

Alexandria Selectmen's Meeting Minutes

April 15, 2025

- ❖ **Members Present:** George Tuthill and Robert Piehler
- ❖ The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.
- ❖ The minutes from April 1, 2025 were approved.
- ❖ **Items Reviewed and Signed**
 - Resolution Opposing NH Senate Bill 297: An act relative to pooled risk management programs (See attached full text of resolution)
 - Letter to Governor, State Senator, and State Representatives regarding position on SB297
 - LRPC Transportation Advisory Committee: Appointment of George Tuthill to committee
 - Timber Tax: Karlsen Map 410 Lot 43
 - Timber Tax: Hiltz Map 420 Lot 7
 - Health Officer Appointment Form: Michael Provost
 - Letter: State of NH DMV for plate for roller
- ❖ **Business**
 - Hebron Road
 - The Selectmen read a letter to the Weslou Farm Trust regarding the classification of Hebron Road (see attached). The Selectmen determined that Hebron Road is classified as a Class VI road. Lorna Sirois, representing the Weslou Farm Trust, expressed disagreement with the determination and stated that they will proceed with fencing off the road on their land. There was discussion about a saw mill that they believe was in the road and they expressed that it would not have been there if it was a town road. The Selectmen did not change their position.
 - Waste Management Committee
 - A meeting of the Waste Management Committee was scheduled for April 24th at 1:30 pm. There was discussion on how to get information about recycling out to residents. There was discussion on Gilford's Styrofoam recycling program and the feasibility and cost of transporting the material.
 - Haynes Library
 - Deb Glidden, Trustee, announced that Kim Sharp made a little library for a take a book/leave a book program to put in front of the library. The Selectmen authorized placing the little library in front of Haynes Library and thanked Kim Sharp for making it.
 - AMC/Shem Valley Road
 - The Selectmen will be meeting with representatives from the State and AMC to discuss possible solutions to parking and turn around problems on Shem Valley Road and at the AMC lodge. The meeting is being held on May 14th at 10:00 am.
- ❖ **Public Input**
 - Brian Lewis expressed concern with potholes on Fowler River Road; Paul Sirard, Road Agent, stated that they will be working on fixing pot holes.
 - Will Hanna expressed concern with speeding on Washburn Road towards Town Pound Road; there was discussion on potential ways to address the issue including rumble strips and signs to slow down.

Meeting adjourned 6:35 pm

Respectfully submitted, Jennifer Dostie, Administrative Assistant

Others present: Paul Sirard, Nancy Whitman, Kim Sharp, Ken Hall, James Grant, Deb Glidden, Peter Todd, Richard Nialez, Brian Lewis, Barbara Platts-Comeau, Charlotte Barron, Will Hanna, Lorna Sirois

April 15, 2025

RESOLUTION OPPOSING NH SENATE BILL 297: AN ACT RELATIVE TO POOLED RISK MANAGEMENT PROGRAMS

WHEREAS: The Town of Alexandria is a participating member of municipal risk pools, which serves as a mechanism for managing risk, ensuring financial stability, and providing affordable coverage options for municipalities and public entities across New Hampshire; and

WHEREAS: New Hampshire Senate Bill 297 would impose significant and unrealistic financial and administrative burdens on risk pools and their members, including municipalities like the Town of Alexandria and

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 297 imposes vague and subjective standards that could trigger unexpected mid-year assessments, disrupt municipal budgeting, and threaten long-term financial planning; and

WHEREAS: Senate Bill 297 introduces new oversight and administrative costs, further straining local budgets; and

WHEREAS: the bill mandates new contingency reserve requirements that could cause sudden and significant rate increases, creating volatility and undermining the predictability that towns and cities require for responsible fiscal planning; and

WHEREAS: these provisions, taken together, pose a serious threat to the financial sustainability, predictability, and effectiveness of municipal risk pools, potentially resulting in higher costs, legal uncertainty, and reduced service capacity for municipalities and other public entities across the state, and

WHEREAS: HealthTrust has indicated that it would cease to operate if this legislation is approved, putting municipal employees' health care in jeopardy and potentially costing taxpayers significantly in the future.

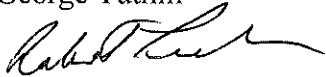
NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE TOWN OF ALEXANDRIA THAT: the Board of Selectmen hereby expresses its strong opposition to New Hampshire Senate Bill 297, as it is currently drafted; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: that the Board of Selectmen urges the New Hampshire General Court to amend Senate Bill 297, so the Department of Insurance becomes the regulator of risk management programs, and please work collaboratively with municipalities and risk pool administrators to support financially sound and administratively feasible approaches to oversight and risk management.

Alexandria Board of Selectmen



George Tuthill



Bob Piehler

Chet Caron

April 15, 2025

The Weslou Farm Trust
92 North Road
Alexandria, NH 03222

Re: Hebron Road

Dear Trustees of the Weslou Farm Trust:

We are writing in response to your letter of January 21, 2025, which requested that the Town of Alexandria declare a portion of Hebron Road passing through your property (Map 401, Lot 96) to be completely abandoned, as opposed to its current designation as a Class 6 town road. We have carefully reviewed the material you provided, studied other relevant publications and sources, and talked with local surveyors and others. Based on that work, and as discussed below, we must refuse your request to change the Hebron Road designation.

The details supporting this decision are as follows:

1. The road in question extends into the Town of Hebron, and your materials show that Hebron voted in 1864 to discontinue its portion of that road on the condition that Alexandria agree to do likewise for its portion. A year later, in 1865, Hebron voted to discontinue their portion of the road. As the Alexandria town records for that period have been lost to fire, there is no direct evidence of Alexandria's taking any action regarding Hebron Road. Nonetheless, you argue that Hebron's 1865 vote must imply that Alexandria had accepted the agreement and discontinued its portion.

We believe the opposite is more likely: If Alexandria had accepted the proposal, then Hebron's 1865 vote would have been unnecessary, and Hebron could and would have discontinued its portion without any further action on the part of the voters. The simple existence of the 1865 warrant article – without any contingency – argues that Alexandria had declined to discontinue its part of Hebron Road at that time. The approval of this article must have been necessary to move forward despite inaction by Alexandria.

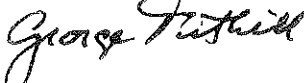
2. Although records are missing, at some in the 1800s date Alexandria certainly did "discontinue" its portion of Hebron Road. But in the 1800s the term "discontinue", and other similar terms, were ambiguous when used in this context. This point is discussed at length in the NHMA manual "A Hard Road to Travel"; see the section "Complete Discontinuance" which also cites relevant court cases. In particular, the term "discontinue" could indicate either the complete ceding of the town's ownership of the right-of-way

(ROW) to the abutting landowners or, alternatively, the ceasing of town maintenance but retention of the public ROW. As you point out in your letter, not until the 1900s was the Class 6 designation created to describe the second alternative. So even if the Town of Alexandria had voted in the 1800s to "discontinue" its portion of Hebron Road, that section may have eventually been designated as Class 6, rather than as completely abandoned. Support for this lies in the fact that the "discontinued" portion in Hebron is now designated on that town's tax maps as being Class 6 (and now known as Bear Notch Road).

3. Your materials do not provide evidence that the Class 6 designation for Hebron Road was disputed when that classification term first became available in the 1900s. It is therefore likely that the Class 6 designation was taken as a description of the status quo at that time.
4. Until the mid-1900s, complete discontinuance of certain roads required Supreme Court approval. None of the materials provided speak to any such approval.
5. Support for our decision also comes from sources which, while not authoritative, are nonetheless helpful indicators. In particular, local surveyors who have worked in this immediate area, including on properties abutting the road, describe it as Class 6.

We are aware that this decision was not the outcome you wished for. However, we believe it to be strongly supported by the available evidence and relevant statutes.

Best Regards,
Alexandria Board of Selectmen



George Tuthill



Bob Piehler



Chet Caron