

Information Update - 03 April 2020

The Board of Selectmen and Town Administrator wish to provide the citizens of Effingham with an update and reiterate what is documented in the public weekly meeting minutes. Reminder: Meeting Minutes are posted on the Town website under the Select Board tab > Select Board Meeting Minutes button.

Have the Selectmen been meeting each week during the health crisis?

Yes. Each meeting date and time is posted on the Town Website and Town Office bulletin board. Each meeting, as required, has been open to the public who wish to attend. To maintain social distancing guidelines, citizens have been asked to sit towards the back of the room and leave the building first at the conclusion of the meeting. As the health crisis is developing, different meeting options continue to be explored.

What are the Selectmen doing to help promote public access to meetings?

First and foremost, we are focusing on the safety of the employees and the citizens. The Town Administrator is researching different communication options. One option being implemented is public teleconference.

- At the April 7th Selectmen's meeting, a new teleconference service will be used with a dial-in number for the public to listen to the meetings – as a live test that the system works. The dial in number information will be posted on the Town Website Home page. The dial-in number is: 1-503-300-6855 and the Customer Code/PIN is 630224.
- The meetings will be in 'listen only' mode to the public. **
- Meeting minutes will continue to be available on-line.
- No citizens will be allowed into the Town Office meeting room.
- Provided the test works, we will fully implement the teleconference service on April 14th.
- Meeting protocols will follow the Governor's Executive Orders for these types of meetings until the health crisis is behind us, and we can resume normal business.

In addition, the Town Administrator is actively exploring the purchase of a new video recording system to record and post Selectmen's Meetings on the internet after the meeting. Proposals about the system have been requested. There may be federal funds available to offset a large portion of the system purchase price. Status updates about the purchase will be provided when more information is available.

*****How can citizens provide feedback to the Selectmen?***

As previously stated on the Effingham Town Website > Announcements > (orange) Link: COVID 19 Town Operation Changes, people may provide comments and information by:

- Sending an email to TownofEffingham@EffinghamNH.net; or
- Sending regular mail to the Town's 68 School Street address; or
- Leaving a written note in the new metal drop box by the Town Office front doors;
or
- Phoning into the Selectmen's Office with information.

Please Note: The Town of Effingham website [www.Effinghamnh.net] is the only authorized website for internet communication and internet sources of Town information. The *Town of Effingham NH* Facebook page is for posting of information only and not monitored on a regular basis. Comments and messaging on Facebook will not be answered by Town staff.

Reminder: Facebook websites like *Beautiful Effingham* and *Effingham NH Connect* are NOT Town sponsored websites nor are they official sources of Town information.

Are the Selectmen's Meetings changing meeting hours for the duration of the health crisis?

Yes, effective Tuesday, April 7th, the new weekly meeting time will be Tuesdays at 900 AM followed by a Work Session. While some people may not be able to make the new meeting time due to family and work requirements, this has also been the case for a segment of citizens with the previous late afternoon meeting time.

Please note: As of this date, one of the three employees is out of the office for a period of time. We have modified how the office is run and staffed to provide the best continuing service to the citizens during the health crisis.

The Select Board and Town Staff kindly thank all Town citizens for their patience in working with the Town Offices. We understand these are uncertain times and people may be anxious. The main focus and intent of Town staff is to keep the Town operating as smoothly as possible during this health crisis. Thank you

Board of Selectmen