



Municipal Matters

New London, New Hampshire

May 22, 2020

SELECTMEN VOTE TO CLOSE BEACHES **Many Residents Express Disapproval**

The New London Board of Selectmen voted to close the two town beaches for Memorial Weekend as plans are made to incorporate safeguards necessary to slow the spread of the coronavirus. Acting on recommendations to close the beaches from the Police Chief, Fire Chief, Recreation Director, Emergency Management Director, Health Officer and Town Administrator, the Selectmen agreed that the spread of the coronavirus is a serious health and safety concern for the town and that taking reasonable steps to slow the spread of the virus warranted the temporary closure. Elkins Beach and Bucklin Beach, both very popular with residents, were ordered closed for Memorial Weekend, when large numbers of beachgoers were expected.

E-mails and calls to the Selectmen's Office were overwhelmingly negative with many urging the Board to reconsider and re-open the beaches, allowing the citizens to use common sense to maintain social distancing. Those in favor of the decision suggested that the potential danger posed by the coronavirus warranted the closure, expressing confidence that appropriate steps would be taken to re-open the beaches as soon as possible.

Many who argued for the re-opening commented that after more than 10 weeks of restrictions, people need to get back to a sense of normalcy and that the physical and mental health of people is in jeopardy—going to the beach would be a huge help. Those supporting the decision agreed that closing the beaches represented a significant loss for the residents but felt that the sacrifice was necessary.

There was a sense by many that the decision by the Selectmen was hasty and that no other options were considered. In fact, department heads spent a considerable amount of time trying to come up with ways that the beaches could be open in a way that was consistent with the Governor's guidance on state parks and beaches. Options considered included doing nothing, reducing the available parking, closing the restrooms, having no lifeguards, and instituting 2-hour

time limits. Ultimately, staff felt that with a busy holiday weekend, the potential for large groups of happy beachgoers could not be managed in a way that was consistent with established guidelines.

When the beaches re-open, which will hopefully be very soon (note: an all summer closure has never been discussed), residents will likely be asked to follow additional rules designed to slow the spread of the virus. These changes may include social distancing requirements that limit the number of people at the beach, fewer picnic tables and bathrooms, no visitor passes, lack of boat and paddle boards and play area restrictions. We will continue to look to guidelines issued by the State of NH; if you have ideas on ways that we can make the area safer for you and your family, please contact me at: townadmin@nl-nh.com, we welcome your insight.

I would like to thank the many people who e-mailed and called me to express their opinions on this matter, both for and against. Even those who were vehemently opposed to the decision expressed their opinions in respectful and friendly tones and after further explanation could see that the decision was not made lightly. Reasonable people can disagree.

Kim Hallquist, Town Administrator

Burn permits are required for all outside burnings



25 firefighters were needed to control this brush fire after the homeowner was burning illegally.

Read more from the Fire Department on page 2.

HELP PREVENT A FOREST FIRE

I hope you and your families are doing well. With an increased number of residents practicing social distancing and staying home, the New London Fire Department has been receiving an increased number of questions about burning brush and unfortunately, receiving an increased number of illegal burns. We have transitioned to **online permits only**. The New London Communications Center (police dispatch) will no longer be issuing permits in an effort to assist with the health of our dispatchers and provide the best possible service to our residents.

Below are some commonly asked questions and answers to hopefully clarify NH's requirements:

Q: Do I need a permit if it's raining?

A: Yes, permits are always required, unless there is snow on the ground.

Q: Where do I go online to receive my permit?

A: You can acquire a permit at the Division of Forest & Lands website, which is: <https://nhdflweb.sovsportsnet.net/> however please call NL Dispatch at 526-2627, to let them know that you'll be burning.

Q: It's been dry out. How do I know when it's appropriate to burn?

A: The fire danger ranges from class 1 to class 5. Check the fire danger sign on the fire station or call us at 526-6073:

Class 1 (green) low fire danger - OK to burn

Class 2 (blue) Moderate fire danger – it might be OK if the wind isn't blowing

Class 3 (yellow) High fire danger – no burning

Class 4 (orange) Very high fire danger – absolutely no burning (red flag warning)

Class 5 (red) Extreme fire danger - absolutely no burning (red flag warning)

Q: Can I burn during the day time?

A: The State of NH only allows burning if it's actively raining or there is snow cover around the burn pile. Otherwise, you can burn with a permit starting at 5:00pm. You must be with the fire until it is completely extinguished and there is no chance of a rekindle.

NH State RSA 227-L:17 require that no person kindle a fire upon the land of another without written permission from the land owner. The fire must be at least 50' from a structure, the diameter of the brush shall not be greater than 5" and the person burning

shall be able to extinguish the fire with garden hose or another source. Construction debris shall not be burned under any conditions, clean wood only.

Like you, the Fire Department is trying to follow the social distancing recommendations for keeping all our first responders healthy. Therefore we will limit the days that one can kindle a fire this time of year. If we can prevent a brush fire, or any other emergency call, it not only benefits you, but the health of our first responders.

If you have any questions, please call (603) 526-6073 and thanks for understanding.

Fire Chief Jay Lyon

SOLAR FARM IS UP AND RUNNING!

Our Municipal Solar Project began producing electricity just past noon on Tuesday. Thanks to abundant sunshine this week, the 400-panel Sewer Department array is already generating enough power to satisfy more than 25% of the electrical needs of all Town facilities. When the 200-panel Public Works array goes online in early June, nearly 40% of our electric needs will be met with solar. This is a 'revenue-neutral' project that will incur no cost to the Town or its taxpayers.

Furthermore, our solar arrays have no moving parts, so there is no maintenance required, and they could produce power for as long as 100 years. In future years we hope to satisfy 100% of our electric needs through solar and renewable energy. If you know of a promising site for municipal solar in New London, please contact the New London Energy Committee via email at nordicskate@gmail.com or on our Facebook page at facebook.com/NLECNH.

Jamie Hess, Energy Committee Chair





A CONVERSATION WITH COMMUNITY LEADERS: Time for Responding to the Pandemic and Planning for What's Next: Friday, May 29, from 12 – 1 p.m. An on-line conversation with with Colby-Sawyer President Sue Stuebner, Kearsarge Regional School District Superintendent Winfried Feneberg, New London Town Administrator Kim Hallquist, and New London Hospital CEO and President Tom Manion.

RSVP link on Town Website: www.nl-nh.com

TOWN CLERK: Courtesy Notices for past due sewer and property taxes went out last week. The interest amount on those letters is calculated through June 15th. If you are paying before that date, please call or email our office before sending a check so we can give you the correct amount and you won't overpay what you actually owe. We greatly appreciate it and have a great holiday weekend!

WEARING MASKS IN NEW LONDON: The New London Board of Selectmen encourage all citizens to follow Governor Sununu and CDC guidelines and wear protective masks when social distancing is not practical, such as when grocery shopping. Please help to slow the spread of coronavirus in New London.

WE ARE VILO SUPPORTERS!



Vilo and Officer Daley thank the following new members to the Vilo Support Team:

- ◆ Carrie & John Bouton
- ◆ Robert Chernin
- ◆ Susan & Donald Cox
- ◆ Cindy & Robert Daley
- ◆ Dorothy Egan
- ◆ Linda & Joseph Hagan
- ◆ Tina & Bill Helm
- ◆ Janet & David Kidder
- ◆ Nancy Kingsley
- ◆ Doug Lyon
- ◆ Nancy Marashio
- ◆ Gordon Marshall
- ◆ Mary & Bob Sawyer
- ◆ Deirdra Segerson
- ◆ Christine & Gerry Thomas
- ◆ New London Town Office Staff

PLEASE JOIN



OUR TEAM!

I want to be a K9 Vilo Supporter!

Here is my donation in the amount of: _____
to help support the New London Police Department
K9 Program.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Please make check payable to:
Town of New London K9 Fund
and mail to: 375 Main Street, New London, NH 03257

Thank you for your support!!



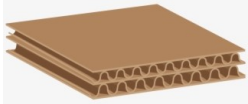
New London Transfer Station

RECYCLING UPDATE

We are excited to say we are able to accept cardboard for recycling again, spread the word!



Please remember:



1. Only corrugated cardboard is recyclable.

2. Box board such as cereal & soda boxes go with paper.



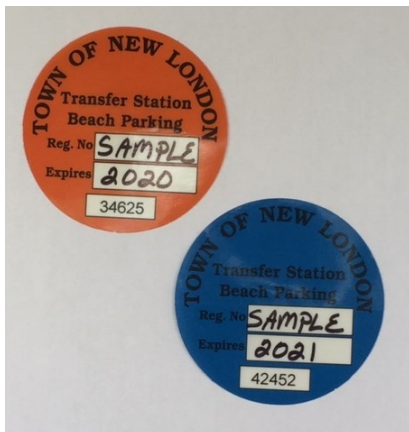
3. Anything cardboard with *wax or plastic coating* goes in with household waste.



AND PLEASE REMEMBER TRANSFER STATION STICKERS ARE REQUIRED TO ENTER THE FACILITY!!

Please contact the Town Clerk if you need a sticker—it is available to residents only.

When you register your vehicle you will receive the 2021 sticker



A reminder from the Lake Sunapee Protective Association

Raking leaves and other debris into the lake is not only illegal, it seriously undermines the efforts of LSPA and others to implement Watershed Plan action items to limit phosphorus into the lake.



Please help to protect our lakes

PUBLIC NOTICE



The New London Town Offices
will be **CLOSED** on
Monday, May 25, 2020
in observance of Memorial Day.

STRAWBERRY FESTIVAL has
been **CANCELLED** this year
due to COVID-19.

ATTENTION

TOWN OF NEW LONDON VOTERS

The Supervisors of the Checklist will hold a public session for additions and corrections to the checklist on **Tuesday, June 2, 2020 between the hours of 6:30 and 7:30 pm at the town offices.**

Due to COVID19 we will offer drive thru registration. There will be no need to leave your car. We suggest you wear a mask, gloves and bring your own pen. In order to register as a new voter you will need to bring **two forms of ID to satisfy proof of identity, age and domicile.**

To be sure you are registered and to check your party affiliation go to:

<https://app.sos.nh.gov/Public/PartyInfo.aspx>.

You may also print out a form to change your party affiliation at the Secretary of State's website:

<http://sos.nh.gov/ElecForms2.aspx>

The completed change forms must be received by the Town Clerk by 5 PM on Tuesday, June 2nd. Be sure to have someone witness you signing the form. There is a drop off box outside of the Town Clerk's office, 375 Main Street, New London.

June 2, 2020 is the last day to change party affiliations before the State Primary Election which takes place on Tuesday, September 8, 2020.

Supervisors:
Celeste Cook, Carolyn Fraley, Linda Jackman

Water Main Flushing

May 18, 2020 - June 5, 2020

Water may appear cloudy during and after this due to air in the lines this is nothing to be concerned about. Allowing the water to set for a bit after filling containers will dissipate the air bubbles.

Town Offices are **CLOSED** to public traffic.

Please go online to complete transactions like property taxes, vehicle registration & sewer bills:
www.nl-nh.com/pay

You can get applications for permits, credits & exemptions: www.nl-nh.com/forms

Please call us for assistance
Monday - Friday, 8am - 4pm

Town Clerk/Tax Collector: 526-1245

Main number: 526-4821

Emergency information line: 526-9444

MAY/JUNE CALENDAR

Until further notice, public meetings are being held remotely using the ZOOM meeting platform. Refer to the meeting calendar &/or agendas for the Information on how to join the meeting.



- Wed., MAY 20 @ 9:00 AM - Conservation Commission
 - Wed., MAY 20 @ 5:30 PM - Board of Selectmen
 - Thurs., MAY 21 @ 1:30 PM - Buildings & Facilities Subcommittee
 - **Monday, MAY 25 - MEMORIAL DAY - ALL TOWN OFFICES CLOSED**
 - Tues., MAY 26 @ 6:30 PM - Planning Board
* * * * *
 - Mon., JUNE 1 @ 9:00 AM - Recreation Commission
 - Wed., JUNE 1 @ 6:00 PM - Board of Selectmen
 - **Tues., JUNE 2, From 6:30 PM to 7:30 PM Supervisors of the Checklist - last day to register before elections**
 - Wed., JUNE 3 @ 7:00 PM - Energy Committee
 - Thurs., JUNE 4 @ 8:30 AM - Master Plan Committee
- For a complete list of meetings go to the town website: www.nl-nh.com**

Municipal Matters is published by the staff of the Town of New London. Kimberly Hallquist, Town Administrator, 603-526-1240. Email: townadmin@nl-nh.com