



**Office of the Board of Selectmen
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**NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: WEDNESDAY, May 27, 2020
TIME: 6:00PM
CONFERENCE CALL**

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Chairman Burrill called the meeting to order at 6:00pm.

As Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for the Town of Newton NH, I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note that there is no physical location to observe or listen contemporaneously to this meeting which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are:

Utilizing Zoom Conference Call for this electronic meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone #646 876 9923. Meeting ID number is 9040457732. Or using the link provided here: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9040457732>

We previously gave the notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the conference call via phone.

If anyone has a problem, please email BOSSecretary@newtonnh.net. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Utilizing Zoom Video Conferencing was Chairman Matthew A. Burrill, Selectmen Kathryn Michaels, Town Administrator Nancy Wrigley, and Secretary Diane Morin. Utilizing Zoom Audio Conferencing was Lawrence B. Foote and Charles R. Melvin Sr. The public session was videotaped. The public meeting minutes were transcribed and typed by Secretary Morin. Excused this evening was Selectman Lisa L. Gonyer.

Other conference call attendees were Tina O'Rourke, Chief Alcainho, Trisha McCarthy, Chief Jewett, Jack Kozec, and members of the public.

Chairman Burrill explained the purpose of the meeting is to keep the Board and public informed about the COVID-19 Pandemic and to make decisions based on the guidelines provided by the State. Any decisions made by the Board were done with the safety of residents in mind and not to cause undue hardships to anyone.

II. Scheduled Business

A. Re-Opening Town Beach

Chairman Burrill polled the Board to see if they are in favor of opening the Town Beach. Selectmen Michaels, Foote and Melvin were in favor.

Chairman Burrill moved to re-open the Newton Town Beach to residents only, effective immediately. Until further notice, the Selectmen are implementing the following restrictions in order to mitigate risk during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Groups are restricted to ten or fewer and beach towel groups must be separated by 12 feet.**
- **BBQs are prohibited until further notice.**
- **Ball games are prohibited. For example: throwing around baseballs, kicking soccer balls, throwing Frisbees, or playing any beach volleyball at this time.**
- **Cloth masks should be worn when social distancing is not possible except while swimming.**
- **For the time being, the Town Raft will not be put in the water.**
- **The beach parking lot continues to be for Newton residents only.**
- **Lifeguards will be on duty beginning June 8, Wednesdays thru Sundays. Newton Police and Lifeguards will strictly enforce all restrictions. Punishment could result in individuals being permanently prohibited from the Town Beach.**
- **All other Recreation Town Beach Ordinances not altered in this order will remain in effect.**

Seconded for discussion by Selectman Melvin.

Selectman Melvin asked if a person violates what will happen to the individual. Chairman Burrill stated that the person would be removed.

Chairman Burrill stated that this is a fluid situation and things can change. Selectman Michaels asked the public to let the Board know if something is or is not working.

Selectman Foote stated that a warning should be given to a person not adhering to the restrictions.

Mr. Rick Faulconer, a member of the Recreation Committee, addressed the Board. He asked that all beach goers be respectful of the Lifeguards who will be on duty. Chairman Burrill stated that the Lifeguards will warn people once and then notify the Police should the person continue to violate the restrictions.

Chief Jewett stated that the Police will be enforcing the restrictions.

Chairman Burrill stated that the warrant article that pays for the Lifeguards salary will not cover the extra day of the week that the Lifeguards will be on duty. He is recommending the Board allow the Recreation Commission to use unused funds in the 2020 Recreation budget. He stated that the unused funds are a result of some programs being canceled due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The Board agreed to use the unused funds to pay for the Lifeguard's salary.

Ms. Nicole Morton addressed the Board and asked if people could launch kayaks at the beach. Chairman Burrill stated that the Recreation Ordinance does not allow this. Selectman Foote stated he would like to see it done on a temporary basis. Chairman Burrill stated that to change an ordinance, a public hearing would need to be held.

The motion passed. Burrill – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye.

Chairman Burrill stated that Selectman Lisa Gonyer informed him that she was in favor of opening the Town Beach.

Chairman Burrill moved to temporarily allow kayaks to be launched at the Town Beach. Seconded by Selectman Melvin. Burrill – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye.

Chairman Burrill recommended that the Recreation Committee handle signage for the Town Beach.

B. Re-opening Greenie Park

Chairman Burrill moved to re-open Greenie Park to residents only effective immediately. Until further notice the Selectmen are implementing the following restrictions in order to mitigate risk during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **Groups are restricted to 10 or fewer.**
- **The playground equipment will be closed until further notice.**
- **Tennis courts, ball fields and basketball courts will be open.**
- **Small group workouts or pickup games of 10 people or less are allowed.**
- **Cloth masks should be worn when social distancing is not possible.**
- **The parking lot is for Newton Residents only.**
- **Newton Police will strictly enforce all restrictions. Security cameras will be used to monitor adherence to guidelines. Punishment could result in individuals being permanently prohibited from the park.**
- **All other Recreation Ordinances related to Greenie Park not altered with this order will remain in effect.**

Seconded for discussion by Selectman Melvin.

Selectman Foote recommends baseball teams wipe down the bats after each player uses one.

Mr. Mike Boutin, representative from the Newton Baseball and Softball Association addressed the Board. He stated that the league has issued guidelines based on the Governor's guidelines for teams to follow to reduce the risk of COVID-19 exposure. The playing season will be short this year.

The motion passed. Burrill – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye.

C. Supervisors of the Checklist

Chairman Burrill stated that on a given date voters must be given the opportunity to change their political party affiliation.

Mrs. Lamere stated that the Supervisors of the Checklist must meet on June 2, 2020 from 7:00pm to 7:30pm. She is asking to use the Town Hall parking lot to meet voters who need to make changes to their voting status.

Selectman Foote moved to allow the Supervisors of the Checklist to meet on June 2, 2020 from 7:00pm to 7:30pm in the Town Hall parking lot. Seconded by Selectman Melvin. Burrill – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye.

Mrs. Lamere would like permission to enter the Town Hall so that she may file paperwork that she has collected at her home. Town Administrator Wrigley suggested any Friday would be good. The Board agreed to allow her access to the Town Hall on any Friday.

D. Update – COVID-19 virus

Mrs. McCarthy briefed the Board with new updates from the State conference calls that she attended. She reviewed the Statewide statistics for COVID-19 which included First Responders. Currently, the Town has 3 active cases of COVID-19 and 2 are in the same household. The total number of cases since the pandemic was 21 in Town. No deaths have been reported in Town.

She reminded people to check their source when looking at numbers of cases. Some sources are not reporting accurate numbers.

Guidelines from the State Re-opening Task Force are available on the State website.

Some temporary alternate care sites will be shutdown.

The State Attorney General's Office can be contacted by businesses or the public to report any issues related to noncompliance with the Governor's Emergency Orders.

She reviewed different State Departments' reports.

Coach bus service on the coast will be resuming in phases.

A Contact Tracing application is being developed by Google and Apple.

If there is a State of Emergency, virtual meetings can still be held.

Mrs. McCarthy explained the emergency form that is available on the EOC website that is used to contact residents in case of an emergency. Any questions about the form should be directed to the EOC.

Mrs. McCarthy informed the Board that there are some trees that the neighbor would like to have taken down. To have them removed they would need to access the trees from the Safety Complex at 8 Merrimac Road. The neighbor is asking for permission to be on Town property. The Board had no issue with the neighbor accessing the property to remove the trees.

Mrs. McCarthy stated she received an estimate to replace the office windows at the Town Hall for the Tax Collector and Selectmen's Office. The estimate was \$645.00. Chairman Burrill recommends tabling until we have a plan in place to re-open the Town Hall and Library.

Selectman Foote reminded the Board that the funding for COVID-19 projects is short. Chairman Burrill recommends waiting until there is a plan so that the needed projects are done correctly.

E. Announcement

Chairman Burrill announced that the Board of Selectmen accepted a bid from CAI Technologies for \$34,400.00 to digitize the Town tax maps as voted on March 10, 2020 per warrant article #11.

F. Review quote for lot line adjustment at 35 South Main Street (old fire station)

Chairman Burrill explained that the Board is trying to sell the old fire station. There is a fire pond and the entrance to the Peanut Trail on the property. The Town needs to hire a surveyor to do a lot line adjustment, so the 2 areas remain Town owned. The Town received a quote to perform the survey in the amount not to exceed \$7,500.00. The Board discussed whether to get more quotes. It was decided to move forward with accepting the quote.

Selectman Melvin moved to authorize Chairman Burrill to sign the quote from S.E.C to survey and adjust the lot line at 35 South Main Street to remove the fire pond and entrance to the Peanut Trail from the parcel in the amount not to exceed \$7,500.00. A deposit of \$1,500.00 will be due upon signing the quote. Seconded by Selectman Foote. Burrill – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye.

Selectman Melvin will inform the Realtor that the Board is moving forward with surveying the land.

G. Public minutes from May 18th and 20th

Selectman Foote moved to accept the public meeting minutes dated May 18 and 20, 2020 as written. Seconded by Selectman Melvin. Burrill – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye.

H. Nonpublic and public minutes from May19th

Selectman Foote moved to accept the nonpublic and public meeting minutes dated May 19, 2020 as written. Seconded by Selectman Melvin. Burrill – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye, Melvin – aye.

III. Adjourn

Selectman Melvin moved to adjourn at 7:21pm. Seconded by Selectman Michaels.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin
Board of Selectmen Secretary