



Municipal Matters

New London, New Hampshire

June 29, 2020

Selectmen Meet at Elkins Beach

Discussion of controlling beach attendance during COVID-19 and no swimming at the Pleasant Lake dam

The New London Board of Selectmen met at Elkins Beach with Police Chief Cobb and Sgt. Keith, Recreation Director Scott Blewitt and Asst. Beach Manager/Lifeguard Logan Montminy, members of the Recreation Commission, Town Administrator Kim Hallquist and several Elkins residents. The focus of the discussion was how beach staff could keep track of the people coming to the beach in light of the limitations instituted due to the coronavirus. Elkins Beach is limited to 75



people and Bucklin Beach is limited to 80 people.

Given the need to limit attendance, the Selectmen previously temporarily suspended issuance of

guest passes; parking was reduced at Bucklin Beach. Concerns were expressed by some Elkins residents that the Elkins Beach was not being adequately monitored to ensure that only New London residents are using the beach. While Bucklin Beach has one entrance, Elkins Beach presents challenges due to the number of entrance points. Parking at both beaches is by permit only, a restriction adopted by Town Meeting voters at a special Town Meeting held on July 1, 1975. Chief Cobb noted that while the patrol officer on duty does go to the beach area as time allows during each shift, he or she can not spend the time necessary to ensure that all cars parked at the beaches have the required

New London transfer station/beach sticker affixed to the windshield. Some residents expressed a desire for a higher ticket penalty as \$25 does not seem to deter some people from parking illegally. The option of towing vehicles was discussed. The Selectmen noted that prior to considering the adoption of a towing policy, the town would hire additional staff to check the parking lot periodically and inform people of the permit parking only rule before they parked; this would reduce the number of illegally parked cars. In this way, people who are unaware of the New London resident only rule will be informed.

The group also viewed the Pleasant Lake dam area to discuss the practice by some of jumping off of the dam to swim in the lake. Swimming is not allowed off of the dam because there is the potential for injury given the rocks in the area as well as dam equipment and pipe. It was noted that there are no stairs to allow safe access in/out of the lake. No swimming signs are posted on the gate house and fence in the parking area. The dam area includes several memorial benches and the public is encouraged to visit the area and enjoy the view, picnic, lay in the sun, but swimming is prohibited.

Pleasant Lake Protective Association Fireworks on July 2nd

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the need for social distancing, the **Slope N Shore** community has decided that it will not be able to allow people to view the fireworks display from its lawn and beach this year. The decision was a hard one for the community as they have welcomed the public to their property for many years but this year they felt it important to follow CDC guidelines designed to slow the spread of the coronavirus by limiting large gatherings.

Traffic on a portion of Pleasant Street near **Slope N Shore** will be restricted during the fireworks display and the public is encouraged to avoid the area on the evening of July 2nd.

Celebrating Safely with Fireworks Involves the Three B's

Please, **“Be Prepared,” “Be Safe,”** and **“Be Responsible”** when using New Hampshire Permissible Fireworks and celebrate safely in all of your events or celebrations.

Be Prepared before lighting fireworks

- ◆ Purchase only fireworks allowed by NH law, available at licensed retail stores.
- ◆ Purchase ONLY the quantity that you will use. Otherwise, storing explosives at home increases the risk of unintentional detonation.
- ◆ Only display fireworks on property you own, or with written permission from the landowner.
- ◆ Read and adhere to all safety information and warning labels.
- ◆ Request additional safety information from the licensed retailer if you are not familiar with a device.
- ◆ Have a water hose or fire extinguisher nearby in case of an unexpected fire.
- ◆ Use a level surface, away from things that can burn or easily ignite.
- ◆ Contact your local fire department to check the fire weather conditions in your area. Dry plants, leaves and grass can easily catch fire from fireworks sparks.
- ◆ Call 9-1-1 immediately in the event of a fire or medical emergency. Don't wait!

Be Safe when lighting fireworks

- ◆ Adults 21 years of age or older are the only ones allowed to buy or use fireworks according to state law.
- ◆ Wear eye/ear protection, gloves, and clothing that cannot easily ignite.
- ◆ READ and follow the safety directions on each firework device or package.
- ◆ Light only one device at a time and move away quickly.
- ◆ Keep all spectators at a safe distance. Some consumer fireworks have specific safety distances.
- ◆ Light and display fireworks only outside, away from anything that can burn or easily catch fire.
- ◆ Be considerate of your neighbors, family pets and the environment. You could be held liable for damages to another's property.

Be Responsible when finished

- ◆ Clean up all debris when done.
- ◆ Devices that do not fire once they are lit are very dangerous; if this happens, stay away for 15 minutes. Then fill it with water or place it in a bucket of water.
- ◆ Make sure that unused fireworks, matches and lighters are secured and out of the reach of children.

Dear Tracy Memorial Library Patrons,

Thank you so much for reaching out to us during this challenging time. We know you have missed being able to come into the Library to browse the collection, checkout materials, and visit with Library staff. Even though we have been busy providing virtual services, please know that we have missed you and are eager to get back to putting items in your hands.

Last night our Board of Trustees approved a Pandemic Policy and a Pandemic Service Plan with information and guidance from many sources including the NH Library Association Reopening Task Force and legal counsel. Coincidentally, yesterday the Governor's Economic Reopening Task Force announced guidelines for reopening libraries in NH. This is helpful and we had many of the recommendations already built into our phased service plan. Our goal is to restore Library services over the coming months while continuing to prioritize the health of patrons and staff. This may be subject to change as the situation evolves.

Beginning next week, a small number of staff will return to the Library building to reconfigure staff spaces. Shortly thereafter, we plan to open our book drop for limited hours and begin working through the backlog of new and returned materials. As a high-circulating Library, the process of digging out from closure is considerable. During this time, we will continue to provide all of our great virtual resources, including the popular online collection of e-books, audio books, music, streaming video, etc.

If we are able to proceed through this first phase without interruption, we anticipate beginning Porch Pickup of Library materials by the end of June. More information about this service will follow. Your patience is appreciated and we look forward to restoring physical services as quickly as we can. For the latest service updates, please check our website (<https://tracylibrary.org/>) or FB page (<https://www.facebook.com/tracylibrary/>).

Best regards,

Sandra Licks, Library Director June 12, 2020

Public Works Staff Complete Needed Improvements to Clark Lookout Trail

The Conservation Commission was thrilled to see the work done by the New London Public Works staff to the popular Clark Lookout Trail. Plan your hike today!



All citizens are encouraged to follow the New London Selectmen, Governor Sununu and CDC guidelines by wearing a protective mask when social distancing is not possible.
Thank you

Elkins Beach and Bucklin Beach are Open to Residents

- ⇒ Beach use is limited to New London residents. Beach sticker for parking is required (no guest passes allowed)
- ⇒ All beach goers must check in with attendant at entrance/exit.
- ⇒ Children under 11 years old must be accompanied by an adult.
- ⇒ Life guards are on duty daily, 10:00 am - 5:00 pm (weather permitting).
- ⇒ Social distancing must be practiced at all times (minimum of 6 feet).
- ⇒ Bathroom / changing room (single use only) will be open during the guarded hours only.
- ⇒ Playground, floating docks, boats, etc. are not available at this time.
- ⇒ No alcoholic beverages allowed.
- ⇒ No pets allowed.
- ⇒ No launching of boats from the beach.
- ⇒ Beaches close at 9:00PM
- ⇒ Remember to follow the beach procedures designed to slow the spread of the coronavirus.

Thank you for your cooperation during this difficult time. We care deeply about our staff and patrons.

September 8th State Primary Election Voting will be held at the Public Works Garage on South Pleasant Street

NHDES Wants Residents to Take Care of Their Septic Systems

Concord, NH - The New Hampshire Department of Environmental Services (NHDES) urges residents to be cautious with the use of strong antibacterial cleaning materials and disposing of those materials in septic systems. Introducing large volumes of these cleaning agents to septic system can have detrimental effect on the bacteria that are vital to the function of a healthy system. Without the essential bacteria in a septic tank and/or in the effluent disposal area (leach field) the system will prematurely fail resulting in the system having to be replaced. Replacing a system in failure can be a very expensive undertaking that could be avoided with careful and proper use.



NHDES has noticed increased percentage of applications to replace failed individual sewage disposal systems (septic systems) over that last few months as compared to 2019. During the spring months, NHDES normally receives higher numbers of applications for the replacement of failed systems most likely due to amount of rain and snow melt. However, this year due to the coronavirus pandemic, many people are now working remotely from home. A hydraulic overload on systems (too much water) resulting from the increased use of home septic systems may be contributing to the increased number of failures. Equally important to consider is the disposal of strong cleaning materials in septic systems. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the New Hampshire State Government encourage regular personal hygiene and extensive cleaning of homes and businesses to deter the spread of the virus, but be careful as to the amount of these cleaning solutions go down the drain to your septic system.

If you have not yet, please also read the NHDES Press Release dated March 24, 2020 regarding what materials should and should not be flushed down the toilet. This press release can be found at www.des.nh.gov/media/pr/2020/20200324-flush.htm. Additionally, NHDES wants to remind residents that septic tanks should be pumped every 3 to 5 years. More information about proper septic system maintenance can be found at www.getpumpednh.com.

If you have additional questions, please contact Jim Martin, NHDES Public Information Officer, at james.martin@des.nh.gov or (603) 271-3710.

New London Hospital Days Cancelled

What would have been the 96th Annual Hospital Days has been cancelled due to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Watch for news on other fun events that may be scheduled in August and look forward to

Hospital Days 2021!



I want to be a K9 Vilo Supporter!

Here is my donation in the amount of: _____

to help support the New London Police Department
K9 Program.

Name: _____

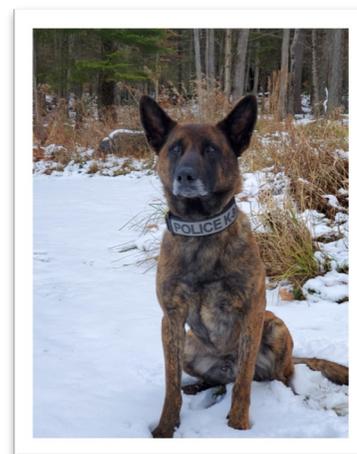
Address: _____

Please make check payable to:

Town of New London K9 Fund

Mail to: 375 Main Street, New London, NH 03257

Thank you for your support!!



Brush & Metal Disposal Center Summer Hours

JUNE	JULY
TUESDAYS 8 AM - 3:30 PM	TUESDAYS 8 AM - 3:30 PM
THURSDAYS 8 AM - 3:30 PM	CLOSED
SUNDAYS NOON - 4 PM	SUNDAYS NOON - 4 PM

Mark your Calendar—July

The Selectmen will once again hold meetings in person; meetings will be held at Whipple Memorial Town Hall to ensure adequate social distancing. Please check the agenda of other board and committee meetings to see if they will be held at Whipple, or via the Zoom.com platform.

- **FRIDAY, JULY 3 - TOWN OFFICES CLOSED HOLIDAY OBSERVED**
- **SATURDAY, JULY 4 - TRANSFER STATION CLOSED **INDEPENDENCE DAY****
- MON, JULY 6 @ 6:00 PM - BOARD OF SELECTMEN
- WED, JULY 8 @ 11:00 AM - RECREATION COMM.
- WED, JULY 8 @ 7:00 PM - ENERGY COMMITTEE
- TUE, JULY 14 @ 6:30 PM - PLANNING BOARD
- WED, JULY 15 @ 8:30 AM - CONSERVATION COMM.
- MON, JULY 20 @ 6:00 PM—BOARD OF SELECTMEN
- TUES, JULY 21 @ 6:30 PM—BUILDINGS & FACILITIES
- WED, JULY 29 @ 6:30 PM—BUILDINGS & FACILITIES

For a complete list of meetings go to the town website:
www.nl-nh.com

Town Offices are CLOSED to public traffic.

Transactions like property taxes, vehicle registration & sewer bills can be done online:

www.nl-nh.com/pay

Applications for permits, credits & exemptions are available online: www.nl-nh.com/forms

Call us for assistance

Monday - Friday, 8am – 4pm

Town Clerk/Tax Collector Office: 526-1244 or 1245

Main number: 526-4821

PUBLIC NOTICE

Transfer Station will be CLOSED
Saturday, July 4
In observation of Fourth of July Independence Day

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Voluntary Water Use Restrictions

Due to dry conditions in the northeast, the New London-Springfield Water Precinct is asking precinct customers to restrict outside watering to late evening and early morning only.

Thank you for your cooperation.

New London-Springfield Water Precinct
www.nlswp@tds.net

Camp Scholarship Program

New London Recreation Department has received requests for partial or full scholarships to help defray the cost of camp. **Just \$125 will send one child to Summer Day Camp for one week!**

Please make checks payable to:

"New London Recreation Department"
and put in the memo
"camp scholarship program."

Mail or drop off checks:

New London Recreation Department
375 Main Street, New London, NH 03257
Drop box is by front door.

Thank you kindly!

Scott Blewitt, Recreation Director

Municipal Matters is published by the staff of the Town of New London. Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator, 603-526-1240. Email: townadmin@nl-nh.com