

Steven Borne
431 Wallis Rd
Rye, NH 03870

Board of Selectmen
10 Central Rd
Rye, NH 03870

March 25, 2018

Dear Selectmen,

I had planned on attending the March 26th Board of Selectmen meeting, but I will be out of town. Below are my thoughts and expectations I was going to share in the Public Comment time.

You face many challenges and some NH municipalities choose to have five Selectmen to spread the work load and accelerate annual progress.

1. Priorities, Space Needs, Investments and affordability

While Article 29 failed, residents have been discussing privately raising the \$6,000 or more required to bring in Plan NH. The No vote, precludes you from spending Town money, but does not prohibit you from participating in these discussions as Selectmen or residents.

The goal of this initiative will be to get a better understanding of resident priorities, willingness to spend and ideally consensus of facts and options.

2. Master Plan

At a Fall Planning Board meeting what is needed to make the Master Plan a best in class document was discussed. This is primarily an implementation plan and a reformat to make the Master Plan more consumable, actionable and easier to maintain. I personally feel a lack of investment in Planning (skills, personal, communication and funding) is a common root cause for many current challenges.

3. Lawsuits, Development and Oversaturation of the Land

There appears to be a repeating pattern of the town paying legal settlements for large developments. While the Sea Glass Lane development did not result in a lawsuit, in retrospect a lawsuit may have been preferable to this semi-rural blight. Is there a common theme and what can be done to remedy the problem? I personally believe, we are at the point where our remaining buildable land does not have the ability to absorb additional development without a sewer system and/or water treatment plant. If that is the case, we need to quickly adjust our building ordinances.

As we now know, the Parson's Creek Watershed has too many septic systems and not enough land. It is not a question of a few bad systems, but not enough land for the volume of land being saturated with what escapes from leach fields. This requires immediate action by the town.

4. PFOAs from Grove Road Landfill

I strongly suggest the BOS change your perspective from last year. The dialog should be based on the assumption that PFOAs have been getting to our well for some time and the 2017 testing may not be the contamination leading edge. If you make this assumption, it should lead to rapid town action.

5. Dogs

The town needs to do something immediately to improve the situation for the Washington Road resident who owns the adjacent property the Parsons Field trails. When residents attended the BOS meeting about dogs, there were a lot of good suggestions. I would suggest leveraging NH Listens or another group to develop a compromise.

I could list more “suggestions”, but I believe the output from residential listening sessions will help focus town management on resident priorities.

Best Regards,

Steven

Steven Borne, 431 Wallis Rd