

HUDSON, NH BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Minutes of the May 26, 2020 Meeting

1. CALL TO ORDER - by Chairman Morin the meeting of May 26, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at Town Hall.
2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE - led by John Leone, Hudson resident and member of the Benson Park Committee

3. ATTENDANCE

Board of Selectmen: David Morin, Marilyn McGrath, Kara Roy, Normand Martin

Selectman Coutu participated remotely from his residence due to the covid-19 pandemic

Staff/Others: Steve Malizia, Town Administrator; Rob Buxton, Fire Chief; Jim Paquette, Deputy Fire Chief; Paul Inderbitzen, Town Moderator; Bill Avery, Police Chief; Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant

4. PUBLIC INPUT

Judy Brouillette 183 Highland Street came forward and said Hi, my name is Judy Brouillette. I'm from 183 Highland Street in Hudson. I have sent a few emails in and I wanted to talk to the Board of Selectmen in regards to the reopening of Benson's Park. I have a slew of things that I sent in the emails, I'm sure that most of you have received it. But my biggest piece that I have is I'm very concerned that it hasn't been really, in my opinion, taken seriously from the Board to reopen it. I have, anybody can receive it, you can go online, and get the Stay At Home 2.0 State Park from the Governor that talks about the process of reopening. They talk about a variety of different parks. Obviously State Parks are different. So I view that there are many compromises that we can make within the community, I also feel it's not the Board's responsibility to make sure that parents are doing the right thing. I think if you put things in place so that families know that it's not. You can't use it. I mean there's other parks like the one on Greely Street. There's a park there and it's not even taped off. And no one's using it. I go down that way all the time and people are being very respectful. I would hope as a parent that people would not want their children to go on the playground with the chance of possibly getting the virus. So my thought is there are so many more benefits than the playground there's even more than just the walking trails. There's the trails themselves. I live on Highland Street, you guys probably drive it many times, you know it's a busy road. My son, I will not allow him to ride a bike on that. And it's not easy for me to get to a side road and my only other option is to go down a road that I don't even know. A community that I don't know. We live so close to Benson's. It's something that he's been doing for his entire life and I feel very safe there. Some of those other parks, like Mine's Falls, I don't feel safe there. Especially as a female. I feel very with Benson's. And I just feel that we can come with compromises to be able to open the park in a safe manner. I don't disagree. I think that signage, I mean we have to follow what the Governor says, I don't disagree with any of that of that stuff but I think that there could be a compromise that's done than just saying it's not being reopened. And no plan to reopen it. That was the other piece that I heard that at this time you guys didn't want the Fire Chief to come up with a plan of the reopening. I understand that it might not happen tomorrow or maybe the next day but with everything that's opening up in the State that we're starting to see things phasing in, that the Governor is starting to open. I mean I have more of a chance of getting covid by going to Market Basket than I do with going to the park. I mean I have more of a chance of going to some of these restaurants that are being opened, getting my hair done, any of things I have more of a chance of doing that than I would have a change going to that park. I appreciate your time and letting me speak.

Selectman Coutu said, thank you Judy. We corresponded back and forth. Let me just tell you this. There will be a presentation made tonight by the Fire Chief representing the Emergency Management

Team. I happen to read the report in its entirety and I believe that the final outcome will be, I think you'll like it. Let me put it in simple terms. I think you'll like it. Ms. Brouillette responded, thank you Mr. Coutu.

Dawn Renaud 111 Pelham Road came forward and said, I work for a director of HR for a biotech company in Devens MA. I am not a long term Hudson resident but I've lived in Hudson now for 3 years. I am a regular user of Benson's, however. I walk my two large dogs four to five times a week. I will say though I usually go early in the morning. 6:30, 7:00 before work and the park is not crowded then at all. I know that's not really the issue that we're dealing with at hand. It's much more of a concern when the park is really crowded. I too have seen various groups and site that commented that people should just be able to walk elsewhere, go elsewhere, use different conservation trails and since the whole closing I have found personally some other places to go. But what can say, those places, the conservation trails, they might work for some people, but I'm sure they don't work for all people. They may not work for all of the seniors who may need a flat or paved surface. They may not work for people with disabilities. They may not work for seniors or some women or anyone who's not comfortable walking the wooded trails alone. And I too feel very safe at Benson's. Even when I go early in the morning. Whether it's because of the open environment etc. Of course this doesn't apply to people in all groups. Plenty of people love the trails. Musquash Pond, etc. I've been using that as well. But those areas in Town, certainly do not fit the needs of all the residents. So these are just examples but I do see even early in the morning, that's when the seniors are out at Benson's. People jogging around the pond, etc. Also people with strollers, they don't go on the conservation trails, it's just not conducive for them to be taking their kids for walks.

So another thing that people comment on is, get your exercise on your street and what did we do before Benson's. And all that's very true. So where I live, I live right on the corner of Bush Hill Road, right around the corner from Wasson. Those are not walking roads in my opinion. Those are roads that motorcycles go by and the cars go flying and people throw trash out the window, etc. and that is the reality. So for me, I still have to drive somewhere to go, but not everybody lives in a neighborhood where they're going to be getting all their exercise with their kids or themselves on their residential streets. I will say something about the playground. And just the conditions at Benson's. I know there's a concern, a lot of people are concerned about everybody flocking to Benson's and so many people there and not social distancing. And again, when I use Benson's I go very early and that's not an issue. But I have been there on weekends when it's packed. I've been there when there's not one spot in the parking lot, so if I choose to go, I have to drive around and wait for a spot. But never, ever, even in those conditions, are people within 6 feet, or are people within 8 feet, other than the playground of course, or 10 feet, or even 20 feet. Its 170 acres. So even when the park is what I believe to be at full capacity based on parking spaces, people are not sitting on top of each other. They're all over the park. They're everywhere. They're down at the pond. So I think that we know what maximum capacity is at Benson's due to the parking lot size, my own personal observation is people still have plenty of space for social distancing.

You know another thing that I think that we need to a look at, and I'm sure you all have, is in Hudson now, we can go to a restaurant. We can eat outside. And I'm quite confident that the distance between tables is still quite less than the distance that would be between visitors at Benson's. Other than the playground. So we can go and sit at a table. My sister from MA went to a NH restaurant last week, in Nashua, and you can sit at a table to eat, without a mask, and you're 6-8 feet from a group of people eating and drinking for at least an hour and when the salons opened in New Hampshire, a week ago, two weeks ago, whenever, I went to get my hair colored, right away. The woman stands behind me and we both had masks on, so I understand it's a little bit different. She's behind me for an hour. You get your hair washed, her face is above my face. I mean these are things that we're all going back to now, that I too think put people, potentially more at risk. Now I understand businesses opening is quite a bit different. We want business to open. People need livelihoods, we don't want businesses to close. So I know that we can look at that a little bit differently. But on the other hand, if the main concern is truly safety, and health issues, their appears to me to be a real disconnect in logic and rational thinking in thinking that eating in an outdoor restaurant might be more safe than going to a park that has 170 acres. So you know, I think these are things that I'm sure you've given it some thought and I know you're trying to do the right thing and we're all trying to get through this and it's been 2-3 months now, but things are opening up. And if there are ways to try to make the park more safe, that would certainly

make sense. But when I've seen comments written that oh, they'd need to disinfect the fencing and everything, those things get to be a level of the absurd. They really do. So those are the things that are most important to me. I'm sure you've been taking a look at. But I think that for people who are comfortable using the park, that's great. And for those that wouldn't be comfortable using it, that's their choice. The same way I might not be ready to go sit at a restaurant or you might not, we make these choices. But if we compare the park to other things that have already opened, there truly to me doesn't seem like there's any comparison if we're looking at safety of the residents. So thank you.

Melanie Fuller 28 Frenette Drive came forward to say, first I want to say they did a fantastic job, hit a lot of the top key points. I've been in Hudson since 2007. I'm a MA transplant. I come from the Bradford area. One of the things that I love about this community is the respect people have for others. I have walked Benson's many times during the day, through the years, since it opened. I've experienced it quiet. I've experienced it packed. I do the trails a lot either by myself, or with my son who will sometimes take his bike. We go so much we know which trails he can take his bike on. And we run into people. We run into families. And before this covid-19 started back in March, at that time, last year, years ago, you would step to the side on the trail when somebody was coming through. Common courtesy. I feel that's everybody in this town. Somebody's coming down, you step over. I've taught my son to step over. You let them by, you how do you do, and you move on. I've experienced that going through other trails these past couple months. You're searching for things to go do. You're searching to get outside. You have kids doing virtual school. You have people that are working from home. It's an odd situation. It's a very, very long day. It's beautiful out. It's rained for two or three days in a row. I'm looking for places to go I'm walking down my street, onto Greeley. Who knows? Cars go really fast down there. For example, after my son did his schooling today and I did work we went for a walk/bike ride. He rides his bike, I walk with him. We went to go cross the street. We had plenty of time before the car came up, he slipped getting on his pedal, I had to stop him immediately to cross the street, because the car was speeding up. There's no sidewalks. All I wanted to do was to get to a street to get up to a dead end to do a circle and come back down. Go do two miles and go back to the house. Let some of the energy out. It's a beautiful day. It's going to be really hot the next few days. I love the days where I could just go right over to Benson's. Go do a trail. Go do a few laps around the pond. Busy. Not busy. Quiet, everybody was very respectful. You want to close the playground that's fine. I get the playground. But I think people in this town know what we're up against. It's been a couple months of Governor Sununu and him putting everything together. The President, the doctors, it's all over social media. You can't turn on the tv and find anything else on the news. Even if you're living under a rock, you know what's going on. You know the situation. You know what could potentially happen. I think if people want to go, if people are nervous that they're going to catch it or whatever it may be then stay home. I've been to two restaurants outside in a week and you're a lot closer than I had been on those paths, let me tell ya. Getting up to go to the bathroom, you're coming within six feet and you don't have to put your mask on until you're in the building. So I'm coming within six feet to go to the bathroom. On a path or walking around the pond or riding the bike around, there's plenty of room. So it's an opportunity to open up. To give the residents more. To give them another place to exercise. The stay at home challenge per the Governor. Yeah there are other places to go. I've been on plenty of them. Some like Donna, Jill, Susie said, some work, some don't for people. I think Benson has a lot to offer for the young, the old, the in between. You've got the flat surfaces, you've got the trails if you like going for a hike, there you go. It's in the middle of the town. It's a good location. You can go there then go to Dairy Queen. I've been able to go to Dairy Queen since the beginning of March. So my opinion is it would help and benefit the Town to open that. I don't see any harm in it. Playground, separate situation. Trails around the pond, there should be no issue. Other places are open. Griffin Park just closed their playground. Makes sense. We can do the same thing. We're smart people. We can put a plan together to get people, and they already do, to understand what is going on. So, that's pretty much what I have to say. They said it well before me. That's my two cents.

John Leone 30 Flying Rock Road and member of the Benson Park Committee- Good evening. John Leone. Anyone who doesn't know me, I've been a member of the Benson Park Committee, 11ish years. I'm also one of the founders of and the president of the Friends of Benson Park, someone mentioned a little while ago. Again, most people know we're a nonprofit corporation, separate from the Benson Park Committee, separate from the Town. Our primary existence is to try to raise money for projects at Benson Park. Biggest project by far was the Elephant Barn becoming a museum. That's been our

primary objective. But I guess while I'm here, I just wanted to remind everyone that we're available and willing to help and willing to work with the Chief and any other committees to support reopening Benson Park. I think that you've heard from a number of folks tonight. You've gotten a bunch of emails from other citizens. I think folks are ready and as someone said, we've been living with this long enough collectively that we know what the right things are. We know we're going to try to stay socially distant. There are no two people that are going to sit at the same bench together unless they're family. That's just not going to happen. If it didn't before it's certainly not going to happen now. So I would encourage the Board. Maybe there's a new recommendation coming from the committee tonight. That would be great. I'm looking forward to hearing that but mostly wanted to just remind folks that we're available to help. We have a core group of volunteers that would be happy to pitch in if needed.

Selectman Coutu added, John, seeing you, I'm sorry but I forgot to call you, return the call. We wrote back and forth. Thank you so much for coming John. I appreciate it. Thank you for everything you do for the Town.

5. RECOGNITIONS, NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

Planning Board - (1 alternate member vacancy which expires 12/31/21)

George Hall Jr. (nomination for alternate member)

Selectman McGrath made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martin, to waive the rules and nominate and appoint George Hall as an alternate member of the Planning Board with a term to expire 12/31/21. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried 5-0.

6. CONSENT ITEMS

Chairman Morin asked does any Board member wish to remove any item for separate consideration. Selectman Coutu asked to remove item E2. *Selectman Coutu made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martin, to approve consent items A, B, C, D & E1. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.*

Selectman Coutu pointed out an error on page 15 of the May 12, 2020 meeting minutes. *Selectman Coutu made a motion to approve item E2 as amended. This was seconded by Selectman Martin. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.*

- A. Assessing Items - None
- B. Water/Sewer Items - None
- C. License, Permits, Policies - None
- D. Donations - None
- E. Acceptance of Minutes
 - 1) Minutes of the May 5, 2020 Meeting
 - 2) Minutes of the May 12, 2020 Meeting
- E. Calendar

5/27 7:00 Planning Board Public Hearing - Hudson Community Center

5/28 7:00 Zoning Board of Appeals - Buxton Meeting Room

All other meetings canceled at this time

7. OLD BUSINESS

A. Votes taken after Nonpublic Session on May 19, 2020

B. Selectman Martin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to seal the non-public meeting minutes of the May 19, 2020 meeting. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Martin made a motion to adjourn at 8:55pm, this was seconded by Selectman Roy. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. Covid-19 Scientific Update

The Chairman recognized Chief Buxton who started off saying, Good evening Mr. Chairman, members of the Board. We're here for our weekly update on covid-19. As we traditionally have provided you, we've provided you with three pieces of documentation this evening. One is the Selectmen's briefing. The second is the financial piece and then the third is the incident action plan for the week. Also tonight we're asking you to approve the expenditures of some Cares Act money towards supporting our virtual technologies as we move forward.

Just a quick update, New Hampshire is at 4,149 cases with 210 deaths. Hillsboro County is accounting for 2,095 cases. Currently the Fire Department does have one employee that is in quarantine. It was an outside of work exposure and that quarantine started yesterday, so he will be out of work for the next 14 days. We have no additional exposures internally. He had someone that lives in his home that tested positive for covid-19 so he has a quarantine period because of the direct exposure that he will be out of work for the next 14 days.

Good news as you look at the New Hampshire numbers. Our hospitalization numbers are down for the fourth straight day in a row, we're actually underneath 100 hospitalization-wise. One of the concerns though is that our ICU numbers are up a little bit. So that is a concern as we move forward. Again, long-term care facilities still plague New Hampshire as they announced a couple more updates today. Just from a historical perspective, I know we're going to talk about it later this evening, as we start talking about reopening, and we did start a reopening committee that started today, we do have 8 states that started to reopen that are starting to show resurgence. So when we talk about those social distancing requirements, Illinois and California are two of the states that basically come to mind, and those are also high-density areas that is happening in. So that is an area of caution.

Governor Sununu continues to work though emergency orders as he continues to open the government and look at some different things. He did provide some relief for health care systems and the long-term care stabilization act. We do now have a testing facility located in Londonderry. They're actually expanding testing this evening. That was announced this afternoon. So if you have anybody that has interest in getting a test, they certainly can make their appointment to get over there locally and get a test. If somebody needs help they can certainly reach out to us at Fire Administration and we'll give them a hand working through that scheduling process. As I stated today we had our first

reopening working group meeting. We'll be meeting four times over the next two weeks so today started that effort. We started week 12 of the EOC activation.

Stay at Home 2.0 expires on the 31st of this month. We're waiting to see what the additional guidance will be towards the end of the week as we continue to move forward. Unfortunately they also announced on Friday of last week, an inflammatory syndrome in children that is connected to the corona virus. So we have one case in Hillsboro County. That person is in recovery as of today, as reported. I don't know if anybody caught the headline in the Union Leader first thing this morning talking about the impact of Hillsboro County right now is the hot spot in the State. That comes from our direct boundary connection to Massachusetts and the cross connection back and forth for work. So those are all things that we take seriously.

A couple of goals for this week as we start working towards the opening group. Support the Planning Board meeting. We've been working with the Town Planner for the better part of the week in regards to getting the Community Center plan up and running. I know the Administrator was over there with us last week basically setting up for social distancing, how we're going to view the meeting, how many people can we get inside? Then when we run out of seats inside, what would that option be and Jim McIntosh, I can't say enough good things about those folks, they thought outside the box and they actually have a big monitor to put outside. So there's roll over area for folks to stand and watch the meeting. So everybody should be able to attend, have their input and have a nice clean process, which I know is Brian's goal. That will also be able to utilize the Go To Meeting option to get that put in place. Selectman Roy asked, Chief, can you just go over the process if they want to attend the meeting? To which the Chief responded, great, great point. We announced last week on HCTV a couple protocols as you come to the meeting, the meeting will be a masked meeting. So as we do here, except the presenters when they present, everybody will be wearing a mask. The room will be setup with six foot spacing. There's a twelve foot aisle down the center. So when somebody comes to the microphone to speak they'll actually have six feet on each side of them. They'll be a self-monitoring station outside the building. We'll have a detail there of EMS providers to ask questions in regards to travel and how people have been feeling and temperature checks and those types of things as we let folks in the building. Significant amount of hand sanitizer is over there. More hand sanitizer than we'll probably ever need, but you want to make sure those opportunities are there for folks so as they come in and go out. That's how that's going to work. If anybody wants to provide in time comments but not attend the meeting, please check out the Planning Boards website on the Town's webpage because there is an opportunity there, if you want to get in the queue, to offer in time comments as they go through the presentations tomorrow night. Brian Groth, the Town Planner, has worked very diligently to get that process streamlined the last few Planning Board meetings along with the Zoning Department. They have that set up and ready to go.

The other piece, Mr. Chairman is in regards to Cares Act expenditures. We set out a goal as an EOC 12 weeks ago now, what are we going to look like when we start trying to predict where the futures going to be. One of the concerns was as monies came available, putting together a long-term plan, so if we see a resurgence in the fall, where not in the same situation we are today. We're set up so we can work remotely, we can process needs to the citizens of the Town and provide their services and not have to close again. So part of that is building a more robust virtual network and the IT Director and I and her staff, her staff has been working very diligently on highlighting how we can move that forward. From laptop availability so we can have Go To Meeting applications for the Board of Selectmen, to make sure the server is up to date to move to virtual platforms and those types of things. So this is one of those expenditures this evening that is covered under the Cares Act. So that is part of those monies. So we would put in for direct reimbursement on that. This is 100% with no match from the community. We're just putting this in front of you this evening to talk about connectivity between the Fire Station and Town Hall and go from there, because we need to expand some of our capabilities. So this is an opportunity to do that.

Selectman Martin asked, what is the top item there Chief? The run of the 24 single mode fiber to the Fire Station? To which the Chief responded, so we're actually running an additional piece of fiber optic between Central Station and Town Hall so we can increase teleconferencing capabilities, networking capabilities, radio capabilities, phone, all things above. To which Selectman Martin

asked, something that doesn't currently exist? Chief Buxton replied, yes. We don't have any of that teleconferencing capabilities currently within that building. Selectman Martin then asked, the Dell laptops, those are to replace old ones? Chief Buxton responded the laptops are to actually expand the capability of this group here. That's the targeted group here. So as we do Go To Meetings as we've been working with Selectman Coutu at home to have the ability of folks to be out of this room and conduct the business of the Board. That was a highlighted need that we highlighted as a group. Selectman Martin then asked, then updating of the server, is that something, you probably couldn't be able to answer that question but that something that she didn't budget for? Chief Buxton responded, no, this is actually outside of the whole platform change. 12 weeks ago we didn't know that we would be here today. Now I've asked and challenged and we as a group have said, how do we do this outside of what we're doing and normal business? Brick and mortar, right? This is an expansion of that process. This is to support that goal and this is a piece that certainly has not been budgeted and thought of during the budget process. Not because it wasn't a capability, it wasn't out there. It just wasn't a need at the time. But this has accelerated the need for us to change.

Selectman Coutu said congratulations on 13 year anniversary Rob. Chief Buxton thanked Selectman Coutu.

Selectman Roy made a motion, seconded by Selectman McGrath, to authorize the application of Cares Act monies to be applied to the purchasing of the above listed items. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Chairman Morin stated, the Board has to go over several items that are related to covid-19, and what the residents came in and spoke to us tonight. I want to remind the Board that just because we approve or disapprove something tonight, doesn't mean it's going to happen tomorrow morning at eight o'clock. We have a process that we started with the EOC and that goes through all the checks and balances. If there is anything that needs to be completed, that will be completed before anything opens. Just a reminder as the Chief just said, Hillsborough County right now is the hot spot. Other places that opened up are seeing higher numbers and as we saw over the weekend there were several states that had very large groups getting together and we're waiting to see what's going to happen. There are several proposals tonight that we're going to talk about and we're going to take them each separately because they all have their own items that need to be addressed.

The first one, the Governor approved that baseball teams, little league, things to that nature, can start having practices with certain rules and regulations. The Chief is going to go over that right now and discuss the options and how we can move forward to open the ball fields if the group decides. Chief. Chief Buxton started by saying, so the first piece is we provided a document this afternoon that I know the Chairman sent out regarding amateur and youth sports. They at this point are not endorsing any games. I want to be crystal clear on that. There will be no games taking place. We're basically looking at running practices and skill sessions. What we looked at are the requirements there. There are some training requirements that are going to be required of the staff. So the recreation department does not run the little league in this community. That is a private organization for both baseball and for softball. Basically what we wanted to do was provide an opportunity, provide them some training in some safety and health and make sure they're in tune with the things they need to do. No group equipment. Everybody needs to have their own equipment and they need to have their own hand sanitizer and make sure it's all wiped down and utilized independently. That has additionally morphed into a review of the utilization of the pickle ball courts. Is there an opportunity to put those all in the same piece. The pickle ball court location over on Central Street is very much 8 people within the fenced in area and only 8 people. So we're underneath the 10 parameter and social distancing should be able to take place there to make sure they can do what they need to do. We've made the recommendation to the Chairman earlier today that said, hey, if we provide this training, we believe that this is something that you can move forward with within a reasonable amount of time. That is what the recommendation was.

Chairman Morin asked, what was the date on that? To which the Chief replied, we had talked about to get the training out, and provide them an opportunity to be ready for June 5th. Selectman McGrath asked, at this moment are we just talking about the pickle ball court? Chief Buxton responded, pickle

ball and the baseball teams being able to exercise and working within the guideline that was given. Selectman McGrath then said, I have a couple questions because I read over the material and I highlighted some of the things that kind of stood out to me. So looking at the Stay At Home, the reverse side, page 2, the middle of it, item # 3C, and people wearing face covering must not touch their eyes, nose, mouth, who is going to monitor that? Chief Buxton answered, so that's why we're going to provide the training. That will be the coaches' responsibility. That is not our responsibility to go out and enforce. We're going to provide the education in what they need to do to make sure they're keeping the kids safe and move forward with that. Selectman McGrath then asked, on page 3 item #7 staff and other volunteers should not transport any athletes that are not immediate family members. So are they going to be responsible for bringing these people in or? Chief Buxton responded what they're basically saying is no commuting. So I couldn't go pick up your son or daughter or Selectman Roy's son or daughter and go play baseball. Everybody has to have their own independent ride unless we all live underneath the same roof. So they're very much discouraging to the commuting to the ballpark together. Selectman McGrath then asked, last item, item #15 all mouth based activities, you know like spitting, chewing gum, how are you going to take care of that? Chief Buxton responded, that would be up to the coach to deal with. We'll provide the education and it's up to them to police.

Selectman Martin said, I see the title of the document is baseball, softball that should be out there so we're not excluding softball. Chief Buxton confirmed, it would be baseball and softball.

Selectman Coutu said, I have two questions now. Did you say just baseball and softball? Or is it baseball, softball and pickle ball? Chief Buxton responded, baseball, softball and pickle ball is what we're talking about. Selectman Coutu then went on to say, the only question I have Chief, when the kids are not playing ball, organized game, but the they're practicing, as you know they have one hand in a glove and the other hand to take the ball to release it to the other player. Is part of the recommendation that they wear a second glove? Either a baseball glove, that are manufactured or a rubber glove? Something to cover the bare hand that they're going to use to throw the ball? Chief Buxton replied, nothing that I read in here. They're encouraging hand hygiene, utilizing hand sanitizer, and soap and water. That has been the recommendation right along for these types of sports. Selectman Coutu then said, so every time they come in off the field the coaches will be trained to ask the kids to sanitize their hands because they were handling a ball that was handled by 3-4 other kids? To which Chief Buxton responded, before they can step onto the field they need to sanitize their hands, every time they come back to, they're not going to be allowed to use the dugout, so every time they come back to the dugout area, they will be asked to sanitize their hands and before they go on to their next activity. Selectman Coutu responded, thank you sir, I appreciate it.

Selectman Martin then said, that just leads me to one more question, when obviously we know when we play baseball, especially with young children, and the dugout is the safest spot when a ball is hit. I know you're not playing organized games, but some of the practices still have batting where the coach pitches, so my concern is now the safety where they don't get hit. Chief Buxton responded, I think that all will be reviewed. I would assume the bulk of the time when you're doing that activity, they'll be outside the fence line anyway. That would be the safest spot for them to be because they're not going into the dugout. So they'll use an alternative gate to actually get into the field. They won't even go near that. They'll be on the outside of the fence.

Chairman Morin then said, just a review for the Board and the general public; strictly practices, the Fire Department is going to put a training program so the coaches can be all trained and that will verify that they have gone through the training, and we're looking for a June 5th opening date for baseball, softball and pickle ball. Chairman Morin then asked, does anybody want to make a motion to open baseball, softball and pickle ball? *Selectman Martin made a motion to open baseball, softball and pickle ball, seconded by Selectman Coutu. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.*

Chairman Morin then said, the second item we need to discuss, the Governor opened up the beaches with limitations and there's plenty of documentation to go with that. So we need to look at Robinson Pond. It normally doesn't open until June 1st anyway, so we're still in that period where it's closed. Chief? Chief Buxton then said, so I made the comment today on the EOC briefing, that yes

the Governor had allowed people to utilize the beaches. I don't consider the beach to be open based on the fact that all you're doing is walking, running, swimming or fishing. Kayaking, those types of things. You can't sit down on the beach. So the reality is how do we apply that rule here locally now with Robinson Pond. We have our own beached area and basically does it make sense for us to put a restriction like that in place? It's a very small beach. It is not a large beach. It is one of the local swimming areas. One of the concerns I had expressed to the Chairman was in regards to, both Manchester currently has closed all of their aquatics for the summer. It appears that the City of Nashua is contemplating the same because they don't want the influx of people being pushed down from Manchester. I need to raise your awareness to say, we could end up with an influx of folks just based on the fact that Manchester and Nashua, and I understand that Robinson is a residents only area, but that is routinely staffed by a 16 or 17 year old kid. We're really putting ourselves in a high liability market as far as I'm concerned, in regards to how do we get that accomplished. My recommendation to the Chairman was at this point, that we leave that closed and we don't move forward with opening it. Based on the fact that it's a small area and to meet the beach requirements we really wouldn't have anything available there anyway.

Selectman Martin asked, generally when we open that park there's usually a water test that comes back failed and they close the park anyway. So I don't see no harm in keeping it closed. Except for the walking trails. The Town Administrator explained, the walking gate is currently open so residents can walk in, walk up in the trail and then walk back out. But there is no picnic tables out, there are no porta potty's out and it's posted on the beach "no beach access". Selectman Roy then said, I just want to be clear, so it's just the beach that would be closed. So you can still go on that small boat ramp and put your kayak in, you can use the walking trails. Everything but the beach. Chief Buxton responded yes. You have a public boat access point without having to get down to the beach area. We're asking you to use that to launch your kayak, canoe, boat, whatever you may choose to do. Selectman Coutu stated, in light of the information that the Fire Chief has given us about Nashua and Manchester, that's news to me. I would certainly propose that we adhere to his recommendation and I would be more than happy to support his recommendation at this time, not to open Robinson Pond. Chairman Morin asked, motion? To which Selectman Coutu said that's my motion. This was seconded by Selectman Roy. Selectman McGrath had the comment, after seeing what took place in Missouri and Florida, I think it's a smart thing to do to not open Robinson. Chief Buxton then asked, can you just make sure the motion zeros in on the beach? I don't want somebody to think that we're closing Robinson Pond recreational area this evening. So if we could just make sure that beach is in the motion that may be somewhat helpful tomorrow morning. Chairman Morin asked Selectman Coutu if he heard the Fire Chief. Selectman Coutu agreed with the change to the motion. Selectman Coutu made a motion to keep the beach at Robinson Pond closed at this time. Selectman Roy seconded this. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Chairman Morin then said, the next item is Benson's Park. Chief Buxton started by saying, as you're aware the Administrator had brought forward, May 6th, a recommendation with two options for Benson Park. At that meeting the Board chose to take option one which was to keep the park closed. We had concern about the numbers down there and the volume people who are going to attempt to use that. We did open up the rest of the conservation areas in Town and provide opportunities for folks to do the hike local challenge Governor Sununu pushed out. So one of the things listening to the public tonight, listening to the emails that we've had in conversation, because people have been calling our offices too, There was a discussion today with the Chairman, is there an opportunity for us to revisit what that looks like. What our suggestion was is that make Benson Park a walking park. Don't afford the opportunity to for people to gather in groups. Don't provide opportunities for private parties to go in there. Don't provide opportunities for people to use the play station or the Old Lady in the Shoe. Just use the walking trails and utilize some of the same guidance that we received for other State Parks. The State has put in place another State Parks and the beaches. Use it for walking areas and afford them the opportunity to utilize the walking trails and post it that way. So we have some signage that we need to purchase. We have the opportunity to isolate the picnic tables, move some benches, and fence around the play station and those areas and we believe we can potentially get that off the ground over the next two weeks and be prepared for a soft opening there if that's the will of the Board. So that's where we're at tonight. Chairman Morin added, just to clarify,

that does not include the dog park and all the buildings will remain closed, including the restrooms so there's no small spaces where people can gather.

Selectman Martin said, I didn't bring the document with me, is that include taking out the picnic tables and the park benches? Chief Buxton responded, the park benches would be removed. The picnic tables we would do some sort of isolation on them because they're permanently installed. After review there would be some significant re-engineering to be done if we removed them. So we want to make sure that for that cost, with the unknown of how long that would be, we just would leave them in place but isolate them somehow to make sure they're not usable. Selectman Martin then said just one other thing. I understand no restrooms and there's a porta potty there. Town Administrator interjected saying, it will be locked and only for the use of the employees while there. Selectman Martin then said, you know, I have heartbreak about this. It can be locked but can be unlocked at the same time. Somebody wants to be destructive they can be destructive and open and use it or whatever and I know that if all the buildings are going to be closed and we're not going to open the regular restrooms we put in there, why can't we remove the porta potty? The Town Administrator replied, because we have people working there from our staff and they might be in there for three or four hours. It would be very unproductive for them to leave, go back to the shop to go to use the restroom. The Chairman then added, let me make it clear, if we have problems in the park, it will be coming back to this Board to close it again. So I want to make that clear. That we're going to open this, see how it goes, I understand human nature and the three ladies that made presentations tonight, absolutely. But you know how human nature is. So I want to make that clear, that we will come back and revisit this if we need to close it.

Selectman McGrath was recognized by the Chair and said, I have some things. As you all know I watch the news and I'm keeping up to date with this virus because I have family members that have comorbidity, I have an elderly aunt that I haven't seen in months because she's 98 and I can't bring anything to her and I don't want anything brought to me that I'm going to take back to my family. So I understand the angst that people are going through. We're all going through it. I think every single person in this room tonight, at some level, is having difficulties. Every employee in this building is having some difficulty on some level. Everybody responds to it in a different way. But I think that we need to be extremely careful. So I'm going to relay a couple of things to this Board. I did some research and I also talked to a pulmonary doctor on Thursday. She's a pulmonary critical care doctor, who has an excess of 30 years of experience. She also teaches at Harvard Medical School. So we're not talking about someone that doesn't have an education and the background that's necessary. I talked to her on Thursday afternoon. She told me that she spent the last two and a half months in the intensive care unit taking care of covid patients. She works at Brigham and Women's hospital. She's dealing with this on a daily basis. Critical care. I asked her if I could question her about something that's not relate to health but about the park. She told me that she thinks that we should not open it. She said this is a deadly virus. It's nasty. The patients that she's dealing with not only affects their pulmonary function, their lungs, but it affects other organs of the body. She said it's getting a little better but it's not to the point where you should start opening things up. So that's number one. The other thing, and I was going to question Chief Buxton, he mentioned it in his presentation, about one incident in Hillsborough County of a child that has come down with the Kawasaki syndrome. And I've printed that out today to look at that and respond to that tonight. This is a multi-system inflammatory syndrome in children. I'm going to provide this to the Town Administrator so that it can be placed on our webpage. It lists the symptoms that they have, I'll just read the first paragraph. Multi-system inflammatory syndrome in children is a condition where different body parts can become enflamed. Including the heart, lungs, kidneys, brain, skin, eyes or gastrointestinal organs. They don't yet know what the cause is, however it can be serious and even deadly. Most children that have been diagnosed with this have gotten better with medical care. But there's a number of symptoms that go along with it. Children rely on adults to make decisions to keep them safe. And unless that playground is completely isolated and there's no potential at all that a child can be placed in that playground, I'm not voting to open the park. So that's one. The CDC website which is also part of the presentation, but I had printed this our earlier. I'll give this to the Administrator as well. Visiting parks and recreational facilities. Protect yourself and others from covid-19. So it's saying the do's. Visit parks that are close to your home. Prepare before you visit. Stay at least six feet away from others. Play it safe around and in swimming pools. Keep space

between yourself and others. Don't: visit parks if you are sick or were recently exposed to covid-19. A lot of people that have been exposed, don't know they've been exposed. Don't visit crowded parks. Don't use playgrounds, don't participate in organized activities or sports. So I'll present that as well. And then, the other two things that I printed out, I looked on the Health and Human Services and they graph out the number of cases throughout the country. But I selected our county, Hillsborough County in the State of New Hampshire. As well as Middlesex County in Massachusetts because they're the closest to us and that's who we're going to be getting. An influx of people from Massachusetts and we can't stop them. So Hillsborough County when I printed this out today, 2,132 cases, total deaths 114. We're at the highest level throughout the State. The rest of the State is substantially lower. Rockingham is next with 1,230. Middlesex County has 20,539 cases. As opposed to our 2,132. They have 22% of the States cases. They're at the very highest level. The next county next to them is Suffolk County and they have 17,480. So I think that those are examples and details that we need to be cognizant of when we open Benson's. I've read every email that we've gotten, I've read. I haven't responded to them because I wasn't in a position to. I've read all of them and I think the walking trails are fine, provided that people keep a safe distance and follow the guidelines. But I can't in good conscience vote to open the playground at all, at this time. That's all that I have, thank you. Chairman Morin responded, and keeping all the buildings closed is one of the reasons why we chose this, but Chief can explain about the playground. Chief Buxton said, so the playground will have construction fencing around it, not just snow fencing, to make sure there is no opportunity for anybody to get in there unless they're scaling over the construction fence. It would be 8-10" feet and we'll make sure it's installed and appropriately done. Selectman McGrath then said, let me just add if I can, When all of this started and Benson's closed and people were having a fit over it and wanted it reopened, some of the emails that these ladies talked about they were the initial emails that I have read. They weren't demanding. They were just requesting and they were well written and I mentioned it at one of these Board meetings. But I called Jess (Forrence) to find out what we could do to open up Benson's. If there was a way that we could, safely. He said that he had taken a ride through there, after the park was closed and he found, despite the barriers, to getting in, and despite the signage that's there, he found that there were two or three families, sitting on the picnic benches having a picnic lunch while their kids were playing on the playground equipment. Totally ignoring that the park was closed. Totally ignoring the boulders preventing them from getting in and totally ignoring the signage. So I'm not convinced. I know some people will follow the guidelines but then there's going to be others that will not. The Chairman responded, I can tell you that beach at Robinson Pond is closed and clearly marked and the Rec Director said there were 17 people on the beach today. Human nature. It goes both ways.

Selectman Coutu said, I only had one question. It had to do with the fence. I got a pricing for it, I imagine it's going to be probably the same price that you have. It's on a monthly basis, correct? It's about \$3500 installed and for the first month? To which Chief Buxton responded, I think we'll actually be able to do it less expensive than that because of the way we're going to be able to move it around. We're trying to do it as fiscally responsible as we can. But it is monthly rental charge. Selectman Coutu then said, I appreciate that and I know you will. Mr. Chairman, I want you to know that I concur with the statement that you made. If the park is going to be abused to a point where people are going to get destructive to get into the playground and that is my full support, to Selectman McGrath in regards to having the playground completely enclosed, I wouldn't want it any other way, but if there are going to be a significant amount of violations of the rules that the Chief plans to have posted on the signs, and the abuse the benefit that we're giving them and they committee, your committee, the emergency management team, decides at some point that the park needs to be closed, I know it won't be a vindictive action and I will support it. So I support what you said Mr. Chairman. As you know I've been a strong advocate about opening this and again, I know this isn't going to happen tomorrow morning. There's fencing that needs to be installed, there are other logistical areas that need to be addressed and I appreciate that. Chief, here's another question I wanted to ask you, I knew there were two. You answered one about the fencing, how high it will be. I wanted people to know that it isn't going to just be a four foot fence that even your dog could jump over. Chief, is there any way that we can make it a Hudson resident only, as I proposed? And see if we can get a volunteer to sit there and take ID's, probably 2-3 a day, alternate them. Or is that out of the question? Chief Buxton responded, I would need to read the deed. I'm not sure that we can. The Town Administrator added, you can't. Selectman Coutu then said, you can't but the Governor could

override the deed and make it different. In the matter of an emergency he can declare Hudson residents only in the park for the period of time until which, he says that the emergency no longer exists. I believe he has that authority. So could you touch base with the Governor's office relative to that? Chairman Morin responded, we'll look into it. But I have a question for you though. I don't think you're going to get a volunteer to sit there 8 hours a day or 12 hours a day. We're going to have to pay somebody and we're going to have to pay somebody with some authority to do that. Just for you to think about, if we get that answer. Selectman Coutu then said, if the Board doesn't support it. That's fine. Let's get it open and deal with it. I thought if we could get an exemption for Hudson residents only, I don't think they'd have to be there 12 hours. We could set new hours for the park to be open. We're opening the park. We could say 8-5 or 8-8, well that would be 12 hours. 8-7, and that would be it. Lock it up at seven o'clock. I don't know Mr. Chairman. I appreciate all that's gone into this. I know you and I have both had some angst about this. You on one side and me on the other. But I know that the Chief was ready to recommend something once he felt that there were enough regulations relaxed by the Governor that would afford the opportunity. And again, I realized that it's not going to happen tomorrow he'll deal with the needs and necessities to get it open. I'd like to have an up to or by date. Is it going to be the first week of June, the second week of June? That would be helpful if we had some sort of a date. Of course that would be pending getting the fence around the playground. Chairman Morin added, we do have a date, Selectman Coutu. June 16th. To which Selectman Coutu added, that's fair. I just want, for those people who are listening, and they're saying why not now, because there's a lot of work that needs to be done. There's some prep work that needs to be done. Safety precautions need to be taken. Don't get upset because it's going to be put off for three and a half-four weeks. We're looking at a little more than three weeks. Don't be upset. The Chief needs to work on the logistics as does the emergency management team. I just got a message flash saying I'm so happy the parks going to be open. So I think that generally speaking the populous will be very happy and I'm happy and I think June 16 is fair considering the logistics. Thank you Mr. Chairman. That's all I've got to say and I'm prepared to make a motion to that effect if you're ready for it. At this point Selectman Roy interjected asking the Chairman, can other people have discussion, please? Chairman Morin that said to Selectman Coutu, no we have a couple more people who'd like to speak first.

Selectman McGrath was recognized by the Chairman. She said, so, Selectman Coutu mentioned about closing the park if there's substantial infractions? One infraction is going to do it for me because we're talking about people's safety and their lives and if people aren't going to respect the fact that people might get sick from their actions, or might lose their lives because of their actions, the park doesn't deserve to be opened.

Selectman Roy then said, first I want to take some time and thank Deputy Chief Paquette, Chief Avery and the DPW Director Forrence and the Town Administrator. They spent a lot of time coming up with a very detailed plan about how this would look going forward. So I just want to take some time and thank them. I am quite frankly not comfortable with this, even with everything we talked about. We are in Hillsborough County which is, as Selectman McGrath stated, has the highest numbers in New Hampshire. We are a neighbor to Middlesex County which has the highest numbers in Massachusetts. If it was a situation of somebody goes to the park and they themselves get sick that's one thing. My problem with it is they take it forth. They go forth and they potentially spread it to other people. So I'm not entirely comfortable with this, but I understand what the citizens want. Prior to this I spent a lot of time at Benson's Park. My dogs love Benson's Park. So I will with some trepidation will support opening it with some restrictions and Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to make a sort of detailed motion.

Selectman Martin said, I understand there's a lot of preparation into these plans as well. I don't discount what went into these plans and the effort that went forward. There are a lot of issues. We're all in this together. Yes, I'm one that keeps saying there are plenty of places to walk. Yes some places aren't even handicapped accessible. There's bumps in the trails, trees sticking out of the ground. Stuff like that. But my biggest heartburn on this is the fact that we have to spend money to open the park. We have to put a fence around the playground. A fence around the picnic tables and we got to take all those park benches out. Then we have to have a plan to put them back once covid-19 goes away. We don't know when that's going to be. My heartburn is the money. I understand

people want the park open, but, he wants to speak afterwards, but I'm not here to spend the taxpayers' money to remove park benches. Put fences up to keep the kids off the playground, or the picnic tables when we can just say, keep the park closed. I had a discussion earlier. I said I would be in favor of opening the park but just listening to everybody, putting in my two cents, I don't feel it's safe at this time. Because I know firsthand, there are people that don't even listen to the signs if you have a fever at home. Like I said before, I had it happen to us at work. And I don't feel safe opening the park. So my vote would be to not support it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Morin then said, I have you Selectman Coutu. Hold on one second. He went on to say, let me just answer a couple of your questions. The benches, removing the benches are not going to cost us any money due to the fact that we're going to bring some of the off week employees in and they're going to strictly work in the park so they will not be with the general population of the Public Works department. They'll be coming in on their regular pay and everything taking care of that. So they won't take anybody off the street that are on this week. They'll be other people. The picnic tables, if I'm correct, we're just going to circle with some caution tape or something. But fencing, we're not going to do every picnic table with a big 10' fence. That would be kind of, you know what I mean? Unless we just do the whole picnic area but that needs to be looked at and that's what the Chief's working on. Selectman Martin then said, just to be devil's advocate, to keep you honest, I understand the logistics of bringing in the other side of the Public Works department, but there's still an expense to remove those benches. Chairman Morin agreed, there is yes. To which Selectman Martin added, then there's an expense to put them back and like I said, I don't discount all the work that you folks have done, you've done fine work, but for the safety of the people, I can't support it. Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Chairman Morin then recognized Selectman Coutu who said, a couple of things Mr. Chairman. I'd like to, I don't want to become argumentative with anybody this evening, over this. Believe it or not I do respect people's opinions. I just want to remind Selectman Martin that we are faced with a virus situation. And as we move forward, and as we have been moving forward, we have to realize 1) Benson Park belongs to the people. 2) We want to open it safely, and with a strategic plan, for those people who primarily own the park. When you talk about spending money, in compared to all of the money that has been spent to date, on having to upgrade our communication systems, having to, the amount of money we're going to spend on Plexiglas. Temporary Plexiglas, then permanent Plexiglas. The dollars, it's mounting and it's just a necessary evil to spend money to have people be safe. And yes, it's going to cost a little bit of money to be able to fence around and secure an area so that the people who are looking forward to use the park want to do so safely. It's being recommended by the emergency management team. They're asking for at least until June 16th to be able to open the park so they can get all of this work done. The money is all refundable there's \$660,000 available to the Town of Hudson and the Fire Chief, if he's still there, I think would agree with me, if we don't spend that money, the State of New Hampshire gets that back and they'll find a way to spend it. So to spend some of that money, which comes down from the federal level, and I know we're all tax payers, but covid has cost us billions and billions of dollars nation-wide. If we have \$660,000 at our disposal, and we're going to pay \$3,500 to put a fence up for a month and even if it was 2-3 months before the emergency subsidies to where we can open it, so we're going to spend a little more than \$10-\$12,000 to secure an area so that the people can enjoy the park. So, I hope Selectman Martin changes his mind, I'm getting a little nervous. But I do have a question for you Mr. Chairman or for the Fire Chief. Are you ready for the question? If they open the park, will the Friends of Benson's be able to open their store? To which the Chairman responded, no. Let me rephrase this, they will not be selling items within the building. They can set something up outside and we're going to get into committees and things like that very shortly and they'll be some training that they'll have to go through with the Fire Department before they do so. Selectman Coutu replied, okay, so I know there's no food and beverage. They can't sell food and beverage and you're saying it would be treated like a regular retail outlet. You can walk up to the door and say, hey, can I have one of those t-shirts, they can bring it to them, and sell it that way, on the exterior of the building. Just as though they were a retail store. Chairman Morin responded, I think once they get the training through the Fire Department that they would be able to sell food and drink at this point but it would have to be set up outside. It would not be inside the building. Selectman Coutu then responded, okay, that's fair Mr.

Chairman. They've been, I've had a few people messaging me and I just want to reply to that last one I just got. I'm very satisfied with your answer Mr. Chairman, thank you very much.

The Chairman recognized Selectman McGrath who said, so Selectman Coutu while, you're sitting there participating in this meeting, you're getting text messages that you're responding to? Selectman Coutu replied, yes ma'am, I do. Selectman McGrath responded, that's nice. The rest of us aren't entitled to that information. Selectman Coutu then responded, somebody's asking me a question to ask, so I'm asking the question. I'm making it public. Selectman McGrath then said, it's not worth arguing.

Selectman Roy was recognized and said I'm prepared to make a motion. To which the Chairman responded, one more thing before you do that if you don't mind. The Chairman then said, I've got to say, I'm on the same line as Selectman Roy and Selectman Martin. I have had numerous conversation with the Fire Chief on opening and closing it because I also have some large concerns about opening this park and how this virus spreads. I'm going to make it clear as Selectman McGrath did. If we have any problems I would definitely vote to close it because the community, the EOC, has been working extremely hard to keep our numbers low compared to the communities around us. Especially where we have Massachusetts just to our south. Nashua next to us, Londonderry, they all have very high numbers. We have done extremely well keeping this under control. I don't want to see that explode because we're making decisions and opening things that we shouldn't be opening or allowing things that we shouldn't be opening or allowing things that we shouldn't be. I understand that people need to get out there, absolutely, but. At this point I will be voting for it but I want to make it clear that if anything goes on, I will be the one who brings it back to this Board to close it.

Chairman Morin recognized Selectman McGrath who then said, I have one question for Chief Buxton. If there's an uptick in illness is there any way to find out where the people may have contracted it? So that if it can get tied back to Benson's Park is that something we'd have an ability to get? Chief Buxton responded actually that's one of the things we talked about on a call this afternoon was in regards to contact tracing and that is something the Department of Health and Human Services very actively pursues. I would tell you that probably 70% of your efforts have been put into contact tracing and figure out where people have been to visit so they can isolate and contain the virus and make sure that they are trying to keep our numbers as low as they can. So if they get a positive, they certainly have an interview with the person that is positive and try to figure out where they've been and they've visited and bring that forward. That is a piece of their responsibility. Selectman McGrath then asked, is that something we'd get fairly quickly after if there's an increase in illnesses or would it take longer? Chief Buxton responded, I think it takes them a few days anyway to pull that together and then you would know if there is an outbreak in regards to whether it's a long-term care facility or early, early on, I know the churches have been closed, They had it tracked to a church in another state where a person attended mass brought it in with them and explained that so we would be able to gather that information as it comes forward. Selectman McGrath then said, so just to go one step further, just as an fyi, I don't know if all of you know, some of you know, but there's a former employee from this Town that contracted covid. Was hospitalized for a couple of weeks on oxygen. Has since been released but is still not well. Still is short of breath and having difficulty and having to be on oxygen. There's another person we dealt with throughout the Town over the years and he contracted covid by attending a meeting and I think that he's critically ill. He's on ventilator and I don't think that the outcome is going to be good. So those are two cases that we here can relate to. It's just mind-boggling.

Chairman McGrath then said, one other thing. Selectman Coutu suggested requesting from the Governor to limit to NH residents. Is that something this Board would want the Chief to move forward with? Selectman Roy said I don't think that's an enforceable thing. First who enforces it and how many resources do we devote to just the enforcement of the. Selectman McGrath added, first of all I don't think it's enforceable. Number two, we'd have to dedicate people in authority, whether it's the police department, whether it's a selectman that might be willing to sit at the park and check licenses, but I'm not willing to that. I'm not willing to put them in harm's way. Chairman Morin asked Selectman Coutu, do you have that? We're not going to pursue the Governor at this point. At this time Selectman Roy was recognized.

Selectman Roy said, I'd like to make a motion to open Benson's Park on or after June 16, 2020 depending on availability of supplies and equipment. The buildings will remain closed. The restrooms will remain closed. The playground will be closed and fenced. The dog park will remain closed and signs will be posted. I'd also like to add that we reserve the option to close the park if necessary.

Chairman Morin asked, any second? To which Selectman McGrath seconded the motion. Chairman Morin asked if there was further discussion. Selectman McGrath said, the park is to be closed for any infraction. I want it to be specific. Selectman Roy added, I'm willing to make that amendment. Selectman Coutu said, so we're going to hold this to a different standard than we are businesses and what not that are also being regulated by the Governor's mandates. So if one person goes in there and doesn't have a mask on, we're going to close the whole park down for that one person because they took their mask off or something? That's an infraction. Selectman McGrath then said, so I'll withdraw my second. Chairman Morin then said, Selectman Coutu, you've got to remember. It's a five person Board. So it has to come in front of all of us. Selectman Coutu replied, I understand that, if I'm not entitled to make comments why do you call on me to make comments? I asked a question. All right, never mind Mr. Chairman. Chairman Morin then said, you asked the question, and I gave you an answer and it was basically to back you up. Is there are five people that have to vote on it, not one. Selectman Coutu replied, no I understand that but it's come down to if we have one infraction, we're going to shut this down. That does not seem fair. Maybe somebody would have an infraction if they're asked to put their mask back on, oh, oh, I'm sorry, they'll put it back on. But if somebody else was standing there and they pick up the phone and say there was an infraction, we're going to shut the, it doesn't make sense. I can understand if there's a few complaints and it's repeated, fine, shut it down. But I can go into stores that mandate you wear masks because people are not wearing them. They're not shutting the stores down. It's just, excuse me? Chairman Morin responded, I was going to say again, somebody can bring an infraction, but there's five of us that have to vote on it. So it doesn't mean it's going to go. So I understand what you're saying but as a Board, we have a right to bring anything forward to the rest of the Board and then the Board as a group makes a decision. Selectman Coutu responded saying, that's what I'm trying to do Mr. Chairman and you cut me off. I'm sorry. Can I ask you one more thing? Based on the motion made by Selectman Roy, it didn't say anything about the Friends of Benson barn being open. Should that be in the motion just so no one could say, well they didn't say that you could open? With the restrictions as recommended by the Fire Chief. Chairman Morin said, I'm going to send that over to Selectman Roy.

Selectman Roy said, I think that should be a separate thing. Maybe there's some coordination that needs to be done up front between the public health folks and the Friends of Benson's Park so everybody knows because I don't want the Fire Department to have one expectation and the Friends have an expectant that they can't meet. So we have til the 16th. I think they should do a little coordination and that should maybe be a separate motion at the next meeting.

Chairman Morin asked, did you get that Selectman Coutu? Selectman Coutu said, yes and I'm good with that. I know that the people will work with the Fire Chief. He knows the people and he knows they'll work with him. Yeah, I'm fine with that. And by the way Mr. Chairman. I believe the second was withdraw, to the motion and if it has, then I will second the motion.

Selectman Martin asked, in your motion I didn't hear anything talk about face masks. I just want to make it clear. You didn't say anything in your motion about face masks. I know they're required inside but why would, I don't know why you would require them outside. But that's not for me to. Selectman Roy responded, I'd refer to the Chief to what your expectations are. Chief Buxton responded, my expectation would be that we encourage the facial coverage in the area that they cannot provide social distancing. So if I'm in there at seven in the morning walking the dog by myself, I might not have a mask on. But if I'm on a trail at three in the afternoon, and I bump into a family, I need to have a mask to put on to make sure we social distance as we pass on the trail. So that happens. That is in line with exactly what they're doing at the State Parks.

The Chairman asked, Selectman McGrath, did you withdraw your second? To which Selectman McGrath responded, I did. Chairman Morin announced, the second was withdrawn. Selectman Coutu said, I'm seconding the motion. Chairman Morin said, motion on the floor by Selectman Roy seconded by Selectman Coutu. Any further discussion? Selectman Martin said, one more piece I want to ask. And I've read in some of these things that the State is doing. How about parking? That

they'll be no parking along the street? What is it Bush? The Chairman, Selectman Roy, Chief Buxton and the Town Administrator responded, you'd need an ordinance for that unless it's a safety issue. The Town Administrator went on to say, unless it was a safety issue for emergency vehicles, fire vehicles, then they might be able to do something but right now you have no ordinance prohibiting parking. If you were to do an ordinance you'd probably need a couple of public hearings which would take a period of time. Chairman Morin added that's a State road right there. The Administrator agreed, Kimball Hill Road is a State Road. Bush Hill is not.

Chairman Morin then said, okay, seeing no further discussion, roll call please. A roll call vote was taken. Motion carried with Selectmen Martin and McGrath opposed.

Chairman Morin then said, next order of business in reference to covid-19 is that we have the Community Center set up now for meetings. All the seating is done for social distancing with the committee members and anybody attending. All the equipment is going to remain there from HCTV. I think it's time that we get our committees back in so they can get going on some work. We had this discussion again also, so I'll turn it over to Chief Buxton how we would do that. Chief Buxton started by saying, so I was posed a question if we had an opportunity for the Budget Committee to meet over at the Community Center or an additional committee meeting, what would that look like? I think the same protocol we put in place for the Planning Board would be utilized for those meetings also because they are public meetings. So the only piece there is we'd have to provide the Chairperson of each of the committees some additional training just to make sure we're doing the self-monitoring piece correctly and make sure there was a station there set up. Because you certainly wouldn't want to have like tomorrow night, we're going to support the Planning Board with a couple medical professionals up there to make sure. But if the Budget Committee meets, you don't need to have two EMT's up there. They can self-monitor themselves and move forward. Probably the bulk would be the Board members themselves. So provide them that education opportunity and provide them the ability to go ahead and meet. Obviously scheduling however this Board sets their schedule but give them an opportunity to move forward if you wish to do that. That is the recommendation. Chairman Morin asked, any further questions for the Chief? Selectman McGrath made a motion to allow committees and boards to start meeting again with meetings taking place at the Community Center. This was seconded by Selectman Roy. Selectman Martin asked, what about the logistics piece for that for HCTV? The Town Administrator replied, they're going to be set up in there for the duration. With no recreation activities they'll lock the door. The equipment will be there. It seems logical that we can accomplish that mission. Chief Buxton then added, you may want to add a follow-up sentence there meet within the guidelines of the public meeting guidance developed by the EOC. I just want to make sure that they understand that they can't just meet on their own. Chairman Morin then said, okay, so the motion would be to allow the committees and boards to start meeting at the Community Center within the guidelines set by the Governor and his emergency orders. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

The Chairman then said, one more thing, Chief. Mr. Malazia can give a better background on this than I can. I just received a phone call and we got two emails sent to the Selectmen's Office today on a blood drive that was supposed to take place on Friday at the Community Center. But due to the fact that we have it all set up and it's going to stay set up as a meeting place instead of tearing it down and setting it up, it was canceled. But we had a request by phone and by email not to cancel it and I told them I'd bring it to the Board. But at this point we have a lot of business we have to do with our committees and we've take great steps to make sure we're meeting everything for our committees to meet. Does anybody have any discussion? Selectman McGrath. Selectman McGrath said, if they can't use the Community Center, do they need that large a space? Mr. Malazia said, it's an annual blood drive called the Jeannie Barkley Memorial Blood Drive. They've traditionally held it at the Community Center because they attract a pretty good number. I think not quite as good as the Police used to do but somewhere in the 150-200 person range. That requires spacing normally. Interview area, recovery area, they get some sort of drink and food at the end. So you can't do it in a room this size. You'd probably need to do it in maybe a school gymnasium that would be an alternative. I think that was pointed out to them that perhaps they could contact the middle school because I believe Ms. Barkley had a connection to the School District. That was recommended because it appears at this time they may have the capacity to set that up there. We unfortunately are set up for the Planning

Board. Now we're going to use all the other committees. I think they've offered to move the equipment but don't if we want volunteer people moving our equipment particularly the cable stuff and all the other things that go with it.

Selectman McGrath said, so the schools aren't in session and I would think that the School would want to step up and help a blood drive. That's my recommendation that they be advised to contact the School. Whether the School Board or Superintendent, whoever is in charge and work with them. I do know that they keep talking about needing blood. Chairman Morin said, they already had contacted the School. They were looking for the option that they already had it scheduled just in case can we allow them in. That's all. Selectman Martin said, not just contact the School District. Is there any assistance we can give so they can get a quick answer before Friday? Can we get a phone call in for the person and say hey Mr. Superintendent we have this going on, can they use the middle school gym? Just to help the person out. I know we're not in the business of helping people out but if we'd known last week I would have said fine but we found out this week. Maybe we can just afford a phone call to the School District. He's there in the EOC, right? It's a good question in the EOC meeting. It just helps that person get one step closer to doing what they want to do. Chairman Morin said, so we'll leave it status quo. Thank you Chief.

B. Primary and Presidential Election Discussion

The Chairman recognized Town Moderator Paul Inderbitzen. Mr. Inderbitzen started off by explained a little show and tell he brought with him. Which was a cardboard and plastic apparatus to protect the Keepers of the Checklist during voter registration. He went on to say, I thought it would just be helpful so you'd get an idea. This is one of the cheap models, because I bought it. My intent would be it's high enough. It can be secured to the base. The Plexiglas ones are two legs with a piece in between. Mr. Inderbitzen explained the pros and cons of the different stands to the Board. He then explained that he's been in contact with the Secretary of State who said he'd only get ten of the portable coverings. The ones he'd like to get are about \$70 so he is trying to find out if he can be reimbursed for these coverings. Mr. Inderbitzen then explained, there's an opening down below. People can hold their license to it. This would be for the check-ins. If it needed to be looked at closer it could be put on the table. When they're done the Clerk could just wipe that area with a wipe. More important for the registration. Remember, we do have same day registration. They're across the table and they're exchange paperwork. So they would need to have gloves. This is what I'm looking at. That was the one item that I requested from the Secretary of State's office. The other item I said is how do I apply for reimbursement for a mailing to every voter in the Town of Hudson. I've got a call into Bud Fitch who is the Attorney General Representative to the Elections Commission on the Secretary of States office. He tried to get back to me today. We're going to try to touch base tomorrow. He wants to talk about the issue. That's one of the earliest things I brought up when we were testifying before the Select Committee is how do we get reimbursement. Who do I apply to? Do the Selectmen have to apply? Can I apply what is the process here? But as you see from my recommendations to you, based on what we're going to be looking at. I expect at least 70% of the voters for the primary which is a small number usually, or for the November election are going to be people requesting absentee ballots. And the Governor under his emergency order, and the Attorney General have issued a guidance that if you have a concern about a exposure to covid-19 and going to vote then you can asked for an absentee ballot based on the disability check off on the request for an absentee ballot. Some people didn't like that because it says you are swearing that you are disabled. So the committee indicated they'd like to see another line there that says concern over covid-19. If that happens, fine, if it doesn't they can still use the disability check mark for an absentee ballot. I expect about 8-9,000 absentee ballot request. Whether we do anything or not. That's a big number.

My thing is what I'd like to see is we encourage absentee ballots. The more we have the less people we have coming into to vote the better off it will be for us. Not better off for staff in the Clerk's office. She's swamped in there. I haven't even been able to talk to her much. So we would need some extra help there. That's the other thing I asked Mr. Fitch about. I don't want to go do this if they say, it's not

reimbursable. The Secretary has a pot of money \$3.2 million but that's for the whole State to assist with elections.

After some discussion on reimbursement options, and different scenarios that might potentially come up in regards to part time help, mailers to all voters and safety precautions, it was recommended to the moderator that he reach out to Chief Buxton. The EOC will work with Mr. Inderbitzen regarding reimbursements due to covid-19 expenses. The Board will invite Mr. Inderbitzen back to give an update on the election precautions at a future meeting.

9. REMARKS FROM THE SCHOOL BOARD - no School Board member present

10. REMARKS BY THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR - Mr. Malizia said, you already made the comments about the blood drive. Other than that, I believe we're all set for tomorrow evening. The public hearing is starting at 7:00 p.m. on the Green Meadow property development and I assume all of you folks will be there.

11. OTHER BUSINESS/REMARKS BY SELECTMEN

Selectman McGrath - We have employees in this building that are taking incredible amounts of abuse from people calling in, being demanding, being nasty. It's uncalled for. I know that everybody is stressed but don't take it out on the people upstairs that are working get things done. I know the land use department is probably getting some abuse too. It's so unnecessary. I told one of the employees this evening that if she gets any more calls like that, they're going to be talking to the dial tone. I think that we all need to support the staff and make it clear to people that think they're going to abuse the people working on their behalf and working hard under stressful conditions, it's not going to be tolerated.

Chairman Morin added, I want to make it perfectly clear we had the police here this week when somebody was coming in to make sure that there wasn't a continuance to an earlier situation. Selectman McGrath said, it's hard if there's a phone call. So my policy is I'm willing to talk to anyone, but if they start being abusive they'll be talking to a dial tone. And that's what they should be doing upstairs. Jill got a call last week. Somebody's friend was very nasty to her. And that shouldn't be tolerated. I want this Board, as a Board, to make it clear to the people watching this meeting and listening to it, that that's not going to be tolerated. Our employees will be directed that if they're getting abusive phone calls that they have our permission and authority to do that.

Selectman Coutu - All businesses in Town are beginning to open. And they've been through some awful times. A lot of employees have been laid off. A lot of businesses may not be able to make it to through the pandemic and be able to open. But at least the Governor is allowing some of them to open. I hope that whether it's a barber shop, a little gift store, a drive up and you know you can pre-call and order it. They can bring it out to you. Please don't cross the bridge. Please shop Hudson, please shop local let's help our business community.

Selectman Roy - I have nothing, thank you.

Selectman Martin- Yes, thank you. As I stated a few minutes ago. I do agree with Selectman McGrath. Nobody should be calling a place of business such as Town Hall and speaking nasty to employees. Whether it be the administrator, executive assistant or anybody for that matter. I agree and support wholeheartedly for transferring them to your supervisor.

I keep wanting to say this. I just want to encourage people to slow down. There's no rush to drive up on my bumper and keep following me. You're not going to get anywhere further than I am.

Chairman Morin - Over the weekend was Memorial Day. Both the American Legion and the VFW held separate ceremonies. The reason they did that was to keep the crowd down. It was not

announced but there was a ceremony in Town to honor our military. The American Legion presented this (plaque) to the Town for our assistance with the Field of Honor. This year they increased it by 35 flags. I just want to thank the American Legion, the VFW, the Rotary, the Lions Club and the Kiwanis Club who purchased two 30"x20" flags flown for the first time on Memorial Day.

12. NONPUBLIC SESSION

Motion by Selectman Martin seconded by Selectman Roy, to go into non-public session under RSA 91-A: 3 II (b) the hiring of any person as a public employee. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Chairman Morin entered Nonpublic Session at 9:17 p.m., thus ending the televised portion of the meeting. Any votes taken upon entering open session will be listed on the Board's next agenda. The public is asked to leave the room.

Chairman Morin entered open session at 9:38 p.m.

Selectman Martin made a motion, seconded by Selectman Roy to exit nonpublic session. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Selectman Coutu made a motion, seconded by Selectman Martin to accept Chief Avery's recommendation to hire Frank McInnis as a full-time police officer with a starting salary of \$24.86 (Step 1 with Cert.) per hour, in accordance with the Hudson Police Employee Association Contract. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

13. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 9:39 p.m. by Selectman Roy seconded by Selectman Martin. A roll call vote was taken. Carried 5-0.

Recorded by HCTV and transcribed by Jill Laffin, Executive Assistant.

David S. Morin, Chairman

Kara Roy, Vice-Chairman

Marilyn E. McGrath, Selectman

Roger E. Coutu, Selectman

Normand G. Martin, Selectman