



TOWN OF NEW LONDON, NEW HAMPSHIRE

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES August 17, 2020 6:00 PM Whipple Memorial Hall

PRESENT:

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

ALSO PRESENT:

Lou Botta, Emergency Management
Will Kidder, Town Clerk
Nick Baer, Health Officer
Tina Helm, New London Resident
Michael Todd, Moderator
John Raby, New London Resident
Nancy Marashio, New London Resident
Leigh Bosse, *The Messenger*

Chairman Kidder called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Public Comment - None

Appointments

Michael Todd, Moderator and Will Kidder, Town Clerk – Primary Elections, September 8, 2020

Michael Todd, Moderator, attended the meeting to provide information regarding the upcoming Primary Election on September 8, 2020. Designing the layout to hold the election has been a little challenging but Mr. Todd feels they are in good shape. The shipment of personal protective equipment (PPE) was received today which includes signage, shields and 11 sneeze guards. The sneeze guards will be used on the tables in front of each election worker that has to be in contact with voters. All poll workers will be required to wear masks. Any workers that travel freely throughout the election polling area will wear masks and shields. There will be adequate hand sanitizer and gloves provided. Masks will also be available to voters. Final rulings from the Attorney General's office are still being worked on with respect to the rights of persons that want to vote but do not want to wear a mask. Voting booths will be set up six feet apart.

Mr. Todd encourages the Selectmen to require a policy that states any person entering the polling place needs to wear a mask. For those who don't wish to wear a mask, an opportunity will be provided to them to vote by processing them as curbside, absentee voters. This ensures that anyone that comes to the polling place will be allowed to vote. The Secretary of State has allowed the pre-processing of absentee ballots at a public session on a selected date.

Tina Helm has been working hard to recruit volunteers and has more than enough help. The challenge will be training everyone and getting them up to speed with the new ballot clerk procedures. Ms. Helm noted that they will not be having food or coffee this year as the rules and regulations are clear that this is not allowed. There will be two people at the door, one to greet and direct voters and another to provide hand sanitizer upon arrival. Hand sanitizer will be available on the way out as well.

Will Kidder, Town Clerk, commented that the New London Post Office has done a great job with regards to absentee ballots, delivering them in a very timely manner.

John Raby thanked Tina Helm and Michael Todd for their presentation tonight. He was impressed with the precision and clarity of the information provided. He informed the Board that he would be in favor having a mask ordinance as some other towns have done, to ensure that mask wearing is observed in town.

Old Business

Chair Kidder noted that they haven't confirmed members of the housing committee to date. Ms. Hallquist asked the Selectmen if they wanted the candidates that have completed the volunteer request form to come in for discussion. Chair Kidder suggested putting another notice in *Municipal Matters* to try to solicit more volunteers.

New Business

Discuss potential adoption of a mask ordinance

Chair Kidder stated that Kim Hallquist has done a lot of research and contacted other area towns to see what they are doing with regards to wearing masks.

Ms. Hallquist stated that there is an option to do nothing, which many towns are doing, however, some towns have adopted an ordinance that requires the wearing of masks. In this instance, a warning would be given the first time without a mask, and then after that monetary fines would be given, people who want to challenge the ticket could go to court.

Ms. Hallquist stated that his morning, she met with Police Chief Emily Cobb, Health Officer Nick Baer, Emergency Management Director Lou Botta and Fire Chief Jay Lyon to discuss the options that were available to the town. The group discussed what the City of Portsmouth has done which is a Resolution. It requires the wearing of masks in town but does not include a financial penalty. The group felt that this would be the way the Selectmen should go as having the best chance to get people to voluntarily comply with wearing masks. She noted that if the Resolution doesn't work, the Selectmen still have the option to do a mandate. The group also recommends providing signage that states the Selectmen of the Town of New London require them to wear masks. Social media and information in the local newspapers could be used to get people to understand that the Board of Selectmen want them to wear masks.

Ms. Hallquist read the resolution as follows:

A Resolution Requiring Face Coverings Be Worn Within the Town of New London

In our fight against the ongoing COVID-19 threat, this Resolution is issued in consideration of the health and safety of the residents of the Town of New London, the visitors and employees of the public and private sectors, and the success, economic stability, and well-being of the businesses of our community.

Be it resolved that the Board of Selectmen of the Town of New London recognizes that additional measures are necessary to prevent or reduce activities that increase the likelihood of the spread of the highly contagious and potentially life-threatening virus known as COVID-19;

That the best means of slowing the spread of the virus is through minimizing close personal contact with individuals in a public environment, social/physical distancing by keeping a distance of six feet between yourself and others, covering your mouth and nose by wearing a face covering, and proper hand washing;

That the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has concluded that the wearing of face coverings by all persons under certain circumstances is an effective method to reduce exposure to the COVID-19 virus, by providing a simple barrier to help prevent respiratory droplets from traveling into the air and onto other people when the person wearing the face covering coughs, sneezes, talks or raises their voice;

And that COVID-19 can be spread by people who do not have symptoms (asymptomatic carriers) and therefore are unaware they are infected. It is therefore important that everyone wear face coverings in public settings, whether or not they are feeling ill;

Therefore, we, as the Board of Selectmen acting on behalf of the Town of New London, require that face coverings made of cloth fabric, or other soft material, that covers the nose and mouth of the person wearing the face covering. The face covering may be factory-made or homemade as long as it covers the nose, mouth, and surrounding areas of the lower face.

These requirements shall apply to any individual who is age two (2) or older, and not otherwise exempt per CDC guidelines. A face covering is also not required to be worn by any person if said person has been advised by a medical professional that wearing a face covering may pose a risk to said person for health-related reasons.

Nor will these requirements apply to persons walking, biking, or exercising so long as physical separation of at least six feet is maintained or when persons are members of the same household;

All businesses, healthcare facilities and any other establishment, including government facilities, which are open to the public, shall require all those entering the business including, without limitation any outdoor area where business of any sort is conducted or work site, to wear a mouth and nose covering mask and may refuse entry and service to anyone who refuses to wear a mask.

All employees of all businesses must wear a mouth and nose covering mask when interacting with the public and when within six feet of a co-worker.

Members of the public entering or queued to enter any restaurant for the purpose of picking up food for take-out or an alcohol-serving business or any other purpose must wear a mouth and nose covering mask. Members of the public dining at a restaurant may remove masks while seated at their table but must wear a mask when entering and exiting the restaurant or moving around the interior or exterior of the restaurant.

All such businesses, restaurants, government facilities shall post the requirement for a mask.

This Resolution is a good-faith effort to encourage the New London community, that includes residents, visitors, shoppers, diners, and employees to wear a face covering whenever they are

inside a building and whenever they are outside and social distancing of at least six feet cannot be maintained.

This Resolution will remain in effect until it is no longer necessary either because the New London Board of Selectmen declares that COVID-19 no longer poses a threat to New London citizens or when it is replaced by an Ordinance that will impose fines for violations.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to adopt the Resolution regarding the wearing of masks in New London. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to mandate that voters cannot enter the voting place without wearing a mask. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Accept \$146.72 from the New London Police Benevolent Association

Ms. Hallquist explained that this money was donated to pay for the cabinet for the fingerprinting machine.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to accept \$146.72 from the New London Police Benevolent Association. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Approve New London Clean-up Day activities on September 26, 2020

Ms. Hallquist explained that the clean-up day is generally held in May but did not happen this year due to the Covid-19 shutdown. This event is led by Gary Faccone and citizens volunteer to pick up trash around town. Mr. Faccone would like to hold this event on Saturday, September 26, 2020. The group agrees to follow guidelines of social distancing and will wear gloves and masks

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve New London Clean-up day activities to be held on Saturday, September 26, 2020. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Set meeting schedule for September

Meetings for September will be held on September 14 and September 28. For October, meetings will be held on October 5, and October 19, 2020.

Town Administrators Report

Ms. Hallquist provided the following report:

Ms. Hallquist stated she has received some calls recently about the paving that is going on in town. There was one citizen who is opposed to having Fairway Drive paved because it changes the character of the area. Ms. Hallquist explained that many people that live on gravel roads want the road paved. She also let him know that the time for him to provide input is during budget meetings as that is the time that the roads to be paved is discussed.

Committee Meetings & Reports

Chair Kidder reported that the Planning Board met on August 11, 2020. An accessory dwelling unit application was presented and approved with conditions.

She also attended a recent Recreation Department meeting. Scott Blewitt reported that the Summer Day Camp was very successful and there have been no incidences of the coronavirus. The average daily use at both beaches has been at about 50 people. They have issued approximately 40 badge passes using the new machine and it has worked out well. Starting August 23, 2020, the beaches will be staffed only on the weekends. 8 new picnic tables for the beaches have arrived.

Meeting Minutes

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to approve the minutes of August 3, 2020 meeting. THE MINUTES WERE APPROVED.

Upcoming Meetings & Special Events

- Next regular Selectmen's meeting – Monday, September 14th – 6:00 PM
- Planning Board – Tuesday, September 8th – 6:30 PM
- Recreation Commission – Wednesday, September 9th – 11:00 AM
- Conservation Commission – Wednesday, September 16th – 8:30 AM

Other Business

IT WAS MOVED (John Cannon) AND SECONDED (Janet Kidder) to enter into a nonpublic session pursuant to RSA 91-A:3, II (a): the dismissal, promotion, or compensation of any public employee or the disciplining of such employee.

Roll call vote: Rollins: Yes; Cannon: Yes; Kidder: Yes

The Board entered nonpublic session at 7:14 PM.

The Board reentered the public session at 7:50 PM.

IT WAS MOVED (Nancy Rollins) AND SECONDED (John Cannon) to seal the nonpublic session meeting minutes. THE MOTION WAS APPROVED UNANIMOUSLY.

Items to be signed

- Accounts Payable Voucher
- Veterans Exemption
- Birthday Cards
- Applications To Use Town Property
 - ✓ Inn Common – On Saturday, October 3rd, 10:00am – 11:00am for the Blessing of Animals by St. Andrew's Church.

Applications Approved &/or Denied

Sign Permits

- Permanent Signs # 20-15 – Bennett Builders, LLC, Jonathan Bennett, 256 Main Street, TM 084-062-0-0-0. Approved
- Permanent Signs # 20-16 – Sip Tasty, LLC, Joanne Lynch, 420 Main Street, TM 085-044-0-0-0. Approved

Building Permits

- S&P Family Trust, 33 Hall Farm Road, TM 081-066-0-0-0. Build new single-family house. BP 20-066 approved 8/6/20.
- JT & Lori Underwood, 276 Stoney Brook Road, TM 137-014-0-0-0. Build 12'x12' deck. BP 20-076 approved 8/4/20.
- New London Hospital, 273 County Road, TM 072-018-0-0-0. Interior renovations. BP 20-078 approved 8/4/20.
- Peter & Alice Field, 187 Knights Hill Road, TM 083-007-0-0-0. Build an 8x12 deck. BP 20-082 approved 8/6/20.
- Cody & Rebecca Welch, 57 Pingree Road, TM 035-052-0-0-0. Demo shed & build 20'x24' barn. BP 20-084 approved 8/13/20.
- Marianne McEnrue, 27 Seamans Road, TM 085-003-0-0-0. Repair supports on garage. BP 20-085 approved 8/13/20.
- Sip Tasty, LLC, Joanne Lynch, 420 Main Street, TM 085-044-0-0-0. Interior Renovations. BP 20-086 approved 8/13/20.

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

The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Trina Dawson
Recording Secretary
Town of New London