

TOWN OF EATON, NEW HAMPSHIRE 03832

EVANS MEMORIAL BUILDING

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

June 2, 2020

A duly-noticed meeting of the Board of Selectmen took place on Tuesday, June 2, 2020 via Zoom. The meeting was called to order at 2:00 pm.

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. 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 (no one else 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.

Ed Reilly made a motion, seconded by Joyce Blue, to ratify the following items signed out of session: Payroll Manifest (week end 5/24/2020), Manifest and Accounts Payable checks dated 6/1/2020, June 2020 Tax Collector's Warrant and Building Permit #202005 For Jada & Richard Heath (R09-01). Motion unanimously carried by roll call vote (Dick Fortin-Yes, Ed Reilly-Yes, Joyce Blue-Yes).

Dick Fortin explained that Moderator Thaire Bryant is working on election information and procedures so that a meeting can be held with all involved personnel.

Dick Fortin noted that the Foss Mountain trail will be closed for a few hours next week so that repairs can be done where rain has damaged the trail.

Dick Fortin opened a Public Information Meeting regarding the sharp corner of Route 153 at the junction with Glines Hill and Ridge Roads. NHDOT personnel present were: Assistant Commissioner William Cass, Traffic Engineer William Lambert, District 3

Engineer Alan Hanscom and Safety Engineer Michael Dugas. Also present were: Carroll County Sheriff Dominic Richardi and residents Linda Jenkins, Faith Timberlake-Alves, Wayne Bradbury, John Hartman, Tim Ostendorf, Edith Landowne, Beth Griffin, Joseph Ricardelli, Bob Moore and Jennifer Rust. Bill Cass gave the background and alternatives reviewed for the corner and noted that adding more signs adds to the clutter and does not have more impact on traffic. Bill Cass explained that the installation of a four-way stop is being reviewed and shared photos of the proposed curbing and sign locations. Bill Cass noted that there are pros and cons to the stop signs: abutters may notice increased noise as traffic stops and starts but that traffic speeds may be reduced. Bill Cass stated that the change will take place on a temporary basis and that the effectiveness will be reviewed before making the curbs and signs permanent. Alan Hanscom noted that the temporary curbing would have to be removed before winter as it will not withstand snow and plows. William Lambert explained that the north radius would be constructed with an apron designed for a turn radius by larger trucks.

Linda Jenkins stated that curbing is of concern but noted that the stop signs should be installed prior to July 4th due to the high volume of traffic. Bill Cass explained that stop signs alone will not work and that the intersection needs to be narrowed. Bill Cass stated that the temporary curbing is rubber but that the permanent curbing would be granite with a concrete apron that trucks could drive over to make the turn if necessary. Alan Hanscom shared photos of the temporary curbing and noted that it has to be ordered and may not be available until mid July. Faith Timberlake-Alves questioned whether reflector lights can be installed to make sure the curbing is visible. Tim Ostendorf stated that he is in favor of the four-way stop and questioned whether the extra signs would be removed. William Lambert stated that the curve signs would be replaced with stop and related signs. Alan Hanscom noted that in order to have pavement and concrete in place before winter, work would have to begin by Columbus Day requiring that the decision on how to proceed would need to be made by the end of summer.

Wayne Bradbury stated that consideration should be given to reduce the speed limit into the Village and approaching the stop sign. Bill Cass noted that the speed limit was reduced in 2017. Wayne Bradbury questioned the use of motion-activated LED lights on the signs. William Lambert noted that the abutters may not approve of the flashing lights and that the beginning point is installation of the stop signs. Bill Cass noted that signs will be assessed and that they will be removed and/or relocated to make them more effective.

Beth Griffin noted that it is important that drivers are alerted to the four-way stop in advance and that the Sheriff's Department is still vital to keeping traffic speeds down. Dick Fortin noted that the Selectmen have not discussed reducing the Sheriff's Department hours. Beth Griffin expressed support for less signage and stated that review of how the stop signs back up traffic and generate noise during night hours should be reviewed before making the final decision. Joseph Ricardelli stated that the signage is adequate and that speed is the issue.

Sheriff Richardi suggested lengthening the 30 mph zone as stop signs may create more confusion. Sheriff Richardi also suggested placement of a directional sign to Conway

rather than using the highway route number and that the stop signs should not be the first attempt at a solution. Bill Cass noted that highway route numbers are typically used so he questions the effectiveness of changing that policy. Sheriff Richardi stated that GPS does not work in that area and that tourists know where they are heading but not always what highway they are traveling on. William Lambert stated that adding signs will not help if vehicles are entering the corner too fast.

John Hartman explained that the signs as you head north are hidden by foliage which could be trimmed and noted that the guard rail is not long enough to protect the house. Alan Hanscom noted that the guard rail is not designed to be hit. Beth Griffin noted that the trial period will reveal a lot and questioned the use of painted alerts on the road. William Lambert stated that the paint does not last long so it is not effective.

Jennifer Rust questioned whether signs could be put at each end of the Village stating "four-way stop ahead" to give more warning. Bill Cass explained that there are requirements regarding the distance of signs to warn of the stop. William Lambert noted that the Town could install gateway signs. Dick Fortin noted that there are signs at the Town line and that the Selectmen could consider signs for the Village. Joyce Blue noted that there will be a temporary sign to alert drivers to the four-way stop initially. Faith Timberlake-Alves questioned if the four-way stop would remain through the winter even if the temporary curbing was removed. Alan Hanscom noted that the stop could remain but that the set-up would be reviewed prior to making that decision.

Dick Fortin read a letter from John McBride expressing concerns regarding the back up of traffic and also relayed concerns from Jane Gray regarding the position of the stop sign when traveling north and turning onto Glines Hill Road. William Lambert stated that the traffic should not back up much as vehicles turning right will move quickly through the intersection.

Sheriff Richardi suggested raising the speed limit to 40 mph on the stretch of Route 153 from Freedom so that the reduction to 30 mph entering Eaton Village will be significant to perhaps help slow the traffic. Dick Fortin questioned the use of a speed table around the area of the Village Store. Bill Cass noted that speed tables are not installed in State highways and suggested pedestrian activity and driver feedback signs. Bill Cass noted that the traffic study will be reviewed again to address the possibility of raising the speed limit north of the Village.

Dick Fortin closed the Public Information Meeting at 4:03 pm.

Ed Reilly made a motion, seconded by Joyce Blue, to adopt the Minutes of the Meeting on May 19, 2020 as amended. Motion unanimously carried by roll call vote (Dick Fortin-Yes, Ed Reilly-Yes, Joyce Blue-Yes).

Dick Fortin noted that vehicles are parking in the Fairpoint lot across from the beach and walking over, which is against the original consensus of the Board. Ed Reilly stated that the vehicles cannot park on the pavement. Joyce Blue stated that it is not a concern as long as they have a beach pass.

Dick Fortin stated that the Town is responsible for testing the beach water during the summer months and noted that he will ask Mark Carbone to once again perform the sampling.

The Board reviewed the status of replacing the Town Hall floor and asked that the three companies who submitted estimates be notified that the project is currently on hold due to the shut down.

Ed Reilly stated that there has been concern regarding the Veteran signs at the cemetery and requested that the mowers be asked to be respectful of those signs. Dick Fortin noted that they also need to find another spot to dump the grass clippings.

Ed Reilly questioned whether the Town has a list of Veterans that can be provided to Sherm DeWitt to place the flags. Joyce Blue offered to generate a list.

The Board reviewed a letter from Quddus Snyder regarding his septic system. Dick Fortin noted that all property owners must comply with State regulations. After further discussion, it was the consensus of the Board that the current septic system must adhere to State regulations and that a letter will be sent advising Quddus Snyder of this requirement.

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 4:41 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Lianne Boelzner

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