



Town Council Meeting Minutes



Thursday, March 23, 2023, at 7:00 PM, in the Matthew Thornton Room

Call to Order

Chairman Rothhaus called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. Present at the meeting were Chairman Rothhaus, Councilor Healey, Councilor Hunter, Councilor Koenig, Councilor Murphy, Councilor Woods, and Town Manager Paul Micali. Vice Chair Harrington was excused.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Rothhaus led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

Upcoming Town Council Meetings:

- Thursday, April 20, 2023, 6:00 PM Nonpublic meeting
- Thursday, April 20, 2023, 7:00 PM Regular meeting
- Thursday, May 11, 2023, 7:00 PM Regular meeting
- Thursday, May 25, 2023, 7:00 PM Regular meeting

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER:

- Tuesday, April 11, 2023, 7:00 AM – 7:00 PM
Annual Meeting / Voting Day - At your designated polling location

The Parks & Recreation Department invites Merrimack Residents to join them on Saturday, April 1st at Wasserman Park for the 31st Annual Easter Egg Hunt where 9,000 Easter Eggs will be given out. The event runs from 10:00 – 11:30 and each age group is assigned to a specific time slot as follows:

SPECIAL NEEDS 10:10 AM

AGES 1 - 3: 10:30 AM

AGES 4 - 5: 10:50 AM

AGES 6 - 7: 11:10 AM

AGES 8 -10: 11:30 AM

Advanced registration is not required to participate. For questions contact the Parks & Recreation Department at 603-882-1046 or go online to www.merrimackparksandrec.org

The New Hampshire Department of Health and Human Services has provided the library with FlowFlex brand, at-home, COVID-19 tests to distribute to our community for free. Although the packaging says these tests expired in January 2023, the FDA (US Food and Drug Administration) has approved extending the expiration date to October 2023. These tests can be found in our entry way and within the main lobby. There is no limit to how many each patron can take.

The first 2023 Household Hazardous Waste Collection is Saturday April 22, 8am – 12 pm in Nashua at the Nashua City Park & Ride 25 Crown Street

Comments from the Press and Public

State Rep Bill Boyd of 139 Joppa Rd was present to thank the Council for recognizing Ms. Creager, Ms. Heinrich, and Councilor Woods for their service that they've given to the community throughout the years. He shared that the Heinrichs have been actively involved with the school system for many years and being involved in election days. He then recognized Ms. Creager, the "resident scout master", for her dedication to

the community and preserving Merrimack's heritage. Additionally, he recognized her work with the Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts and all the projects she's helped come to fruition. He also thanked Councilor Woods for his service on the school level, with the transfer station, and MVD. He shared that Councilor Woods has been a temperate and soothing voice for a lot of issues that have been discussed over the years. He then stated that Councilor Woods has been a voice of reason many times, and he knows he will be just as valuable to the Concord community as he was for Merrimack.

President of the Historical Society John Lastowka of 183 Amherst Rd was present to share his thanks to Ms. Creager for all her monumental work she's done for the society over the years. He also wanted to thank Ms. Heinrich and Councilor Woods for their service as well.

Robert Bergin of 1 Holly Ln wanted to thank Councilor Woods for his service to Merrimack, as well as acknowledged his personal strengths and friendship they've shared for over 50 years.

Recognitions, Resignations and Retirements

1. Town Committee Member Recognition

Submitted by Town Council Chairman Finlay Rothhaus and Vice Chair Nancy Harrington

The Town Council to present a recognition certificate to Patricia Heinrich for her service to the Town of Merrimack as a member of the Trustees of Trust Funds.

Chris Christensen shared that Ms. Heinrich joined the Trustees of Trust Funds about a year and a half ago and was dedicated to her role, as well as worked tirelessly to go through files and dispose outdated materials and work on abandoned projects.

Councilor Koenig shared that he's worked with Ms. Heinrich over the years and appreciates all her hard work, and highlighted her energy she put towards projects. Chairman Rothhaus read Ms. Heinrich's recognition certificate into record:

Presented to Patricia Heinrich in recognition of your service as a member of the Trustees of Trust Funds In recognition of your dedication and commitment to public service during your appointment as a member of the Trustees of Trust Funds, Your service and devotion to the Trustees of Trust Funds has had a valuable effect upon this community. We wish to extend to you our sincere appreciation for your outstanding performance of duty. September 2021 – April 2023

2. Town Committee Member Recognition

Submitted by Town Council Chairman Finlay Rothhaus and Vice Chair Nancy Harrington

The Town Council to present a recognition plaque to Anita Creager for the countless hours she has dedicated to the Town of Merrimack serving as a member on the Historical Society and the Heritage Commission.

Anita has lived in Merrimack since 1962. In that time, Miss Anita's invaluable contributions to this Town are many and her commitment to the Scouts is unwavering. She has been involved with Scouting since 1968 in Merrimack and the State of NH. Anita was a Committee Member of Troop 15 while her 3 sons were members. She played a part in starting Boy Scout Troop 424 and has held the following positions in the troop: Scoutmaster, Assistant Scoutmaster and Committee Member. She has been active with all aspects of the program since that time and enjoys working with the Scouts more than the administrative part of the program as that is where she can have the greatest impact.

She has attended numerous Boy Scout of America National Jamborees and World Jamborees. She is a Merit Badge Councilor and has volunteered at the Scout Museum at Camp Carpenter, in Manchester, NH.

Anita's wealth of historical knowledge of the Town of Merrimack is impressive and her drive and love of history brought her to being a member of the Heritage Commission for the past 15 years and has served as the Commission Chairman for 9 of those years. She was also the President of the Merrimack Historical

Society for several years prior to the Historical Society's location change from Boston Post Road to the new location on 10 Depot Street.

Over many years, in partnership with the New Hampshire Old Graveyard Association, Anita has cleaned, repaired and preserved gravestones in several of the cemeteries here in Merrimack.

Chairman Rothhaus read Ms. Creager's recognition plaque into record:

Presented to Anita Creager in recognition of the dedicated service you have given to the Town of Merrimack serving on the Historical Society, Heritage Commission as well as your leadership with the Boy Scouts.

Your vast knowledge of Merrimack's historical context throughout generations and your quest to preserve it will be forever appreciated by future citizens. Presented on behalf of the Town of Merrimack this 23rd day of March 2023.

3. Recognition of Town Councilor Lon Woods

Submitted by Town Council Chairman Finlay Rothhaus and Vice Chair Nancy Harrington

The Town Council will present a plaque to Lon Woods for his service to the Town of Merrimack as a member of the Merrimack Town Council.

Chairman Rothhaus read Councilor Woods' plaque into record:

Presented to Lon S. Woods in recognition of the dedicated service you have given as a member of the Town Council for the Town of Merrimack. Your dedication and donation of countless hours has made Merrimack a better place to live and work. We wish to extend to you our sincere appreciation for your outstanding performance. April 2019 – April 2023. Presented on behalf of the Town of Merrimack this 23rd day of March 2023.

Appointments

1. Children's Business Fair

Submitted by Sara Snavelly

The Town Council to be presented with the details of the proposed Children's Business Fair scheduled for Sunday, June 11, 2023 from 10:00 AM–2:00 PM at Watson Park.

Ms. Snavelly was present to share some details regarding the upcoming Children's Business fair. She shared that last year, they had 21 businesses with two or three children running the stands, and this event was very successful. She is hoping that for this year, they can have a few more businesses. Councilor Murphy asked how children can sign up for this, in which Ms. Snavelly shared that registration is online at <https://www.childrensbusinessfair.org/merrimack-nh>. Councilor Woods shared that he attended last year and thanked Ms. Snavelly for her a job well done with this event. Town Manager Paul Micali asked Ms. Snavelly if there was a fee to participate, in which she stated that it is free for children to be a business and for the public to attend as well.

MOTION made by Councilor Murphy and seconded by Councilor Healey to permit the proposed Children's Business Fair scheduled for Sunday, June 11, 2023 from 10:00 AM–2:00 PM at Watson Park.

MOTION CARRIES 6-0-0

2. **Annual Review with the Highway Safety Committee**

Submitted by Highway Safety Committee Chair / Police Chief Brian Levesque

Per Town of Merrimack Charter Section 6-6, at least annually, there should be an annual review with the Highway Safety Committee. This agenda item is to highlight the committee's significant actions, current projects, anticipated actions, and to raise any concerns the Council should know or could act on.

Police Chief Levesque shared that there were two main issues they took up, one being a residence request for a crosswalk by the Shaw's plaza around Elm St, which is being studied to determine necessity, and the Naticook triangle, which is the CIP and is going through the Planning Board for a future study as well. Another issue that was brought up was regarding no parking signs on Twin Bridge Rd, which was suggested by the Planning Board to come before the Highway Safety committee. Lastly, they decided to erect some Horse signs on Naticook Rd since a resident will have some horses for the trails in the area.

3. **Town Election Discussion (Official Ballot Vote) – April 11, 2023**

Submitted by Town Moderator Lynn Christensen

Town Moderator Lynn Christensen to provide the Town Council with an update on the upcoming Town Election scheduled for Tuesday, April 11, 2023.

Town Moderator Lynn Christensen shared that so far, they have 5 absentee ballots and she does not expect this year to be too busy. She also ensured that everyone needs to bring their IDs.

Public Hearing

1. **Public Hearing – Radio Infrastructure Grant for the Merrimack Police Department**

Submitted by Deputy Chief Matthew Tarleton

The Town Council will hold a public hearing to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of up to \$1,471,745.93 for a Radio Infrastructure Grant for the Merrimack Police Department made available through the Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), for the purchase of a radio tower, construction of a communications shelter and associated equipment for said grant, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15.

Chief Levesque was present to discuss the grant, sharing that this would take care of the entire radio project as well as the future sight on Whitetail Ridge.

The public hearing was opened at 7:49pm and closed at 7:50pm.

MOTION made by Councilor Hunter and seconded by Councilor Healey to authorize the acceptance and expenditure of up to \$1,471,745.93 for a Radio Infrastructure Grant for the Merrimack Police Department made available through the Department of Justice, Office of Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS), for the purchase of a radio tower, construction of a communications shelter and associated equipment for said grant, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15, and authorize the Town Manager to sign any and all necessary documents.

MOTION CARRIES 6-0-0

Legislative Updates from State Representatives

Councilor Murphy shared that tomorrow, March 24th, at 10am there is a hearing with the finance committee regarding HB614, which is the Merrimack kidney cancer study where there is hopefully going to be \$500,000 appropriated to fund the study. Also she shared that Matthew Brown, a 14 year old freshman at

Merrimack high school, came yesterday for the senate hearing for his bill to put the National Eating Disorder's phone number on the back of student IDs.

Town Manager's Report

- **Celebration of Song premiere:**
Merrimack TV will premiere "A Celebration of Song" this Friday night at 7PM on Ch 21, HD 1071, our website, and streaming devices. The concert features chorus performances from all district schools and was recorded with 3 cameras.

Consent Agenda

1. Chapter 180, Temporary Sales Locations and Vendors, of the Merrimack Town Code [Final Reading]

Submitted by Town Council Chair Finlay Rothhaus and Vice Chair Nancy Harrington

The Town Council to consider the recommended changes to Chapter 180, Temporary Sales Locations and Vendors, of the Town Code, pursuant to Charter Article V.

MOTION made by Councilor Woods and seconded by Councilor Koenig to move the Consent Agenda.

MOTION CARRIES 6-0-0

Old Business

None.

New Business

1. Donation Acceptance for the Merrimack Police Department

Submitted by Lieutenant Chris Spillane

The Town Council to consider the acceptance and expenditure of a donation in the amount of \$1,970 from the Merrimack Crimeline to the Merrimack Police Department to support Mack and the Comfort Dog Program. This money will be used to purchase stuffed animals that resemble Mack to be sold in an effort to raise funds that will be used for the overall care of Mack to purchase supplies and pay for any grooming/veterinary bills that may come along, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15.

Lieutenant Spillane shared that this donation is to purchase the stuffed animals as a fundraiser to raise funds to care for Mack.

MOTION made by Councilor Hunter and seconded by Councilor Healey to accept the donation in the amount of \$1,970 from the Merrimack Crimeline to the Merrimack Police Department to support Mack and the Comfort Dog Program. This money will be used to purchase stuffed animals that resemble Mack to be sold in an effort to raise funds that will be used for the overall care of Mack to purchase supplies and pay for any grooming/veterinary bills that may come along, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15.

MOTION CARRIES 6-0-0

2. **Donation Acceptance for the Merrimack Police Department**

Submitted by Lieutenant Chris Spillane

The Town Council to consider the acceptance and expenditure of a donation in the amount of \$1,800 from the Merrimack Crimeline to support Mack and the Comfort Dog Program. The money will be used towards the original purchase of Mack as it was initially believed the department would receive a Comfort Dog as a donation but that plan changed and they had to purchase one, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15.

Lieutenant Spillane shared that this donation is to offset the cost of purchasing Mack as it was originally believed he would be donated to the town, but they ended up having to purchase him.

MOTION made by Councilor Hunter and seconded by Councilor Healey to accept the donation in the amount of \$1,800 from the Merrimack Crimeline to support Mack and the Comfort Dog Program. The money will be used towards the original purchase of Mack as it was initially believed the department would receive a Comfort Dog as a donation but that plan changed and they had to purchase one, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15.

MOTION CARRIES 6-0-0

3. **Donation Acceptance for the Merrimack Police Department**

Submitted by Lieutenant Chris Spillane

The Town Council to consider the acceptance and expenditure of a donation in the amount of \$2,500 from the Digital Federal Credit Union (DCU) to support the Merrimack Police Department's efforts in providing programs and services that will make a difference in the community, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15.

Lieutenant Spillane shared that this donation is to support various programs and services, such as coffee with a cop, cone with a cop, and senior fair, which will benefit the Merrimack community.

MOTION made by Councilor Hunter and seconded by Councilor Murphy to accept the donation in the amount of \$2,500 from the Digital Federal Credit Union (DCU) to support the Merrimack Police Department's efforts in providing programs and services that will make a difference in the community, pursuant to RSA 31:95-b and Charter Article 8-15.

MOTION CARRIES 6-0-0

4. **Acceptance of Donations for Sklar Waterfront Park Sub-committee**

Submitted by Michael Drouin

The Town Council to consider the acceptance of a donation from Michael Drouin of 100 seedlings valued at approximately \$120.00 and two wooden benches valued at approximately \$300.00, to the Sklar Waterfront Park Sub-committee to assist in the enhancement of the property's habitats, pursuant to RSA 31:95-e and Charter Article 8-15.

MOTION made by Councilor Murphy and seconded by Councilor Healey to accept the donation from Michael Drouin of 100 seedlings valued at approximately \$120.00 and two wooden benches valued at approximately \$300.00, to the Conservation Commission to assist in the enhancement of the property's habitats, pursuant to RSA 31:95-e and Charter Article 8-15.

MOTION CARRIES 6-0-0

Minutes

Approve the minutes from the following Town Council meetings:

♦ March 9, 2023

MOTION made by Councilor Healey and seconded by Councilor Murphy to approve the minutes from March 9, 2023 as written.

MOTION CARRIES 6-0-0

♦ March 15, 2023

MOTION made by Councilor Hunter and seconded by Councilor Koenig to approve the minutes from March 15, 2023 as written.

MOTION CARRIES 6-0-0

Comments from the Press

None.

Comments from the Public

None.

Comments from the Council

Councilor Koenig wanted to once again thank Ms. Creager, Ms. Heinrich, and Councilor Woods for the service to the town of Merrimack.

Adjourn

MOTION made by Councilor Woods and seconded by Councilor Healey to adjourn the meeting.

MOTION CARRIES 6-0-0

The meeting adjourned at 8:06 pm.

Respectfully submitted by Jennifer Steagald