



The Town of Newington E-Newsletter includes information about Town-sponsored events, projects and special announcements. Visit www.newington.nh.us to join the distribution list, or to be removed.

Board of Selectmen

Timothy “Ted” Connors, Chair
 Kenneth Latchaw
 Michael Marconi

The Town Hall is closed on Monday, January 18th in celebration of Martin Luther King, Jr./Civil Rights Day.

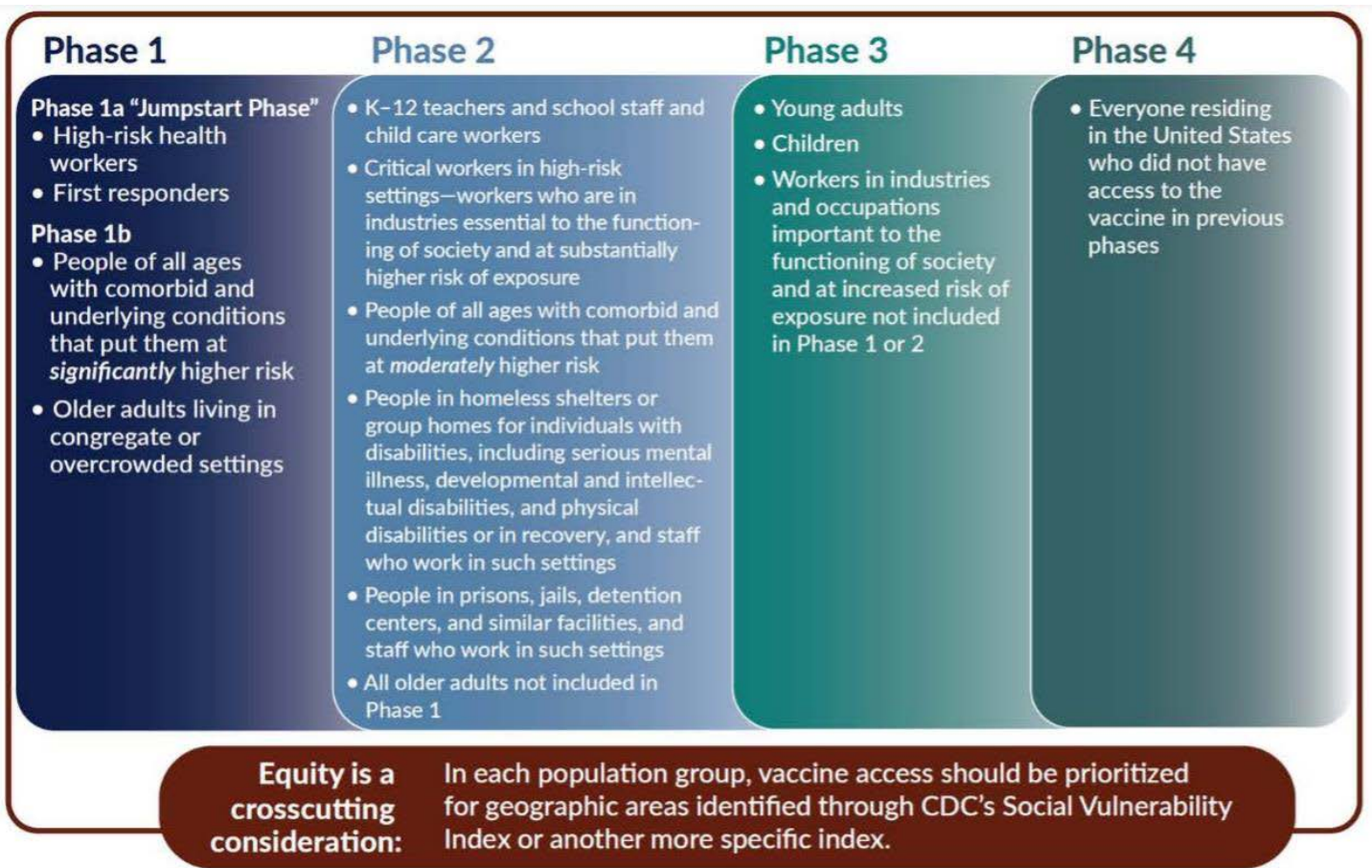
[Upcoming Meetings:](#)

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1/11/2021	Board of Selectmen	9:30 AM	Via Zoom
1/11/2021	Library Trustees	1:30pm	Via Jitsi
1/11/2021	Planning Board	6pm	Town Hall
1/13/2021	Budget Committee	6:00pm	Via Zoom
1/14/2021	Conservation Commission	6:30pm	Via Zoom
1/20/2021	Budget Committee	6:30pm	Town Hall
1/20/2021	Sewer Commission	9am	Waste Water Treatment Plant
1/21/2021	Zoning Board of Adjustment	6:30pm	Town Hall
1/25/2021	Planning Board	6pm	Town Hall
1/27/2021	Budget Committee (if needed)	6:30pm	Town Hall
1/28/2021	Economic Development Committee	6pm	Via Zoom

COVID UPDATE- VACCINATION PLAN



New Hampshire COVID-19 Vaccination Plan

NH Department of Health and Human Services -12- October 30, 2020

Figure: A Phased Approach to Vaccine Allocation for COVID-19

Source: Adapted from the National Academies for Science, Engineering, and Medicine’s *A Framework for Equitable Allocation of Vaccine for the Novel Coronavirus*

For Phase 1a, New Hampshire will include older adults living in residential care settings (e.g. nursing homes and assisted living facilities). Other older adults in congregate settings (e.g. senior living complexes, etc.) will be included in Phase 1b. New Hampshire’s Phase 1a vaccination allocation strategy is outlined in Appendix 5 and is the initial focus of planning. The Vaccine Allocation Strategy Branch gathered data from hospital organizations, long-term care and assisted living facilities, first responders (to include Fire, EMS, and Police), and the DHHS Bureau of Housing Support (to include external partners affiliated with health equity in the two most populous New Hampshire cities). Data provided initial estimates for each of the Phase 1a population groups. This coincided with rough estimates for New Hampshire’s COVID-19 vaccine distribution over the initial 2-3 months. Decisions regarding allocation of vaccine for phases beyond 1a have not yet been firmly established, however, these decisions will be informed by the national guidance and the general

approach outlined in the figure above, with some modifications for local circumstances. The Vaccine Allocation Strategy Branch is currently evaluating national recommendations and state-wide epidemiologic patterns to determine prioritization of populations for Phase 2 & 3.

To read the full plan follow this link to the State website:

<https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/covid19/documents/covid19-vac-plan-draft.pdf>

Donor Towns/ School Funding Issue Update:

You may remember from the November and December Newsletters, we were anxiously awaiting the release of the NH Commission to Study School Funding final report on December 1, 2020. Its release was a mixed bag of good work and poorly addressed issues. First, the good work was a comprehensive review of the method of distribution of state funds to school districts based on outcomes as predicted by the American Institute for Research (AIR) Education Cost Model. This new view on how to determine which districts need greater financial assistance by the State in providing an equal opportunity for an adequate education in the State of New Hampshire is well reasoned and documented. This effort consumed most of the Commission’s time and attention.

How to fund the State’s obligation to provide an equal opportunity for an adequate education was neglected by the Commission, and it is reflected in the final report. The Commission resurrects the donor town and receiver town dichotomy by again relying solely on a Statewide Property Tax assessment to extract funds from allegedly property rich towns and redistribute it towns with lesser tax bases. Using the AIR funding and distribution model based on 2018 financial data, this assumes the Town of Newington will be expected to provide \$8.7 million to the State to fund education while only retaining \$1.4 million in those funds to operate their local schools. This retainage is also \$716,000 less than what was raised by Newington for education in that year. So, opposed to raising a total of \$2.1 million for education as done in that year, Newington will be required to raise a total of \$9.4 million; **\$7.3 million in additional funds!**

The legislature is just beginning to organize its current session and has received the Commission’s Report. No one knows at this time how this new legislature will react to the findings contained in the report. The composition of this legislature is different from the one that established the Commission. The current pandemic has added increased uncertainty on how this legislature will handle the Report. The Town has pursued joining with many of the former and now new donor towns to oppose this failed public policy in how this state meets its education funding obligations. There is also pending litigation by certain receiver towns that may change the urgency in addressing this issue. We will continue to monitor these evolving situations and report back to you. Meanwhile, if you have an opportunity to discuss these issues with our local legislators, please express your concerns with results of Commission Report. For more details the Report can be found at:

https://carsey.unh.edu/sites/default/files/media/2020/12/final_report_forcommission_v5_12012020.pdf

Winter Activities Right Here in Newington

As we get cabin fever in these cold winter months it is great to know that the Town of Newington has much to offer in the way of activities without leaving our bounds. Take advantage of these great resources:

1. Fox Point Hiking Trails-

You can hike from South Field to Middle Field and North Field along the inlet to the docks and then up through the field behind the white house to the trail through the woods that takes to you the actual Point. Sit on one of the granite benches and enjoy the view! From there you can follow the trail back to the town beach.

2. Great Bay Wildlife Refuge- With over 1000 acres to offer us, we have a great wildlife habitat right in our back yards. See the following link for more details:

https://www.fws.gov/refuge/Great_Bay/visit/plan_your_visit.html

3. Newington Ice Skating Rink



The rink is open!

Please remember to shovel after use and if you can, please help to clear the rink of any sticks and leaves. When the sun hits a leaf it makes a hole in the ice. Also – if you are the last person on the ice, please turn off the heater in the hut and lights.

The Music system is on and does support Bluetooth. Simply hit the mode button until B T shows on screen, then connect your device. Random music is available on the USB mode. Enjoy!

4. Want to stretch your wings and explore other hiking trails in the Seacoast? Check out this blog on other nearby places to visit: <http://blogs.seacoastonline.com/lists/2015/07/15/5-best-walking-trails-on-the-seacoast/>



Police Department

Happy New Year!! Let us hope 2021 is better than 2020. I had the opportunity to reflect on 2020 with family and friends as I am sure many of you had and realized a lot of good, personally and professionally, happened in 2020. We, as a country, focused so much on the bad, not understanding that the pandemic gave us an opportunity to learn and be with our families. This is not meant to negate what families endured financially or from the loss of loved ones, but to understand there was some good in 2020.

The department has endured some challenges in 2020, mainly focusing on mental health. Your department has handled double the number of calls dealing with mental health issues than we did in 2019. Through policies and procedures as well as training, we were able to address the issues professionally and with empathy. We will continue to have our officers trained through state and national organizations as to serve those in need and the community as a whole.

One of the things we do differently assisting with mental health calls for services is we conduct follow up with the patient and family days and weeks after the initial call. This ensures we are doing all we can to help the families.

In December we were set to get Nationally Accredited through CALEA (Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies). Unfortunately, we did not meet our goals and were given a six-month extension. I could make numerous excuses of why we did not make our goal, but that is not me. I am human and failed at a task. With that being said, we are going forward and continuing with the process. How else can we grow without making mistakes?

In 2021, we are revamping our Juvenile Diversion program with assistance from members of the community and school. Currently, when a juvenile is arrested and they do not have a criminal history, they go through a "cookie cutter" diversion program with an outside agency. Detective Costin came to me with concerns about the program and believed we could do better for juveniles by figuring out the outlining issue of why the juvenile committed the offence. With a Juvenile Diversion Board, the board will review the offence and then make a determination on corrective measures. All the juvenile and family's personal information is kept confidential from the board, so the board will only be reviewing the elements of the offence, the juvenile's family, academic, and criminal history. This will ensure there are no biases made when making recommendations.

Your police department is a young department with an average of 3.6 years in patrol, excluding administration. Retention of officers is a national concern for police departments, which we have been focusing on. Attrition will happen, which is understood, but I want to make sure the community

is provided with the best professional officers and services we can offer. The community continues to support us in all aspects of our profession and does not hesitate to question a decision we make. Unless we are told otherwise, I know we are doing a great job!

Thank you for all you have done in 2020 and will continue in 2021!!
Be healthy and safe!!
Michael Bilodeau
Chief of Police



Happy New Year to everyone. I hope you all had a great, but uneventful, Holiday and New Year's. As 2021 is now upon us I would just like to say great job to everyone that has been practicing safe social interactions and to please continue doing so. I understand that things have been difficult and frustrating at times, but please stay the course. Everyone is worth making these sacrifices for whether you know them or not.

The annual Santa Parade was a hit as usual. The amount of food donations received from the residents to go towards End 68 Hours of Hunger was incredible again as well. We were able to donate nearly 350lbs of food to the Portsmouth chapter. Fire & Rescue members volunteered their time at the annual toy drive at Wal-Mart. Between there and several donations from residence, we brought in several hundred toys. The toys that were not needed in Town were donated to the Pittsburg NH Fire Department for disbursement in their area. Assistant Chief Pat Moynihan volunteered to drive his truck, chocked full of toys, for the nearly 8-hour round trip up to Pittsburg.

Some other great news to come out of last month is that one of our newer Firefighters, Jessica Plante, is now also a member of the State of NH Fire Marshal's Office, Inspections Division. When she came to NF&R, she brought a ton of experience and education with her. That experience has been a great asset to our inspection's division. This goes to show that NF&R continues to better itself and its members, which in turn, makes Newington a safer place to live and work.

As always, we are here and available if you have any needs or questions. Stay safe.

EJ Hoyt
Fire Chief
436-9441 x6
ehoyt@newingtonfire.org

Heart Attack Snow

Heavy, wet snow is often called “heart attack snow,” because the great effort required to move it can increase your risk of having a heart attack. Repeatedly lifting a shovel full of heavy snow can be more strenuous than running on a treadmill.

Unlike conventional exercise, shoveling is usually done without a warm-up and can cause sudden increase in blood pressure and heart rate. Additionally, cold air may cause constriction of blood vessels, including coronary arteries, and decrease oxygen supply to the heart. Together, these factors can increase the heart’s workload and cause a heart attack.



Here are 6 tips to protect yourself and still get the snow shoveled:

6 Ways to Prevent a Heart Attack While Shoveling Snow

1. Don’t shovel first thing in the morning. Most heart attacks occur first thing in the morning, when your blood is most likely to clot. Give yourself time to get up and moving before going out and grabbing the shovel. You’ll also give the sun a chance to warm up things a bit.
2. Warm up before shoveling. Shoveling snow is exercise. It’s hard work. Take a few minutes before to stretch, move about and get the ‘blood flowing’ before undertaking any strenuous activity, including shoveling snow.
3. Use a smaller shovel. A shovel full of wet snow is especially heavy when the shovel is big. It may take a little longer, but many small loads will be better than fewer heavy ones.
4. Dress appropriately. Cover your hands, head and mouth. Covering your mouth with a scarf will help you inhale warmer air and can help avoid respiratory problems.
5. Shovel in shifts. If you need a rest, take a rest. Taking 15-minute breaks can help lessen the load on your heart.
6. Watch for warning signs. Tightness in the chest, lightheadedness and dizziness are all signs of a heart attack. If you suspect you’re having a heart attack, call 911.

ASSESSMENT NEWS

As a result of the drop in the assessment for two large fossil fueled power plants located in town, the town's total tax assessment dropped over \$37 million from 2019 to 2020. Unfortunately, the town has just been informed that the State Department of Revenue (State) has set its valuation of the newest plant owned by EP Newington (Cogentrix) power plant at \$173 million. That is \$117 million less than the town's current assessment of \$290 million resulting in the appeals and litigation that have been ongoing for two years will continue into 2021. The impact of such a large valuation drop would be devastating to any small town, including ours. The Selectmen will be expressing their concerns to the State, and while we hope this will rectify the issue, we have no guarantee the State will alter its valuation. Therefore, we continue to plan for continued value declines, but hope for a better outcome.

On a positive note, residential properties continue to sell quickly and above their assessed values. Many residents and businesses have been taking this quarantine period to do renovations and additions to their properties which will increase the valuations and help increase the taxes collected. A new medical facility has also been permitted on Shattuck Way which will add to the town's valuation.

[Shop Local - Shop Safe](#)

As the 2020 Holiday season has come to a close, Newington's local businesses need our help. Please shop at our businesses, eat at our restaurants and help us keep our businesses open and available for residents to patronize. Open businesses are good for our economy and add to the stability and appeal of Newington. They need us now more than ever.

Buying local also supports nonprofits in our community. Many of our organizations receive donations and support from small local businesses as well as the large chain store businesses located in Newington. Our businesses have put a lot of energy and investment into making the dining and shopping experience as safe as possible in this time of Covid 19. So let's do our part by adhering to the 3 W's - wear a mask, wash your hands, and wait for those moving around you to stay a safe distance away. Let's support Newington businesses - shop safe and shop local.



Langdon Library (Debra Obertenac Photograph)

Langdon Library January News

In-library and curbside appointments are available three days a week. Please call the library at 436-5154 or email info@langdonlibrary.org to schedule. *Note: for same day appointments we recommend calling rather than emailing.*

4 people limit per appointment. Browsing limited to displays in lobby area. Masks and hand sanitizing or hand washing are required upon entering. Gloves are available but not required. Please use outside book drop for all returns.

Virtual and Take-Home Programs:

Book Groups (adults)

This month we will discuss the book *Bel Canto* by Ann Patchett at virtual book groups on **Tuesday January 12 at 6:30 PM** and **Thursday January 14th at 10:30 AM**. You may find the access information for this event at <https://www.langdonlibrary.org/programs/book-groups/>

New members are always welcome!

Imagination Bags (ages 4+)

Make an appointment with the library to pick up a bag of fun activities to complete at home. This month's craft is a coffee filter snowflake. Bags also contain a list of great library books for winter reading. We would love to see creations! E-mail photos to programs@langdonlibrary.org for a chance to be featured on our website and social media. Imagination Bags are available for pickup at library appointments beginning Tuesday, Jan 5.

Leaping Learners Virtual Family Storytime (ages 0-6)

Every Friday at 10:30 AM, Miss Amanda will post a pre-recorded storytime for children aged 0-6 and their caregivers on the Langdon Public Library Facebook page. Miss Amanda presents fingerplays, songs, and a story to promote early literacy through play, and discovery. Learn more at www.langdonlibrary.org/leaping-learners.

Out Loud with Miss Amanda (all ages)

Every Wednesday at 6:30 PM, Miss Amanda highlights a picture book from the Langdon Public Library collection in a special read-aloud video. Perfect for a cozy family night in! See <https://www.langdonlibrary.org/out-loud/> for more details.

January 6: *It's Not Jack and the Beanstalk* by Josh Funk

January 13: *Interstellar Cinderella* by Deborah Underwood

January 20: *The Mermaid* by Jan Brett

January 27: *The Uglified Ducky* by Willy Claflin

January Schedule:

The library is open for in library appointments and no-contact curbside pickup on Tuesday, Friday and Saturday with the exception of Saturday, January 16 in honor of Martin Luther King Jr.

See you online, and at the library!

Lara Berry, Langdon Library Director

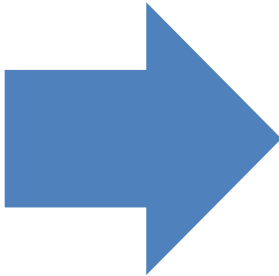
director@langdonlibrary.org



Newington has joined a large group of towns and cities across the nation hanging a Red Cross flag in support of front-line workers helping those with COVID-19

Video Recordings of Public Meetings: The Town is recording public meetings and uploading them to YouTube. Check out our link to YouTube on the Town website home page:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCMG06KVwbssN0bODtaB8ybA>



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Town News

Bonfire at Stone School and Old Parsonage! »

December E Newsletter »

FEMA Flood Map On-Line Open House 11-18-2020 »

Fire Department Consultant Assessment Report »

VIEW ALL

Town Calendar

January

S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1 2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

Upcoming Meetings

Library Trustees via Jitsi
January 11, 2021 - 1:30pm

Budget Committee Via Zoom
January 13, 2021 - 6:00pm

Conservation Commission via Zoom
January 14, 2021 - 6:30pm

All upcoming meetings

Hours of Operation: Town Offices - Mon - Fri. 9 - 4:30pm

NEW HOURS: Town Clerk/Tax Collector: Tuesday through Thursday 9am-4:30pm

Building Dept. - Mon - Thurs 6:30am- 4:30pm

Planning Dept. - Monday & Thursday 9 - 4:30pm (Planner by appointment)

Langdon Library - COVID HOURS- BY APPOINTMENT ONLY: Tuesday 1-7pm and Friday 9-3pm and starting Saturday, Oct. 17th -Saturday appointments from 10-3pm

Transfer Station Wed 5 - 7pm, Sat 9 - 3pm

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Newington Town Hall 603-436-7640