

Newport Selectboard
Regular Meeting Minutes
September 7, 2022 @ 6:30 PM
Newport Town Office Meeting Room

Present: Town Manager: James Ricker
Selectboard:
Chair: Kate Rush, Vice Chair: Donna Berry
Bruce Clarke, Adam Russell, Andrew Colford

1. Call to Order

a. Pledge of allegiance

2. Public Access - K. Rush opened the floor for anyone to speak if they stated name and address with a 2 minute time limit to address any concerns.

-12 Newport residents listed below voiced concerns for and against the annual lake drawdown.

Nick Arena, 356 Durham Bridge Rd
Janet Ellsworth, 32 Levelful Lane
Tony King, 96 Grove St
Bob Ellsworth, 32 Levelful Lane
Mark Carney, 49 Corrie Rd
Ben Ayer, 185 Kitchen Hill Rd
Pat Demos, Durham Bridge Rd
Abby Arena, 356 Druham Bridge Rd
Ann Bullitt, 92 Grove St.
Brian Wilson, 76 Penobscot Dr.
Don Gross, 29 Cedar Dr.
Allen Whitaker, 113 Maplewood Dr.

Water Regulation Committee members also gave data and test results:

Maxine Pare, Debbie Ferrell, Emily Parker

3. Consent Agenda

- a. Approval of minutes from meeting held August 17, 2022
Motion to approve minutes by D. Berry, seconded by A. Russell, all in favor, motion carried.
- b. Communications
Mr. Ricker previously sent email to Board addressing 3 proposed members, Don Gross, Allen Whitaker, James Seavey, looking to join Water Regulation Committee making the total 13 members. K. Rush replied that Board will revisit in May when members are appointed annually.

4. Old Business - None

5. New Business

a. 2022 Lake drawdown

K. Rush and A. Russell stated for the Board how grateful they were for all the dedicated hard work the Water Regulation Committee has done over the years bringing the water quality to where it is today. This is all volunteer work by educated people who use expertise to understand complicated data. They have tirelessly collected samples throughout the season to add to existing and past years' data to make educated decisions for the future of the lake. On 8/23 at 5pm the Water Regulation Committee had their meeting and made their unanimous decision using all this data to conduct the drawdown on 9/6.

A. Russell inquired to the specific data from the recent season samples where Allen Whitaker addressed the Board. Mr. Whitaker has been appointed by the Committee to do the testing every 2 weeks. Mr. Whitaker said the current readings are 1.85 meters. The visibility has decreased significantly in the past 3 weeks. Algae blooms start in readings 2.0 or less. In the beginning of June, the readings were 3.30. He also stated last year the readings were worse, for example they were below 2.0 all through the month of August. This data is also available to residents and meetings are always open to the public.

A. Colford stated the quality of the lake has become much worse since he has brought up his concerns on regarding the drawdown, but he feels this is always a gamble and can be different every year. A. Colford made a motion to make the final decision on the drawdown date to go back to the Selectboard and not be with the Water Regulation Committee.

K. Rush clarified the Board has delegated these tasks to the Water Regulation Committee for the last 20 years due to their knowledge and expertise and she trusts their decision-making abilities. Further discussion was had and the remaining 4 Board members agreed with Ms. Rush and the motion was not seconded.

A. Colford then requested a roll call vote, where he voted in favor and all others against in having the Selectboard make the drawdown date decision. The drawdown date will remain the decision of the Water Regulation Committee going forward.

After much discussion by the Selectboard, Water Regulation Committee and Newport Residents it was agreed upon that the drawdown would commence the following day, 9/8/2022.

b. WC Insurance premium projected costs

1. RFP for 2023

Mr. Ricker said that our MOD factor for WC insurance has increased from .69 to 2.1 this year. This could result in significant increases during 2023. He has sent RFP to MEMIC this year as well as our current carrier, MMA. We should more information by mid November.

b. Consideration of lateral benefits transfer for EMS / FIRE / POLICE

Due to the competitive climate of attracting new certified staffing, Mr. Ricker would like to offer prospective employees transfer of existing vacation time from previous employment. This would only apply to EMS/Fire/Police individuals who have to maintain their own certifications. Motion on floor by D. Berry to approve, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

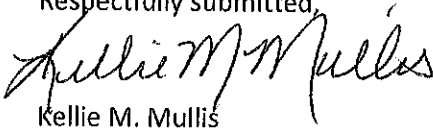
6. Warrant

Motion to approve warrant by D. Berry, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor, motion carried.

7. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn at 7:47 pm by K. Rush, seconded by B. Clarke, all in favor. Meeting adjourned.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kellie M. Mullis". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial "K".

Kellie M. Mullis
Municipal Clerk