

TOWN OF FRANCONIA
EMERGENCY MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MARCH 16, 2020 AT TOWN HALL

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Eric Meth, Jill Brewer, Jeff Blodgett.

OTHERS PRESENT: Jenny Monahan, Mark Taylor, Pam Oakman, Kim Cowles, Chief Mac Cashin, Dawn Steele, Allan Clark.

The meeting was called to order at 3:56pm.

The Selectmen called an emergency meeting to discuss the implications of Covid-19 on the community. In attendance were Emergency Management Director Mark Taylor and Emergency Management Deputy Director Pam Oakman. Governor Sununu announced today that NH schools are closed until April 3rd.

The Board discussed how the town should respond to the threat of Covid-19 with Emergency Management Directors Mark Taylor and Pam Oakman. Mark said while the virus can cause serious illness it is the same as the flu in terms of transmission and while standard precautions such as washing hands, disinfecting regularly and staying home if sick should be observed there is no reason to overreact. Chairman Brewer said she felt it is the Board's obligation to be cautionary and observe directives issued by the State, one of which came to light during the meeting advising to limit gatherings to less than ten people. The discussion concluded with the Board unanimously agreeing to temporarily close town hall to gatherings and meetings.

There was a brief discussion about assisting vulnerable residents with tasks such as shopping and picking up prescriptions. Chairman Brewer said she has compiled a list of volunteers who are willing to help other residents with those tasks. Residents who need assistance are able to reach out to Jenny at town hall by phone or contact Chairman Brewer via email to seek help.

Building Inspector Allan Clark let the Board know that as previously requested by the Board, he had investigated a possible building infraction at Forest Hills. He said the town does not enforce Homeowner Association Covenants (referring to Forest Hills requirement of single family residences) but the structure itself is compliant with the town's building requirements.

Allan also let the Board know that for the time being, he is willing to have all Building Permit Applications delivered to him directly and also offered to oversee Septic Permit Applications. The Board agreed this would be a good plan to implement for now and thanked Allan for his help.

PUBLIC INPUT:

Dawn Steele voiced concerns about a Forest Hills family that recently returned from vacationing in Europe and asked if they should be quarantined. Chairman Brewer said the town has no authority in such a situation but perhaps calling them and asking them to do so would work. Dawn said she and others with the same concern were willing to assist the family with grocery drop off and other tasks.

The Board entered non-public session at 4:46pm.

The Board left non-public session at 5:30pm.

With no further discussion, the meeting was adjourned at 5:30pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jenny Monahan
Administrative Secretary