

## Selectmen's Meeting Minutes May 4, 2020

**7:00 PM** Meeting called to order by Selectboard Chairman, John Esposito. Also in attendance were Selectmen Kim Roberge and Tim Berry.

Esposito led the meeting in a moment of silence for all those helping us out with this Covid-19 disaster we are going through.

Police Chief Furlong gave an update. Cases continue to rise; Governor Sununu has released Stay-at-Home order 2.0. Each department may be required to ask employees health questions and take temperatures in order for them to report to work. The majority of the Stay-at-Home order is still in effect. Restaurants with outdoor seating, campgrounds and golf courses may open with certain restrictions. The CDC recommendation is that employees must wear cloth masks. Furlong will be getting 30 cloth masks from an organization in Milford.

Furlong referenced an email he received from the Fire Chief regarding the closing of our hiking trails due to expected increase in use because Lyndeborough has closed Purgatory Falls, both upper and lower parking lots. Furlong noted that the PD did patrol the trail heads in MV this weekend and found minimal cars at Lamson Farm, and all cars on Dow Road were able to fit into the parking lot. He said that the Fire Chief was also concerned due to Covid-19 exposure risk to first responders.

Esposito said that the Board will discuss this later on, and that Roberge wanted the Conservation Commission and the Lamson Farm Commission to weigh in on this.

Furlong let the Board know that the second round of paperwork was due today regarding FEMA reimbursable expenses. He said that we are up-to-date on our paperwork.

Board reviewed the minutes of the joint meeting with the Wilton Board of Selectmen on April 27. Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to accept the minutes of the April 27, 2020 joint meeting with the Wilton Selectmen as written. Roberge; yes, Berry; yes, Esposito; yes.

Board reviewed the minutes of the 4/27/20 Selectmen's meeting.

Roberge asked to table the minutes until she has time to send Brown a list of all the things not in there.

Berry said in light of the person asking that the ZBA minutes be posted as draft, should we post a draft of our minutes?

Roberge said that they must be available on request, but not posted.

Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to table the minutes of April 27, 2020 until next week. Roberge; yes, Berry; yes, Esposito; yes.

Esposito clarified that Joan Cleary forwarded a set of draft minutes to the person asking for ZBA minutes.

Kathy Marchocki said that the RSA states they must be posted within 5 days.

Roberge quoted RSA 91:A that says they must be recorded and open for public inspection within 5 business days. The Selectmen do them weekly. Everything is available upon request. The policy of posting draft minutes is a poor one; people read them as being final no matter what it says and there could be some misinformation in there.

Marchocki feels that the fact that they are not approved is irrelevant and that, for transparency, they should be posted.

Esposito said that we have never posted draft minutes, but they are open to the public here in the office.

Marchocki said that, at the least, it should be posted where they can be found.

Eileen Naber agreed that they have to be available within 5 days, but with the ZBA it might be 5 months before they meet again to approve the minutes.

Marchocki said that the ZBA has an appeal period, and because of that they should be available.

Roberge said that the Town is meeting the letter of the law.

Esposito said that the Board will address the issue.

Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to re-appoint Charles Baker to the Heritage Commission with a term ending in 2023. Roberge; yes, Berry; yes, Esposito; yes.

Esposito said that Roberge suggested a 4-day, 10-hour work week for the DPW to reduce exposure to Covid-19. She also feels it would give them more time to help out at home. He discussed it with DPW Director, Ben Crosby, who discussed it with the guys. The guys are in favor of it and will try it out beginning this week. Crosby himself will stay with the 5-day, 8-hour week. Esposito said there may be some planning involved in order to avoid overtime pay. May be a little overtime at the transfer station in order to run the backhoe, as both operators are busy backing people in and maintaining social distancing.

Roberge thought that would be the same with a 5-day week, and that she has no problem with that.

Roberge stated that Lyndeborough is doing the same thing with the Director working 5 days.

Esposito wanted to address and develop a time limit for reimbursement of Building Inspector fees. He asked if permits were good for one year.

Roberge said that they don't make people pay a renewal fee as long as they have had one inspection in a year.

There was some discussion over CPO's and lapsing permits. It was decided that the Building Inspector should weigh in on this and will be put on next week's agenda.

Esposito stated that Roberge took it upon herself to go to other towns to do a salary study and asked her for results.

Roberge said that she isn't ready to give a presentation yet.

Esposito asked about selling the property taken by tax deed on Weston Hill Road.

Brown relayed the information from Town Counsel: We should hire Attorney Tom Quinn to Quiet the Title before we do anything more.

Roberge asked if Quinn could give us a quote on this work. Brown will look into it.

Esposito brought up the email from the Fire Chief asking the Board to shut down the Town trails.

Roberge said she wants Chief Furlong, the Conservation Commission and the Lamson Farm Commission to weigh in on this issue. She would like to speak with the Fire Chief regarding PPE for first responders, and added that we haven't ticketed anyone yet.

Berry said that someone reached out to him asking if the trails could be open to Town residents only. The New Hampshire Municipal Association has said that you cannot discriminate on public trails. After hearing from the Police Chief about the number of cars parked at trail heads this weekend, I believe that there is enough room for people to social distance on the trails.

Roberge said that the resident at 15 Dow Road said that they were concerned about the anticipation of increase now that Lyndeborough is closed. They don't want to close the trail, but want the PD to continue patrolling it.

Esposito feels that we should keep them open; Let's play it by ear he said.

Wilson said it is mainly a PPE issue – there is a lot of traffic coming in from out of state. Joanne Draghetti of the Conservation Commission is on board and would like to close both trail heads.

Berry said that Lyndeborough will open Purgatory Falls when NH reopens State Parks and recreation areas. If we shut down our trails, we should do something similar.

Zoe Fimbel of the Lamson Farm Commission said that she has polled the Commission and Kevin Pomeroy thinks we should close the trails for the safety of the property. With so much overuse, the trails are being left dirty. Two of the members think they should be closed, one sees no reason to close; I don't have a quorum, but that is what I have so far.

Roberge said that the maximum number of cars parked at Lamson Farm has been 3.

Fimbel said that people need to get out of their houses, but when out-of-staters are trashing our trails, they should be closed.

Esposito said he thinks we can put this off and monitor the situation.

Furlong said that with the closure of Lyndeborough, we will see an uptick and will continue to monitor it.

Roberge said the safety of our first responders comes first. Even with all the cars in Lyndeborough, there were no emergency calls.

Furlong said that we do get an inordinate number of lost hikers.

Berry said that the Lyndeborough Chief wanted to close parking down to one side of the street, but one of the Selectmen had a big problem with our-of-state people congregating there and not social distancing. Also, they were very upset that someone got married in there.

Furlong said that if we reach numbers like Lyndeborough he would definitely support the closing.

Wilson said that whatever the Board comes up with for a plan the FD will support completely.

Marchocki said that people carpool from Market Basket or the Courthouse to Purgatory Falls.

Esposito said that the Board will talk about this again next meeting.

Esposito asked Crosby how the 10-hour days are working.

Crosby said that the guys are excited about it, but it just started.

Roberge said that the Board wants the flow of the transfer station to go as smoothly as possible.

Crosby offered that Mark Butcher is back now on light duty and he can run the backhoe.

Bonnie Angulas said that she and the Library Trustees are developing a plan for phased reopening and is wondering if the Board is going to require the staff to wear masks and take temperatures.

Roberge said that it needs to be clarified by the Governor – cloth masks, pertinent health questions, temperatures – are they a should or a must? How many people would be allowed in the library at one time etc...

**8:20 PM** As there was no further business before the Board, Roberge motioned, seconded by Berry to adjourn.

All in favor.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Laurie Brown