



# TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

**June 25, 2020**

**8:00AM**

**Elkins Beach**

### **PRESENT:**

Janet Kidder, Chairman  
Nancy Rollins, Selectman  
John Cannon, Selectman  
Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator

### **ALSO PRESENT:**

Police Chief Emily Cobb  
Fire Lt. Corey Bartlett  
Assistant Beach Manager/Lifeguard Logan Montminy  
Recreation Commission member Lyndsay Harkins  
Members of the public: KC and Barry Wright, Maureen Prohl, Celeste Cook, Steve, Malaika and Tyler Sidmore, George Widmer  
Police Sgt. David Keith  
Recreation Director Scott Blewitt

Chair Kidder called the meeting to order at 8:00AM explaining that the meeting would address the issue of parking at the beaches, residency of beach goers and people who jump off the dam to swim in the lake.

Recreation Director Scott Blewitt explained that beach staff are instructed to inquire whether people are residents of New London upon entering, those who are not are informed that they cannot enter. Assistant Beach Manager Logan Montminy noted that on a typical day, 2 – 3 people are turned away. Mr. Montminy observed that it is impossible to ensure that every entrance point at Elkins Beach is watched for people entering as there are so many entry points. He noted that enforcing social distancing is also difficult since a group may be a family group where social distancing is not required, or they may not be a family group. The maximum occupancy of 75 has not yet been exceeded; beach staff continually monitor the numbers so people can be turned away once the occupancy is reached.

The issue of permit only parking was discussed and it was noted that in the past having a civilian enforcement officer was very helpful as the police cannot always come down as often as needed to keep up on the illegal parking. Residents observed that some people don't mind getting a \$25 ticket to use the beach, some suggested towing cars instead. The Selectmen noted that they would first try hiring more staff to patrol the parking area before considering a towing policy. The Selectmen asked for more signage to make clear that the beach is available for New London residents only.

The group then walked to the Pleasant Lake Dam to view the dam. There are times when people use the dam as an entry point to swimming in the lake. Signs posted at the parking area and on the gatehouse indicate this is not allowed. The public is encouraged to come to the area and enjoy the view of the lake, however swimming in the area is not allowed. Comments were made that the practice of jumping from the dam has been in place for many years and since no one was aware of anyone ever being injured as a result, it did not seem to be a dangerous activity, questioning the prohibition of the practice. Chief Cobb noted that there is no safe way into/out of the lake at the dam, so it is not a good idea to make it appear

that the town condones the practice. The Selectmen agreed that the prohibition would continue, and the area would be checked when possible by town staff to remind people if they are swimming off the dam that they should stop.

Appointment of David Keith to the Rank of Lieutenant

The Board agreed with Chief Cobb in her decision to promote Sgt. David Keith to the rank of Lieutenant. The appointment card was signed.

The meeting adjourned at 9:11 AM.

Respectfully submitted,

Kimberly A Hallquist  
Town Administrator