

**TOWN OF BEDFORD
TOWN COUNCIL MEETING MINUTES
June 10, 2020
Zoom Meeting**

1. ROLL CALL: A meeting of the Bedford Town Council was conducted Wednesday, June 10, 2020 virtually without a physical location in compliance with Governor Sununu's Emergency Orders #12. Participating were Dave Gilbert (Chair), Denise Ricciardi (Vice Chair) and Councilors Phil Greazzo, Bill Duschatko, Melissa Stevens, Bill Carter and Lori Radke. Also participating virtually was Town Manager Rick Sawyer.

Chairman Gilbert stated I'd like to call the June 10, 2020 meeting of the Bedford Town Council to order and as Chairman of the Council I find that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, this public body is authorized to meet electronically. Please note that there is no physical location to observe this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that they are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access live on BCTV Comcast Channel 22 or streaming online by going to the Town website and choosing BCTV under "departments" and clicking on Channel 22. They are utilizing an online platform called Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the Council have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform. If interested, the public can call into this meeting by contacting the Town Manager rsawyer@bedfordnh.org or calling 603-792-1300 to receive the call-in information. If anybody has a problem accessing the meeting via the phone please email us at: councilors2@bedfordnh.org. In the event the public is unable to access the meeting, the meeting will be adjourned and rescheduled. Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Chairman Gilbert took a roll call attendance: Bill Carter-here, Bill Duschatko-here, Phil Greazzo-here, Lori Radke-here, Denise Ricciardi-here, Melissa Stevens-here, Dave Gilbert-here. Town Manager Rick Sawyer was also joining the meeting.

2. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Gilbert stated that public comments can be made now if you are on the phone by dialing *9 and then wait until we call on you. We will also read any comments that have been sent to councilors2@bedfordnh.org

Chairman Gilbert asked Mr. Sawyer if any comments had been received through our email address or if there was anyone on the phone who have dialed *9. Mr. Sawyer stated that there were no written comments and no one on the phone to make public comment.

3. NEW BUSINESS

a. Interview/Appointment to Telecommunications Committee

Court Mountifield joined the meeting. Councilor Gilbert wanted to know his interest in the Telecommunications Committee. Mr. Mountifield stated that in a broad sense he wanted to get involved in the Town and help out. He graduated college in 2015 and since then has been involved in the investment banking world covering different companies across industrial sectors, natural resources, infrastructure, the power world, renewable energy and the rise of telecommunications in conjunction with renewable energy; it's a growing trend. His first interest was in the Energy Commission, because that's where most of his knowledge is based, but he was told that there was an opening on the Telecommunications Committee, so since he's touching that sector a little bit he thought it would be a good fit. Most of his interest was to just get involved.

Councilor Ricciardi wanted to know if he had looked into anything the Telecommunications Committee had already done, their purpose and why they have a Telecommunications Committee. Mr. Mountifield stated that he had talked to Dawn and she told him the purpose in forming the committee was around cell phone towers. He stated that telecom touched more than just cell towers. It touches on fiber optic networks and implementing that and that had been a subject that the committee had looked into. He mentioned the rise of 5G and whether or not to implement that and the balance of implementing fiber versus 5G. Also things like the distance between telephone poles on one side of the road, regulation on the aesthetics of something on top of a pole. It encompasses various aspects within telecommunications from aesthetics to cost to different technology. Councilor Ricciardi wanted to know his position on 5G and his knowledge on it. Mr. Mountifield thought there were pros and cons to 5G. He's not an expert. He stated that a lot of people aren't for it because it requires quite a few towers and a lot of people find that aesthetically unpleasing. Also, it doesn't require as much underground work where there are lots of cables running underground that fiber requires. He's willing to learn. Councilor Ricciardi mentioned that they meet during the day and wanted to know if he was available during the day. Mr. Mountifield respond yes he was. Councilor Ricciardi wanted to know if he was aware of an ordinance that they just put in place about wires and poles that encompasses all utilities including telecommunications. Mr. Mountifield responded that Dawn had told him that they had recently passed an ordinance, but he didn't know about it in detail.

Councilor Duschatko thanked Mr. Mountifield for volunteering. He wanted to know in Mr. Mountifield's professional career, if he had been involved in any financing projects in the telecommunications industry. Mr. Mountifield responded no. He's only been involved in financing energy projects. Councilor Duschatko wanted to know if it was a structured financing type of approach or was there a special method of going after it. Mr. Mountifield stated that they were tax equity projects and he explained what that was. Councilor Duschatko mentioned if the regulations change, and wanted to know how he would see the financing of large structural infrastructure projects taking place. Mr. Mountifield stated that it would depend on the change and explained.

Councilor Radke thought that it was great that Mr. Mountifield was stepping up at such a young age and wanted him to share anything about why he was doing that. Mr. Mountifield stated that he cared about the Town. He moved to Bedford from Portsmouth, England when he was about eight years old and it gave him an amazing education that he wouldn't have received in Portsmouth, England. He was able to do AP classes and IB classes and it changed his life for the better. It allowed him to go to a very good university. He'll always be thankful for the teachers. Being on the Telecommunications Committee is just him giving back to the Town. While his job is very intense, he has extra time on his hands. He could spend that time playing sports or spending time with friends, but he's reaching an age where giving back matters a lot to him and he has a greater appreciation for what the Town gave to him. He's going to put in the time and learn from all of them.

Mr. Sawyer stated that they can make the appointment tonight or wait until the June 24th meeting where they are making appointments to the SNHPC. Chairman Gilbert had no problem making the appointment tonight.

MOTION by Councilor Radke that the Bedford Town Council appoint Court Mountifield to the Telecommunications Committee. Seconded by Councilor Duschatko.

Roll call vote taken: Lori Radke-aye, Bill Duschatko-aye, Bill Carter-aye, Melissa Stevens-aye, Phil Greazzo-nay, Denise Ricciardi-aye, Dave Gilbert-aye. Motion Passed 6-1.

b. Civil Forfeiture Warrant for unlicensed dogs

Sally Kellar, Town Clerk joined the meeting. She explained that RSA 466:14 states that each year around this time she will present to the Council a list of owners who have not licensed their dog. Right now there are 1,360 dogs that are currently unlicensed. There are 2,784 that have been licensed. The State veterinarian did not extend the expiration date for 2019 licenses, because veterinarians are operating. If people needed to bring their dog in to get vaccinations and rabies they would have been able to. The law states that within 20 days of June 20th, they can issue a warrant to authorize a civil forfeiture be sent for each unlicensed dog.

Councilor Carter wanted to know if the 1,000 unlicensed dogs were licensed before or just never licensed. Ms. Kellar stated that most of them were licensed before. For those dogs that weren't licensed before, they would be dogs that weren't in the system. By law, the vets need to send the Town rabies vaccination updates when they vaccinate a dog. If the owner lists Bedford as their address, the Town gets notified that a dog at their address received a rabies vaccination. Then they get put into the system as unlicensed and they receive a letter saying that they need to license their dog. Councilor Carter wanted to know the cost for the civil forfeiture. Ms. Kellar stated that the civil forfeiture fine was \$25.00, but to license a spayed or neutered dog or puppy is \$7.00. If the dog had not been altered, it's \$10.00. There is a discount for seniors 65 and older; their first dog is \$2.00. If they have more than one dog, the other dog(s) would be at the standard

fee. Councilor Carter wanted to know how long they had to license their dog before they get assessed the \$25.00 fee. Ms. Kellar stated that according to the RSA and the dates with this meeting and sending out the letters by June 20th, they need to register their dog by July 6th. After July 6th, the civil forfeiture fine will be in effect.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know what the difference was typically this time of year as opposed to this time last year. Ms. Kellar stated that last year they were under 1,000 dogs that still weren't licensed. It is definitely higher this year than last year. Everyone that has called in has been told they can do it online and mail in the rabies vaccination or drop it off in the drop box with a self-addressed stamped envelope. There aren't as many returned postcards this year when she sends postcards in April reminding people that it's time to license their dog. The dog licenses are also available beginning January 2nd every year, so even though the prior year's license doesn't expire until April 30th, people have the first four months of the year to license their dog for 2020. They also have a grace period for the month of May. The \$1.00 late fees aren't incurred until June 1st.

MOTION by Councilor Ricciardi that the Bedford Town Council pursuant of RSA 466:14, authorize the Town Clerk and Animal Control Officer, on behalf of the Town Council, to send civil forfeiture letters and collect civil forfeiture fines to all dog owners of Bedford who have not licensed their dog as of July 6, 2020. Seconded by Councilor Stevens.

Roll call vote taken: Melissa Stevens-aye, Lori Radke-aye, Denise Ricciardi-aye, Phil Greazzo-nay, Bill Carter-aye, Bill Duschatko-aye, Dave Gilbert-aye. Motion Passed 6-1.

c. Approval of a farm stand at the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill

Chairman Gilbert recused himself and turned the meeting over to Vice Chairwoman Riccardi.

Mr. Sawyer stated that the lease between the Town and the Educational Farm at Joppa Hill requires the Town to approve any structures that might be built on the property. The EFJH would like to move forward with 14' x 24' farm stand, which is going to be a shed on the property. Mr. Sawyer showed the location of the farm stand and what the shed would look like. Mr. Sawyer stated that he had no opposition for the approval of this, but he needs Town Council authorization to provide the EFJH with the necessary approval letter to be able to submit their application to the Building Department and potentially the Planning Department for approval.

Councilor Radke wanted to know if it would be open certain days or times and if the EFJH would work out the details. Mr. Sawyer stated that the Town doesn't oversee any of the operational aspects of the EFJH; they just have ownership of the property and structures. If they build a structure and the lease expires, it would become Town property. Chairman Gilbert stated that they were working out how to operate the stand. They haven't really

decided how that was going to operate yet, but it would be mostly in the summer months. They would try and work around daytime hours. They definitely want to be open on the weekends. They haven't worked out how they were going to man the stand yet with volunteers, directors, and other people.

Councilor Stevens wanted to know if this was going to take the place of having to use the manager's office as a cooler and storage area. Chairman Gilbert responded yes. They are going to be selling their vegetables, eggs, and meat products out of the farm stand so they will not have to sell them out of the barn area.

MOTION by Councilor Carter that the Bedford Town Council authorize the Town Manager to provide the Farm with authority to proceed with the construction of a farm stand. Seconded by Councilor Radke.

Roll call vote taken: Bill Carter-aye, Bill Duschatko-aye, Phil Greazzo-aye, Lori Radke-aye, Melissa Stevens-aye, Denise Ricciardi-aye. Motion Passed 6-0.

Councilor Ricciardi turned the meeting back over the Chairman Gilbert.

Chairman Gilbert thanked the Council. He couldn't wait for this to happen. They were planning to get this done early August at the latest. He thanked the Vice Chair for taking over for this agenda item.

d. Other New Business –

Councilor Carter mentioned an email the Council received regarding a resident concern about the trash situation on some of the Town's roadways. He wanted to know how they should approach that email about what they could do to help keep Bedford clean and helping to clean up the roads. He didn't know if there was something that they could do social media wise. He felt the majority of the people that were doing the littering probably didn't live in Bedford and were passing through. He wanted to know how they wanted to approach this to keep the streets clean.

Chairman Gilbert thought it was a good idea and suggested that they discuss it at their retreat and maybe come up with a committee or plan of action to move forward with what they would like to do. As far as signage, he thought that fell under the Highway Safety Committee. He thought they should discuss this at length and how they could promote it to the public. Councilor Carter thought maybe he could respond back to the resident and let them know that the Council was working on it and trying to come up with a remedy or some kind of a solution to keep and promote keeping the streets clean. Chairman Gilbert thought they should let him do that. He agreed with what Councilor Carter said and thought they should make an effort to engage the public.

4. OLD BUSINESS

a. Other Old Business – None.

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. Public Session – May 27, 2020

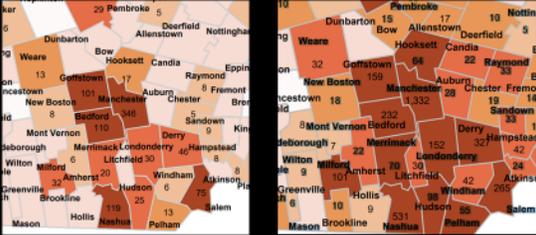
MOTION by Councilor Carter that the Bedford Town Council approve the public minutes of the May 27, 2020 Town Council meeting as posted. Seconded by Councilor Ricciardi.

Roll Call Vote: Bill Duschatko-aye, Lori Radke-aye, Melissa Stevens-aye, Phil Greazzo-aye, Denise Ricciardi-aye, Bill Carter-aye, Dave Gilbert-aye. Motion Passed – 7-0.

8. TOWN MANAGER REPORT

COVID-19 Update:

- Bedford: The 3rd most impacted community for the current number of COVID-19 positive patients.



110 Current Cases **232 Total Cases**

COVID-19 Update:

Please keep these 3 basic items as part of your daily routine:

1. Stay 6 feet apart
2. Wear a face covering
3. Wash your hands often



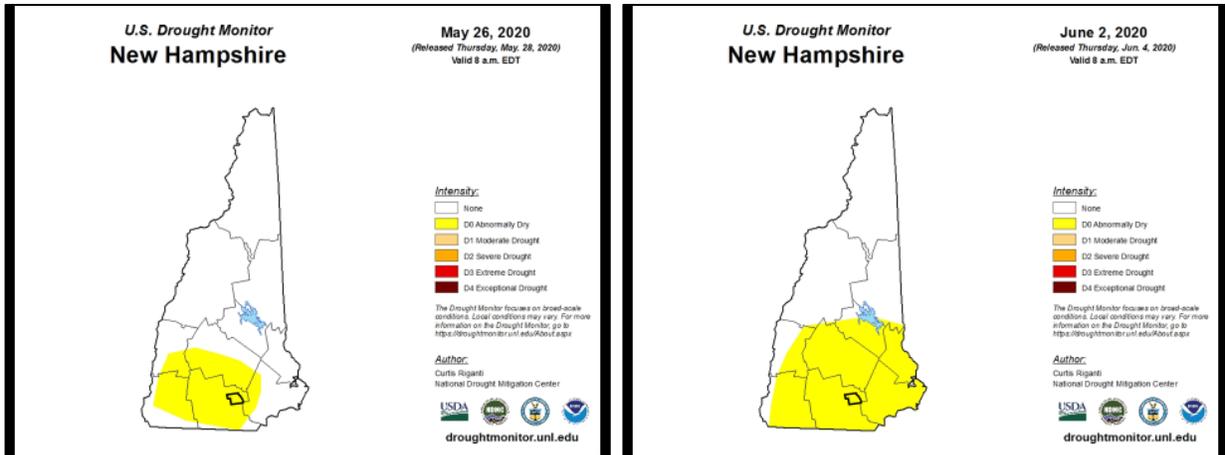
Keep Distance & Wear Cloth Face Covering

Wash Hands with Soap & Water

Or Use Hand Sanitizer

[cdc.gov/coronavirus](https://www.cdc.gov/coronavirus)

- 1) Town Office Building will be open Monday, June 15th, 8:00 – 4:00 PM. All departments will be open. Appointments are still encouraged for non-motor vehicle requests. Use online or mail in options whenever possible as maximum occupancy in our lobby is 4 customers. Please wear a face covering and keep a 6 foot separation.
- 2) Basketball courts, Skateboard Park, and playgrounds will open June 15th.
- 3) Public Library – Contactless curbside pickup of library materials for cardholders 10 AM – 2 PM, Monday – Saturday and Wednesdays 5:00 pm – 7:00 pm.
- 4) Bedford Cares – Contact them at 792-1319 or on Facebook: [BedfordNHCares](https://www.facebook.com/BedfordNHCares). He thanked Councilor Ricciardi and her team.
- 5) I am saddened to note that Herman "Herk" Streitburger, our holder of the Boston Post Cane which is awarded to our oldest resident, passed away on May 29th at nearly 101 years young. Mr. Streitburger was a member of the Greatest Generation serving in the U.S. Army Air Corps during World War II where he was shot down on his 50th and final mission in Europe and spent a year in a German prison camp. Condolences go out to his family.



- 6) The last day to file as a candidate for State office is Friday, June 12, 2020.
- 7) License your dog. Civil forfeiture fines of \$25.00 will be effective July 6th. Contact Town Clerk at 472-3550, ext. 2, skellar@bedfordnh.org.
- 8) Bedford Library Summer Reading Challenge for adults, teens, and kids will run June 15-July 31, 2020 with a kickoff event being held on June 16th at 2 PM. The theme this year is, "Imagine Your Story".
- 9) The Bedford Farmers Market opens June 16th and continues on Tuesdays from 3-6 PM through September at the Harvest Market parking lot.
- 10) June 27th – Household Hazardous Waste Day, 8:30 AM – 3 PM, Highway Garage, 19 Chubbuck Road.
- 11) Last week of June – Transfer Station stickers will be added to your car if you don't have one. There has been an uptick of people trying to access the Transfer Station as people knew they weren't issuing the new stickers because of COVID-19.
- 12) Route 101 Paving – Tentative completion date is July 3rd.
- 13) Tax bills have been mailed with a July 1st due date.
- 14) Summer Concert Series – We have had to cancel our June Summer Concert Series dates due to the 10 person limit on public gatherings, but we are hopeful that we can be together at the Bedford Village Common on Wednesday evenings in July starting at 6:00 PM.
- 15) Independence Day Closures: Town Office will be closed on Friday, July 3rd. Library will be closed Friday, July 3rd and Saturday, July 4th. Transfer Station will be closed Friday, July 3rd through Monday, July 6th. They will have extended hours on Thursday, July 2nd and Tuesday, July 7th, 7:00 am – 7:00 pm.
- 16) 2020 Census – Bedford currently has a response rate of 79.7% which is third in the State. I would love to see Bedford be the first community to reach 100%. Please complete the Census by going to <https://my2020census.gov/> It truly takes less than 10 minutes to complete.

Mr. Sawyer stated I want to leave you with an acknowledgement of the challenging events and images that started in Minneapolis and spread across our country in the last month and state how fortunate we are to have a police department, led by Chief Bryfonski that has been on the forefront of Community Policing since the Chief started moving the department to that model back in 2011.

I truly believe the culture that the leadership team has installed in the department is reflective of the way our community would want them to act in all circumstances. The employee selection process, standard operating procedures, and ongoing training and review practices set the table right from the start and continuously demand, as it should, that our employees maintain the highest professional standards while always reinforcing the expectations of the community.

In Bedford I believe we are fortunate to have such a great team that we can get to know personally through their roles in our schools, open house events, the bicycle rodeo, coffee with a cop, meet the Chief, senior center visits, and just around town. It is important to note that many of our officers, especially our leadership team are Bedford residents and therefore are your neighbors with kids in the schools and you just might bump into at the grocery store. In short they are our community and they represent it well even when the most challenging circumstances occur.

Councilor Radke wanted to know if Mr. Sawyer changed the hours for the Town Office, because it used to close at 4:30. She wanted to know if that was for good or temporary. Mr. Sawyer stated that it was still a temporary condition. They have reinstated their early hours on Tuesday. They do feel they need to close at 4:00 PM because of all of the extra mail-in items they need to deal with and they are still short one staff person in the Finance team. They also wanted to reserve a little bit of time for any members of the public who don't feel comfortable coming in when the general public is coming in, mostly the senior population. They had originally kept the first two hours of the morning available for seniors and they found they weren't getting enough, so they have that last half hour of the day where people can still make an appointment if they need to.

11. COUNCILOR COMMENTS AND COMMITTEE UPDATES

Councilor Carter echoed Mr. Sawyer's comments when it comes to what's been going on the last couple of weeks. He mentioned the protest that took place in Bedford last Friday and he was able to go down there and talk to a couple of officers. He thanked the Chief and his staff for being leaders in that whole thing. He mentioned Chief Hunter and all the work they've been doing with the outdoor seating for the restaurants and Denise with her efforts to get people to buy gift cards to support the local restaurants. He talked about Denise and the work she's doing with Bedford Cares. He mentioned that people walking on the streets should be walking towards the traffic, not with the traffic. That way you can see any oncoming cars.

Councilor Radke mentioned the 'College Hunks' signs up and down Route 101. She wanted to know if they had been informed that they were violating the sign ordinance. Mr. Sawyer stated that they've littered the entire community with their signs. They have been notified by the Planning Department. They've picked up at least a dozen signs if not more and they will try and pick up the rest. If anyone sees them at a specific place, email him or the Planning staff.

Councilor Duschatko stated that the Market & Main project was scheduled to be heard at the June 1st Planning Board meeting and at the last minute the developers delayed their presentation. On this past Monday, the Planning Board gave final approval to the construction of a gas station/convenience store/coffee shop development located off of South River Road next to the River Road Tavern and approved a monument sign that has a first electronic signage for gas prices in it. He thought working with the developer throughout this process was very beneficial. All sides were very cooperative between the Planning Department, Planning Board and the developer and their clients. It's the way a project should be handled. There was a lot of controversy about it and the final vote came down to a very narrow margin. It was handled and he thought everyone walked away very satisfied that the project was well vetted. Market & Main remains another larger project going forward. It is an interesting process that consumes a tremendous amount of time. He had a lot of respect for his predecessors on the Board who have sat there as well as the current members of the Planning Board.

Councilor Stevens congratulated the Bedford High School graduates. It was an exciting three days and BCTV was there filming it all for those folks who had to be home and she saw many friends who posted photos on social media of them watching their kids or their kids' friends graduate on BCTV, so she congratulated them too on making all of that happen for the community. She thought everyone made the best of the situation.

Councilor Greazzo was dismayed that their community was still the 3rd highest community for the virus. It's not an acceptable situation. He's at a loss of words over it. That's the biggest concern for him.

Councilor Ricciardi wanted to make a statement given the recent events that unfortunately occurred throughout the country. As a Town Councilor, she felt the need to reassure Bedford residents that the women and men of the Bedford Police Department do remain steadfast to protecting the constitutional rights of everyone. Now more than ever as we move through these events together, she wants to call on the community members to demonstrate respect and compassion for one another. As a Town Councilor, she wants to express that she too is outraged by what she saw take place in Minneapolis. It has eroded the public trust that all of them as elected officials and public servants work so hard to achieve. Through a shared understanding and an open dialog and mutual respect she knows they can move together as a community. Under the leadership of Chief Bryfonski, the Bedford Police Department has exhibited courage, dedication and a commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of all of our residents. Despite the pain and the anger and frustration that she knows they are all feeling, she hopes that they can continue to work together to maintain the community trust that they have all worked so hard for so long. To build and focus on keeping Bedford as a safe and peaceful place for all of us to work, live and raise our family.

12. NON-PUBLIC – RSA 91-A:3 (if necessary)

13. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Councilor Duschatko to adjourn the meeting. Seconded by Councilor Carter.

Roll Call Vote: Lori Radke-aye, Bill Carter-aye, Bill Duschatko-aye, Melissa Stevens-aye, Phil Greazzo-aye, Denise Ricciardi-aye, Dave Gilbert-aye. Motion passed – 7-0.

The meeting ended at 7:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,
Dawn Boufford