

TOWN OF RYE – BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Thursday, October 15, 2020
4:00 p.m.
Via Zoom

Present: Chair Phil Winslow, Selectman Bill Epperson and Selectwoman Mae Bradshaw

Others Present: Town Administrator Becky Bergeron and Health Officer Dr. Gail Snow

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Winslow called the meeting to order at 4:04 p.m.

Reading of Attestation:

As Chair of the Rye Board of Selectmen, 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 and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governor's Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming that we are providing public access to the meeting by telephone, with additional access possibilities by video and other electronic means. We are utilizing Zoom for this electronic meeting. All members of the board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public has access to contemporaneously listen and, if necessary, participate in this meeting through dialing the following phone number: 646-558-8656 and Password: 014785 or by clicking on the following website address: www.zoom.com ID #869-8002-2716.

- a) Public notice has been provided to the public for the necessary information for accessing the meeting, including how to access the meeting using Zoom telephonically. Instructions have also been provided on the Town of Rye website town.rye.nh.us
- b.) Providing a mechanism for the public to alert the public body during the meeting if there are problems with access.
If anyone has a problem accessing the meeting please email the Town Administrator at: bbergeron@town.rye.nh.us.
- c.) Adjourning the meeting if the public is unable to access the meeting.
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.

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Roll call attendance of Select Board:

- Phil Winslow
- Bill Epperson

Note: The Selectmen stated where they were at home and stated that their spouse was the in the home during the meeting.

Chair Winslow led the Pledge of Allegiance.

II. PUBLIC HEARING – Town-wide Trick or Treat date change to October 31, 2020

The purpose of this hearing is to allow public comment on the Health Officer's recommendation to the Board of Selectmen that in accordance with RSA 147:1 I, the date for Trick or Treat in Rye be changed, this year only to October 31, 2020, to match surrounding communities in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Chair Winslow read the notice of the Public Hearing. He explained that by moving the date the Town will not be encouraging the children from surrounding towns to come to Rye and will encourage Rye children to stay in town and not go to other towns for Trick or Treat.

Chair Winslow opened the Public Hearing at 4:08 p.m. Hearing no public comments; Chair Winslow closed the Public Hearing.

Selectman Epperson stated that he felt that this is an appropriate move. He pointed out that the other communities in the area are making this consideration for the kids. For the sake of the children and in the attempt to getting back to some sort of normalcy, the Board should do this.

Chair Winslow agreed and recommended that the protocol given by Chief Walsh should be sent out and followed by the homeowners who are planning to give out candy. The protocol also outlines what the Trick or Treaters should do to stay safe.

The ways the protocol will be publicized will be:

- On the Message Board
- On Social Media
 - Face Book
 - Both Police and Town Hall
- On the Towns Website
- On the Police Website
- Flyers at the Town Hall and the Transfer Station
- Ad in Portsmouth Herald

Chief Walsh presented the protocol that was developed by Dr. Snow, Chief Cotreau and himself to the Board as follows:

Homes who participate in Trick or Treat:

- Only give out pre-wrapped items
- Wear a mask when handing out and collecting treats
- Give out items outside or in a way to keep 6 feet of distance (such as behind a storm glass door) and replace treats before each round of visitors
- Do not hand treats directly to kids
- Put out hand sanitizer

For Trick or Treat participants:

- Parents and kids should be in small groups, preferably family members only and within your neighborhood
- Avoid large groups and going inside homes
- Maintain social distancing while Trick or Treating
- Carry hand sanitizer (gloves are not recommended)
- Wear protective masks (this may be part of a costume if it's cloth)
- If a home does not want to participate, please leave all front lights off

STAY AT HOME IF YOU ARE NOT FEELING WELL OR HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH SOMEONE WHO HAS COVID-19.

Note: *Selectwoman Bradshaw joined the meeting at 4:12 p.m.*

Selectwoman Bradshaw noted that Kittery, ME is still having Trick of Treat on the 30th of October.

Chief Walsh stated that North Hampton is the only New Hampshire town in the area that is having it on the 30th.

Motion by Phil Winslow to accept Dr. Snow's recommendation, in accordance with RSA 147:1 I, to move the date for Trick or Treat in Rye this year only to October 31, 2020 to match surrounding communities in order to help prevent the spread of COVID-19. In addition, the Town will put out information relative to participation guidance from the Police Chief.

Seconded by Mae Bradshaw.

Roll Call Vote: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw – Aye.

Motion passed

III. OTHER BUSINESS - None

ADJOURNMENT

Motion by Bill Epperson to Adjourn at 4:19 p.m. Seconded by Mae Bradshaw. Roll Call Vote: Phil Winslow – Aye; Bill Epperson – Aye; Mae Bradshaw – Aye.

Motion passed

Respectfully Submitted
Dyana F. Ledger