



**TOWN OF NORTH HAMPTON, NEW HAMPSHIRE
NORTH HAMPTON SELECT BOARD MEETING**

MAY 20, 2020 10:00 AM

NORTH HAMPTON TOWN HALL

Approved June 8, 2020

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Jim Maggiore, Vice Chairman James Sununu, Selectman Larry Miller

ALSO PRESENT: Interim Town Administrator Michael Tully, Police Chief Kathryn Mone

AGENDA

Chairman Jim Maggiore welcomed everyone to the May 20, 2020 North Hampton Select Board Meeting and called the meeting to order at 10:00 am, followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Maggiore said the purpose of this meeting is to discuss the New Hampshire Guidance for Seacoast Phase I. He said he received a phone call from Senator Tom Sherman about this reopening guide being circulated to the 5 Seacoast communities on a plan for what each community might be able to implement once the beaches are open.

First Public Comment Session

Call 603-758-1447 for Public Comments or access via Zoom

NEW BUSINESS

4.1 Review of Correspondence Received Regarding Re-Opening of Beaches

Chairman Maggiore said the correspondence was from John Nyhan of the Reopening Task Force asking that the Board review it and provide comments. Vice-Chair Sununu said what they are proposing would be pretty straightforward from the Town's perspective. Selectman Miller said Chief Mone is responsible for security on the State Beach, and asked her about keeping parking at 50% capacity.

Disclaimer –These minutes are prepared by the Recording Secretary within five (5) business days as required by NH RSA 91-A:2, II. They will not be finalized until approved by majority vote of the Select Board.

A recording of the meeting can be found at: http://www.townhallstreams.com/towns/north_hampton_nh, and a DVD recording is available at the North Hampton Town Administrative Offices, 233 Atlantic Avenue, North Hampton, New Hampshire 03862.

Police Chief Kathryn Mone said the Parks Department would divide the spaces in the parking lot with the State would responsible for enforcement there, and that Town spots would not be affected. Selectman Miller said the State would then maintain the lot spaces and Chief Mone would enforce compliance. Chief Mone said the State has a plan that people would reserve the limited spots. Vice-Chair Sununu said he understood that half of the parking spaces in the lot will be physically blocked, and Chief Mone reiterated that those spaces would need to be reserved.

Selectman Miller said no dropping off will be permitted and asked how that would be enforced. Chief Mone said she would ask the Board for things the Police Department might need to do if the Board decides to endorse this. She said they are actively fielding calls with questions already and calls would probably increase with people citing offenders. She said it would be a challenge manpower-wise, and they are looking to do some scheduling changes to watch for violations and deal with complaints.

Police Chief Mone said State Police had been helping with enforcement on Route 1A and hopefully the Town could recoup Federal funding if they need to hire officers, or hire a parking enforcement person. She said she would like some coordination on how violations would be enforced and having Park Staff enforcing would be critical to the plan. She said communications for Route 1A transition to the next phase are critical, as well as making sure those conversations happen before any recommendations for Phase II.

Chairman Maggiore asked Chief Mone about any changes she might make to the language in the document. Vice-Chair Sununu said North Hampton has the most clear-cut scenario of all the towns, and the document covers everything. He said Chief Mone can document things the Board needs to request from the State, and determine what they would anticipate in terms of manpower or resources ahead of this. Selectman Miller said Chief Mone would want a minimum of someone to monitor the compliance with parking not in the State lots. He said they are not going to allow parking on any side roads so they are talking about someone working fulltime; the Town does not have that person and it can't be a Police Officer.

Police Chief Mone said she would expect a parking enforcement person, either someone working overtime for us or an outside person paid a Detail rate by the Town. Selectman Miller said they could only give tickets to enforce, and Chief Mone said they could also do towing and mark the area as a tow zone which would still require a parking enforcement person. Chairman Maggiore said the document says "appropriate signage" would be needed; Chief Mone said if the State is planning coordination does that mean they will provide additional signage and resources; when they say "coordinated effort with town safety officials" they need to be more specific so she will know who is going to reach out to her to coordinate that.

Selectman Miller said they are asking that the Town make sure no buses come by to drop people off, but they cannot stop people walking in. So they have two things, no buses and prevent people from parking on roadways. He said the Town does not have the tools or the manpower, they do not have the money, and it is not their responsibility, and he will not say "yes" to this until they know how they are going to do it. Chairman Maggiore said he is comfortable saying that the Board has questions about the document and would like those questions answered.

Chairman Maggiore asked Chief Mone if she was planning on sending comments to Mr. Nyhan about signage, staff, enforcement, and parking. Chief Mone said if the Board wanted to let her know what standards they could meet and what the compromise is, but she would not want the other towns to move

forward and find North Hampton had abstained. If the residents want the beach open would that hold without us or her putting forward criteria that we are all conscionable with having the beach opened; or if the Board wanted to tell her what kinds of money or allowances or changes they are interested in looking at in order to be supportive of opening the beach at some point, or at what point the Town would be ready to say yes this will work for us or will not work unless you give us certain supports.

Selectman Miller asked Chief Mone what she needed to do the job of maintaining compliance with no parking on Route 1A or side streets, making sure buses do not drop people off, and how many man-hours she would need for that and how much signage will cost. He said the Town does not have the staff, the money in the Budget, nor the means to shut off the flow of people. Chairman Maggiore said if they could put that summary together for the Reopening Task Force that is what they are looking for, and they could get it to them by the end of the day. He said they do not need a vote, otherwise they might be held responsible for enforcing something they cannot.

Police Chief Mone asked if there would be a point when the Board would be willing to support extra expenditures if this moves through despite their efforts; Selectman Miller said not for him. Vice-Chair Sununu said if the State controls the opening of the beach and says the beach is open, they will have to figure out how to enforce the best they can, which may require an expense. Chairman Maggiore said they need to hire a person at "x" number of hours to do this and who is going to pay for that; if they say the Town of North Hampton it would come back to the Board for a vote to say they do not have the capacity to enforce these rules; then come up with a policy and have a practical discussion about that.

Chairman Maggiore asked Chief Mone to put something together and send it to John Nyhan, with a copy to the Select Board. He said Senator Sherman is calling tomorrow morning and he will express the concerns of the Board.

Any other Item that may Legally Come before the Board

Second Public Comment Session

Call 603-758-1447 for Public Comments or access via Zoom

Adjournment

Chairman Maggiore adjourned the meeting at 10:28 am.

Respectfully submitted,

Patricia Denmark, Recording Secretary