



## 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 13<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 p.m. in the Matthew Thornton Room.

The Town Council will conduct its Retreat/Work Session on Monday, June 17<sup>th</sup> 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 27<sup>th</sup> 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 1<sup>st</sup>.

**Consent Agenda** - None

**Old Business** - None

1 **New Business**

2  
3 **1. 4th Annual NH Hot Dogz**

4 Submitted by Robert Bergin

5 4th Annual NH Hot Dogz sale to benefit the Alzheimer’s Association - The Longest Day 2019.

6  
7 Robert Bergin, on behalf of the NH Hot Dogz team, thanked Nicholas Lavallee, Media Services  
8 Coordinator, Town Manager Cabanel, and Becky Thompson, Executive Secretary, for all of their help.  
9 A video presentation was provided (can be viewed [here](#)). Mr. Bergin spoke of the national group  
10 taking an interest in the effort and support happening in Merrimack.

11  
12 Last year’s event attracted 650 participants achieving the desire to raise public awareness. This year  
13 the hope is for 800 participants. Mr. Bergin stated the desire for the Council to issue a Proclamation,  
14 and invited Councilors to participate at this year’s event.

15  
16 Asked about avenues for donations, Mr. Bergin stated he seeks donations in kind noting last year  
17 Sam’s Club and Walmart donated close to \$400 in merchandise. The one additional item the team  
18 would appreciate donations of this year is soda. Last year the total expense for the event was \$200.

19  
20 Mr. Bergin commented Alzheimer’s affects the synapses and the capacity to transfer information in the  
21 way you once did. He spoke of having placed noodles on the corner of South Baboosic and  
22 Greenwood (in the same way lights, ribbons, etc. are used to show support for others), and challenged  
23 Councilors and community members put a stick in the ground with a foam noodle placed on it as a  
24 show of support.

25  
26 Chairman Koenig thanked Mr. Bergin and the team for their efforts noting there are several members  
27 of the Council that have been touched by Alzheimer’s personally and that they very much appreciate of  
28 the work the team does.

29  
30 **2. “The Longest Day” 2019 Proclamation**

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

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

35  
36 National Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month  
37 June 2019~  
38 The Longest Day – June 21, 2019  
39

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

43  
44 **WHEREAS**, there are no known treatments to prevent, cure, or even delay the onset or slow the  
45 progression of Alzheimer’s disease; and

46  
47 **WHEREAS**, every 65 seconds someone in the United States develops Alzheimer’s disease with  
48 the disease being the 6<sup>th</sup> leading cause of death in the United States; and

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

3  
4 **WHEREAS**, 5.8 million Americans are living with Alzheimer’s and by 2050, this number is  
5 projected to rise to nearly 14 million; and

6  
7 **WHEREAS**, with early detection and diagnosis, individuals and their families can gain access to  
8 medications and management strategies that may temporarily improve symptoms; and

9  
10 **WHEREAS**, there is a need to raise awareness about Alzheimer’s disease and to honor all of the  
11 caregivers who support and care for loved ones with the disease.

12  
13 **NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED**, that we, the Town Council of the Town of  
14 Merrimack, hereby proclaim June as Alzheimer’s and Brain Awareness Month and June 21,  
15 2019, as “**THE LONGEST DAY**” in Merrimack and stand in support of the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual NH Hot  
16 Dogz stand fundraising event taking place on June 20<sup>th</sup> in the Our Lady of Mercy Church  
17 parking lot.

18  
19 **Dated** this 23<sup>rd</sup> day of May 2019.

20  
21 **MOTION made by Councilor Healey and seconded by Councilor Albert to accept the**  
22 **Proclamation. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

23  
24 **3. Donation Acceptance for Parks and Recreation**

25 Submitted by Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Casparius

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

29  
30 **MOTION made by Vice Chairman Boyd and seconded by Councilor Albert to approve the**  
31 **acceptance and expenditure of a donation in the amount of Three Hundred Dollars (\$300.00)**  
32 **from the Merrimack Lions Club to Parks and Recreation to sponsor the Summer Movie Nights**  
33 **in the Park, pursuant to Charter Article 8-15 and RSA 31:95-b**

34  
35 **ON THE QUESTION**

36  
37 Vice Chairman Boyd thanked the Merrimack Lions Club for their continued support of the Summer  
38 Movie Nights in the Park program.

39 **MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

40  
41 **4. Donation Acceptance for Parks and Recreation**

42 Submitted by Parks and Recreation Director Matthew Casparius

43 The Town Council to consider the acceptance and expenditure of a donation in the amount of  
44 \$2,935.00 from the Rotary Club of Merrimack to Parks and Recreation for the purchase and  
45 installation of a new piece of playground equipment at the Kids Kove playground, pursuant to  
46 Charter 8-15 and RSA 31:95-b.

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

6  
7 **ON THE QUESTION**

8  
9 Vice Chairman Boyd stated the Merrimack Rotary Club purchased a piece of playground equipment  
10 called the Cozy Cocoon. The specificity regarding the particular piece of equipment is that it has been  
11 shown and proven that this type of device is especially designed for children diagnosed with Autism or  
12 on the Autism spectrum. The type of space inside the cylinder will allow the child to escape the  
13 playground when they are over-stimulated. There are sensory type materials on the inside of the  
14 equipment that go directly to sensory issues.

15  
16 Vice Chairman Boyd expressed his gratitude for the generosity of the Rotary's continued support of  
17 this community.

18  
19 Councilor Woods spoke of being gratified for the donation. He has some experience having watched  
20 childhood development with his grandson who is on the Autism spectrum. He is aware of how much  
21 comfort and relaxation children who are affected, in various stages on the spectrum, derive from this  
22 type of device. This type of equipment allows the child to continue to see the activity taking place  
23 while in a comfort zone that they appreciate. He spoke of being impressed and very appreciative of the  
24 awareness and effort of the Rotary Club, Matthew Casparius, Director, Parks and Recreation, and the  
25 Parks and Recreation Commission.

26 **MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

27  
28 **5. Town of Merrimack Comment Letter – Sound Barriers for F.E. Everett Turnpike Widening**  
29 **Project** Submitted by Town Manager Eileen Cabanel

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

33  
34 Councilor Albert remarked when efforts towards the Turnpike widening project began, a number of  
35 residents expressed concerns with regard to sound barriers. The State has submitted a plan that  
36 identifies a number of areas to receive sound barriers. However, there are remaining neighborhoods  
37 that will need sound barriers. The letter specifically identifies the East Ridge Condominiums, Back  
38 River Road, Ministerial Drive/Vista Way, Roundtree Drive, Maple Ridge Condominiums, and along  
39 the buildings located to the east side of the Turnpike north of Exit 12.

40  
41 The letter is addressed to Victoria Sheehan, Commissioner, NH Department of Transportation. A copy  
42 was included as part of the agenda and will be posted on the Town's website.

43  
44 Councilor Albert remarked he has had the opportunity to discuss this issue with State Representatives,  
45 and suggested residents reach out to their Representatives as well as the Governor Chris Sununu.  
46 Representative Rung and others have been advocating for the community. The bottom line is the State  
47 has apparently run out of funding for sound barriers. The widening project does not start until 2021-  
48 2022. There is time to get legislation in regarding funding.

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

4  
5 Town Manager Cabanel questioned the will of the Council with regard to sending a personalized letter  
6 to each of the intended recipients rather than copying most on a letter addressed to a single individual.  
7 The Council agreed.

8  
9 **MOTION made by Councilor Woods and seconded by Councilor Healey to approve the**  
10 **language, as amended, and address the letter to each of the intended recipients individually.**  
11 **MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

12  
13 **Minutes**

14  
15 May 9, 2019

16  
17 *The following amendments were offered:*

18  
19 Page 1, Line 47; replace “CDC” with “Centers for Disease Control (CDC)”  
20 Page 2, Line 16; replace “RFA” with “Request for Application (RFA)”  
21 Page 3, Line 9; replace “NTSDR” with “ATSDR”  
22 Page 16, Line 24; replace “5-0-0” with “6-0-0”

23  
24 **MOTION made by Vice Chairman Boyd and seconded by Councilor Albert to approve the**  
25 **meeting minutes of the Town Council meeting of May 9, 2019, as amended**  
26 **MOTION CARRIED 5-0-1**

27 *Councilor Albert Abstained*

28  
29 **Comments from the Press** - None

30  
31 **Comments from the Public** - None

32  
33 **Comments from the Council**

34  
35 Councilor Albert spoke of the recent Seedling Giveaway conducted by the Conservation Commission.  
36 Approximately 80-90 residents participated and received seedlings at no cost. He congratulated the  
37 Commission on another successful event.

38  
39 Councilor Rothhaus spoke of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary fundraiser put on by the Merrimack Youth  
40 Association (MYA). The event was well attended and successful. The brewery was a great location  
41 for the event. Monies raised will go towards scholarships for those who may not otherwise be able to  
42 participate in the programs offered by the MYA.

43  
44 Chairman Koenig spoke of the recent meeting of the Planning Board noting, with the current vacancy,  
45 a vote taken by the Board received a 2-2 result. He reminded the citizenry of the opportunity to serve  
46 the community in this way. Currently there is 1 full-time position available as well as 2 alternate  
47 positions. Residents interested in serving will receive training and are asked to be open-minded  
48 realizing people can develop their land. The Town does not get to control how they develop their land,  
49 just ensure they do it in accordance with the rules and regulations.

1  
2 Councilor Albert commented just recently he was contacted by a few residents who questioned what  
3 the Planning and Zoning boards are doing; why they are allowing the development. It is important for  
4 residents to understand the boards are there to ensure regulations are adhered to.

5  
6 Councilor Rothhaus commented he moved into Town during the second population boom in  
7 Merrimack. He is of the belief the increase has been very positive in the end. Although difficult to get  
8 through during moments of construction, when complete, it has worked out well for the Town.

9  
10 Councilor Albert remarked he believes part of it is the fear; you see the traffic on Route 3, and you  
11 wonder how this will all work out. Chairman Koenig stated his understanding of the fear around both  
12 the project at Exit 11 and the one in north Merrimack. Both were very carefully studied by traffic  
13 engineers, and both have expanded opportunities to rework the intersections/roads in the vicinity to  
14 keep the growth from negatively impacting traffic. He suggested the need to wait and see. He was not  
15 in Town when places like Anheuser Busch went in. He is aware there was a lot of fear with a big  
16 company like that moving in. Everyone was concerned the quality of life would go downhill. He  
17 cannot imagine not having them there. They are a great asset to the community. As was pointed out  
18 with the MYA event, it is a great place to be able to go and have a celebration.

19  
20 **Adjourn**

21  
22 **MOTION made by Councilor Healey and seconded by Vice Chairman Boyd to adjourn the**  
23 **meeting. MOTION CARRIED 6-0-0**

24  
25 *The May 23, 2019 meeting of the Town Council was adjourned at 7:42 p.m.*

26  
27  
28  
29 Submitted by Dawn MacMillan