

**Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Agenda
September 11, 2024 @ 6:00 PM**

Present:

Town Manager, James Ricker

Deputy Clerk, Kathleen Kemp

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

Guests:

Maxine Pare, Planning Board

Kerry Carsley, Planning Board

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

a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access: K. Carsley discussed the issue of off premise signs in Town and the need to clean them up. D. Berry inquired about protocols of the ordinance. The Town Manager explained that these types of signs are not authorized and should be removed and disposed of.

M. Pare stated that she's glad that the gates are open. She also noted that the Lake Association has voted to provide funds for educational purposes and has requested to add information to the Town's website. The Town Manager stated that there is presently a section on the website dedicated to the lake and can be used for the monthly updates that the Association would like to submit. M. Pare stated that the Association will be holding "Lake Days" for the younger school children to learn about the lake.

3. Consent Agenda

a. Approval of minutes from meeting held 8-21-24: D. Berry made a motion to accept the minutes, B. Clarke so moved, M. Sawyer seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

b. Communications

1. Sanitary District: The Town Manager provided the Board with the request of appointments for three Sanitary District Members, identified as L. Merrithew, Dennis Dow, and Vern Palmer. The appointments are for a period of one year. D. Berry made a motion to make the appointments, B. Clarke so moved, A. Colford seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

2. DOT/Rte. 100 Bridge/Dysart's: Upcoming Meeting, scheduled date/time TBD. The Town Manager will provide the Board with information as soon as it becomes available.

4. Old Business

a. ARPA funds expenditure recommendations: The Town Manager provided the Board with updated information on the Electronic Sign/Unlighted Town Sign and the PD copier purchase price with service contract. The Board has agreed to go forward with both items. D. Berry made a motion to purchase the items, B. Clarke so moved, A. Russell seconded, all in favor, motion carried. The Town Manager noted that the remaining ARPA Funds must be committed by December 31st.

- b. 2024 Sebasticook Lake drawdown:** The drawdown started on Monday, September 9, 2024. The full process should take approximately two and a half weeks. A. Colford inquired about a guideline/timeline for when a drawdown would occur as he stated that some residents have issue with the time of the year that the drawdown starts. D. Berry explained that the Board has authorized the Lake Association to make the decision of the drawdown as needed. M. Pare also explained that the decision date is made according to a scientific formula based on data. D. Berry further explained that the Watershed Presentation provided by the scientists was very informative and explained all information in detail. A. Russell asked if the Board could be added to the Lake Association emails to keep apprised of the processes regarding the Lake. A. Colford restated/requested that the drawdown be later as the weather has been good for lake activities. The Town Manager explained the importance of O2 levels which are a predictor of the drawdown. B. Clarke stated that the weather as of late is unusual. The Town Manager suggested that the Board become more involved by attending the Lake drawdown meetings in order to properly inform the public.

5. New Business

- a. Discussion of a Moratorium regarding houseboats on Lake Sebasticook:** K. Carsley brought the concern of “Floating Camps” mooring in front of people’s camps, homes, and properties. He explained with no ordinances, Harbor Master, etc. this can be done anywhere, anytime. K. Carsley requested a Moratorium to prevent “Floating Camps” until the State provides guidelines and ordinances. He asked that we get this instituted before ice out to prevent any issues. B. Clarke stated that this has been a huge issue in other Towns and that they are trying to do the same. B. Clarke has researched this issue and explained that there are many facets to this and that we need to be sure to close all loopholes. In another Town a “Floating Camp” became an Air B&B. K. Carsley asked if we could have a Moratorium stating no Houseboats or “Floating Camps”. The Town Manager stated that he would confer with the Town Attorney to provide the language and structure for the Moratorium and Ordinance. D. Berry made a motion to: research existing criteria, contact the Town Attorney, add this Moratorium to the Town Meeting, and to call for a public hearing, A. Russell so moved, B. Clarke seconded, all in favor, motion carried. The Town Manager asked M. Pare if the Lake Association would be willing to share the costs incurred. M. Pare will discuss with the Lake Association Treasurer. K. Carsley asked if there was going to be a workshop regarding this matter, could he be a part of it as he has 30+ years of experience on the Planning Board. B. Clarke stated that was a good idea considering K. Carsley’s experience. It was agreed that a workshop session will take place with both Boards on 9-18-24 @ 6:00 PM to discuss this issue with the Select Board meeting commencing @ 5:30PM.
- b. 2024 Paving Expenses:** The Town Manager explained that we still have \$89,222 left for paving. He also stated that we only received one complaint regarding a driveway pitch. The Pavers will need to go back and correct the affected area. The Town Manager and Board discussed the standards regarding driveways. D. Berry asked what we could do to address the issue and stated that we should. The Town Manager explained that the area would need to be ground down and paved in back into the existing drive approximately 6 feet at a cost of approximately \$1200-1500. A. Colford made a motion to fix the driveway to the best of our ability, M. Sawyer seconded, all in favor, motion carried. A. Colford inquired about Grove St. where the water crosses. The Town Manager said that he would ask the Public Works Department to look at it. D. Berry commented that the quality of the paving job was much better this year.

- c. **Triple E Virus:** The Town Manager stated that the CDC reported two emu's and one horse tested positive for the Triple E Virus in the Town of Newport. Educational information will be uploaded to the Town website providing guidelines and precautions. D. Berry asked if there was anything that we needed to do. The Town Manager stated that we need to continue to educate the public.
- d. **Consolidated Communications Pole permits:** The Town Manager explained that new utility poles are needed on the Palmer Road. Board signatures are required for the permit. D. Berry made a motion to sign the permit, B. Clarke so moved, A. Colford seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

6. **Warrant:** There is no warrant for this meeting.

7. **Adjourn:** D. Berry made a motion to adjourn the meeting, B. Clarke so moved, A. Colford seconded, all in favor, motion carried.

Respectfully submitted,

Kathleen Kemp

Kathleen Kemp, Deputy Clerk