



**Office of the Board of Selectmen
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NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DATE: MONDAY, JUNE 1, 2020

TIME: 6:00PM

CONFERENCE CALL

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Chairman Burrill called the meeting to order at 6:04pm.

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 Lisa L. Gonyer, Kathryn Michaels, Town Administrator Nancy Wrigley, and Secretary Diane Morin. Utilizing Zoom Audio Conferencing was Lawrence B. Foote, Charles R. Melvin Sr. The public session was videotaped. The public meeting minutes were transcribed and typed by Secretary Morin.

Other conference call attendees were Tina O'Rourke, Chief Alcainho, Trisha McCarthy, Terry Caswell, Pete Gagnon, Chief Jewett, and members of the public.

II. Scheduled Business

A. Update – COVID-19 virus

Chairman Burrill explained the reason for the meeting was to bring the Board and public up to date on guidelines to combat the spread of the COVID-19 virus.

Mrs. McCarthy briefed the Board with new updates from the State conference calls that she attended. She provided the Board with the latest statewide statistics which includes First Responders.

Fitness centers can open for scheduled classes or meetings with a personal trainer only. The classes are limited to 10 people including the instructor. Simultaneous classes can be held provided they are outdoors or in a separate room.

When opening beaches, social distancing should always be maintained .

Social media focus on COVID-19 has died down.

Restaurants can have solo entertainers indoors if they maintain social distancing. Small bands are allowed outdoors if they adhere to social distancing guidelines. Restaurants must limit groups to 6 people or less at each table. Each customer must have a seat to sit in and not allowed to co-mingle with other guest at other tables.

Firework displays are permitted provided spectators remain in their cars. More guidance will be provided by the State later.

A request to the Governor's Office to provide new or changes to Emergency Orders be done earlier in the week so local government can react to the changes.

Currently there is no mask requirement within the State.

Schools are only closed in terms of classes. The facility and fields can be utilized.

The Department of Health and Human Services launched a new dashboard to help the public track the impact of COVID-19 in the State.

Mrs. McCarthy provided reports from other State departments.

The Town Hall PPE supplies have been replenished. The Lifeguards will be picking up their PPE's later this week.

Chairman Burrill recommended reducing the number of COVID-19 meetings to one per week. The Board agreed to having one meeting per week on Wednesdays.

B. Transfer Station – Swap pile

Transfer Station Gagnon recommends that the swap pile remain closed. Selectman Gonyer stated that there is not enough room to store items until it is safe to put them in the swap pile. The Board agreed to not open the swap pile at this time.

Chairman Burrill informed the public that there is a Facebook page where people can post items for swap/sale.

C. Zoom account for Town use

Chairman Burrill stated that the current zoom account is his personal one. He would like to have the Town use their own account that could be shared with all departments, boards, commission, and committees.

The new Zoom account monthly fee is \$14.99 which will be expensed under the COVID-19 grant until such time the grant is no longer available.

D. Other Business

The Board asked Chief Jewett if there were any issues at the Town Beach. Chief Jewett reported that there were none.

Chairman Burrill announced that there will be a delivery of beach sand to the Town Beach later this week. The reason for doing the work now is that the Recreation Commission did not expect the Beach to open until much later if at all. Residents will still be allowed to go to the Beach but will need to be aware of the pile of sand.

Town Administrator Wrigley received a request from the Planning Board Administrator to access the Town Hall more frequently so that he can prepare documents for the Planning Board. There is an issue with the copier not scanning to the Planning Board PC, so the Administrator requested he be allowed to use the copier in the office area. The issue will be resolved so that he does not need to access the office area copier. Upon further discussion, the Board agreed to allow the Planning Board Administrator access to the Town Hall as needed, staying within his normally scheduled hours.

Selectman Foote stated that he would like to see Town Buildings begin to re-open. The Task Force assigned to re-opening the Town Buildings will be meeting Tuesday and will report back to the Board at one of their COVID-19 meeting.

III. Adjourn

Selectman Gonyer moved to adjourn at 6:43pm. Seconded by Selectman Melvin.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin
Board of Selectmen Secretary