

Town of Washington
Board of Selectmen

Meeting Minutes

June 25, 2020, Selectmen Meeting 9:00 am at the Town Hall

ASSEMBLY

MEMBERS: Tom Marshall, Jed Schwartz, Don Revane

1.0 Visitors: Ann Snell

2.0 Minutes: Schwartz moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 18, 2020, Revane second, all voted in favor.

IMPORTANT DATES:

July 2, 2020, The Town Offices are closed except for essential business with the Tax Collector and Town Clerk transactions, due to COVID-19.

July 2, 2020, Selectmen office hours have been cut back to 9-12 pm, evening meeting 7:00 pm Town Hall

July 7, 2020, Planning Board meeting. 6:30 pm at Camp Morgan Lodge.

DID YOU KNOW!!

Statement from the Board of Selectmen regarding the issues at Camp Morgan Beach:

Our first reaction would be to close the entire beach area if people continue to refuse to follow the guidelines set forth. The Selectmen always have the townspeople's welfare in mind, especially when making decisions related to health and safety. The bathrooms were staying closed for the time being because it's a very small confined space and difficult to ensure it's clean and therefore safe.

We chose to allow access to the beach area so folks could get to the lake for a swim. We clearly stated on the posted signs that beach access was for swimming only, sitting and playing on the beach would not be allowed. We assumed that people would understand the reason and appreciate the opportunity to cool off on a hot day. The other public beach areas in Town and other water access areas do not have bathrooms so we felt that this was an acceptable slow opening of the Camp Morgan beach area.

Unfortunately, some people chose to urinate and defecate on the property. This has caused the town to perform an immediate test of the water and soil. Until the results of these tests are posted, the beach area is closed and we can only recommend that you be aware of this issue and swim at your own risk. Upon receiving the results of the testing and following the State recommendations, we will consider re-opening the beach and the bathrooms for public use. If the State changes their recommendations or we continue to find human waste in the area, we will have no choice but to close the entire beach area again and perform more testing.

It's a shame that a few individuals who soil our property and refuse to follow the posted guidelines caused the beach to be closed, punishing the townspeople who are being cooperative and putting them in danger. Regardless of the Covid-19 pandemic, this closing would have happened anyway, as it is truly a matter of public safety.

Please do your best to follow the current guidelines and notify the Selectman's office if you have any other concerns. There will now be additional monitoring of the parking and beach areas for compliance with parking stickers, social distancing recommendations, and the posted beach rules. Our town beaches are for residents only, if you know of people from outside of our community using the beach, please let us know.

Be safe and if you see something, say something!

Washington Drive,
Shoulder work scheduled for mid-July,
"PLEASE EXPECT DELAYS"

Shedd Free Library
Curbside pickup, start date: Tuesday, June 16th
New Hours of Operation: Tuesday 10-2 / Thursday 1-5 / Saturday 10-1
Please go to the Town's website at washingtonnh.org for additional information

Washington Town Beach Advisory (Camp Morgan and East Washington)
Due to Covid -19,

Use of the beach is limited to accessing the lake for swimming
Please adhere to social distancing guidelines and do not sit or play on the beach.
Know that the Selectmen are as anxious as you to get beyond this crisis and back to normal

Thursday, June 4, 2020, the Town Hall will reopen for Tax Collector and Town Clerk transactions, Thursday 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Friday 9:00 to 3:00 pm and the last Saturday of the month 9:00 to 12:00 pm.

- 1. Please wear a mask**
- 2. Inside the lobby please ring the buzzer to let us know you are here, there will be a limit of 5 customers at a time within the building.**

In conjunction with Park & Rec. and with careful consideration of the safety of our public, with much regret, the select board with Park & Rec. unanimously voted to cancel the Summer Program held at Camp Morgan. The docks and buoys will not be in place this season.

From the Board of Selectmen March 30, 2020

To visitors and non-resident homeowners 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 is 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, and 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!

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.

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

From the Board of Selectmen June 18, 2020

Re: COVID-19

The Selectmen are lifting the shelter in place advisory: However, when out in public around other people, we advise everyone to wear a face mask and adhere to the social distancing and other guidelines outlined by the state of NH <https://www.nh.gov/covid19/resources-guidance/> and CDC

<https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus/2019-ncov/daily-life-coping/index.html>

To visitors and non-resident homeowners and residents returning from out of state:

When you arrive in Town, you and anyone with you is 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 property for any reason except to fulfill essential needs. Please adhere to social distancing guidelines, wear a mask 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 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.

As of June 18, the business of our town government will go on, but some of this work will continue to be completed remotely.

Restricted Buildings: DPW Building, Fire, Rescue and Police Station, Camp Morgan Lodge.

The Town Hall is open for Tax Collector and Town Clerk transactions:

Thursday 1:00 pm to 7:00 pm, Friday 9:00 to 3:00 pm and the last Saturday of the month from 9:00 to 12:00 pm.

1. To enter the building you **must wear a mask**.
2. Inside the lobby please ring the buzzer to let us know you are here, there will be a **limit of 5 customers at a time within the building**.

Public Committee, Board, and Commission meetings:

Any essential town business can be conducted by phone or internet conference, the public will have access to all meetings via a public login and password, minutes will be recorded and posted as usual. If plans are made to adhere to social distancing guidelines and masks are worn by ALL attendees, the Secretary or Chair of the organization can request use of CML for a meeting.

Public Selectmen Meetings:

Beginning on July 2, 2020. The selectmen will hold their regular 7:00 pm meetings. The Selectmen will be meeting Thursday mornings between 9 am and Noon at the Town Hall.

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.

For Building Permits: Please download the permit from the town website and mail the completed permit to the Selectmen, or 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. Please call 495-3661 if you have any questions or need to make other arrangements for dropping off your permit. The Board will review your permit within 7 days and get back to you by phone with any questions or concerns.

Shedd Free Library

Curbside pickup:

New Hours of Operation: Tuesday 10-2 / Thursday 1-5 / Saturday 10-1

Please go to the Town's website at washingtonnh.org for additional information.

Washington Town Beach Advisory (Camp Morgan and East Washington)

Use of the beach is limited to accessing the lake for swimming

Please adhere to social distancing guidelines and do not sit or play on the beaches.

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.

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.

Police The Washington police are maintaining their usual full schedule of operations. Non-emergencies call 495-3294

The Recycling/Transfer Station will be opened at the usual hours, **the “mall” will re-open Saturday, June 27**. Please remain in your vehicles until you can pull up to the compactor to dispose of your trash. As of Wed. June 24 **Paper and cardboard will be accepted again at the recycling center**, all other recycling will continue as usual. The attendant shed is restricted to employees only.

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.

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 visit the food pantry. The privacy of all welfare clients is guarded and respected so please let us know if you need help!

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."

3.1 Jason, Angela Bouley, Tm # 24/10 requesting a building permit to place a pre-structure Reeds Ferry Shed on one's property. Tabled

3.2 Donald Ouelette, Tm # 24/101 requesting a building permit to construct a 28 X 30 two-story garage. Revane moved to approve the building permit, Marshall second all voted in favor. Permit # 20/42

3.3 John, Laurie Rankin, Tm 14/296 requesting a building permit for a previously constructed existing porch to a larger 12 X 16 (3) season porch. Tabled

3.4 Richard, Joan Bulman, Tm # 12/130 requesting a building permit to construct a 28 X 33' garage a 5 X 16' breezeway and a 3 X3' addition to the existing deck. Permit # 20/41.

3.5 Susan Nutt-Lopez Tm # 16/17 requesting a building permit to place an 8 X 12' utility shed on one's property. Tabled

4.0 APPOINTMENTS DURING THE DAY AND PREVIOUSLY:

4.1 Revane and Atkins inspected and signed off on an occupancy permit, Re: Tm # 10/36.

5.0 DEPARTMENT HEADS AND EMPLOYEE APPOINTMENTS:

5.1 Ed Thayer

5.1.1 Discussed the Camp Morgan drainage project and plans to begin work on the project sometime in July.

5.2 Chief Murdough

5.2.1 Discussed the new signage for Camp Morgan beach and discussed having a greater police presence on the property to discourage the use of the parking area and beach by non-residents.

5.2.2 Discussed a citizen complaint.

6.0 PUBLIC:

6.1 Ann Snell phoned into the Selectmen's zoom meeting with questions and concerns regarding restrictions in place at Camp Morgan Beach.

- Ann expressed how appreciative she was to the select board for their effort to keep the public safe, but she felt that the state opened up the beaches along with the bathrooms, why are our bathrooms closed?
- Schwartz explained, what we chose to do as a board was to allow people to access the lake for swimming, but asked folks not to sit or congregate on the beach. The hope was to keep gatherings to a minimum and avoid the problem of managing children's inability to adhere to social distancing guidelines. The bathrooms are not open due to the difficulty of ensuring that the small confined spaces would be safe, and nothing is in place to monitor the cleaning after each use. The board is slowly working towards getting the town back to something closer to normal and has deliberated on opening up the bathrooms at Camp Morgan. The discovery of people urinating and defecating on the Camp Morgan property forced us to test the beach for Ecoli and until the test results come back as safe to swim, the beach and bathrooms will remain closed.
- Ann was concerned if one went down there and still sat on the beach would they be fined? The board expressed there would be no fine.
- Ann mentioned she was at the CM beach before calling into the meeting and there were three vehicles in the parking lot belonging to families that were not from Washington using the beach. She asked how the town could monitor the usage of the property by people from out of town? Marshall explained that the vehicles need a transfer station sticker on the windshield to prove residency or property ownership in town. The board has since spoken with Chief Murdough requesting that the Washington Police monitor the area more frequently.

7.0 COMMUNICATIONS RECEIVED

7.1 Email from resident with one's concerns of paint chips all over the grass and road around the monument. DeFosse forward email to Steve Hanssen (Park & Rec) to look into. Per Steve, the paint chips have been cleaned up.

7.2 NH Department of Environmental Services, Re: Approval for Operation of Individual Sewage Disposal System (ISDS) Tm # 9/10.

7.3 Email, on behalf of the, (Washington Area Artisans-WAA), requesting permission to utilize the town green surrounding the Mill Pond in East Washington for their annual event that takes place the first two weekends in October.

7.4 Department of Agriculture, Markets & food, (Division of Weight and Measures Renewal) Marshall certified information provided is correct and signed.

7.5 NH Department of Transportation, Re: driveway permit giving authorization paved access to be used as a Town Road drive.

7.6 NH Department of Revenue Administration (PA-34) inventory of property transfer.

7.7 Rymes Heating and Oils, Inc. Re: Town of Washington employee fuel group pricing program.

7.8 Property transfer Survey, Tm # 14/30.

7.9 Email from Jane Card asking the select board to open up the bathrooms at Camp Morgan. DeFosse replied on behalf of the select board.

8.0 OLD BUSINESS:

8.1 Cecile Bushey requesting an extension on one's RV permit. Revane inspecting finding the RV complies with the Towns Land Use Ordinance and moves to grant an extension for 180 days while construction is continuing. Schwartz second all voted in favor.

8.2 Notice of 2019 Abatement Disposition. Re: Eversource Energy /Town of Washington. Schwartz moved to deny the requested abatement of 2019 taxes, Marshall second all voted in favor.

9.0 NEW BUSINESS:

9.1 Marshall moved to approve Ciardelli Fuel Company as the town's heating, off-road diesel, and gasoline vendor from June 30, 2020, to June 30, 2021, and for Schwartz to sign on behalf of the board. Revane second all voted in favor.

9.2 Marshall moved to approve the 2019 Abatement on Tm # 14/15, Revane second all voted in favor.

9.3 Marshall moved to approve George Sansoucy, PE, LLC to represent the Town of Washington regarding the appeal filed by Public Service Company of New Hampshire d/b/a Eversource Energy for the tax year 2018 and the abatement for 2019 anticipation to be an appeal. Revane second all voted in favor.

9.4 Revane moved to approve the abatement Notice on Tm # 14/489, Marshall second all voted in favor.

10.0 EXPENDITURES:

10.1 The Selectmen authorized payroll checks for \$ 15,994.83 and vendor checks for \$ 87,064.89 for the week of June 26, 2020.

11.0 ADJOURNMENT

11.1 Schwartz moved to adjourn at 7:35 pm and Revane second. Moved

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah DeFosse