

OSSIPEE PLANNING BOARD
Meeting Minutes
February 20, 2024

Minutes have been recorded for the convenience of summarization by Laura Nash, Boards & Commissions Secretary and are deleted once the minutes are board approved; any amendments to the minutes are noted in ***bold & italic*** type.

Call to Order: Sharon “Sharie” Cohen, Chairman called the Special Meeting to order at 7:00 PM and requested all cellphones to be silenced.

Pledge of Allegiance: Was recited by all in attendance.

Roll Call: Sharon “Sharie” Cohen- Chairman, Bruce Stuart- Vice Chairman, Roy Barron and Krystal Eldridge

Absent: Ash Fischbein, and Brian Ames

Signed-In Attendees:

Dallas Emery – 60 Moultonville Rd.; Katherine Alexander – 7 Moultonville Rd.; Dennis Gould – 3 Pocahontas Lane, Freedom; Lucien Gould – 56 Leavitt Rd.; Eric Pare – 68 Leavitt Rd.; Pierre’ Barton – 124 Leavitt Rd.; Gary Gianino – 90 Leavitt Rds.; Lorie Tourangeau – 32 Remle Rd.; Laurie Sheehy – 9 Cove Rd.; and Kevin Randall – 50 Leavitt Rd.

Other Attendees:

Bill Winters – 56 Leavitt Rd.; Sheryl Tacy – 54 Leavitt Rd.; Michael and Jacqueline Boyle – 66 Leavitt Rd.; Kyle Copeland – 102 Leavitt Rd. plus approximately 25 other Ossipee residents who did not sign in.

Public Input: Chairman Cohen called for any questions or discussion unrelated to any case being presented tonight. None was heard.

Meeting Minutes: Review to approve Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2024

B. Stuart noted on page 2 “Je Stilwell inquire if the Board... should be ***Jen*** Stilwell inquire if the Board...”

A **Motion** by Barron to approve the Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2023 as amended. K. Eldridge seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken by a show of hands. **Motion Passed.**

Unfinished Business:

- **Master Plan:** Housing Chapter Discussion continues...

Stuart conveyed to the Board that he inadvertently had not included Carol Ogilvie in the email listing the possible chapters that would correlate with the housing chapter. This has since been rectified and Carol Ogilvie will review the proposals and respond back to Bruce Stuart next week.

New Business: N/A

Notices: Chairman Cohen read the description of the following NHDES application.

- **NHDES:** Standard Dredge & Fill - Wetlands Permit Application for Kevin and Deborah Randall at 50 Leavitt Rd. Tax Map: 033 Lot: 006 are proposing to install 5 docks (6ft. x 40ft.) on the Southside of Loon Island, Tax Map: 032 Lot: 013. The docks are proposed for the southside of the island so as not to interfere with the nesting loons on the northside of the island. The docks would be built with pressure

treated lumber and posts with feet to secure in the water. The docks will be seasonal and will be removed at the end of each season.

Chairman Cohen acknowledged the multiple emails sent to the secretary from residents voicing their questions and concerns. Chairman Cohen also acknowledged that she read the article written for Ossipee Lake Alliance News and the corresponding comments. Chairman Cohen read into the record a letter written by the Ossipee Conservation Commission to NHDES with their concerns of the proposed project.

***“Standard Dredge and Fill
Wetlands Permit Application***

***RE: Loon Island – Leavitt Bay
Tax Map: 032 Lot: 013***

To Whom It May Concern:

The Conservation Commission met on February 14, 2024 and reviewed the above-mentioned Standard Dredge and Fill – Wetlands Permit Application. The Conservation Commission had a few serious concerns with the proposed plan for the installation of (5) 6ft. by 40ft. docks on the southside of Loon Island.

The Committee believes the island is not capable of supporting the proposed usage that may come with providing (5) docks, so if the island cannot support the usage why would the state allow Kevin and Deborah Randall to place (5) docks.

The Committee had concerns with the size of Leavitt Bay and by adding (5) 40 ft. docks off an island in the middle of the bay may make maneuvering through the bay narrower than what already exists. The island is a very fine natural resource in the Ossipee Lake area and the Conservation Commission feels the island cannot support the usage for ex: 15 -20 boats at the docks, people being on the island, urinating/defecating on the island or god forbid in the water, disturbance of the nesting loons on the north side of the island and the obvious of increased boat traffic that may come from the (5) docks.”

Chairman Cohen requested of the attending audience that if they have already submitted an email to the secretary, Chairman Cohen asks that they not request to speak because the Board has a copy of their email stating their opinion and this will allow others to speak if they choose to. Those wishing to speak are requested to keep it brief, to the point, try not to be repetitive and will have approximately one minute per person to state their concern.

Cheryl Gamester – inquired about NHDES’s application process. Chairman Cohen explained when a home owner submits an application to NHDES, NHDES will review the application for completeness, NHDES has an extensive review process, and a long list of criteria’s that must be met before NHDES would render a decision. If NHDES thinks that something is amiss, or the applicant does not meet the criteria’s it’s their job to protect the environment. The CC & PB are given a copy of NHDES applications to review and offer any concerns they may have to NHDES. The CC & PB have no authority or jurisdiction over wetlands, it is state regulated. If the project involves the land then the Ossipee zoning ordinances and the Planning Board would get involved. But at this point this project is all governed by NHDES.

K. Eldridge explained the Conservation Commission may receive up to dozen NHDES applications to review for comments. If the Conservation Commission responds with a letter, NHDES may or may not take it into consideration but ultimately it is NHDES’ decision to rule on wetland applications. Discussion ensued.

Laurie Sheehy – inquired if most of the letters received were either for or against having the docks. Chairman Cohen estimated that most are in opposition.

Cheryl Gamester – inquired if allowing the docks would have an impact on the Town with parking, etc.. because Mr. Randall has S*** for parking. Cheryl Gamester was asked not swear in public meetings. Cheryl Gamester apologies but noted that Mr. Randall has a very small lot and parking would be an issue.

B. Stuart explained the Board is here tonight to listen to some citizens voice their opinions or concerns. Stuart stated again, each person will have about a minute to express their concerns. The Planning Board will then

discuss amongst themselves on whether to send a letter to NHDES. The Planning Board will then make a motion and vote whether to send a letter or not. If the Planning Board does vote to send a letter it will not imply either for or against the project, it will only convey the concerns of the citizens.

Susan Marks inquired if the dredging of the lake is part of the application package. Chairman Cohen stated that is just the name of the application, it's the "Standard Dredge and Fill Wetlands Permit Application."

The secretary asked Chairman Cohen for people to state their names for the record when speaking.

Dallas Emery inquired what's on the island to warrant having 5 docks. Multiple discussions ensued.

Chairman Cohen asked the applicant, Kevin Randall to come forward and speak.

Kevin Randall stated he has been coming to Ossipee since 1977. His parents bought a house on Leavitt Bay in 1978. Kevin Randall stated they originally lived at 30 Leavitt Rd. and then moved to 50 Leavitt Rd. Kevin Randall referred to the article from Ossipee Lake Alliance stating they're a Massachusetts's couple. Kevin noted that they are NH resident's and his wife has lived here for 2 years and he will be up here fulltime in April. Kevin bought the island in 1994 from Al Frechette. The island is a leftover part of land from the other side of Leavitt Rd. Kevin noted part of the history of the island is that it has rights to the beach across from his parcel and the island is private property. For 30 years, he has paid the taxes and part of the problem is people think it's their island. People are leaving trash, not picking up after their animals. Kevin noted that he has worked with the Loon Preservation Society for many years and have spoken with them over this plan.

Kevin Randall explained that by submitting an application to NHDES for a wetlands permit part of the process is that NH Fish & Game gets involved. NH Fish & Game called Kevin to inquire about the nesting loons. Kevin informed NH Fish & Game that he is fully aware of the loons. Kevin stated the proposed docks are going to be on the north side of the island. He is all for the loons and has stated so in his application. One stipulation is he is to continue working with preserving the loons by putting up signs, ropes and whatever it takes to support their survival.

Kevin Randall explained that one of the biggest problems with the island is trash and peoples disregard for the fact that it's a posted private island. Kevin states for 30 years he has picked up the trash left on the island. Kevin states he has allowed people to use the island for various family functions at no cost provided they ask for permission. Kevin noted he pays the taxes for the private property and he should have a right to use it as private property. It's not a public island and if someone wants to use the island he has never said no and has never charged anyone to use the island. All he asks is that they ask for permission to use it.

Kevin Randall explained that when he bought the island, he originally got a variance to put a gazebo on the island for his personal use and he is still hoping to do so legally. Kevin addressed the issue of the erosion by having boats pullup to the docks. But currently, boats are pulling up on the shore causing the erosion and by adding the docks he's hoping to control some of the erosion. The use of the docks is for personal use for family and friends visiting.

Stuart thanked Mr. Randall for coming to speak with the Board and residents. Barron inquired about the size of the island. Kevin Randall stated its three-quarters of an acre and greater than 1,300 lineal feet of frontage.

Dennis Gould of 3 Pocahontas Lane, Freedom a.k.a. The Loon Guy, who works with the Loons Preservation Society for 25 years. Mr. Gould is the one who puts the ropes and signs up to protect the Loons and Mr. Randall let's them do that. Dennis Gould asked for clarification as to which side Kevin Randall said the docks would be located. The application notes the docks will be on the south side of the island but Kevin Randall stated earlier the docks would be on the north side of the island. Dennis Gould states the north side is the most attractive side for the Loons because there is less boat waves and the last time there was a nest it was on the south side of the island. Dennis Gould stated the Loons have been trying to nest on the island all the time

and with the potential for up to 20 boats it's going to prevent the Loons from nesting on the island. Dennis Gould stated he has sent a letter with facts to NHDES.

Stuart asked the secretary if she had clarify some information. The secretary wanted to clarify that Kevin Randall originally wanted to put the docks on the northside of the island but speaking with the state it was better decided to put the docks on the south side of the island because the Loons were on the north side.

Carol Carlino of Leavitt Rd. stated that the island is getting smaller over the years due to erosion. She and a friend used to sleep overnight on the island. Over the years where they used to sleep is now where the boat waves come up on the island because of the erosion and it's just a busy bay.

Danny Fischbein of Center Ossipee gave a brief history of the island and noted that the island is an unusual shape and the north side which is larger but the bay is getting smaller because boaters are not adhering to the state regulation which states, "**crafts may not be operated in a cove or within 300 feet of shore except at a speed just enough to maintain headway and steerage,**" and the waves are causing erosion of the shoreline. According to state regulations if you own a house on the lake with 100 ft. of frontage; you're only allowed to put 2 docks and Mr. Randall wants to put 5 docks on the southside of the island.

Stuart responded noting that NHDES will determine the content of the application. The Planning Board has no authority over the NHDES application or its process.

Susan Marks of Ossipee Lakes Alliance inquired how Mr. Randall thinks that by putting 5 docks on the island is going to make it his property anymore and keep people off the island. Susan Marks believes it's going to be an attractive nuisance to where people are going to come and park at the docks and use the island. Multiple discussions ensued.

Dallas Emery – Ctr. Ossipee played devils advocate in noting that it may be a benefit to have the docks to stop people from parking their boats onshore.

Laurie Sheehy of 9 Cove Rd. stated according to Mr. Randall "the docks are for family and friends" not the general public. Discussion ensued over trying to understanding the concept of how are the docks going to help prevent the shoreline erosion. Chairman Cohen noted without Mr. Randall present to ask it would not benefit anyone to speculate.

Gary Gianino of 90 Leavitt Rd. commented that over the past 5-6 years the island has gotten busy because of events being held on the island. Prior to that there may have been 2-3 people on the island over a weekend. There have been more boaters on the Bay over the last few years which has increased erosion on the island and on the shoreline. If docks are placed on the southside of the island it will decrease the traffic pattern and maneuverability away from other docks, mooring lines etc.... Leavitt Bay could potentially become a "No Wake zone." With Marine Patrol having a minimal presence; again, over the past 5-6 years there has been an increase of inexperienced boaters flying around the Bay causing erosion. The proposed use of pressure treated lumber to construct the docks should be used in the water. Mr. Gianino concluded stating that the erosion, the environmental impact, more boats, transient boats, and rumors flying around of Mr. Randall's actual intent for the 5 docks is going to increase the amount of invasive plants. Leavitt Bay has been fraught with Milfoil and continues to work through getting it removed. Increase traffic on the Leavitt Bay has been difficult. Sanitary concerns from parties. Chairman Cohen asked Mr. Gianino if he has contacted NHDES with his concerns. Mr. Gianino confirmed he has and continued noting that the property is zoned residential and by having 5 docks seems to imply that Mr. Randall has other plans that he is not willing to share at this time.

Barron informed Mr. Gianino that the pressure treated lumber of today is not the same as of yester years. Mr. Gianino commented per an environmental letter he received that indicates pressure treated lumber is still not recommended for the water and people should be using composite materials.

Stuart restated that NHDES will review the application and determine what can and cannot be used for material. Again, those concerns are going to be reviewed in the permit process.

Mr. Gianino inquired if I understand this evening is an informal discussion and the Board is not going to any vote. Stuart stated, if the planning board decides to go ahead and vote toward either sending a letter stating the concerns of the citizens or not to send the letter that is what the Board would vote on. If the Board sends a letter, then the content of the letter will contain what you, the residents have talked conveyed to the Board.

Mr. Gianino inquired if there would be a public hearing if you (the Board) were to discuss. Stuart informed the attendee's that there is nothing to have a public hearing on because there is no case before the Planning Board. This is a NHDES permit application that's being submitted by an individual and has nothing to do with the Planning Board approving or disapproving the permit application. The Planning Board's sole responsibility is to listen to you folks and to determine whether the Board is going to send a letter to NHDES or not and follow through with that submittal. NHDES does not have to listen to the Planning Board if they choose not to. Tonight's purpose is to listen to your concerns. Mr. Gianino thanked the Board for listening to them. Stuart commented, obviously you have some concerns and we appreciate you coming in and taking the time to speak with the Board tonight.

Eric Pare' of 68 Leavitt Rd. Expressed several concerns as follows where are the vehicles and trailers going to park if parking on Leavitt Rd is already very tight, what is the access point to the island, denies the fact that Mr. Randall has a right of way from the association beach and the association would disagree with that entirely but he would speak for the association himself. What would be the remedy for trash on the island. There are no waste facilities on the island, is there going to be overnight camping on the island. Marine Patrol is on site around six o'clock but do not go on land. If there is an emergency on the island; how is emergency services suppose to get to the island? Zoning is listed as residential so if he is going to run a commercial enterprise isn't the Planning Board suppose to have a say in that decision.

Stuart interrupted stating he has not heard once Mr. Randall say anything *about* a commercial endeavor and he is not going to sit here and have someone project that. Barron noted as for the association and the right of way, that is for the lawyers and the deeds and not the Planning Board. Stuart stated that he does not want this to become a soapbox for everybody to make accusations. That is not what this meeting is about and if that's the way this is going to be taken on when someone speaks, then I would rather you not speak.

Barron commented that what he does with his friends is his business not ours, we don't need no snide comments on that either.

Bill Winter of 56 Leavitt Rd. had questions about jurisdiction. It seems the Planning Board has no jurisdiction for docks that are going to start on land and go out 40 ft into the water. Mr. Winter referred to the article from Ossipee Lake Alliance where Mr. Randall did respond stating that he does not intend to rent this year but he was not going ruling it out in the future.

The secretary requested of the Chairman to respond to Mr. Winter's questions. The Zoning Officer spoke with Mr. Randall last week. In his conversation with Mr. Randall as long as the docks are in the water, it is state regulated. Once anything takes place on land, then it falls under the town's ordinance. He would have to comply with town zoning ordinances and the Planning Board if he's going to run a business on the island, then he would need a Site Plan Review. So, at this point it is all in NHDES's jurisdiction to determine whether or not he's even going to be allowed to have the docks.

Mr. Winter's queried are you saying the docks are going to be just in the water and not? Barron commented it doesn't make any difference until they pull them up. Stuart asked Barron to let the secretary explain. The secretary continued explaining that is up to NHDES as to how they're going to be anchored and where they're

going to be anchored. Mr. Winter exclaimed and if they're anchored on the land. The secretary commented that if they're on the land, then it would probably come back. But at this point we don't know.

Stuart noted that's why we really don't want to speak to that right now because as I was talking about projecting, about renting and becoming a business that doesn't exist right now. So, for the Planning Board to go ahead and speak to that would be wrong. Mr. Winter's commented that's scary to think that as long it's in the water it is state regulated but once on land it comes under the towns jurisdiction.

Stuart asked if there anybody else who would like to speak?

An Unknown Gentleman referred to a 1996 variance to put a gazebo and decks on the island and inquired if Mr. Randall still plans to put a gazebo on the island and is the permit still valid. This also concerns him because even if he does not get approval for the docks he can still put the gazebo on the island and that will draw more people to the island.

Stuart stated he would prefer not to speak to that tonight because the Board just became privy to that and does not want to say anything out of turn that he is not knowledgeable about. The gentleman inquired if permits stay active for 30 years. Barron stated it depends on who wrote it. Stuart stated he cannot answer that until he reviews the file. Barron stated that would be up to the lawyers, the Code Officer, the Selectmen and has nothing to do with the Planning Board.

Mike Boyle of 66 Leavitt Rd spoke of 2-3 Eagles nesting on the east side of the island.

Lorie Tourangeau of 32 Remle Rd, stated if this was so important to Mr. Randall, he would at least give them the common courtesy to have stayed here to listen this neighbors and what their concerns are. Her family has been on Ossipee Lake since the early 1970's and have seen a lot of changes. She strongly believes the lake cannot safely handle anymore boat traffic. The Pine River boat access is already overwhelming and has concerns with the increase of invasive species being detected in the lake.

Kym Lagios of 11 Bay Point Rd, inquired if people could still submit letters of concern to the Planning Board. Stuart stated she could actually sent it to NHDES directly.

Jackie Boyle of 66 Leavitt Rd inquired if NHDES holds public hearing on these applications or is it possible for them to do a site visit. A unidentified gentleman responded per NHDES response letter the decision is entirely up to NHDES if they want to hold a hearing on an application.

Chairman Cohen called for last call for anyone who would like to speak on the subject.

Bill Winter would like to see a plan drawing. The secretary noted that Kyle Copeland was given a copy of the application for David Smith of Ossipee Lake Alliance to write his article and they could probably review it with them. Someone noted there was no schematic included in the application. Multiple discussions ensued.

Pierre Barton of 124 Leavitt Rd inquired how will the public be notified of the Planning Boards decision on whether to send a letter to NHDES or not. Chairman Cohen and Stuart both stated the Board would vote on whether to send a letter or not and it would take place after the Board has heard from everyone who wishes to speak. Pierre Barton conveyed there was a lot of people who could attend this meeting and wanted to send a letter. Barron suggested they send a letter to NHDES.

Laurie Sheehy of 9 Cove Rd, wanted to know whether it's NHDES or who they could address their concerns to about the parking issues on Leavitt Rd. Because there's not enough room for all the vehicles, trailers, and how are they going to get from the shore to the docks out on the island.

Barron suggested directing that question to the Selectmen and/or the Zoning Enforcement Officer because it's not in our jurisdiction at this time. Chairman Cohen commented this is also an issue to address with NHDES.

Danny Fischbein of 67 Main St, stating Mr. Randall bought the island from "Popeye" Frechette when the Home Owners Association was formed. Parking would be near the area of the private beach by the home owners association.

Lucien Hodgman of 56 Leavitt Rd inquired if there was anyone in attendance that could speak in favor of the proposed project, since there has only been comments of opposition. Dallas Emery stated he has nothing to do with this but he's in full support of Mr. Randall doing anything he wants on his own land. He has property rights because he's paid taxes on it for 30 years, he's let others use the island for their functions, and now everyone thinks it belongs to them. I understand everyone's concerns but it's still his island.

While multiple discussions were taking place with Barron, *the resident's were* speculating over what if he wants to add more docks.

The secretary conveyed to the Chairman and Vice-Chairman that Mr. Randall has already been told that if he goes commercial or goes up on land; he will need to speak the Zoning Officer and potentially the Planning Board. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman asked the secretary to convey that to Bill Winter's. The secretary addressed Bill Winter's and others stating that Mr. Randall has already spoken with the Zoning Officer and has been told that if he has any commercial intent or he goes up on the island, he will have to speak with the Zoning Officer and would have to come before the Planning Board for Site Plan Review to operate a business off of the island. But as for putting any more docks off the island he would still need to apply to NHDES for approval.

Cheryl Gamester of 17 Channel Rd wanted clarified that Mr. Randall is not putting these proposed docks on land. The secretary stated and Stuart agreed that Mr. Randall is not telling us anything; the Board is going strictly according to his NHDES application. Discussion ensued over that actual content of the application. Stuart noted he cannot speak to that because they just got the application tonight and has not had a chance to review it. Again, the determination is up to NHDES to determine if all the criteria's are met or if more information is needed.

Gary Gianino of 90 Leavitt Rd commented that Mr. Randall states he has three-quarters of an acre of land on the island. But it's usually the high water mark that would determine how much land can actually be used. When the high water comes in some of the island (sandy area) goes under water, so Mr. Gianino does not understand how the island is three-quarters of an acre. Barron stated it's probably what he is taxed on and it would be noted on his tax card at Town Hall and that it's public record.

Stuart explained there are NHDES criteria's he will have to meet. NHDES has a six page pamphlet listing all the requirements when applying for a wetlands permit. NHDES will review the contents and make a determination based on that information.

Stuart called for one last person to speak. None came forth.

A **Motion** by Stuart instructing the secretary to send a letter to NHDES expressing the concerns of Ossipee residents towards the **NHDES: Standard Dredge & Fill - Wetlands Permit Application for Kevin and Deborah Randall at 50 Leavitt Rd. Tax Map: 033 Lot: 006** are proposing to install 5 docks (6ft. x 40ft.) on the Southside of Loon Island, Tax Map: 032 Lot: 013. Barron seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken by a show of hands. **Motion Passed.**

Chairman Cohen thanked everyone for coming in to speak with the Board.

- **NHDES – Alteration of Terrain Permit – AoT – 0437:** Ambrose Gravel Pit on Archers Pond Rd. Tax Map: 231 Lot: 001 has submitted to NHDES updated information on the required conditions. With no changes to the subject property, NHDES requires no additional information at this time. The next progress report is due January of 2029.

The Board had no questions or concerns for the AoT report presented.

Unsatisfied Conditions: Status quo.

Any Other Business Which May Come Before This Meeting: Chairman Sharon “Sharie” Cohen called for any other business.

Chairman Cohen proposed revisiting of keeping the recordings of the Planning Board meetings. It was voted on 4-5 years ago to not keep the recordings once the written minutes were approved by the Planning Board. Chairman Cohen commented there have been a few things come up where having the recordings would have been helpful. Chairman Cohen would like to revisit and take a vote to keep the recordings.

Barron stated he would like to actually have them attached to the minutes.

Chairman Cohen inquired if there is a way to upload them to the cloud. The secretary noted at this time there is not a way to do this. There is a House Bill currently before the Legislation wanting to make it mandatory that all municipal meeting be video recorded, which would tax every town with getting video recording equipment in order to comply with and cloud space to keep everything on file if the bill passes. But the written minutes would still remain the legal document.

Stuart inquired if it would be best to wait and see if the bill passes. Barron stated if we don’t do it now, it not going to pass later.

The secretary wanted to know why some members want to start keeping the recordings again. Stuart commented he’s fine with the minutes and is not sure what happen to prompt this discussion.

Barron stated “that there are a couple things:

1. Claims there was some tampering long ago
2. Too many keys out at one time
3. Because every Board member remembers on a certain article that for polling yes answer and one polled no.
4. And when the minutes came back a little while ago on a particular project it was the Chairman who said it wasn’t legal and about a minute and 20 minutes are missing from the minutes. That’s one of the reasons.”

The secretary asked when was this. Stuart does not remember this and asked if it was a recent meeting.

Barron stated “it was an older meeting and told Stuart it was about the time he got on the Board. It would have been about the sawmill.” Stuart agreed it was before he got on the Board.

Barron claims “the former Board member who used to be here remembers what I remember.”

K. Eldridge inquired about which sawmill. Barron noted it was Jeff Kelly’s. K. Eldridge commented that was last summer.

Chairman Cohen and Stuart both commented they think here’s referring to when Jeff Kelly first cam before the Board. The secretary stated that was for an Informal Discussion.

Barron said “the Board was polled and only one person voted against it, and I’m not going to say his name because I don’t want to start a frigging war, but those minutes were not accurate for one page. There is too much access to that stuff and I think stuff should be backed up by the recordings.”

Chairman Cohen inquire “if the Board does not have access to the cloud from the Town; can the recording be put on thumb drives.” The secretary stated she will have to follow up with Matt Sawyer as to whether or not they want to provide me with an external hard drive or something else to store recordings on. Matt Sawyer may argue the point because he already thinks my minutes are too long and I put way too much information. Chairman Cohen noted “would like them as a means to refer back to if the need exist and I think there have been situations where need existed.” Chairman Cohen stated, “she was never a fan and thinks we should keep the recordings.”

Barron stated, “the second point he wanted to make was the closed meeting and what happened there.” The secretary asked which closed meeting. Barron referred to the non-public legal session a couple of weeks ago. “A lot of that was not accurate and I didn’t say anything at the time.” K. Eldridge stated that we cannot talk about it now, so... Barron continued “and the show pieces shouldn’t have happened.” K. Eldridge and the secretary both stated, “that it can’t be discussed now because that was a non-public session.” Barron stated, “That’s why I said what I said very carefully!” Chairman Cohen commented don’t to yell, please. Barron stated, “That’s why I said what I said very carefully! I know we can’t discuss it here but that’s my other reason.”

K. Eldridge stated there have been situations in the past or even at current meeting when something happened way before any of us and the secretary couldn’t find the minutes. Several Board members commented there’s nothing against the current secretary. They all think she’s doing an great job. Barron hopes she’s not taking criticism on this. The secretary commented, yes I am. K. Eldridge noted that the secretary looked for it but it *couldn’t* be found because it happened in the 1980’s. But being able to have a recording to fall back would be nice. The secretary stated that she had found it. It wasn’t where she thought it would be but she did find it. K. Eldridge continued to explain that when people say they have a Site Plan but we’re unable to find it that’s when it would good to have the recordings.

Stuart inquired if it would be better to wait and see where the House Bill ends up going because of the expense. Chairman Cohen commented “that’s a totally different issue.” Stuart disagreed. Barron suggested “keeping the recording until the House Bill passes and if not then we can keep the recordings. Stuart noted it’s for the minutes. Barron stated, “My point is the Ex-Chairman is going to be against it, if we don’t do this now it’s not going to happen. He’s the one who pushed it out.” Barron was telling Stuart on his first day here.

Stuart stated his concern is the House Bill that’s going to cost the Board money if it passes and the Town will have to purchase this equipment for us where it’s not going to be a tape recorder but will be a video. Discussion ensued over having to keep two records of the meeting. Chairman Cohen and Barron both stated then they would eliminate the tape recording. Barron noted that Stuart and himself will be off the Board after March and the veteran Board members are disappearing but the remaining Board members are relatively still learning and he thinks the tapes have been used relatively often over the years until it got put away.

Dallas Emery stated “he goes to the Selectmen’s meeting and their filming. There is nothing difficult about filming these meeting. You can place as phone on a tripod and can be live streamed into YouTube. The state actually does it.” The secretary noted “that under 91-A anything on your phone would become public knowledge.” Dallas Emery stated “the Town could buy a designated phone because they do that already and can be downloaded to the Towns website. It not a hard process, it’s a simple process and it’s not an expensive process. Chairman Cohen noted she is only referring to keeping the recordings not video recording the meeting. Dallas Emery stated he thinks all recording should be kept just for reference. Discussion ensued.

A **Motion** by Cohen to resume saving the audio recordings of the Planning Board meetings. Barron seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken by a show of hands. **Motion passed.**

Chairman Cohen thanked the Board for considering that because she believes it’s important to keep them. Barron noted and Chairman Cohen agreed that it’s no reflection on the secretary. Stuart inquired of a start date. Barron and Cohen stated to commence at the next meeting.

Next Meeting: [March 5, 2024: @ 7:00 pm at the Freight House](#)

NHMA Zoning Ordinance Deadlines:

- **Monday, March 4, 2024:** Candidate’s Night at 6:30 pm at the Town Hall Bud Avery Memorial Gymnasium.
- **Tuesday, March 5, 2024**
Last day to submit zoning ordinance protest petition to require 2/3 vote at town meeting. [RSA 675:5- at least 7 days before town meeting]
- **Tuesday, March 12, 2024:** Town Elections at the Town Hall Bud Avery Memorial Gymnasium.
- **Wednesday, March 13, 2024:** Town Meeting at the Town Hall Bud Avery Memorial Gymnasium.

Chairman Sharon “Sharie” Cohen called for a motion to adjourn.

Adjournment:

A **Motion** by R. Barron to adjourn. B. Ames seconded. No discussion. A unanimous vote was taken by a show of hands. **Motion passed.**

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 PM.

Minutes approved by majority vote of the Board on – _____
Date

Sharon “Sharie” Cohen, Chairman
Ossipee Planning Board

Bruce Stuart, Vice - Chairman
Ossipee Planning Board