



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

May 28, 2020  
5:00 PM

### Meeting Conducted via Zoom

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 public has access to contemporaneously listen and participate in this meeting through the video conferencing platform Zoom.us

#### **PRESENT:**

Janet Kidder, Chairman  
Nancy Rollins, Selectman  
John Cannon, Selectman  
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator  
Wendy Johnson, Finance Officer

#### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Bob Harrington, Public Works Director  
Scott Blewitt, Recreation Department  
Jay Lyon, Town of New London Fire Chief  
Lou Botta, Emergency Management

Chair Kidder called the meeting to order at 5:00 PM and called the roll.

#### **Reopening of Bucklin and Elkins beaches**

Chair Kidder stated that the meeting was called tonight to discuss the possible reopening of Elkins and Bucklin beaches. She explained that the beaches were closed last week because adequate procedures were not in place to address the potential spread of the coronavirus. Since that time, the Recreation Commission has come up with procedures that they believe will allow the beaches to reopen in a safe manner. Those guidelines have been reviewed by the department heads and the reopening plans will be discussed tonight.

Town Administrator Kim Hallquist reported that since closing the beaches last week, the department heads have been working on ways to institute procedures to open the beaches safely. It was disappointing to many that the beaches were closed over the Memorial Day weekend. Ms. Hallquist received many complaints, and many expressed the desire to have the beaches reopened with the necessary safeguards in place. Ms. Hallquist stated that everyone needs to understand that there is no way to guarantee that every surface will be clean and free from the virus, but it is also up to individuals to take protective measures as well. People will also need to be patient and flexible through this process.

Recreation Director Scott Blewitt stated that during this process to reopen beaches, he has spent many hours reviewing information from the CDC, American Red Cross, NH Parks and Recreation Association

and the Governor's Stay at Home 2.0 guidelines regarding beaches. A plan has been developed that will allow the beaches to be opened with certain restrictions. Safety for the public and the staff has been the driving force behind any recommendations brought before the Selectmen. This plan achieves that goal and allows residents to recreate responsibly. Procedures that will be put in place to ensure safety for all are as follows:

- All staff must wear protective masks when interacting with other employees or the public.
- Employees will be trained on the importance of frequent hand washing, the use of hand sanitizers with at least 60% alcohol content and will have clear instructions to avoid touching hands to face.
- All staff will be required to take a health survey and/or have a temperature check prior to shift. Anyone that has symptoms or feels ill will report it to their supervisor. Any employee that becomes ill is prohibited from the workplace and may only return after the employee self isolates for 14 days from the onset of symptoms. They will need to be symptom free for three days without medication.
- Continual training will take place to make sure all staff is comfortable with guidelines. Updated information will be shared with waterfront staff to ensure knowledge of best practices regarding COVID-19. The first training will be held tomorrow.
- Bathrooms – Only the single use family bathroom will be utilized at each location. The bathrooms will only be open to the public from 10am – 4pm, Saturday and Sunday. Bathrooms will be professionally cleaned each day, prior to 9:00am followed by in house cleanings every two hours. Cleaning staff will be wearing recommended PPE and cleaning all areas using EPA approved household cleaners using the spray and wipe down method. All cleaning will be recorded on a daily logbook.
- All trash will be carry in/carry out. There will be no trash receptacles available at the beach locations.
- The following beach activities are permitted: walking/running, swimming, sitting, playing, and sunbathing as long as social distancing is maintained. Group activities will not be allowed. Masks will be greatly encouraged when enjoying the New London beaches.
- Reduced seating has been implemented at both Bucklin and Elkins beach to ensure safe social distancing practices. Seating that is available has been placed 10 feet apart and only 6 picnic tables will be at each location.
- Hand sanitization stations will be available for use at both beaches.
- Signage at the beach has been installed for public guidance.
- Parking will be limited to only lots located at the beach. Dump road will be posted as “no parking” and access will be limited to residents only with a valid beach sticker. Visitor/guest passes will not be allowed.
- There will be a single in and out entrance/exit.
- The capacity at Bucklin beach is 80 persons and at Elkins Beach is a maximum of 75 persons. Actual numbers of people will depend on ability to social distance.
- Playground equipment has been closed off and has appropriate signage to signify this. The floating rafts have been removed offsite and all boating equipment will not be allowed until further notice.
- Enforcement of these policies and procedures will be up to the Recreation Department. There will be personnel there to educate the public. If people don't comply, they will be asked to leave.
- The schedule of operations for the beach is Saturdays/Sundays from 10am - 4pm. Mr. Blewitt would like this to be implemented beginning Saturday, May 30, 2020.

Fire Chief Jay Lyon explained that in coming up with beach maximum occupancy numbers, he took into consideration how people would gain access to the beaches and what is reasonable to expect in terms of family groups that do not need to social distance from each other, but do have to from other beach goers, and came up with the determination of occupant load for both beaches.

Selectman Rollins thanked Scott Blewitt, the Recreation Department, the department Heads and Kim Hallquist for all of the time and energy put into guidelines with regards to the beaches. Ms. Hallquist thanked the Chief Lyon for finding homes for the beach rafts as leaving them on the beaches took up valuable space and created a potential safety hazard if children played on them. She thanked the Kidder family and Twin Lake Villa for allowing their property to be used for this purpose.

Selectman Rollins asked for clarification on who would be doing the bathroom cleaning after the professional cleaners. Mr. Blewitt stated for each location there will be four staff members at each beach. Two of them will be lifeguards, a beach manager and then a beach attendant. The beach attendant will do beach maintenance and will assist with the cleaning of the bathrooms. The beach manager will have the responsibility of keeping count of the beach goers and documenting this.

Selectman Rollins also stated that parking has always been an issue at the beaches. Where will staff park? Mr. Blewitt stated that staff have historically parked on the Dump Road but plans have been made for them to park up at the water department, The department heads recommend that the Selectmen prohibit parking on Dump Road to help limit the number of beach goers. Staff parking at the water department will free up spaces in the beach parking lot for residents.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to reopen Bucklin and Elkins beach effective Saturday, May 30, 2020. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. Janet Kidder: Yes, Nancy Rollins: Yes, John Cannon: Yes**

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to limit parking to only New London residents with a valid sticker for this interim period at both Bucklin and Elkins beaches. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. Janet Kidder: Yes, Nancy Rollins: Yes, John Cannon: Yes**

**IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to prohibit swimming at Elkin's boat launch. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. Janet Kidder: Yes, Nancy Rollins: Yes, John Cannon: Yes**

**IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Nancy Rollins) to restrict parking to the parking lot at Bucklin beach and not allow parking on Dump Road. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY. Janet Kidder: Yes, Nancy Rollins: Yes, John Cannon: Yes**

### **Other Business**

Chair Kidder noted there is not much on the agenda for the upcoming June 1, 2020 Board of Selectmen meeting and suggested postponing it until the June 15, 2020 meeting. The June 1, 2020 Board of Selectmen meeting is now canceled. All were in agreement.

### **Items to be signed**

- Tax Abatements
- Wastewater Tax Abatements Request

- Notice of Intent to Cut – Baker Road TM 114-001-0-0-0
- Solar Energy Systems Exemption

### **Applications Approved &/or Denied**

#### **Building Permits**

- Maxwell Collins, 466 Otterville Road, TM 042-013-0-0-0. Replace house foundation. BP 20-028 approved 5/22/20.
- Doug Bent & Becky Rockwell, 241 Lamson Lane, TM 062-004-0-0-0. Demo existing home, Build new single family residence with garage. BP 20-037 approved 5/22/20.
- Thomas Zacaroli Trust, 1 Highland Ridge Road, TM 076-026-0-1-K01. Kitchen renovation. BP 20-040 approved 5/22/20.
- Jane Mendillo, 189 Hastings Landing Road, TM 116-014-0-0-0. Build 10'x16' shed. BP 20-041 approved 5/22/20.
- James Cook Jr., 113 Quarry Road, TM 075-008-0-0-0. Replace generator. BP 20-042 approved 5/22/20.
- Bowers Trusts Robert & Kathleen, 49 Cricenti Lane, TM 058-014-0-0-0. Finish 260 sq. ft. of basement. BP 20-038 approved 5/27/20.
- Jesse & Tara Stone, 227 Andover Road, TM 110-006-0-0-0. Remove attached shed, build 16'x20' deck. BP 20-044 approved 5/27/20.
- Atom Properties LLC, 38 Main Street, TM 073-046-0-0-0. Add roof mount solar 14.74 kW. BP 20-045 approved 5/27/20.
- Stephanie Bonewald, 144 Everett Park, TM 073-013-0-0-0. Redo existing deck, add 12'x18' new deck. BP 20-046 approved 5/27/20.
- Patricia Hall Trust, 22 County Road, TM 046-0018-0-0-0. Build 400 sq. ft deck. With pergola. BP 20-042 approved 5/28/20.

**IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to adjourn. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The meeting was adjourned at 5:30PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson  
Recording Secretary

Town of New London