



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

Dates to Remember: (All at Town Hall)

- **March Voting/Ballot Day: March 10th 11am-7pm**
- **Deliberative School District Meeting: Saturday, March 14th 10am**
- **Deliberative Town Meeting; Saturday, March 14th 10:30am**

Upcoming Meetings:

3/2/2020	Board of Selectmen	5pm	Town Hall
3/2/2020	Planning Board	6pm	Town Hall
3/3/2020	Police Commission	4pm	Police Station
3/4/2020	Fire Engineers	6pm	Fire Station
3/5/2020	Bike Lane Committee	1:30pm	Town Hall
3/10/2020	Town Elections	11-7pm	Town Hall
3/12/2020	Conservation Commission	6:30pm	Town Hall
3/14/2020	School District Meeting	10am	Town Hall
3/14/2020	Town Meeting	10:30am	Town Hall
3/16/2020	Board of Selectmen	5pm	Town Hall
3/18/2020	Sewer Commission	9am	Waste Water Treatment Plant
3/18/2020	Recreation Committee	6:30pm	Stoneface Brewery, Shattuck Way
3/19/2020	Library Trustees	1:30pm	Langdon Library
3/23/2020	Planning Board	6:30pm	Town Hall
3/26/2020	Economic Development Committee	6pm	Town Hall

DEER TESTING RESULTS

The Town of Newington requested that NH Fish & Game conduct a testing of the deer killed during the annual hunt on the Great Bay Wildlife Refuge due to the PFAS contamination of the brooks and streams located within the refuge. Through the efforts of Glenn Normandeau, Executive Director of NH Fish & Game, the testing took place last Fall. Fifteen deer were killed and samples of the meat and livers were delivered to UCONN for testing to determine if the deer meat was contaminated with any PFAS chemicals. The results were received February 5, 2020 from UCONN. Fifteen deer were tested. Each deer had liver and meat samples tested. They were tested for 14 different PFAS chemicals. Fourteen animals tested “no detect” in the meat. Three of those had moderate detection in the liver of PFOS. The final animal tested showed High levels of PFHxS and PFTA in the meat **but non-detect in the liver**. This leads us to believe that particular meat sample got contaminated and UCONN is looking into that. It would be fairly inexplicable to not have detection in the liver if the animal was actually positive for these substances.

The Town of Newington appreciates NH Fish & Game for conducting this testing.

PFAS BLOOD TESTING NOW AVAILABLE

Effective February 5th, the blood testing for Newington residents on private wells that have any documented contamination from a PFAS chemical are now able to schedule appointments for blood testing. If you lived in Newington at any time from January 2004 to the present and used a private well with documented PFAS contamination you can now schedule your blood test. If you previously called and were told you did not qualify – you will be contacted to schedule an appointment.

If you worked or attended school at the Pease Tradeport anytime between January 2004 and May 2014, or had a child attend daycare on Pease and did not participate in the first blood testing – you are now eligible to have your blood tested.

Call the Pease Testing Office at 603-846-6192 for an appointment. If you have any questions, please feel free to email Karen Anderson at kanderson@townofnewingtonnh.com.

[Fire Department](#)

[News Around the Station](#)

The Department recently presented a bronze bell to Ruth Fletcher at the January 6th meeting of the Board of Fire Engineers, honoring her 38 years of service to Newington Fire & Rescue. During her tenure - Fletcher was an EMT, Firefighter and served on the Board of Fire Engineers.

Recently, on February 13th, the Department hosted a Promotion Ceremony where Lt. Patrick Moynihan was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief; Acting Lt. Brian Berghorn was promoted to Lieutenant; and Kayla Reno was promoted to a full-time Firefighter after serving as a part-time Firefighter/Advanced Emergency Medical Technician (AEMT). Thank you to all of the Newington residents that were on hand to celebrate with us.

The Town is fortunate to have highly qualified candidates step forward seeking to support the Departments mission while advancing their dedication to a career in the fire service. Our ongoing commitment to support training, education and career advancement opportunities is paramount in energizing and retaining a work force that is dedicated to the Town of Newington.

Change Your Clocks / Check Your Smoke & CO Detector Batteries

When it's time to "spring forward" or "fall back" and change your clocks, make sure to change the batteries in all of your smoke alarms. If batteries were recently changed, it's still very important to conduct your monthly test of your smoke alarms. It could save a life!



Did you know that having a working smoke alarm reduces a person's chance of dying in a fire by half?

For the best protection, install smoke alarms on every level of your home, outside every sleeping area, and in every bedroom. Smoke alarms should be mounted high on walls or ceilings and tested monthly. You should also have a properly working Carbon Monoxide detector on each level of your home.



It's important to replace smoke alarm batteries at least once a year, unless they're 10-year lithium batteries. Even if your smoke alarms are hardwired, replace the batteries in case of a chirping sound or a power outage.

Reminder: Smoke alarms do not last forever. The maximum life span is 10 years. After that time, the entire unit should be replaced. If the unit does not respond properly when tested, it should be replaced immediately.

Help your smoke alarm remain sensitive and ready to protect you by gently using a vacuum cleaner once a month to remove dust and cobwebs. If your Smoke Alarms have been accidentally painted or contaminated, replacement may be necessary.

As always, if you have a question, concern or need a hand, give the fire station a call or swing by.

E. J. Hoyt,
Fire Chief

[Diana St. Laurent, Police Dept.](#)

[Executive Administrative Assistant,](#)

[Retirement Party:](#)



[After 40 years of service to the town Diana is retiring. Please join us for her retirement party at the Elks Lodge on Thursday, April 16th. Click on this link for more details:](#)

<https://www.newington.nh.us/home/news/diana-st-laurent-police-executive-administrative-asst-retirement-party>

Newington's Energy Generation Plants- An Update

We have previously reported that the assessed values of fossil fuel energy generation plants across the country have declined. This is attributable to:

- Increasing energy efficiencies (LED lighting etc.)
- Market gains in renewable energy technology
- Improvements to power grids.

These three factors have reduced the amount of fossil fueled power generation needed to supply our peak demands and will continue to reduce the total value of fossil fuel generation plants , which in turn reduces the amount of property taxes paid to a community. Newington is no exception.

This current year Newington's two energy plants have requested a total tax abatement of \$194 million dollars.

The Selectmen, the town's utility engineers/assessors and legal counsel will be arguing against such a sharp drop in value. These requests (along with smaller requests in the commercial district) represent approximately 23% of the total town taxable property. Left unchanged this would represent over a \$2.00 increase in the tax rate or \$2.00 per thousand in assessed value passed on to each taxpayer.

EP Newington plant current assessed value -----\$ 330,000,000 million dollars
Plant abatement/new assessed value request -----\$ 150,000,000 million dollars
Loss in taxable property value----- \$ 180,000,000 million dollars

Granite Shore Power/Newington Station current assessed value ---\$ 72,000,000 million dollars
Plant abatement /new assessed value request -----\$ 58,000,000 million dollars
Loss in taxable property value----- \$ 14,000,000 million dollars

Our town legal and professional team will be working to negotiate fair and reasonable plant assessed values but if not attainable, the town will be headed to court. Newington Station and EP Newington have filed appeals in Superior court and abatement requests respectively. In the meantime, we are hoping the plants will reconsider their intentions and negotiate an amount with the town that is agreeable to both parties.

As new information becomes available we will update the community. In the meantime links are provided below with more detailed information about these plants.

<https://www.utilitydive.com/news/iso-ne-capacity-prices-fall-to-new-low-but-latest-auction-shut-out-some-re/571840/>

https://www.iso-ne.com/static-assets/documents/2020/02/fca_14_results_filing.pdf

**Community Discussion at the Langdon Library:
Commemorating the 75th Anniversary of World War II**

Facilitated by John Lamson

Wed, 3/11 6:00 PM

**The Home Front, the war in the Pacific, and lessons learned,
followed by a showing of Louis de Rochemont's Academy
Award winning documentary Fighting Lady.**

Refreshments will be served during each discussion.

Newington Police: Sharing information is the best way to keep our residents safe. As the Co-Directors of Emergency Management for the town, Fire Chief Hoyt and I believe the following information from New Hampshire Division of Health and Human Services; Bureau of Infectious Disease Control, should be shared with the community.



Bureau of Infectious Disease Control

Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) Information for Businesses February 27, 2020

Many business organizations within New Hampshire are concerned about how the current outbreak of COVID-19 in China and other countries will impact their communities and are seeking ways to stay healthy. The New Hampshire Division of Public Health Services (NH DPHS) is working with the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) to support our communities and medical providers by developing guidance and education materials.

What is the difference between seasonal coronaviruses and the virus causing COVID-19?

Coronaviruses are a family of viruses but there are different types of coronavirus within that family. Some frequently cause the common cold, but the virus causing COVID-19 is a new type of coronavirus that we believe moved from animals into humans and is infecting people for the first time.

What are common symptoms of COVID-19?

For confirmed coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) cases, reported illnesses have ranged from mild symptoms to severe illness and death. Symptoms typically include fever, cough, and shortness of breath.

How is COVID-19 spread?

This virus spreads primarily through respiratory droplets (such as occur when an infected person coughs). Risk for transmission between people is highest with close contact (e.g., family members, healthcare settings).

How is COVID-19 infection prevented or treated?

Currently, there is no vaccine to prevent infection with this virus, and there is no specific antiviral treatment recommended once infected. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

How should businesses prepare for the potential of coronavirus in their community?

- Continue to monitor up to date information from health officials. See links to key websites below.
- Actively encourage sick employees to stay home.
- Emphasize respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene by all employees.
- Perform routine environmental cleaning.
- Prepare for possible increased numbers of employee absences.
- Identify essential business functions, essential jobs or roles, and critical elements to maintain business operations.
- Plan to minimize exposure between employees and also between employees and the public, if public health officials call for social distancing.
- Review CDC's guidelines for businesses which outline these key actions and others in greater detail: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/specific-groups/guidance-business-response.html>

What preventive measures can employees and customers take to help reduce the spread of respiratory viruses?

Employees and customers should follow these steps to prevent the spread of respiratory infections:

- Cover coughs and sneezes with a tissue or sleeve. Following use, dispose of tissues into trash and wash hands or use alcohol based hand sanitizer.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose and mouth.
- Wash hands often for at least 20 seconds, especially after coughing or sneezing. Use alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.
- Stay home until you have been fever free for at least 24 hours without taking any fever reducing medication and are feeling better.
- Avoid close contact with people who are sick.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched surfaces and objects.
- Encourage/recommend the annual influenza vaccine.

What precautions should be taken for employees who traveled internationally?

Employees should avoid all travel to any locations for which CDC has issued a Level 3 travel notice. See CDC travel notice website: <https://wwwnc.cdc.gov/travel/notices>

Employees who have returned from mainland China are being monitored by public health authorities and must stay home for 14 days after their arrival.

Employees who have returned from other locations with travel notices for COVID-19 may continue to attend work. They should be counseled that if symptoms develop (e.g. fever, cough, or shortness of breath), they should:

- Seek medical care. Before going to a doctor's office or emergency room, the individual should call ahead and tell the provider or office about recent travel and symptoms.
- Stay home and away from close contact with others.
- Practice strict respiratory etiquette and hand hygiene including covering the nose and mouth and nose with a tissue when coughing or sneezing and washing hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds, or using an alcohol-based hand sanitizer if soap and water are not available.

Business cleaning procedures

Businesses should routinely clean all frequently touched surfaces in the workplace, such as workstations, countertops, and doorknobs. No additional disinfection beyond routine cleaning is recommended at this time. Use the cleaning agents that are usually used in these areas and follow the directions on the label. Provide disposable wipes so that commonly used surfaces (for example, doorknobs, keyboards, remote controls, desks) can be wiped down by employees before each use.

Where can I go for the most up-to-date information about the COVID-19 outbreak?

Outbreaks involving COVID-19 evolve quickly and recommendations from public health officials may change as new information becomes available. Please check the following websites often for updated information:

- U.S. CDC website: <https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019ncov/summary.html>
- NH DPHS website: <https://www.dhhs.nh.gov/dphs/cdcs/2019-ncov.htm>

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to give me a call. Be Safe!!

Chief Michael Bildoeau

The Selectmen's 2019 Action Report

The Newington Board of Selectmen is pleased to present our 2019 Annual Report. This report is published to provide the Newington residents a summary of events and activities we addressed this past year. In short, 2019 was a busy year. Steady progress has been made in addressing the complex issues facing Newington.

The Selectmen are proud of all we have accomplished this past year. Accordingly, we want to thank everyone involved in this effort from the town staff to the many townsfolk serving on the boards and committees along with the volunteers who give of their time and dedication. This aforesaid type of community involvement is essential to meeting the challenges the town faces as we move forward.

The ensuing summary highlights the activities the Selectmen and our team, have addressed on behalf of the town:

ENVIRONMENTAL:

- Successfully lobbied the New Hampshire Department of Environmental Sciences to lower the PFOA's, PFAS's, and PFNA's allowable limits of these chemicals in the groundwater. As of this date, the Air Force will not recognize the lower limits. Despite this, and advances in technology used to clean our groundwater, more needs to be done via continued work with the Pease Restoration Advisory board and our state and federal congressional delegation. This will help keep the Air Force's attention on this issue.
- Met with Sprague officials to voice concern and express the need to stop omitting noxious fumes. State air quality personnel have been involved and the town will continue to monitor this situation.
- Met with the executive director of the New Hampshire Fish and Game Department and he agreed to test deer that were taken to control the deer population at the Great Bay Wildlife Refuge, for PFOA's contamination.
- Continue to monitor the Coakley Landfill and its financial impact to Newington and attended all Coakley Landfill Group meetings. The town is responsible for 5% of the cost of cleaning the Superfund Site.
- Requested Senator Shaheen and Senator Hassan's offices to support blood tests for the people who own the 40 wells in Newington. Although the Air Force continues testing the wells in town, the frequency of testing has been reduced.
- Public water line was reconstructed on Coleman Drive.
- A tree planting program has been initiated and plans are in place for upcoming years.
- All monthly Pease Development Authority meetings are attended and a proposed temporary asphalt plant to be constructed on the North ramp, to supply the paving material for the runway, is being closely monitored.
- A Forester will inspect the Newington Town Forest to establish a management plan and a program to remove invasive plant species at Fox Point.

GOVERNMENTAL:

- Emphasize transparent and open communication with the residents by publicly posting relevant information in a timely and responsible manner.
- Town's buildings maintenance included:
 - sealing the brick facade on town hall;

- painting the bell tower, conducting a structural inspection, repairing the balcony and the exterior wall of the Meeting House;
- repaired the front door and window in the Old Parsonage;
- hired an architect to design a 'low pressure clean room' and bathrooms at the fire department.
- A town road survey was completed that 'rank ordered' the condition of each town road and provided a schedule for repaving that included cost estimates.
- Supported the increase to the War Veteran's Property Tax Credit.
- Construction of the proposed Seacoast Helicopter building on the North ramp was not approved.
- A town volunteer appreciation dinner was held at the town hall.
- A bike and walking path committee has been formed and will investigate the feasibility of creating pathways along Newington's roads.
- Working with the ACLU's council, a new sign ordinance has been drafted and submitted to the Planning Board.
- Plowing Woodbury Avenue was put out to bid and the contract was awarded to Renaud Trucking Inc.

FINANCIAL:

- Promoting economic development is an ongoing priority. With substantial loss in property tax revenue from both of the fossil fuel energy plants, expanding our business and industry tax base, coupled with maintaining our low property tax rate, is an ongoing goal that is being closely monitored.
 - Newington's webpage and new business portal: <https://www.newington.nh.us/economic-development>
- Maintained a single digit tax rate increase of .07 cents per \$1000 and the Selectmen want to thank those departments who submitted responsible budgets.
- Successfully lobbied against House Bill 709 which would have resurrected donor/receiver towns. This bill would have substantially increased our local taxes.
- Utilizing a 'competitive bids process' to award contracts and, or town services all in an effort to save tax dollars.
- Initiating an independent study to identify the pros and cons of multi-use zoning. And, when the Planning Board's study is completed, we will share the findings so residents can make informed decision as to how the town should proceed.
- The Selectmen declined their 3% cost of living adjustment (COLA) to their salaries.
- Publicly calling for, and completing, an intensified audit of the fire department in order to maintain transparency and protect the town's affairs.

Looking to 2020 and beyond is both exciting and challenging. The following complex issues will require constant attention and innovative solutions on behalf of Newington moving forward:

- The Air Force must remain engaged in cleaning Newington's groundwater.
- All boards and departments will need to work together to maintain our local property tax advantage.
- Selectmen will pursue all options available to limit the devaluation of the two fossil fuel energy producing plants.

- We will place continued emphasis on expanding our business and industry property tax base.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ted Connors, Chair
Ken Latchaw, Selectman
Mike Marconi, Selectman

Please vote on March 10th!

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

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Tues 2 - 6pm, Wed and Thurs 9 - 1pm,
Building Dept. - Mon - Thurs 8 - 4pm,

Planning Dept. - Mon - Fri 9 - 4:30pm (Planner by appointment)

Langdon Library - Tues 3 - 8pm, Wed 12 - 7pm, Thurs 10 - 5pm, Fri 10 - 5pm, Sat 10 - 4pm,

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

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Newington Town Hall 603-436-7640