

**Newport Selectboard
Meeting Minutes
October 9, 2024 @ 6:00PM**

Present:

Town Manager, Jim Ricker

Deputy Clerk, Kathleen Kemp

Selectboard: Chair Donna Berry, Vice Chair Bruce Clarke, Adam Russell, Andrew Colford via Zoom, Mark Sawyer

Guests:

P.J. and Derek Laney

David Wintle: Town of Newport Chief of Police

Diane Briggs: Newport Cultural Center

Debra Ricker: Newport Noel

Kim Donaldson: Newport Economic Development

Tristan Wing: Ambassador for Newport

Maxine Pare, Planning Board

1. Call to Order: D. Berry called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access: None

3. Consent Agenda:

a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 09-18-24: D. Berry asked for a motion to accept the minutes, B. Clarke so moved, M. Sawyer seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Communications

- 1. MDOT Meeting:** D. Berry and B. Clarke represented the Town and attended the meeting discussing the new bridge, Dysart's, and the roundabout. There will be many more discussions for the 2025-2026 project.
- 2. Waste Management increases to \$84.43 per ton:** This goes into effect January 2025.
- 3. Newport Noel:** Deb Ricker explained the holiday events for Newport: NCC Trees and Parade, Economic Development Jingle Bell Shop, and the American Legion's Night Out Shopping. The Newport Noel Team would like to provide trees to our local businesses to be decorated with their products. They would also have tickets available. Newport Noel is looking for donations of trees to place in the area businesses. Diane Briggs explained that the parade will be held on December 1st, RSU 19 students will decorate the trees, and Santa and Mrs. Claus will be visiting with snacks. The Cultural Center works with RSU 19 on the Giving Tree. Kim Donaldson with Newport Economic Development Committee are focusing on the businesses in Town. An area business will be highlighted monthly to grow interest and attract employees. A Craft and Draft Day is planned for June 2025 on the Riverwalk presenting local Breweries and Wine. Crafters will be on Main and Middle Streets. Other Committee activities include: Quarterly after hours business networking, Team Up/Clean Up in the Spring, Engaging in the school system to attract the younger generation, assisting this effort is our Student Ambassador,

Tristan Wing. We've worked with the Dexter Vocational School on videos of the Town Businesses being uploaded to YouTube and FaceBook. The Committee is presently engaging an artist to work with them to make a map of the Town businesses. D. Berry stated that the Board can support with trees. If businesses can't do a tree, they will provide gift certificates. The tickets will be 5 for \$1.00. Also if the resident buys something in the business they will get free tickets. K. Donaldson said that we need to expand, more faces, more engagement. D. Ricker would appreciate volunteers and time.

4. Old Business

- a. **Final paving schedule:** This will be completed next week for two locations on Grove St. and one on Camp Benson Rd.
- b. **2023/24 Audit Report:** The Board has been provided with a copy to review.

5. New Business

a. **Speed zone reduction requests:**

- 1. **Golf Course Rd:** Chief Wintle recommends the speed limit be changed to 35 mph.
- 2. **Elm Street:** This is a state road so Chief Wintle will recommend 25 mph to the state.
- 3. **Grove Street:** Grove St. is already posted at 25 mph, it was discussed that the speed should be dropped to 15 mph when children are present, maybe assign hours to the 15 mph limit. There was also a discussion regarding a possible speed bump in the area where children are playing. There are monies available and DOT has a standard to follow. There was a concern for low vehicles, however, it would be a small table with signage/lights. D. Berry asked for a motion to post the Golf Course Road at 35 mph, A. Russell so moved, B. Clarke seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

- b. **Intersection of Golf Course / Camp Benson reconfiguration:** Chief Wintle reported two issues: 1. Not stopping at stop sign 2. The configuration needs to be changed. The Laney's described the issues that they have seen with the present configuration. The Town Manager suggested a T Intersection which can mostly be done by the Town's Public Works Department. B. Clarke asked for a motion to have a feasibility study done on the area for a T Intersection and stop sign, A. Russell so moved, D. Berry seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

- c. **Code Enforcement Officer:** The Town Manager announced that an offer has been made to a candidate with excellent references, contingent upon passing the physical. He will start on 10/21 and work Monday's, Tuesday's, and Wednesday's. This will affect the long-term budget, however, additional monies can be requested at the special Town Meeting. The Board agrees and can justify the addition.

- d. **Public Hearing: Liquor license request c/o Jeffrey Parkins dba Newport Diner:** Continued to 10/16/24 Meeting.

6. **Warrant:** D. Berry motioned to approve the warrant, B. Clarke so moved, A. Russell seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

- 7. Adjourn:** D. Berry motioned to adjourn the meeting, B. Clarke so moved, A. Russell seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Next Meeting: Wednesday, 10/16/24 at 5:30 pm, workshop at 6:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Kemp

Kathleen Kemp, Deputy Clerk