

 TOWN OF NEWTON, NH

 *Recreation Commission*

*2 Town Hall Road*

*Newton, NH 03858*

Date: February 1, 2021

Call to Order - 7:00 pm – this Meeting was a Zoom Call.

 Chairman Rick Faulconer - As Chairman of the Recreation Commission 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 Commission 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 accessing the Meeting ID number – 86868185090. Or using the phone number provided here: 646-558-8656. We previously gave the notice to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting. 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.

In attendance – Chairman Rick Faulconer, Selectman Matthew Burrill, Peggy Connors, Vanessa Burrill, William Harding, and Patricia Masterson (recording minutes).

Approval of the Minutes

**Selectman Burrill made a Motion to approve the Minutes of January 4, 2021. Chairman Faulconer seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously.** **(Ms. Connors – aye; Chairman Faulconer – aye; Selectman Burrill – aye; Mr. Harding - aye)**

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Winter Essay Contest

Ms. Connors presented a suggestion to hold a Winter Essay contest for Grades 3 through 12. She proposed having three contests: Grades 3 through 5, Grades 6 through 8, and Grades 9 through 12. Topics could include: What was the best and worst part of doing your schoolwork from home; Who do you recognize as a hero or heroes during the pandemic; and Why is it still important to commemorate Memorial Day? Announcements will be posted on Facebook, Carriage Towne News, Town Cable Station, and the Recreation Commission website by Ms. Connors and Ms. Masterson. Selectman Burrill will contact Angela McVey to ask for recommendations for contacting the schools. Ms. Masterson will reach out to school contacts. The deadline for essays will be February 28. The Recreation Commission will review the essays on March 1,2021 and send them to the Board of Selectmen by March 16, 2021.

**Ms. Connors made a Motion to approve going forward with a Winter Essay Contest and awarding $50 Amazon gift cards for First Place winners in each grade category, and $25 Amazon gift cards for Second Place winners in each grade category. Chairman Faulconer seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously.**  **(Ms. Connors – aye; Chairman Faulconer – aye; Selectman Burrill – aye; Mr. Harding - aye)**

Warrant Articles

The Town Deliberative Session was held on January 30, 2021. The Recreation Commission presented two Warrant Articles, which were approved.

 12. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, as proposed by the Recreation Commission the sum of $4,500.00 for Recreational Programs and Trips for Newton Senior Citizens. This article would result in an estimated $0.007 increase per $1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes. THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

 13. To see if the Town will vote to raise and appropriate, as proposed by the Recreation Commission, the sum of $16,500.00 to hire four Part-Time Lifeguards, one Part-Time Supervisor of Lifeguards, and to purchase necessary Safety Equipment, to oversee the safety of all swimmers at the Town Beach between May 2021 and September 2021. This article would result in an estimated $0.026 increase per $1,000.00 of assessed value to be raised by taxes. THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN DOES RECOMMEND THIS ARTICLE 5-0

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Town Election

Voting for Warrant Articles and Town elected positions will be held on March 9 at the Newton Fire Station. Covid19 precautions are a valid reason for using an absentee ballot.

Adjournment

**Ms. Connors made a Motion to adjourn the Meeting at 7:28 p.m. Mr. Harding seconded the Motion, which passed unanimously.** **(Ms. Connors – aye; Chairman Faulconer – aye; Selectman Burrill – aye; Mr. Harding - aye)**

 Next Meeting

March 1, 2021 is the next meeting of the Recreation Commission.

Respectfully Submitted,

Patricia Masterson, Secretary, Recreation Commission

*Posted on 3/2/2021 Newton Town Hall and Official Town website www.newton-nh.gov.*