

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 18th, 2020 Remote Via Zoom Audio

Attending Meeting by Phone: Chair Ted Connors, Selectman Mike Marconi, Selectman Ken Latchaw, Martha Roy, Town Administrator and Eleanor Boy, Recorder.

T. Connors called the meeting to order at 5:00pm, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

T. Connors read the following statement:

As Chair of the Newington Board of Selectmen, due to the COVID-19/Coronavirus crisis and in accordance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this Board is authorized to meet electronically.

The meeting will start by taking a Roll Call attendance. When each member states their presence, also please state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

T. Connors took attendance. T. Connors, K. Latchaw, Mike Marconi, M. Roy and E. Boy are in attendance.

Minutes Approval: M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of May 4th, 2020. K. Latchaw seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Manifest Approval: K. Latchaw moved to approve the manifests for \$11,555.04 dated 5/7/2020 and \$54,915.13 dated 5/14/2020. M. Marconi seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Fox Point Invasives Update:

E. Boy reported that she had walked Fox Point with Dennis from BioSpray. The spray they use is not harmful to any wildlife. E. Boy will be meeting with the goat lady this Friday about using the goats to control the invasives. Assistant Fire Chief P. Moynihan called E. Boy to let her know that when the Fire Department was preparing for the controlled burn on Fox Point, they saw some coyotes out there. E. Boy contacted the goat representative and found out that they surround the goats with an electric fence to protect them from coyotes and bears.

Budget Cuts Received:

M. Roy has received a budget cut list from L. Pickering for the HDC and L. Berry for the Library. M. Roy talked to the Fire Department today and will receive their list soon. T. Connors reminded everyone that the Board of Selectmen are preparing this list just in case the revenues to the town are decreased because of Covid-19. The Board of Selectmen are going to have a meeting with all the departments in June to discuss the reductions.

T. Connors noted that the tax bills have been sent out.

Tennis Court Repair Bids:

M. Roy opened the bids.

Vermont Recreation: \$2,661 plus \$4,569 for additional work.

Advantage Tennis: \$6,944

M. Roy suggested that K. Anderson review the two bids and give her recommendation to the Board.

K. Latchaw asked if the bids were good for 90 days. M. Roy said they are good until 7/31/2020.

Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Grant Application-Adams Homestead, Nimble Hill Road:

M. Roy told the Board that the Conservation Commission has been discussing applying for an ARM grant for the Adams Homestead property. **M. Marconi moved to apply for the Aquatic Resource Mitigation (ARM) Grant with the project location of the Adams Homestead on Nimble Hill Road.**

K. Latchaw seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K.

Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Acceptance and Expenditure of Cares Act Assistance \$18,852:

M. Roy explained that the Cares Act is to cover any expenses the Town has incurred because of Covid-19. Examples of items the town can apply for reimbursement for are: hand sanitizer/plastic shields for town employees' workspaces etc.

M. Marconi moved: Per RSA 21-P:43, to apply for, accept and expend any Covid-19 and Cares Act grant funds in the amount of \$18,852. and further to authorize the Chairman to sign all paperwork related thereto. K. Latchaw seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M.

Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Acceptance and Expenditure of First Responder Stipend Program:

K. Latchaw moved per RSA 21-P:43, to accept the First Responder Stipend program funds in the amount of \$63,385.71 and further to expend them, once received, in accordance with the program requirements, as lump sum payments. M. Marconi seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: M. Marconi-Yes, K. Latchaw-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

US EPA Great Bay Permit-Sewer Commissioner's letter to US EPA:

The Board reviewed the letter from the Sewer Commissioners to the US EPA. The EPA discussed nitrogen levels as low as 3%. Newington currently has a 5% level. T. Connors thought that the Commissioners are on top of this issue and believes that the EPA is reaching a bit. The Town has invested over 8 million dollars into the sewer plant in the last couple of years to reduce the nitrogen level to 5%.

Mott Pond Painted Turtle Study-Access Request:

The Town received a letter from Ben Phillips, a graduate student at UNH, to ask for permission to study the painted turtles in Mott Pond. The turtles in Mott Pond were first studied 20 years ago.

B. Phillips will be using a non-lethal technique (funnel traps) to capture the turtles. Once captured, the turtles will be marked, measured and immediately released at the location that they were captured. M. Marconi asked if the Town would be liable. M. Roy will check with Primex.

K. Latchaw moved to approve the turtle study in Mott Pond. M. Marconi seconded the motion. T. Connors asked for a roll call vote: K. Latchaw-Yes, M. Marconi-Yes, T. Connors-Yes. All were in favor.

Sprague Odor Update:

M. Roy is waiting to hear back from the State as to what Sprague submits. The Selectmen stated that many complaints are still being received.

Fox Point Dock:

Chip Taccetta, Peter Welch and Len Thomas, Road Agent have been working on the washed-out area of the road that leads to the dock. This area has needed to be repaired for years. T. Connors thanked the two dockmasters for volunteering their time on this project.

The Board of Selectmen congratulated all the 2020 graduates from Newington. Our thoughts are with them.

T. Connors thanked the town employees for all their work during this difficult time.

T. Connors reminded everyone that the Town is still operating under the Governor's emergency orders until 5/31/2020. All town buildings and facilities are closed to the public.

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 5:27pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder