

Town of Washington
Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

April 2, 2020, Selectmen Meeting 9:00 am at the Town Hall

ASSEMBLY

MEMBERS: Tom Marshall (absent), Jed Schwartz, Don Revane

1.0 Visitors: None

2.0 Minutes: Schwartz moved to approve the meeting minutes of March 26, 2020, Revane second, all voted in favor.

IMPORTANT DATES:

April 9, 2020, The Town Offices are closed except for essential business due to Covid-19. Usual Selectmen office hours have been cut back to 9-10am, evening 7pm public meetings at the Town Hall are canceled until further notice.

The Selectmen would like to thank our Emergency Management Director, department heads, town officials and employees for their continued effort to serve our community during these difficult times. We are in this together and we will get through it together!

From the Board of Selectmen March 30, 2020

To visitors and non-resident home owners who have come to Washington to escape exposure to COVID- 19, and residents returning from out of state.

Due to confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the town of Washington, the Selectmen issued a Shelter in place advisory on March 23.

When you arrive in Town, you and anyone with you are advised to self quarantine for not less than 14 days.

Please arrive with the supplies you need to get you through your period of quarantine. You should not leave your home for any reason **except to fulfill essential needs.**

Please adhere to social distancing guidelines and avoid social gatherings or recreational activities that could put you or others at risk, including gathering in groups of UTVs, Off Road Bikes, Cycling or for Hiking. .

Our town officials are dedicated to a coordinated effort to keep our community and town employees as safe as possible by promoting measures to stay ahead of the pandemic.

Please stay home and stay safe!

DID YOU KNOW?

From the Fire Chief and Fire Warden Regarding Burn Permits:

In regards to burn permits we will not be issuing burn permits at this time so that we can limit the person to person contact. The permitting process can now be done online at nhfirepermit.com so please direct everyone to that site for their fire permits.

The Town of Washington Ordains: Ordinance #93:011 Spring Road Load Limit Posting

Limitation of Use: Except as specifically provided in Section V below, it shall be unlawful for any person to operate any motor vehicle weighing more than six (6) tons on any Limited Weight Street, Highway from **March 1st to May 31st** or as deemed necessary.

Special Permits: The Road Agent shall issue a special permit after consulting with the Board of Selectmen for the operation of vehicles weighing more than six (6) tons over Limited Weight Streets, Highways and/or Bridges only after the Road Agent and Selectmen determines that the vehicle will not cause unusual damage to the highway.

Exceptions: Delivery vehicles making occasional trips to service residences. Any permitted business in the Town of Washington operating a Motor Vehicle empty over six (6) tons from their place of business to and from N.H. Route 31 and N.H. Route 10.

Pursuant to Town Ordinance #001983-1

It shall be unlawful for any person to operate any vehicle in excess of 2,000 lbs. on any class V road to a summer cottage or class 6 highways until the end of mud season as designated by the Public Works Director.

Taking precautionary measures if anyone is negatively impacted by the Corona-Virus and needs assistance please contact Monica Scanlan, Welfare Administrator 495-0262.

Town of Washington's Food Pantry will now be open by appointment only. Please call Sue Hofstetter at 495-0096 for an appointment to visit the food pantry.

From the Board of Selectmen March 18, 2020

Re: COVID-19

Due to State and Nationwide advisories and mandates resulting from the continuing spread of the COVID-19 virus, the Town of Washington is implementing a number of precautionary measures to protect our community, town officials and employees. Please know these measures are temporary and we are all hoping to get back to normal as soon as possible! As the situation evolves we expect changes and revisions to these measures. Please visit the Washington Website <https://www.washingtonnh.org> for the latest updates on services and restrictions due to the pandemic.

As of Tuesday, March 17, access to all town Buildings will be restricted to essential personnel only. The business of our town government will go on, but much of this work will be completed remotely.

Restricted Buildings: Town Hall, DPW Building, Fire, Rescue and Police Station, Camp Morgan Lodge, Shedd Free Library.

All public Committee, Board and Commission meetings are suspended until further notice. Any essential town business can be conducted by phone or internet conference, minutes will be recorded and posted as usual.

1.) The Selectmen will be canceling the weekly Thursday, 7 pm public meetings until further notice. We will continue working on the business of the town and will record and post minutes as always. The Selectmen are in close contact with our town safety agencies; Emergency Management, Fire and Rescue, Police and Welfare, and will do our best to keep the public informed of any information relevant to community safety and access to public services. Call 603-495-3661 to contact the selectmen's office with any questions or concerns. Please leave us a message and one of us will get back to you if the line is tied up.

2.) Emergency Management Cynthia Dressel, the new Director of Washington's Emergency Management Team is in contact with the state and federal agencies associated with the response to the COVID-19 emergency. The Town's EOC will open if needed, but for now, we are on standby and ready to coordinate with the local, state and federal response activities if needed.

3.) Fire and Rescue The Washington Fire and Rescue Chief and Captain are in close contact with our associated hospitals and doing their best to stay on top of the latest protocols that are being updated daily regarding first responders assisting those in need of help during this crisis. For now, the Fire Station building has restricted access to only those who are active fire, rescue, and police personnel. As always **in an emergency call 911**, Non-emergencies fire/rescue 495-3133.

4.) Police The Washington police are on full alert and maintaining their usual full schedule of operations. Non-emergencies call 495-3294.

5.) The Tax Collector and Town Clerk will be available by telephone only, 603-495-3667, please leave a message if your call is not answered. Documents and motor vehicle registrations will be processed by enclosing them in an envelope and leaving them in the drop-box located in the outer entrance of the Town Hall between 9 am- Noon on Thursdays, **or** mailing your documents to:

Town Clerk or Tax Collector
7 Halfmoon Pond Rd.
Washington, NH 03280

Your documents will be mailed back to you. Please plan ahead, this will take some extra time!

FYI: The state has extended all temporary plates issued after March 1st from 20 to 45 days. So far there is no extension to the 10-day grace period for standard registration renewals.

For detailed information concerning the documents required to register your vehicle or any other business with the town clerk or tax collector, please go to the town Website and choose the Town Clerk or Tax Collector in the Boards and Committees tab. They can both be reached by phone or email, also noted on the website.

6.) The Recycling/Transfer station will be opened at the usual hours, but the "mall" will be closed until further notice. For now, please hold the items that you think might be of use to others rather than leaving them at the "mall". Please remain in your vehicles until you are able to pull up to the compactor to dispose of your trash. All recycling will continue as usual. The attendant shed is restricted to employees only.

7.) The Department of Public Works will continue to be fully operational, however, their building will be restricted to DPW personnel only. Please call Ed Thayer with any questions regarding the roads or the transfer station at 603-495-3641.

8.) The Welfare Department is here to help! Please contact Monica Scanlan at 495-0262 if you are in need of welfare assistance. If you need assistance with groceries, please contact Sue Hofstetter at 495-0096 to schedule an appointment to pick up ordered items from the food pantry. The privacy of all welfare clients is guarded and respected so please let us know if you need help!

9.) The Washington Library will be closed until further notice, they will be anxious to reopen as soon as this emergency is behind us.

Again, as the situation evolves we expect changes and revisions to these measures. Please visit the Washington Website <https://www.washingtonnh.org> for the latest updates on services and restrictions due to the pandemic.

Please stay safe and reach out to us if you need help!

Washington Board of Selectmen

3.0 BUILDING PERMITS:

"For Building Permits: Please download the permit from the town website and leave the completed permit and all required documents in the box (labeled "Building Permits") located in the entryway to the meeting house on Thursday mornings between 9:am and Noon, or mail to the Selectmen at 7 Halfmoon Pond Road, Washington NH 03280. The Board will review your permit within 7 days and get back to you by phone with any questions or concerns."

4.0 APPOINTMENTS DURING THE DAY AND PREVIOUSLY:

5.0 DEPARTMENT HEADS AND EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENTS:

5.1 Cynthia Dressel (Emergency Management)

5.1.1 Discussed COVID-19 updates.

6.0 PUBLIC:

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

7.1 Property Transfer Survey (PA-34) Tm # 12/178 and Tm # 14/144.

7.2 NH Department of Environmental Services, Re: Notice of Wetlands and Non-Site Specific Permit 2020-00220. Tm # 12/153-1.

7.3 West Central Behavioral Health, Re: 2019 Report on Philanthropy.

7.4 Northeast Resource Recovery Association, membership renewal, along with the 2019 Annual Report.

7.5 Sandy Eccard, provided a copy of the State of New Hampshire Board of Tax and land Appeals.

7.6 NH Department of Transportation, Re: RSA 234:25-b Inspection of Red List Bridges: Report Red Lists Updated for 2019.

7.7 CJT Carpentry provided estimates for siding and trim, basement and roof work on the Old School House renovation

7.8 Email from Jim Crandall, Thanking the board for what they are all doing for the Town on Covid-19 and reminding people of the need to be careful for themselves and others

8.0 OLD BUSINESS:

9.0 NEW BUSINESS:

9.1 Revane signed the Notice of Assignment and Letter of Direction, on behalf of the select board. Re: Backhoe Lease agreement. Moved

9.2 Revane moved to approve the estimate from CJT Carpentry for construction work on the Old School House. (See 7.7) Schwartz second, moved.

10.0 EXPENDITURES:

10.1 The Selectmen authorized payroll checks in the amount of \$ 7,638.84 and vendor checks in the amount of \$ 33,562.71 for the week of April 4, 2020.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

11.1 Schwartz moved to adjourn at 11:00 am and Revane second. Moved

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah DeFosse