hours needed, i.e., one person for half the summer, etc., based on the previous walks. What takes up a lot of time is data input, putting all of the information into the computer like they did with the outfalls. They catalogue the photos and put the electronic on to the GIS system. They would have a layer of conservation issues on the GIS so they would be able to pull that up at a Planning Board/Conservation Commission—and land use board—on the computer they have downstairs. Mr. Quinn said he'd like to include the baseline documentation report, map the trails and significant features of the land, it will be more intensive, but it will be done. He said he would provide something for budget season.

Selectman Jasper believed the land use tax change money was going into the Conservation fund. Mr. Quinn said yes, it was. Selectman Jasper didn't remember the parameters, but asked if there was any ability for them to use any of that money to maintain the land they have. Mr. Malizia said he couldn't answer that, off the top of his head. Selectman Massey said they must be clear. He didn't think the warrant article to put, on an annual basis, the money into the Conservation fund passed. What passed was a warrant article that took 50% and put it into the Conservation (talking over each other). Mr. Quinn said there were two. One was to transfer the balance of the land use tax change fund to the Conservation Commission for land acquisition and the second was to transfer 50% annually. That was non-lapsing. It was designated for capital reserve, not for operating expenses. Mr. Quinn continued with his presentation.

The Code Enforcement Officer posts the uses not allowed, as well as the uses allowed. Control of the access points is an ATV issue. Filing a monitoring report on an annual basis goes into the folder with the baseline report.

(Start Tape 1-B)

Selectman Massey said he'd want to be able to recover the money. Selectman Jasper said that's something they should have in the easement document, itself. If they are not doing that, they should be. He believes that was done with the Hills property on Barretts Hill Road. Mr. Malizia said the Hawkview easement was on the table, which he sent to the attorney and asked him to vet it. He will double check to see if there was something in there, or not.

Chairman Maddox asked that the Conservation Commission put together a package that goes out to new homeowners, almost like a welcome packet, saying here is the stewardship program, giving an overview it, so they are expecting a

call, rather than the Code Enforcement officer showing up to talk about the easement. Mr. Malizia asked if there were a lot of conservation easements on private land. Mr. Quinn said they do, particularly in developments where there is cluster housing. He questioned if they ended up with public access to those in all cases. What he envisioned was sitting down with the landowner, and bringing the conservation plan to review the entire thing with him, including the baseline report, etc. Chairman Maddox said if something was sent out ahead of time, it would make it easier at a later date. He asked if Mr. Quinn had the PowerPoint document on his section of the web. Mr. Quinn said no, it was lost when his computer blew up, but he can scan it in to PDF. Chairman Maddox said this was something they need to get out on the Town's web site so people can be aware of it and know more about what the program is doing. Mr. Quinn said this would be included as one of the elements of the Open Space plan.

Relative to enforcement of easements, he gets calls from people, complaining of ATV's being on properties, or appliances dumped on them. He or some other members of the Conservation Commission goes out there, and then they sit down with Sean Sullivan and the Code Enforcement Officer would go to the landowner. They would establish a timetable for correction, from two to three weeks to significant time, if a lot of remedial work was to be done. If necessary, the attorney would be consulted, through the Town Administrator.

Selectman Jasper said back in the spring, he brought up the issue of the Musquash conservation easement that was being destroyed by ATV's. When he drives by the area by the power lines, it doesn't appear that any action has been taken to prevent that. He has been negligent in not bringing that issue back up again, but this jogged his memory. He asked if that area was still being totally overrun and nothing has been done. Mr. Quinn said what they should do, but didn't, is file a formal complaint with the Code Enforcement Officer. The two of them, and Bob Haefner, meet once a month to review these things. There isn't anything posted on the Musquash property that says ATV's are not allowed, so it could be public ignorance, and they haven't done anything to correct that. He can go in tomorrow morning and file a complaint. Selectman Jasper said it needs to be posted or blocked with boulders, or both, because the erosion out there is just awful. In places, the walking trails are not walkable. He was disappointed to hear nothing has been done.

Selectman Massey asked what the status was of the signage that was going to be put on the three properties. Mr. Quinn said at the high school, the router broke down and they are waiting for the parts to come in from Germany. They were expecting the router to be fixed by the end of the month. After it is put back together, they will finish the signs. Selectman Massey asked if those were the signs that were going to say no motorized vehicles allowed. Chairman Maddox thought they decided against doing that, that the signs were just going to denote the conservation land, and the "no ATV's" were going to be separate signage. Selectman Massey thought that smaller sign was going to go beneath the conservation signs. Chairman Maddox said he believed they were going to be separate, so they wouldn't be a target. Selectman Jasper said they could put up all the signs they wanted, but until the boulders are put in place, they will be ignored. It's obvious, for the most part, where they are coming in, so the boulders will do a lot. There are probably a couple landowners that need to be spoken to about that, but they need to do something out there. This has been going on out there for years and years, but they've been doing nothing, and it's getting worse and worse. He always get concerned when they take on things they can't really manage. Here is a prime example of a piece that they own fee simple, and they are not doing anything. Mr. Quinn said in order to determine responsibility of enforcement of the easements and make sure they are setting it up and monitoring it on an annual basis and getting it done is one of the things that will come out of this, as a formalized procedure, and they will do better. Kevin Burns has been most helpful. They went through several iterations with the Town forest in trying to keep them out, and it came down to either hitting a boulder or drowning—and that worked. Chairman Maddox said it needs to go on the tracking mechanism that was put in place for Code Enforcement so they do see the process along the way and then the ultimate resolution. Mr. Quinn said that's why he was going to file a complaint.

Mr. Quinn didn't believe a contingency plan would ever be needed, but it is a requirement. It says that, in the event that a town cannot or will not fulfill its stewardship obligation, they need to go to the State for possible transfer of easement. The State will either assume the easement or transfer it to a land trust organization. Selectman Jasper asked who got to determine if they failed. Chairman Maddox said there will be some, like Selectman Jasper, who think they failed at Musquash. Selectman Jasper said he did, but doubted that the State was going to do any better because they probably have less resources at their disposal than the Town does.

Mr. Quinn apologized for not including Attachment 2, saying this includes provisions for photographs, which can be put into the file, or putting the whole system into the GIS, as Chairman Maddox suggested. Chairman Maddox said it codifies everything into one place. He thanked Mr. Quinn, saying he has been working on this for years and it's something that everyone thought was going to be a quick fix, but it has been a time-consuming labor of love. Mr. Quinn said it was, and thanked everyone who worked on it—an effort by a lot of people. Chairman Maddox asked what the next step was. Mr. Quinn said this was going to be on the next Conservation Commission's agenda to begin the baseline documentation on the conservation properties. They will start with the largest, most prominent ones, such as the Musquash, Tri-town Forest and Town Forest—five or six obvious ones that have walking trails on them and exist right now. He's sure they will be getting into Hawkview pretty soon.

Mr. Malizia asked if the Board wanted to make a motion to actually adopt the document before them because sometimes they leave things dangling and have no idea of what they've done. He asked if the Board wanted to add or amend anything, revise or adopt it, because that was the whole point of bringing this in—adoption of the Town's general stewardship plan.

Motion by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, to adopt the Conservation Stewardship Plan for the Town of Hudson, carried 5-0.

B. Workshop Cycle for Departments

Chairman Maddox said they've gone through the first round and got all the department heads through, talking about the FY08 budgets, where they saw that going. The next round with the department heads is looking out three, five, 10 years. They cannot predict details, but trying to be more pro-active, looking towards the future, what the department heads feel they are going to need relative to large purchases, manpower increased, and where they think their departments are going to be in those three, five and 10 years. He was looking for Board members' input so they can bring that to the department heads and get them started on the next part of the cycle.

Selectman Jasper said, as someone who has been involved for a number of years, recommended not going out more than five years. Beyond that, they will be so far off, it's a colossal waste of time. Five years is still a ways out, but it gives them some predictability, but when you start going out 10 years, it just won't get them any bang for their buck—and he's seen that time and time again. Selectman Nadeau thought three might be more realistic.

Chairman Maddox suggested splitting the difference and saying three and seven years out. Things happen slowly, yet time flies by quickly. It seems like, in government, they are not doing things they would have to do in the business world relative to expectation of need X amount of years out.

Selectman Massey said this would be a good time to put in a plug for Capital Improvements Plan. One of the things critical about the CIP is it forms the basis for, not only the Town and School Department being able to forward plans on large projects, the fact that they have one puts them in a position to go after grants. Without a CIP, their ability to get grants is limited. The difficulty right now is that there's a perception on the part of the CIP committee that it may not be working the way they think it ought to work. His perspective is a department head should not be going to the CIP committee with their plans without having vetted them through the Board of Selectmen. The CIP folks think it should be the opposite way, that they would never find out what is needed in Town unless they are able to go directly, but his point is that the Selectmen are the ones the voters hold accountable for spending the money and if they allow, or permit projects to get laid out on the table that they don't even think are important, then they've set expectations in the community that aren't realistic. He thinks that all CIP projects should first come to the Board of Selectmen for vetting, and he would see it done through the workshops. It should be the Board's priorities, not the department heads' priorities that are the governing thing. He also thinks it is very critical that both the Town and the School be involved. This year, there wasn't a single meeting that was attended by the School Department, and only one meeting was attended by the Town's representative. Before they begin next year's cycle, which starts in April, the Board should be very insistent with all of the department heads, with a carbon copy to the School Department, to make it clear this is not just an exercise in futility, that it really is not only a way to plan what they are doing, but also, it helps them when they are going after grant money to be able to say they have a plan and this is what it is. That's his plug for making sure the CIP really has some teeth in it for next year.

Chairman Maddox said he's looking to see, as the department heads come out, and tying it in with the CIP, rather than, as they sit down next year, we want to do X. They need to be looking beyond that. Has Kevin reached his maximum of how many road miles he can plow, with all the technologies he's put into upgrading of equipment and personnel he has? He needs to start look out three, seven years, to say he's going to need more manpower. They are starting to see that information coming to them. What is Community Development thinking for roads? Pelham Road intersection—do they say they are going to prioritize that out for three years, or the seven years, to start really thinking about getting a plan put together to do that intersection. Those kind of things to be able to say, not just dealing year to year, but looking out where they can to do and tying it in with the CIP.

Selectman Jasper said those are all good ideas, but he has a concern over the time frame and what he's thinking is maybe at a department heads' meeting, the Town Administrator could ask them what they think is a realistic number of years for them to be looking at to be coming to the Board with any meaningful plans. Mr. Malizia said the Town isn't really a business. The Board can change in three years. What's a priority to the current members may not be a priority to a majority of members the following year, and the department heads have to adapt to that, and work within the criteria the Board sets forth. He knows what they are saying, and at first blush, it sounds like a great idea to plan everything for 10 years out, but that isn't going to happen realistically in this type of environment. Things can certainly be put on the table to be discussed, but unless the political will is there, it won't happen. All kinds of things can be proposed, but department heads learned to adapt to what they actually get from the elected officials and the voters. If they plan anything out past three to five years, it's just not realistic. As Selectman Jasper said, a lot of time will be put into something that probably won't happen, based on what he's seen from his 10 years working here. He agrees that concepts and projects are important to plan for, whether it's a road or something for police or fire, from a big capital perspective, that's important, but Kevin probably needed two guys 10 years ago—but the political support isn't there. Selectman Jasper said even three years is a bit of a stretch. He was gone for two years, but there are only two of them on the Board that were sitting there three years ago, so the majority of the Board isn't even the same. Steve is right. How much resources are they going to put into something? A couple years ago, even last year, combined dispatch was the big thing. They were going forward with that great guns then, but this year, there isn't anything. The priorities change. They ask their department heads to do an awful lot and unless they can say the majority of the current members

are going to be sitting on the Board in seven or five years, that might make some sense, but the reality is in three years, three of them probably won't still be on the Board.

Chairman Maddox said the needs are not going to change. Mr. Malizia and Selectman Jasper both said but the reality does. Selectman Jasper said they were told the need for combined dispatch was there three years ago, but now because of the political climate, or whatever, that's changed. Time and time again that happens. Even five years is a stretch and to go beyond five years is not going to get anybody anything. Go back and look at CIP from seven years ago, and look where things were ranked and what happened. That has been his problem with CIP for at least seven years. Like Selectman Massey said, it has to come from the Board of Selectmen because things get on CIP that don't have any political backing; they are just a wish list and the Board can't guarantee that they are going to be able to back anything in five years. They can't guarantee that in three years. Chairman Maddox said by the department heads coming in and saying this is something they need to start looking at, then it's almost vetted through the Selectmen before it goes to the CIP. The CIP is only going one year at a time, which was never the intent. Selectman Jasper said it goes out further than that. (Talking over each other.) Mr. Malizia said the Board doesn't direct that something be moved out two years, or three years. Chairman Maddox said then they need to fix that to say the political goal should be, whether the will is there or not, to say they are going to do a library in 2007 and try to stick to that. Mr. Malizia said but then different people may not support that. That's the problem. Selectman Jasper said someone may push strong for something, but then they may not be here the following year. Chairman Maddox said but the need hasn't gone away; it's just whether the support is there. They need to be doing more than being reactive to the political will. They need to be setting goals for the Town for the future. Selectman Jasper said that's what every Board has done, to a large degree, and the next Board comes along with different goals, and they are gone. Three years is realistic; beyond that, it's whistling Dixie.

Selectman MacLean said they can invite the department heads and if they see a need that is beyond the three year period, they should bring that up, like the police expansion. Maybe the Chief doesn't expect it in two or three years, but he knows it's important and it's coming and it's big. He has already brought it up to the Board, so the department heads could at least say that. If somebody feels there is a need coming that's beyond that three years or four years, that can be discussed.

Selectman Massey said they are probably dealing with two separate issues. The first one is the day to day operations of the departments, what the department heads believe is needed and he thinks anything beyond a three year time frame is pushing it for lots of different reasons. The other piece is the capital needs of the departments, and those, whether they the political will or not, will always exist. One of the major reasons why combined dispatch, for example, wasn't brought forward this year is the police and fire chiefs read the tea leaves from the vote and said this is not the year to come back and say, "in your face, voters." But the need hasn't gone away, so he thinks it would be beneficial to have the department heads separate the operating needs from the capital needs and if they are going to meet the schedules of the CIP program, right now, it would strike him they would have to be having these conversations with the department heads in the January-February time frame in time to sort through them so the Board can make their recommendations to what they think are the priorities. That wouldn't mean that the department heads wouldn't go to the CIP meetings and make their case, but they would be making it in the context of what the Board of Selectmen believes is the right priorities for the Town. His perspective would be they would do two things. They look at the next two to three years for what their operational issues are, and they also look at what they think the existing capital needs are, regardless of what the time horizon is. Selectman Jasper said he would agree with that.

Chairman Maddox said, again, roadways are going to take five years out to get it into the process, whether it be the State's 10-year plan or their own 10-year traffic plan. He wanted to go out a little further for those kinds of issues. He guesses this is a compromise that the Town Administrator can convey to the department heads. Mr. Malizia asked how, exactly, that direction was to be translated. Selectman Jasper said three years operational needs—staffing, minor equipment—for the Fire Department, the Highway Department—they can go out as far as they want with equipment. Hopefully, they are looking at some refurb on some of the major equipment and not just say they are going to get 15 years out of this.

(Start Tape 2-A)

He didn't want to give people an artificial deadline. For the capital equipment, they can plan out for the life of the equipment. The buildings can go out five, 10, 15—whatever department heads are comfortable with. Mr. Malizia said Kevin's building is good for 50 years, so they don't have to worry about it. Selectman Jasper said they will all be dead and buried before that needs to be replaced, so they don't need to spend any time on that. That's the general direction. He didn't think they ought to spend a lot of time on the long term. Selectman Massey said, if they are doing this, and they are looking at the workshop cycle, he thinks they've got to be planning these meetings with the boards in the January and February time frames. Mr. Malizia asked if that was the capital-type needs. Chairman Maddox thought they should come in for both at the same time. No sense in having them come in for a third workshop to tie both of those items in each department together. Selectman Massey said the only other option was, if they did it in the February and March time frame, they could use the April workshop to set the priorities. Mr. Malizia said he was looking at everyone running through the budget gauntlet. The last thing they want is to be getting the crap kicked out of them for three years, when they haven't even gotten it kicked out of them for this year. Selectman Jasper agreed and said the time frame was right, but logistically, to have anyone come in in January may be too soon. Selectman Massey said that's why he moved it out, but the other question he would ask is if the April start date for the CIP was sacrosanct, or if they could move it. Among other things, the Budget Committee, because of their organizational issue, are not able to send somebody there—but they did address that issue the last time. Mr. Malizia said the reason it became what it was is

because the summer attendance for CIP wasn't the greatest, so they tried to accommodate people by having it in the springtime. If they were to front end the process and do a little better job and give them less to sort out, to prioritize better from this end, might make some of those meetings quicker. They could schedule more meetings closer together, and it may not be as big of a problem. Sometimes, it's not as focused as it could be. If the Board said, "here's our priority list and this is what it is," the CIP would do their ranking, but wouldn't be looking at superfluous projects. They are going to be looking at something the Board said was a real project, not some idea. That might help the process so it could be accomplished in February-March, with a couple of workshop meetings. His only concern is people are working their budgets now and that would be just another layer. They will do it, but they might not be giving it all their attention. Selectman Jasper said they need a little breather. Do they really need to haul them back in again? It might be better to have three or four departments and each one can be in and out in half an hour to an hour, and give the Board their capital needs. He liked what they did this summer because it was a much more relaxed process. In January there are still the budget hearings, and all of that going on. February is Town Meeting. There is so much going on he's not sure that even he will be in a mindset to be focusing on that until early March. It would be nice if the CIP program could start in early May, or late April. Mr. Malizia thought it should be more up front with the Board working with the departments and vetting them. They'd have a better possibility of a better product that would be more useful that maybe doesn't have things that, realistically, aren't going to happen. Selectman Jasper said, realistically, the Board shouldn't start the process until after the new members are seated because, in theory, they could have two new members. If they do something new in March, and then there are possibly two new members coming on, that should be one where they either move the workshop in March to the third, which they normally have off, which would give the new members an opportunity, or wait until early April to do it. Probably they ought to do it the third Tuesday in March and allow themselves that first Tuesday in May. Chairman Maddox asked why they wouldn't make a presentation in March, or the beginning of April. It doesn't matter who is sitting here because that ranking is going to be made afterwards. Selectman Jasper said but they've got to see the presentation. Chairman Maddox said if someone is interested in being a Selectman, they're not going to miss the video. He can't picture, if someone is going to run for Selectmen, not doing anything and waiting until they get elected. Selectman Jasper said he watched a lot of the meetings, but sitting at home watching the meetings doesn't capture everything. It's not the most exciting thing. There were a lot of things going on this past March, so he was watching a little more closely, but that just isn't something one is going to do—and they don't have the ability to ask questions. You miss quite a bit if you are not present. He thinks it ought to be the third Tuesday and the first Tuesday on those issues for the full benefit of potential new members. Selectman Nadeau agreed, as did Selectman MacLean. Chairman Maddox said it works for him. Selectman Jasper said besides, someone who knows they won't be here in March may not want to sit through it. Selectman Massey asked if they needed a motion. Chairman Maddox didn't think they needed one. They are at least making progress in looking forward, whether it's painful or not. It's something they need to start doing because Hudson isn't going to get any smaller and the needs aren't going to get any less. Even though it's a year and a half out, just alone on transportation, where do they think they are going to spend their monies on the various intersections that need to be improved in Town? It's going to take some time out of next year's budget. It's not where he wanted to be, but he has learned that compromise with this Board is a great thing. This is a semi-direction; they have an almost-direction. Welcome to Hudson politics.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**

Motion to adjourn at 10:05 by Selectman Jasper, seconded by Selectman Nadeau, carried 5-0.

Recorded & Transcribed by Priscilla Boisvert, Executive Assistant

HUDSON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Richard J. Maddox, Chairman

Shawn N. Jasper, Vice-Chairman

Kathleen R. MacLean, Selectman

Kenneth J. Massey, Selectman

Benjamin J. Nadeau, Selectman