



**Office of the Board of Selectmen
2 Town Hall Road, Newton, NH 03858
Tel: 382-4405 Option 5 Fax 382-9140**

www.newton-nh.gov

NEWTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DATE: MONDAY, MAY 18, 2020

TIME: 6:00PM

CONFERENCE CALL

PUBLIC MEETING MINUTES

I. Call to Order

Chairman Burrill called the meeting to order at 6:02pm.

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 Free 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 # 978-990-5000. Meeting ID number is 631111.

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.

On the phone was Chairman Matthew A. Burrill, Selectmen Lisa L. Gonyer, Kathryn Michaels, Lawrence B. Foote, Town Administrator Nancy Wrigley, and Secretary Diane Morin. The public session was audio taped. The public meeting minutes were transcribed and typed by Secretary Morin. Selectman Charles R. Melvin Sr. was excused this evening.

Other conference call attendees were Tina O'Rourke, Chief Alcaidinho, Trisha McCarthy, Terry Caswell, Pete Gagnon, Chief Jewett, Jack Kozec, 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.

Mrs. McCarthy reviewed the Statewide statistics for COVID-19 which included First Responders. The number of positive cases is up due to the increase in testing.

More Federal funding has become available and the State will be distributing the funds.

She reported that the Department of Human Health and Services informed them that the percentage of positive COVID-19 cases is down.

The National Guard is helping with distributing PPE's, supplementing security, and working the hotlines where needed.

Mrs. McCarthy stated that she emailed samples of different signage that can be used to remind people to practice social distancing.

There is a need for hand sanitizers and gowns. A special form is available for the EOC's to use to request any PPE's needed.

Towns with trails should be monitoring them to ensure social distancing is being used.

The Wildcat Transit in the Durham area will be suspended until August 31, 2020. The regional airports have limited flights in and out of the airports.

Mrs. McCarthy reviewed a memo sent out by the State Attorney General's Office explaining which local or state enforcement agency is responsible for enforcing emergency orders. Should a business continue or repeatedly violate the emergency orders, the local law enforcement should contact the Attorney General's Office.

Yard sales and craft fairs are once again permitted but must adhere to social distancing and wear masks.

The State will take on a case by case basis to allow restaurants to have entertainment.

Mrs. McCarthy informed the Board that the US Secret Service announced that there is a large fraud ring targeting local banks, credit unions and national banks where fraudulent people are cashing unemployment checks from State's that they do not reside in.

The National Guard is continuing to provide mobile testing. They are also increasing patrols of trails.

A large order of PPE's should be arriving tonight and will be distributed with the help of the National Guard.

For Towns and Cities wanting to hold a parade or graduation ceremonies, they need to contact the State DOE for guidance.

One Town received KN95 masks, which are not good for close contact, and gowns without sleeves. The State responded that the KN95 can be used but are not for a hospital or close contact. They are aware of the issues with the gowns.

Restaurant staff are required to wear masks but not gloves.

The State Attorney General's Office stated that year-end graduations and scheduled gatherings can be held provided social distancing is adhered to.

Mrs. McCarthy reminded all Department Heads to submit any invoices related to COVID-19 to EMD Foote or herself by May 22, 2020.

Mrs. McCarthy stated that the birds nesting near the Fire Station are not on the endangered species list.

Chairman Burrill stated that he received a call from a resident asking if the Town Beach was open. He stated the Governor's Office is looking to open the State beaches around June 1, 2020. Massachusetts is opening their beaches on May 25, 2020. He recommends revisiting this June 1, 2020 to open the beach.

Selectman Gonyer stated that if Town Buildings are closed so should any Town property be closed.

Selectman Gonyer moved to officially close the Town Beach due to the COVID-19 pandemic and to revisit this on June 1, 2020. Seconded by Selectman Michaels. Burrill – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye. Foote – nay. The motion passed.

Chief Jewett stated that the Police had taped off the parking lot at one time and that he will check to see if the tape is still there.

Town Administrator Wrigley asked the Board if they would like to have Custodian Romanoski begin the cleanup at the Town Beach. The Board agreed to allow him to clean the area.

Transfer Station Manager (TSM) Gagnon informed the Board that the Station has started accepting bulk items from Newton residents. He was able to collect the fees without any contact.

Selectman Gonyer moved to allow the Transfer Station to accept bulk items from Newton residents. Seconded by Selectman Foote. Burrill – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye.

Chairman Burrill and Selectman Gonyer would like to have the Transfer Station be able to use credit cards as a form of payment for fees.

TSM Gagnon stated that residents are anxious to have the swap pile open. The Board agreed to wait on opening the swap area and will revisit this item at their June 1, 2020 meeting.

Selectman Gonyer moved to accept the public meeting minutes from May 11, 2020 as written. Seconded by Selectman Foote. Burrill – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye.

Selectman Gonyer moved to accept the public meeting minutes from May 13, 2020 as written. Seconded by Selectman Foote. Burrill – aye, Gonyer – aye, Michaels – aye, Foote – aye.

The Board discussed how their regularly scheduled meeting for Tuesday, May 19, 2020 will be held using Zoom. The information for attending the meeting is on the agenda which is posted on the Town's website and at the Town Hall on the front door.

III. Adjourn

Selectman Michaels moved to adjourn at 6:48pm. Seconded by Selectman Gonyer.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Morin
Board of Selectmen Secretary