

Approved: June 13, 2019

Posted: June 19, 2019



Town Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday May 23, 2019 at 7:00 PM, in the Matthew Thornton Room



Chairman Koenig called the meeting of the Town Council to order at 7:00 p.m. Present at the meeting were Vice Chairman Boyd, Councilor Albert, Councilor Healey, Councilor Rothhaus, and Town Manager Eileen Cabanel. Councilor Harrington was excused.

Pledge of Allegiance

Chairman Koenig led in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Announcements

Regular meetings of the Town Council will be conducted on Thursday June 13th and 27th at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room.

The Town Council will conduct its Retreat/Work Session on Monday, June 17th from 9:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Carriage Shed at Buckley's Great Steaks.

Boy Scout Harrison Faust, Troop 424, has completed his Eagle Scout Project; the Admiral Forrest Sherman Memorial at Veteran's Park. The official dedication ceremony for the memorial will be held at Veteran's Park on Monday, May 27th at 3:00 p.m.

The Special Olympics Law Enforcement Torch Run will occur on Wednesday, June 5, 2019 at 8:30 a.m. Officers and athletes will be carrying the torch on Daniel Webster Highway from the Nashua town line to the Bedford town line. Please cheer them on if you are around. If you would like more information please contact Master Patrolman Steve Wallin.

Councilor Albert requested the Council be provided an update on the status of the volleyball courts. Town Manager Cabanel stated that would be provided.

Comments from the Press and Public - None

Recognitions, Resignations and Retirements - None

Appointments - None

Public Hearing - None

Legislative Updates from State Representatives - None

Town Manager's Report

July 2019 tax bills were mailed May 22nd. Property owners should be receiving their bill within the next day or so. Bills are due by July 1st.

Consent Agenda - None

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Old Business – None

New Business

1. 4th Annual NH Hot Dogz

Submitted by Robert Bergin

4th Annual NH Hot Dogz sale to benefit the Alzheimer's Association - The Longest Day 2019.

Robert Bergin, on behalf of the NH Hot Dogz team, thanked Nicholas Lavallee, Media Services Coordinator, Town Manager Cabanel, and Becky Thompson, Executive Secretary, for all of their help. A video presentation was provided (can be viewed [here](#)). Mr. Bergin spoke of the national group taking an interest in the effort and support happening in Merrimack.

Last year's event attracted 650 participants achieving the desire to raise public awareness. This year the hope is for 800 participants. Mr. Bergin stated the desire for the Council to issue a Proclamation, and invited Councilors to participate at this year's event.

Asked about avenues for donations, Mr. Bergin stated he seeks donations in kind noting last year Sam's Club and Walmart donated close to \$400 in merchandise. The one additional item the team would appreciate donations of this year is soda. Last year the total expense for the event was \$200.

Mr. Bergin commented Alzheimer's affects the synapses and the capacity to transfer information in the way you once did. He spoke of having placed noodles on the corner of South Baboosic and Greenwood (in the same way lights, ribbons, etc. are used to show support for others), and challenged Councilors and community members put a stick in the ground with a foam noodle placed on it as a show of support.

Chairman Koenig thanked Mr. Bergin and the team for their efforts noting there are several members of the Council that have been touched by Alzheimer's personally and that they very much appreciate of the work the team does.

2. "The Longest Day" 2019 Proclamation

Submitted by Town Council Chairman Tom Koenig and Vice Chair Bill Boyd

The Town Council to issue a proclamation designating June 21, 2019, as "The Longest Day" to promote the efforts of raising funds and awareness for the care and support of those facing Alzheimer's disease.

National Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month

June 2019~

The Longest Day – June 21, 2019

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease, a progressive degenerative brain disease and the most common form of dementia, that tragically robs individuals of their memories and leads to progressive mental and physical impairments; and

WHEREAS, there are no known treatments to prevent, cure, or even delay the onset or slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease; and

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WHEREAS, every 65 seconds someone in the United States develops Alzheimer's disease with the disease being the 6th leading cause of death in the United States; and

WHEREAS, between 2000 and 2017 deaths from heart disease have decreased 9% while deaths from Alzheimer's disease have increased 145%; and

WHEREAS, 5.8 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's and by 2050, this number is projected to rise to nearly 14 million; and

WHEREAS, with early detection and diagnosis, individuals and their families can gain access to medications and management strategies that may temporarily improve symptoms; and

WHEREAS, there is a need to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease and to honor all of the caregivers who support and care for loved ones with the disease.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that we, the Town Council of the Town of Merrimack, hereby proclaim June as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month and June 21, 2019, as "**THE LONGEST DAY**" in Merrimack and stand in support of the 4th Annual NH Hot Dogz stand fundraising event taking place on June 20th in the Our Lady of Mercy Church parking lot.

Dated this 23rd day of May 2019.

MOTION made by Councilor Healey and seconded by Councilor Albert to accept the Proclamation. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

3. Donation Acceptance for Parks and Recreation

Submitted by Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Casparius

The Town Council to consider the acceptance and expenditure of a donation in the amount of \$300 from the Merrimack Lions Club to Parks and Recreation to sponsor the Summer Movie Nights in the Park, pursuant to Charter Article 8-15 and RSA 31:95-b.

MOTION made by Vice Chairman Boyd and seconded by Councilor Albert to approve the acceptance and expenditure of a donation in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00) from the Merrimack Lions Club to Parks and Recreation to sponsor the Summer Movie Nights in the Park, pursuant to Charter Article 8-15 and RSA 31:95-b

ON THE QUESTION

Vice Chairman Boyd thanked the Merrimack Lions Club for their continued support of the Summer Movie Nights in the Park program.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

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4. Donation Acceptance for Parks and Recreation

Submitted by Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Casparius

The Town Council to consider the acceptance and expenditure of a donation in the amount of \$2,935.00 from the Rotary Club of Merrimack to Parks and Recreation for the purchase and installation of a new piece of playground equipment at the Kids Kove playground, pursuant to Charter 8-15 and RSA 31:95-b.

MOTION made by Vice Chairman Boyd and seconded by Councilor Albert to approve the acceptance and expenditure of a donation in the amount of Two Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty Five Dollars (\$2,935.00) from the Rotary Club of Merrimack to Parks and Recreation for the purchase and installation of a new piece of playground equipment at the Kids Kove playground, pursuant to Charter 8-15 and RSA 31:95-b

ON THE QUESTION

Vice Chairman Boyd stated the Merrimack Rotary Club purchased a piece of playground equipment called the Cozy Cocoon. The specificity regarding the particular piece of equipment is that it has been shown and proven that this type of device is especially designed for children diagnosed with Autism or on the Autism spectrum. The type of space inside the cylinder will allow the child to escape the playground when they are over-stimulated. There are sensory type materials on the inside of the equipment that go directly to sensory issues.

Vice Chairman Boyd expressed his gratitude for the generosity of the Rotary's continued support of this community.

Councilor Woods spoke of being gratified for the donation. He has some experience having watched childhood development with his grandson who is on the Autism spectrum. He is aware of how much comfort and relaxation children who are affected, in various stages on the spectrum, derive from this type of device. This type of equipment allows the child to continue to see the activity taking place while in a comfort zone that they appreciate. He spoke of being impressed and very appreciative of the awareness and effort of the Rotary Club, Matthew Casparius, Director, Parks and Recreation, and the Parks and Recreation Commission.

MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

5. Town of Merrimack Comment Letter – Sound Barriers for F.E. Everett Turnpike Widening Project Submitted by Town Manager Eileen Cabanel

The Town Council to review the draft comment letter from the Town of Merrimack to the NH Department of Transportation regarding sound barriers for the F.E. Everett Turnpike (FEET) Widening Project.

Councilor Albert remarked when efforts towards the Turnpike widening project began, a number of residents expressed concerns with regard to sound barriers. The State has submitted a plan that identifies a number of areas to receive sound barriers. However, there are remaining neighborhoods that will need sound barriers. The letter specifically identifies the East Ridge Condominiums, Back River Road, Ministerial Drive/Vista Way, Roundtree Drive, Maple Ridge Condominiums, and along the buildings located to the east side of the Turnpike north of Exit 12.

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The letter is addressed to Victoria Sheehan, Commissioner, NH Department of Transportation. A copy was included as part of the agenda and will be posted on the Town's website.

Councilor Albert remarked he has had the opportunity to discuss this issue with State Representatives, and suggested residents reach out to their Representatives as well as the Governor Chris Sununu. Representative Rung and others have been advocating for the community. The bottom line is the State has apparently run out of funding for sound barriers. The widening project does not start until 2021-2022. There is time to get legislation in regarding funding.

Councilor Rothhaus echoed the remarks of Councilor Albert indicating his support. He suggested Ministerial Drive and Vista Way be listed separately. Chairman Koenig stated appreciation for the efforts put forward in this regard.

Town Manager Cabanel questioned the will of the Council with regard to sending a personalized letter to each of the intended recipients rather than copying most on a letter addressed to a single individual. The Council agreed.

MOTION made by Councilor Woods and seconded by Councilor Healey to approve the language, as amended, and address the letter to each of the intended recipients individually.
MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

Minutes

May 9, 2019

The following amendments were offered:

Page 1, Line 47; replace "CDC" with "Centers for Disease Control (CDC)"

Page 2, Line 16; replace "RFA" with "Request for Application (RFA)"

Page 3, Line 9; replace "NTSDR" with "ATSDR"

Page 16, Line 24; replace "5-0-0" with "6-0-0"

MOTION made by Vice Chairman Boyd and seconded by Councilor Albert to approve the meeting minutes of the Town Council meeting of May 9, 2019, as amended

MOTION CARRIED 5-0-1

Councilor Albert Abstained

Comments from the Press - None

Comments from the Public - None

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Comments from the Council

Councilor Albert spoke of the recent Seedling Giveaway conducted by the Conservation Commission. Approximately 80-90 residents participated and received seedlings at no cost. He congratulated the Commission on another successful event.

Councilor Rothhaus spoke of the 50th Anniversary fundraiser put on by the Merrimack Youth Association (MYA). The event was well attended and successful. The brewery was a great location for the event. Monies raised will go towards scholarships for those who may not otherwise be able to participate in the programs offered by the MYA.

Chairman Koenig spoke of the recent meeting of the Planning Board noting, with the current vacancy, a vote taken by the Board received a 2-2 result. He reminded the citizenry of the opportunity to serve the community in this way. Currently there is 1 full-time position available as well as 2 alternate positions. Residents interested in serving will receive training and are asked to be open-minded realizing people can develop their land. The Town does not get to control how they develop their land, just ensure they do it in accordance with the rules and regulations.

Councilor Albert commented just recently he was contacted by a few residents who questioned what the Planning and Zoning boards are doing; why they are allowing the development. It is important for residents to understand the boards are there to ensure regulations are adhered to.

Councilor Rothhaus commented he moved into Town during the second population boom in Merrimack. He is of the belief the increase has been very positive in the end. Although difficult to get through during moments of construction, when complete, it has worked out well for the Town.

Councilor Albert remarked he believes part of it is the fear; you see the traffic on Route 3, and you wonder how this will all work out. Chairman Koenig stated his understanding of the fear around both the project at Exit 11 and the one in north Merrimack. Both were very carefully studied by traffic engineers, and both have expanded opportunities to rework the intersections/roads in the vicinity to keep the growth from negatively impacting traffic. He suggested the need to wait and see. He was not in Town when places like Anheuser Busch went in. He is aware there was a lot of fear with a big company like that moving in. Everyone was concerned the quality of life would go downhill. He cannot imagine not having them there. They are a great asset to the community. As was pointed out with the MYA event, it is a great place to be able to go and have a celebration.

Adjourn

MOTION made by Councilor Healey and seconded by Vice Chairman Boyd to adjourn the meeting. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0

The May 23, 2019 meeting of the Town Council was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.

Submitted by Dawn MacMillan