

Town of Newington, NH
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 4th, 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.

T. Connors thanked all the town employees for their continued dedication to the town during these difficult times.

Minutes Approval: K. Latchaw asked that the April 4th, 2020 minutes be amended to add that the Board of Selectmen asked the Planning Board to pursue a second legal review of the Workforce housing ordinance. **M. Marconi moved to approve the minutes of April 6th, 2020 as amended. 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 \$21,386.66 dated 4/23/2020 and \$228,855.62 dated 4/30/2020. 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.

Appointments:

T. Connors read the following list of recommended appointments to committees.

Edna Mosher-Member Zoning Board of Adjustment

Ralph Estes-Member Zoning Board of Adjustment

Wil Gilbert-Alternate Member Zoning Board of Adjustment

Ann Morton-Member Conservation Commission
Peggy Lamson-Member Historic District Commission
Jo Haskell-Alternate Member Historic District Commission
Kristen Poulin-Alternate Member Historic District Commission
Becky St. Germain-Alternate Member Historic District Commission
Jill Boynton-Member Economic Development Committee
Brandon Arsenault-Member Economic Development Committee
Jim Teetzel (or a Wilcox Industries representative as necessary)-Member Economic Development Committee.

M. Marconi moved to approve the appointments read by T. Connors. 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.

K. Latchaw asked M. Roy to notify the appointees and to send a letter of thanks.

Sprague Odor Update:

The Board of Selectmen received a response from the NHDES about their letter regarding the Sprague odors in town. The NHDES has started an investigation into the problem.

The Town will be sending documentation to the NHDES about the complaints it has received. K. Latchaw mentioned that the odors were bad on Sunday May 3rd from 1pm-4pm. K. Latchaw is pleased that the NHDES responded so quickly.

Fox Point Dock Rules and Regulations:

The Board of Selectmen reviewed the rules and regulations put together by the two dockmasters, Chip Taccetta and Peter Welch. **M. Marconi moved to approve the updated Fox Point Dock Rules and Regulations. 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.**

M. Marconi asked that these regulations be posted at the dock. M. Roy said that it will be posted and will be laminated and placed in each dingy.

T. Connors said that the road and walkway at Fox Point is washed out. The two dockmasters and Road Agent Len Thomas are going to work on fixing this problem.

Perambulation of Town Boundaries:

T. Connors thanked M. Marconi for bringing this process to the attention of the board and for heading up the committee to complete it. M. Roy will coordinate with M. Marconi and Surveyor Dave Hislop soon.

Fox Point Invasives Update-Eleanor Boy:

E. Boy walked Fox Point on April 30th with Doug Cygan, an Invasives specialist with the NH Department of Agriculture. D. Cygan explained that they have been successful treating invasives by mowing them down in the spring and then spraying them with herbicides in the fall.

There are very few invasive plants along the paths in the woods out to the Point. The most invasives are along the tree line between the north and middle fields and along the path by the water in the middle field. Mowing the invasives by the span of trees may be a problem because of all the rocks etc. Goats may be a good solution to this problem. The invasives along the path by the water may be too close to the water to be treated with herbicides and may have to be mowed every year.

E. Boy will be meeting with the goat owner later in the month. An industrial mowing company has been contacted.

M. Marconi is pleased that the town has started the process to treat the invasives.

T. Connors thanked the Fire Department for their controlled burn in the South Field.

Playground Old Town Hall Update:

M. Roy met with Jessica Morgan about the new equipment. The swings that are not in compliance will be replaced and wood chips will be put on the ground all around the equipment. An upright swing will also be added. The new equipment will be put out to bid. The current equipment is a safety hazard.

Financial Report to the Board of Selectmen:

M. Roy presented a conservative cash flow chart through the end of June. As of this time M. Roy does not anticipate having to borrow funds like many towns will have to do. The key is to have the tax bills due as early in July as possible.

Boards and Department Heads Financial Meeting Date:

M. Roy will set up a meeting with the Board of Selectmen and the Boards and Committees to review the budget now that the town will receive a reduced amount of taxes from the commercial properties in town and fewer revenues from the State. A 15% reduction may be needed, and projects may have to be delayed until 2021. The meeting will be planned for June. T. Connors thought that the town will have a much better handle on things in June and will have the meeting as soon as the Governor allows groups of more than 10 to meet. The meeting is tentatively set for June 1st at 6pm. The boards and committees should come with lists, ranked in order of priority, of areas where they can cut expenses.

Pocket Garden Proposal:

A group organized by Peggy Lamson has volunteered to take over the care of the town's pocket gardens. T. Connors thanked the group for volunteering.

T. Connors said the Mott Pond will be dropped one foot on Tuesday May 5th. M. Roy said that the lowering of the water level should help with the adjacent property drainage issues.

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

Adjournment: M. Marconi moved to adjourn at 5:30pm. K. Latchaw seconded the motion with all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,
Eleanor Boy
Recorder