

**Dunbarton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
August 6, 2020**

A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, August 6, 2020 at the Dunbarton Town Offices.

Board members present:

Dave Nault, Chair
Mike Kaminski, Selectman

Town Officials and others present:

Line Comeau, Town Administrator
Rene Ouellet, Town Moderator

Members of the public present:

Lee Martel recorded the meeting for the benefit of citizens that were unable to attend (Linda Nickerson uploads the videos to YouTube).

Dave Nault called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

OLD BUSINESS

Approve Minutes

Motion: by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Dave Nault to approve the regular meeting minutes of July 23, 2020 as amended.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (2-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

AGENDA ITEMS

Election Discussion

Rene Ouellet stated that he had spent a lot of time over the past couple of weeks making plans for this year's two remaining elections, trying to make sure that all proper precautions are taken to ensure compliance with social distancing requirements, and keeping everyone as safe as possible, while also following and keeping up with the many changes being made at the state level regarding rules for these elections.

PPE from Emergency Management will be available for pickup on Monday, August 17th. Fire Chief Jon Wiggin will not be available that day. **Line Comeau** added that Jon has someone he would like to nominate to go in his place. **Dave Nault** said that they were going to use the Transfer Station's truck, so they thought of appointing Ed Wooten to be the person to pick up the PPE. **Line Comeau** said that she would be able to go with him if needed.

Dave Nault asked if the Dunbarton Town Hall Restoration Committee would still be able to set up their display they normally do at the polling place. **Rene Ouellet** stated that they can come in and set up a display ahead of time, but they cannot remain with the display for the day. He suggested that they revisit the idea of having a manned table for the November election, but for September, he does not want any extra people inside the building.

Rene Ouellet would like the BoS to appoint the following people as Election Observers: Pam Milioto, Alison Vallieres and Staz Szopa.

Motion: by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Dave Nault to nominate Pam Milioto, Alison Vallieres and Staz Szopa to serve as Election Observers for a term of one year.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (2-0)

Rene Ouellet is concerned about some of the leniency they've used in terms of the duties performed by election officials. They have been somewhat liberal about it in the past, and while some of that may not matter, he wants to ensure that they are above board with things especially for the upcoming elections. He would like to look at appointing an assistant Town Moderator to assist with ballot collection, and also for Linda Landry to appoint assistant Town Clerks to assist with other election matters.

Rene Ouellet presented the BoS with a diagram of his proposed setup plan for the primary election in September. Precautions used include one-way traffic through the building, signage and guardrails to control that traffic.

Rene Ouellet stated that he fully expects to be outside for most of the day, greeting voters as they arrive, and explaining the new rules and procedures to be followed once inside. He will also be letting them know about the mask requirement.

At this time, should someone express their disdain for COVID-19 or masks, etc., this would be the time to let them know of their other options:

1. They can be handed an absentee ballot and will be allowed to vote in their car. This is not normally the way other elections have gone, but for this election, this is allowed per the NH Secretary of State.
2. If someone refuses to vote absentee or wear a mask, they would need to state that they have a disability (which in this case is fear of COVID-19). There will be a vestibule available for the person to vote in (Rene and two ballot clerks will need to be sent over to supervise while the person goes through the voting process).

Line Comeau asked if election officials would have the option of wearing face shields in place of a mask. **Rene Ouellet** stated that face shields will be available for use with a mask if someone wishes to use one, but they cannot be used in place of a mask. There will also be plexiglass barriers in place for further protection.

Dave Nault mentioned that many people may decide not to attend the primary election in September. **Rene Ouellet** stated that he made a few postings on social media through the library and through the school regarding the new election rules and procedures. He has gotten a lot of positive response and is hoping for a decent turnout. He feels that they are ready.

Discussion was held regarding election setup. They usually set up the night prior to election day, but the September election is the day after Labor Day. **Rene Ouellet** said he will talk to the school to see if they could possibly set up on Friday.

Mike Kaminski voiced concerns that certain areas of the proposed setup do not provide for enough spacing. **Rene Ouellet** suggested that they keep their options open, and if they feel they need more space as they set up, then they can expand things.

TOWN BUSINESS

Mailbox Items

Dave Nault shared the following correspondence received since the last meeting:

- Building Department update: they have received 3 permit applications for new houses, and 2 for accessory buildings. Continuing follow-up on the concrete ballast for the solar panels which has cracked.
- Transfer Station update: working on quote for parking lot lighting. Cross-training is occurring for the two employees that are taking on additional responsibilities. Supervisor Woody Bowne is doing more trucking, and Ed Wooten has been running things in his place. No issues during the storm last week.
- Email from Amy Smagula stating that no regrowth of milfoil has been detected in Gorham Pond this year, and other native plants are doing well.
- NHDOT highway block grant received in the amount of \$102,788. **Dave Nault** noted that it was encouraging to see that come in a above what they had budgeted for.
- Email **to** the Assessor regarding a complaint **from a resident** about current use regulations, and people running 4-wheelers along the power lines. The Assessor will be checking into those regulations and will follow up on the matter.
- Complaints from two property owners regarding some forestry work **being** done to prepare the garden area for the students on the property of the elementary school. **One abutter was concerned** about water damage to their property by **any potential** runoff. A representative from the **State Forestry Division visited the site**, and **wrote back that** because it is a flat stable surface, **that he did** not feel that there is potential for runoff to be an issue. **Dave Nault also stated that** there were also concerns regarding some of the smaller trees that were taken down **on a separate abutting lot**. **Dave Nault stated that he would** be reviewing the property line **with that owner** on Sunday to address those concerns.
- **The Town receive a copy of a** rebuttal letter from Tom **Corrado** 259 Stark Highway N **to DES regarding a complaint** filed from a few weeks **prior**.
- Vacation request for Line Comeau (approved).
- **Dave Nault** received a call from Dunbarton Telephone, letting him know that all the state paperwork and necessary permits for the installation of lines for internet service on Gorham Pond Road have been signed and completed. He **offered** his kudos to the 2 women that came in to raise their concerns and start things going on this. He did not expect it to turn around as quickly as it did.

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

Mike Kaminski said that there are less than 50 unlicensed dogs in town, and Police Chief Sklut is working with an employee in the town office to get the official complaints prepared and served to those dog owners. He also offered kudos to the fire and police departments for their response and efforts on clearing the roads with downed trees and power lines in the recent storms.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Dave Nault to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

Dave Nault, Chair

Mike Kaminski, Selectman