

David Hall, Chair person
Wendy M. Mead, Vice Chair
Jesse Limanek, Clerk
Jonathan Anderson
Jeffrey Bannon



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James A. Smith, Town Manager

Town of Sutton
Select Board

Meeting Minutes

Minutes Accepted and filed with the Town Clerk on 04/28/2020 by a vote of 5-0

3:00 p.m. – March 19, 2020

REMOTE DIAL IN MEETING: 3:00PM

Members in Attendance by video chat:

Chairperson David Hall, Vice Chair Wendy Mead, Clerk Jesse Limanek & Select board Jonathan Anderson & Jeffrey Bannon
Town Manager James Smith & Deb Jacques, secretary

Meeting called to order, Chairperson Hall begins by saying this meeting was posted 48 hours ago and believe it is the first digital meeting of the Select Board in the history of the town. Dave also says with the Coronavirus pandemic the Governor declared a State of emergency and has relaxed open meeting laws and has recommended social distancing. There is only one thing on the agenda today, declaring a State of Emergency for the town.

Town Manager begins by saying things are changing by almost the minute. A Code Red call went out to all residents on Friday, March 13th. On Friday, schools, COA and the Library were to be closed for 2 weeks but over the weekend the Governor mandated 3 weeks closing for these. The Town hall was closed to the public on Monday at noon, we are open for business. The fire dept. entrance is closed to the public but if someone wants a burning permit they can call I, fees are being waved. The Sr. Center is fully operative, rides to medical appts. are being done. All meetings at Town Hall are cancelled at this time. If everything reopens in 3 weeks April 6 there will be a Planning Board meeting with all the items going to May Town Meeting, Tuesday April 7th is Select Board meeting in which these items will be reviewed, April 8th would begin the Finance Committee meetings. If we are not able to meet and the Governor continues to keep school closed it will become more of an issue. We may have to look at moving the May town meeting to late June. Our State of Emergency Declaration covers all this, the BOH members were polled and all agree to this. What this does is essentially makes sure we are all set and ready for state government or federal reimbursement. Several communities in the area are all considering this action. We are in a serious situation; this declaration gives us procurement rights under 30B.

Selectman Limanek asks in terms of wording of this declaration, does it in any shape or form expand beyond ability of town hall to function in terms of interference with the community or our residents. Town Manager Smith does not feel it does. The one difference is we have limited the number of people in local gatherings from the Governors number of 25 to 10. The President used the number 10 so that is what we are using. There have been a few situations with gatherings at the Basketball court at the school. When it is 15-20 kids this causes a concern. Jesse knows the SPD will handle all situations appropriately and professionally. The draft emailed out shows 25 to a gathering. If we go beyond the time frame this covers will it be prohibitive in any way or at the end remain in effect until the end. Jim will make clear when the state of emergency is over and the crisis has past we will lift this declaration of emergency. Vice Chair Mead asks if Jim anticipates any increase to the restrictions on any restaurants in the area. Jim does not think so. Select board member Anderson asks if by chance the governor or president makes more restrictive and is in conflict with our emergency declaration states what would be the process to change. Town Manager Smith says if this ZOOM process we are using today works out we could use this as a way to remotely dial in. Jim would like to purchase this application for town use. We are in the process of examining working from home. Critical parts of this organization; payroll, collecting, the treasurer. If things get tougher and we are mandated to all work from home other than essential public safety services that will force our hand and we want to be prepared. Select person Bannon asks for clarification on the crowd gathering size not suggested but required. We want people to take this serious. Does this change any enforcement issues in place, what does it mean if there are large public gatherings. Town Manager reply's we are limiting 10 or fewer, Chief Towle is in agreement, will use this as more ability to direct the kids, more of an educational opportunity not about discipline or to take responsibility for their actions. Chairperson Hall says the declaration is more of a recital of the state of affairs, not really

enforcement. Jim states it is; this is the state of affairs we are in. On our behalf it is protection we can receive as a town. If there are changes by the Governor or President is it required we go back and update. Jim replies not to his belief. If there is a Stay in place, we may consider revising thru this XZOMM conference call.

At this time hearing no further questions, select person Limanek reads the Emergency Declaration into the minutes.

Select person Limanek motions to adopt the Declaration of Emergency for the Town of Sutton effective March 19, 2020 and we additionally impose a limitation suggested by the President of the United States of prohibiting public gatherings of more than 10 people.

3:31 pm Select person Limanek motions to adjourn the meeting, Select person Bannon seconds passes 5-0