

**Dunbarton Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes
October 1, 2020**

A meeting of the Dunbarton Board of Selectmen (BoS) was held on Thursday, October 1, 2020 at the Dunbarton Town Offices.

Board members present:

Dave Nault, Chair
Mike Kaminski, Selectman
Bob Martel, Selectman

Town Officials and others present:

Line Comeau, Town Administrator
Linda Landry, Town Clerk

Members of the public present:

Tom Cusano, Dunbarton Garden Club
Don Larsen, Dunbarton Garden Club

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 Bob Martel to approve the regular meeting minutes of September 17, 2020 as amended.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0).

PUBLIC COMMENT

None.

AGENDA ITEMS

Trustee Appointment

The BoS reviewed a request to appoint Linda Gray as an alternate to the Cemetery Trustees.

Motion: by Mike Kaminski, seconded by Bob Martel to appoint Linda Gray as an alternate cemetery trustee for the town of Dunbarton.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0).

Signing of Warrant for General Election

➤ The BoS signed the warrant for the General Election.

Town Clerk Linda Landry reported that she has mailed close to 300 absentee ballots today, and just this week has registered at least 12 people to vote. She thanks Donna White for her assistance in helping to organize the packets to make it easier for her and Hope to process the requests. As of this morning, they have received 401 absentee ballot requests.

Salt Bid for 2020-2021

The DOT has awarded the salt bid for 2020-2021 to Granite State Minerals at \$49.50 per ton.

Motion: by Dave Nault, seconded by Mike Kaminski to accept the bid for road salt from Granite State Minerals for \$49.50 per ton for the 2020-2021 winter season.

Discussion: none.

Vote: (3-0).

Selectmen Meeting Schedule

Dave Nault proposed that they remain on their schedule every other week schedule through October, meaning they would not meet on October 8th or 22nd.

- **After some discussion, the BoS agreed that they would continue to meet every other week in October. The other meetings they will hold this month will occur on 10/15 and 10/29.**

Halloween Event Request

Tom Cusano approached the BoS to discuss the Dunbarton Garden Club's request to hold a community Halloween event at the Town Common on Saturday October 31st from 5 to 7 p.m.

Mr. Cusano stated that they are looking for guidance from the BoS regarding plans for Halloween. Their idea is to have a socially distanced event that would consist of appropriately spaced "candy stations" that would be comprised of long tables with candy set out at one end for the kids to take. As the amounts of candy dwindle, they can begin to set more out at the other end of the table and then clean and disinfect surfaces of the first end with disposable wipes. This would keep it a no-contact event. They would request that everyone wear masks and even gloves.

Dave Nault opened the matter for discussion, stating that they have reviewed guidelines from the NHMA, the CDC, as well as the plans of surrounding areas. He would like to develop a letter or news release to send out to the town as well regarding what they decide upon for Halloween plans.

Lee Martel asked if there were going to be people designated to monitor the stations and ensure that everyone is adhering to social distancing and sanitizing guidelines. **Mr. Cusano** stated that they would. He added that they are looking to have the event run from 4:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. to try and keep things from running until after dark.

Bob Martel raised concerns about social distancing and the nature of children in general, noting that at many of the town events, there are kids running around everywhere with little parental control. And many of them will likely not want to wear masks, preferring the ones they have for their costumes. The town has had a low rate of Covid so far, but he is concerned that it will not

take a lot to change that. He also noted that they don't know how many people from out of town will show up as well. **Mike Kaminski** added that if they hold something in the center of town, that really opens it up to people from all over the state. Residents of towns that do not have activities planned would be drawn to Dunbarton to participate.

Don Larsen referenced a recent outdoor movie night held in September that the Garden Club sponsored with the PTO that went very well, noting that families were able to keep their kids with them in their own areas. He also stated that he had done a survey on the town Facebook page that received a lot of comments from people that want to do something for the kids.

Bob Martel said that this is a very different type of event from the movie night, reiterating that kids have a hard time social distancing. He applauds the fact that the Garden Club has stepped forward in the absence of a Recreation Committee, but he is concerned with the timing and does not feel that it is an appropriate event to hold at this time. **Mike Kaminski** agreed, saying that people stayed mostly in or around their cars at the movie night, but that kids would be more apt to want to run around with their friends at this event.

Lee Martel suggested that they encourage local neighborhood trick-or-treat events.

Dave Nault said that he read a lot of the comments on the Facebook survey that Mr. Larsen mentioned. He noted that there are some older people that reside near the common area that may not want 300 kids at their doorstep. His thought is to label whatever they decide upon as a town event, to indicate that it is for town residents. **Bob Martel** does not feel that it will discourage people from out of town from showing up. **Mr. Nault** agreed, but thought it would at least limit it somewhat.

Mike Kaminski stated that while he really does not want to cancel events, he cannot support sanctioning a crowd gathering on town property at this time. He supports the idea that events be limited to neighborhoods. **Dave Nault** pointed out that there are a lot of people that live on a main road that aren't really a part of a small neighborhood. **Bob Martel** really does not mind if residents decide to go trick-or-treating or hand out candy from their homes. If people don't wish to participate, they can keep their light off and not participate. But he does not feel that a town-sponsored event is a good idea this year.

Don Larsen suggested something could be held on school property instead, which is something that the PTO had been considering. That way it would only be the kids in town that would be attending. **Bob Martel** said that he doesn't have a problem if the school decides to do something. It is their decision to make and their kids they are making plans for. But as a town official, he can not support encouraging a crowd to congregate on the common at this time. **Dave Nault** agreed that if the school decided to sponsor an event, then that is their choice. **Mike Kaminski** concurred, stating that there would likely be better oversight and protocols in place to keep the kids safer in that setting.

Mike Kaminski said that they have no current cases in town, but that is not the case in the surrounding communities. When you open up the center of town and encourage people to gather in one spot, that is increasing the likelihood of an outbreak.

Line Comeau referred to a newsletter they received that includes safety guidelines and a listing of the risk levels of certain Halloween-related activities. Traditional door-to-door trick or treating is considered a higher-risk activity in contracting Covid-19. She suggested that the letter that they would like to release to the town needs to be worded in a way that conveys that they are participating in activities at their own risk. **Dave Nault** suggested that they can use some of the safety and prevention guidelines that Goffstown included in their letter and issue a news release to the town stating that they are going to have Halloween trick-or-treating around town.

Line Comeau confirmed with the BoS that the news release should state that Halloween trick-or-treating will be held from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. on October 31, 2020 and include information on safety guidelines for activities. **Mike Kaminski** suggested she reach out to Chief Sklut to see if there is any information he would like included. **Dave Nault** added that it should be mentioned that no town-sponsored event will be held on the common this year. **Tom Cusano** suggested they include information about safer methods of candy distribution as well.

TOWN BUSINESS

Mailbox Items

Dave Nault shared the following mailbox items received since the last meeting:

- Notice from Central NH Regional Planning requesting ideas for road design projects they would like to complete. Discussion occurred regarding some guardrails that need replacing.
- Minutes from the last Town Hall Restoration Committee meeting. **Dave Nault** stated that they will be putting out a notice to the public that there will be a quorum of Selectmen in attendance at these meetings. **Mike Kaminski** said that he would **like** the BoS to go on record stating that any decisions regarding town business will not be made by the selectmen at these meetings but brought back to the following BoS meeting for discussion and/or action. **There was a consensus by the Board.**
 - New drawings and pricing were discussed. **Mike Kaminski** asked if they will be looking to bring anything before the voters. **Dave Nault** replied that they haven't decided anything yet, but they don't feel that this will be a good year for that because of the limitations upon their ability to hold public hearings.
 - Building Department Update: There are 9 new homes currently under construction in Dunbarton. Building Inspector Mike Cumings again raised concerns about the snow sliding off the slate roof of the library this upcoming winter. They discussed a little fence/barrier to keep people far enough away from the building. Line Comeau noted that they do put up a snow fence each year, attached to the handicap rail, but she is not sure that it is enough. The BoS will revisit this as they get closer to winter.
- Blistering paint at the library: **Line Comeau** will contact the painter Don Tuttle to repair some of the paint that is blistering near the rear entrances.
- Write up from Conneston Construction regarding the structural renovations they recently did at the town hall. **Line Comeau** said that she took a copy of it for the Town Report.

- **Line Comeau** received a fraudulent email that appeared to come from Dave Nault regarding Google Pay gift cards. She forwarded it to the BoS and to Chris Remillard at the police department who forwarded it to the Internet Crimes Complaint Center.
- **Line Comeau** received some funding from the State of NH Municipal Aid. It is over \$10,000, so there needs to be a public hearing held on it. They will be holding that hearing on October 15th. **Mike Kaminski** would like to know why they are receiving this money, and what restrictions there are for its use. **Line Comeau** said that she has contacted their representative at the Department of Revenue, and they are working on gathering information on what it is for and which towns received how much. If they choose to accept the funds, they can apply it to this year's revenue to reduce the tax rate or they can include it with their revenues for next year.

BOARD MEMBER ISSUES

Line Comeau said that she is currently still working with and training their new Payroll and A/P Secretary. She is working with her on Sundays and Monday evenings and is hoping that she will be available during the daytime hours very soon.

Mike Kaminski would like to thank Dan and Judy VanKalken for extending the placement of sod on their property to out in front of the Town Pound. He said that it looks great.

Bob Martel looked to see if there was a footing under the steps in front of the town hall. There is something there, but he is not sure of the material at this time, so he will be returning to investigate further. **Mike Kaminski** recommended that he should take some pictures to include with the bid request.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: by Mike Kaminski seconded by Bob Martel to adjourn the meeting.
Meeting adjourned at 8:06 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer King, Recording Secretary

David Nault, Chair

Michael Kaminski, Selectman

Robert Martel, Selectman