

**TOWN OF EATON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03832**

**EVANS MEMORIAL BUILDING**

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**May 15, 2020**

A duly-noticed meeting of the Board of Selectmen took place on Friday, May 15, 2020 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 am.

As Chair of the Board of Selectmen, Dick Fortin found that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

There is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, Chairman Fortin confirmed public access to the meeting via Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and participate in this meeting by clicking on the following website address <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/9569071146>.

Notice was given to the public of the necessary information for accessing the meeting. Instructions have also been provided on the Town website at [eatonnh.org](http://eatonnh.org). If anyone has a problem accessing the scheduled Selectman meeting, please call 603-447-2840. In the event that the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled.

Dick Fortin started the meeting by taking roll call attendance: Dick Fortin (Holly Fortin, Simon Fortin and Aida Greenough in the room), Ed Reilly (no one else in the room) and Joyce Blue (no one else in the room). Dick Fortin noted that all votes taken during this meeting will be done by roll call vote.

The Board reviewed the options to be discussed with NHDOT regarding the sharp corner on Route 153. Joyce Blue noted that rumble strips should not be considered because of the noise. Ed Reilly noted that he has been in favor of the four-way stop but would like to hear from Sheriff Richardi. Dick Fortin stated that additional signage should also be considered and that the current signs at the Little White Church are obstructed by vegetation. Dick Fortin also noted that reflective material should be placed on the guardrail at the Wescott residence. Joyce Blue suggested a speed bump in the area of the Store to slow traffic in that area.

The Board discussed the beach opening on Memorial Day weekend. Joyce Blue made a motion, seconded by Ed Reilly, to send out a mailing and include one guest pass to those residents who obtained them last year. ***Motion unanimously carried by roll call vote (Dick Fortin-Yes, Ed Reilly-Yes, Joyce Blue-Yes).***

NHDOT Assistant Commissioner Bill Cass, NHDOT District 3 Engineer Alan Hanscom, NHDOT Assistant Traffic Engineer Lee Baronas, Senator Jeb Bradley and Carroll County Sheriff Dominic Richardi joined the meeting to discuss the sharp corner on Route 153. Dick Fortin stated that the Selectmen are in favor of considering the four-way stop and would like more input before making a final decision.

Bill Cass stated that an advantage is that a stop sign slows the traffic and that a disadvantage is that all traffic stops. Bill Cass noted that he would like to make sure all abutters are made aware of the change to the intersection and shared pictures of the temporary curbing that would be installed for a trial period. Alan Hanscom noted that the current signage would be relocated to allow for the stop signs and warnings. Dick Fortin questioned whether there is typically an increase in accidents until drivers become familiar with the change. Alan Hanscom noted that there are not a lot of four-way stops on State highways but that temporary signs will be used to alert drivers to the change in traffic patterns.

Sheriff Richardi explained that he has watched the traffic at the corner and noted that a change in signage indicating the way to Conway would reduce the number of confused drivers and suggested removing the signs to the two side roads. Dick Fortin stated that the Board would like to proceed with the temporary four-way stop and to assess the effectiveness before making any permanent changes. Ed Reilly noted that the change in signage should also take place.

Bill Cass stated that temporary rumble strips can also be installed. Dick Fortin stated that the concern is noise. Bill Cass explained that a plan will be put together and that it will take 4 to 6 weeks to implement and that residents need to be made aware of the proposal. A Public Meeting will be held on June 2<sup>nd</sup> at 2 pm to inform the public of the proposed change; abutters will be notified of the meeting. The items to be presented include: temporary four-way stop with curbing, change in signage to add "Conway" with an arrow, removal of Glines Hill and Ridge Road signs. Bill Cass stated that he will have to verify that the Glines Hill and Ridge Road signs can be removed.

Bill Cass stated that the request for a speed bump will have to be researched. Alan Hanscom noted that he has received requests for a speed bump but none have ever been installed on a State road. Dick Fortin questioned whether a traffic flow issue will be created because of the stops. Sheriff Richardi stated that during the summer peak traffic times, traffic will back up in the Village. Alan Hanscom recommended adding a "Use Directional" sign to the stop sign, which should help with the traffic flow.

Dick Fortin questioned the box culvert construction project near the beach. Alan Hanscom noted that it is most likely a bridge maintenance project and is not aware of the schedule.

Joyce Blue explained that the Little White Church is exploring the possibility of purchasing property for a parking area and questioned whether a sidewalk could be installed in front of the cemetery. Alan Hanscom noted that NHDOT can provide guidance but it is a private project. Bill Cass noted that the sidewalk should be kept away from the road and drainage and installed immediately in front of the cemetery wall.

Ed Reilly thanked Bill Cass for the reduction in the speed limit through the Village. Ed Reilly explained that there are still issues and questioned whether anything further can be done to reduce the speed of traffic. Bill Cass noted that the area does not lend itself to a crosswalk and noted that cars parked on both sides of the road should be a natural speed reducer. Joyce Blue questioned the possibility of a pedestrian crossing sign. Bill Cass stated that a sign for pedestrian activity can be further discussed.

Bill Cass noted that he will provide an agenda and send pictures of the corner for distribution prior to the June 2<sup>nd</sup> Public Meeting. All participants left the meeting at 10:45 am.

The Board discussed reconfiguration of the beach parking lot to accommodate access to the boat ramp when the beach is closed. It was noted that a boat ramp access road and signage will be installed along Route 153. It was also noted that posts will be installed at the main entrance way to reduce the opening and to create two separate lanes with signage in the middle. After measuring the parking area, it was determined that 20 cars will be allowed at one time and that a "parking lot full" sign will be put across the entrance.

The Board reviewed verbiage for the sign at the entrance which will set forth the new beach rules. The Board will also post a "use at your own risk" sign on the port-a-potty. Dick Fortin stated that he will ask Thaire Bryant if the additional expenses to open the beach are reimbursable through the State programs.

Dick Fortin explained that he will be meeting with Thaire Bryant to review a possible set-up for elections and to determine what will be needed in the way of supplies to keep the ballot clerks and counters safe. Joyce Blue noted that voters should be encouraged to vote by absentee ballot and questioned whether a drive-through election could be held.

Dick Fortin noted that he has received complaints from Shane Gurney regarding Highway Department operations and stated that Road Agent Richard Heath will be meeting with the Board at their next meeting.

***Joyce Blue made a motion, seconded by Ed Reilly, to adjourn the meeting. Motion unanimously carried by roll call vote (Dick Fortin-Yes, Ed Reilly-Yes, Joyce Blue-Yes).*** The meeting adjourned at 11:30 am.

Respectfully submitted,

*Lianne Boelzner*

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