

**ANNOTATED AGENDA
Town of New Gloucester
SPECIAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
6:00 p.m.
Wednesday, April 22, 2020
At the Meetinghouse**

SPECIAL BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

- I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE**
 - II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**
 - III. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:**
 - A. Adjustments to the Agenda**
 - IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS**
 - V. OLD BUSINESS**
 - A. Prior Meeting Update – Selectmen Chair**
 - B. Prior Meeting Update – Town Manager**
 - VI. NEW BUSINESS**
 - A. Updates**
 - a. Selectmen**
 - b. Town Manager**
 - c. Dept. Heads**
 - d. Boards & Committees**
 - B. Action Items**
 - 5.34 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Public Works Tree Cutting**
 - 5.35 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Budget Process**
 - 5.36 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Approving FY20 Warrants and Payrolls #40, #41, and #42**
 - 5.37 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Approving Minutes of the March 23, 2020, Board of Selectmen's Meeting**
- Please see attached paperwork.
- VII. ADJOURN AND ENTER INTO WORKSHOP**

**Town of New Gloucester
Invitation to Bid
Tree Cutting on Roadside within the Town Right of Way**

The Town of New Gloucester is requesting bids for Tree Cutting on Sunset Shores Road and Black Point Road in the Town of New Gloucester, Maine. Bid Packets may be obtained at the Town Office, 385 Intervale Road, New Gloucester, Maine, 04260 during regular business hours or by emailing smyers@newgloucester.com, or by calling 207-926-4126 ext. 1.

Any questions on the Bid Packet should be directed to Public Works Director, Ted Shane, at 207-926-4574 during regular business hours, Monday through Thursday 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.

Bids must be submitted in a sealed envelope clearly marked on the exterior, "**Town of New Gloucester Tree Cutting Proposal**" to Paul First, Interim Town Manager by 5:00 p.m., Monday, May 4, 2020. The Board of Selectmen will open and read the bids at 7:00 p.m., Monday, May 4, 2020 at the New Gloucester Meetinghouse during their regularly scheduled meeting. The Town reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals.

Request for Proposals Spring 2020

The Town of New Gloucester, Maine seeks proposals for:

Tree Cutting along the roadsides of Sunset Shores Road and Black Point Road New Gloucester, ME 04260

The Town of New Gloucester is seeking proposals from qualified, licensed and insured contractors to cut premarked trees, (82 trees on Sunset Shores Road and 245 trees on Black Point Road).

A copy of the Bid Packet may be obtained at the New Gloucester Town Office, 385 Intervale Road, New Gloucester, Maine during regular business hours.

Scope of work:

Provide all necessary labor and equipment to complete the tree cutting and removal according to but not limited to the following scope:

- Cut and remove all trees that are premarked on the two given roads, contractor will leave all wood that is requested by the abutting landowner at a location on the landowner's property, and not within the towns right of way.
- Chip and remove all brush on a daily basis.
- Provide signs and traffic control for entire job when necessary.
- Contractor will notify all utilities for wire coverings if necessary and will also report any damaged wires to the appropriate company at the time of damage.
- Contractor will Immediately notify the Public Works Director of any road closures to do necessary work.
- Contractor shall keep work area neat at the end of each workday and contained through the duration of the job.

Proposals must comply with the following submission requirements:

1. Sealed proposals shall be submitted marked "**Town of New Gloucester Tree Cutting Proposal**" on the outside of the envelope, addressed to:

Paul First, Interim Town Manager
Town of New Gloucester
385 Intervale Road
New Gloucester, ME 04260

2. Proposals will be accepted until 6:00 P.M., May 4, 2020. Proposals received after this time will be returned unopened. Faxed proposals will not be accepted.
3. All work must be completed by June 1, 2020, unless agreed prior between the Contractor and the Town of New Gloucester.
4. WITHDRAWAL OF PROPOSALS: A proposer will be permitted to withdraw their proposal unopened after it has been placed if such request is received in writing prior to the time specified for the opening of the proposals.
5. SITE VISIT: All prospective bidders may obtain a site visit by contacting Ted Shane, Public Works Director at (207)-926-4574, Monday through Thursday 7:00 A.M. to 4:00 P.M.
6. RESERVATION OF RIGHTS: The Town of New Gloucester reserves the right to reject any and all proposals, to waive technical, or legal deficiencies, and to accept any proposal that it deems to be in the best interest of the Town.
7. WARRANTY: The contractor shall carry a (1) one-year warranty on all workmanship related to the job
8. SEPARABILITY: The Town of New Gloucester will accept only full packages for all requested elements. Proposals submitted without all scope of work items included shall be disqualified.
9. A copy of applicable insurance certificate(s) must accompany bids. Minimum coverage is \$1,000,000 per occurrence, and Worker's Compensation Coverage in compliance with State Law.

**Town of New Gloucester, Maine
Request for Proposals**

BID FORM

Name of Company: _____

Company Address: _____

Contact Phone Number(s): _____

Email Address: _____

Printed Name of Contact Person: _____

Signature: _____

Bid Amount: \$ _____

Exclusions (if any): _____

Date submitted: _____

Town of New Gloucester Tree Cutting
Bidder's List

Whitney Tree
58 MacDonald Drive
New Gloucester, ME 04260

Buzzell and Sons Tree Service
87 Depot Rd.
Gray, ME 04039

Marston's Tree Service
212 Roosevelt Trail
Naples, ME 04055

Q-Team Tree Service
86 Casco Rd.
Naples, ME 04055

Tip Line Tree Service
Chris Cote
33 Rockwood Drive
New Gloucester, ME 04260

MINUTES
Town of New Gloucester
BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING
7:00 p.m.
Monday, March 23, 2020
At the Meetinghouse

BOARD OF SELECTMEN'S MEETING

I. CALL THE MEETING TO ORDER & ATTENDANCE

Chairman, Linda Chase, called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Present were Chairman, Linda Chase; Vice-Chairman, Karen Gilles; Selectmen, George Colby and Tammy Donovan; Interim Town Manager, Paul First; and Recorder, Sharlene Myers. Selectman, Joseph Davis, was absent.

II. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

All joined in the Pledge of Allegiance.

III. SCHEDULE NEXT MEETING:

- **Board of Selectmen's Workshop** – 6:00 p.m., Monday, March 30, 2020, at the Meetinghouse
- **Board of Selectmen's Meeting** – 7:00 p.m., Monday, April 6 2020 at the Meetinghouse

A. Adjustments to the Agenda

Ms. Gilles moved and Ms. Donovan seconded a motion to add an Executive Session, per M.R.S.A. 31 Title 1, Chapter 13 § 405, 6. A., Town Manager Search. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

IV. PUBLIC COMMENTS

Ms. Chase said due to the closure of Town Facilities, there would be no Public Comment. She said the Selectmen received all letters sent to the Town Manager concerning the FY21 Budget.

Ms. Myers said there were 37 letters received in all. She said 32 were concerning the Library Budget; 1 for the Elections Budget; 1 for the Parks and Rec Budget; and three that concerned multiple budgets.

Mr. First said the Board also received in their packets an informal petition from John Kirby, signed by residents concerning the condition of Town Farm Road. He said it is scheduled to be paved in 2024.

V. OLD BUSINESS

A. Prior Meeting Update – Selectmen Chair

None.

B. Prior Meeting Update – Town Manager

None.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

A. Updates

a. Selectmen

George Colby – no comments.

Karen Gilles – said she wanted to remind people to be diligent in their hand hygiene. She said to watch for information forthcoming on volunteering opportunities in the Town. She also wanted to thank everyone that took the time to write testimonies on behalf of the budgets. She said these are uncharted waters for everyone and thank you for your patience.

Tammy Donovan – said this is trying times for all and to do the following: please look out for each other; take care of your mental health; have faith; nurture, care and guide your children; reach out if you need help or assistance; stay strong; respect each other; be kind and do kind things for each other; and remember we are all in this together.

Linda Chase – said she echoes the comments of the other members and wanted to remind those to reach out to the teachers who are struggling through this.

b. Town Manager

Mr. First said the following:

1) These are challenging times and everyone is affected. How you respond and provide service is very important. The Town has taken the following precautionary measures:

- All facilities are closed to the public except for the transfer station
- Re-registrations may be done online through the state
- New registrations may be done by calling the Town Office to set up an appointment
- Tax Payments may be mailed, placed in the mail slot by the front door (no cash please) or done online via the Town website.
- Building permits – please call Code Enforcement Office to set up an appointment
- Fishing Licenses may be done online through IFW

- Burn Permits may be obtained online
 - Transfer Station is accepting household trash, wood & brush, and metal only. Recyclables must be placed in the compactor.
 - Keep social distancing while at the Transfer Station. Workers are not allowed to help you with your trash.
 - Library and Fire Station have Wi-Fi available in the parking lot
 - Parks & Recreation is working on a Community Wellness Outreach program. Information will be forthcoming to your mailbox.
 - Public Works and Transfer Station have begun shift work.
- 2) Currently, there are no active cases of Coronavirus in New Gloucester. The State currently has 107 confirmed cases and the CDC is urging everyone to use caution. Emergency Management is monitoring emails and emergency supplies are running low.
- 3) Please make sure to practice social distancing. Please use hand sanitizer if available and if not, please wash your hands for a minimum of 20 seconds.

c. Dept. Heads

None.

d. Boards & Committees

None.

B. Action Items

5.20 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Placing Planning Board Proposed Ordinance Changes on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Ms. Gilles moved and Mr. Colby seconded a motion to place the Planning Board Proposed Ordinance Changes on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

5.21 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Liquor License Renewal Application for The Black Tie Company @ Pineland Farms

Ms. Gilles moved and Mr. Colby seconded a motion to approve the Liquor License Renewal Application for the Black Tie Company @ Pineland Farms. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

5.22 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Approving FY20 Warrants and Payrolls #37, #38 and #39

Ms. Gilles moved and Mr. Colby seconded a motion to approve FY20 Warrants and Payrolls #37, #38 and #39. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

5.23 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Real Estate and Personal Property Tax Payments

Ms. Donovan said Gray is waving the late fee.

Ms. Gilles said she is fine with pushing back the due date.

Ms. Chase said everyone has had almost a year to prepare for this due date and wonders if pushing it back two weeks would make a difference.

Ms. Gilles moved and Ms. Donovan seconded a motion to wave the interest on tax payments until midnight, April 17, 2020.

Ms. Gilles said if this motion passes, it needs to be added to the Annual Town Meeting warrant for approval from the legislative body, after the fact.

The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

5.24 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Closure to Public of Municipal Buildings during the Civil Emergency

Ms. Chase said the State's latest directive is until further notice. She said the Town's directive was until March 27th.

Ms. Gilles said the Town's directive should be changed to until further notice.

Mr. First said he was working with staff on ideas/items they could be working on during the closure.

Ms. Donovan said maybe the Library Director could read a book and it be broadcast on Channel 1302.

Ms. Gilles moved and Ms. Donovan seconded a motion to extend the Town Closure Directive to state, till further notice. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

5.25 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Warrants and Payrolls during Civil Emergency

Ms. Chase said currently, three signatures are needed from the Selectmen in order for checks to be distributed and/or mailed. She said during the COVID19 closure, it was stated that possibly one Selectman get appointed

go to the Town Office and sign the warrants, allowing distribution of that week's checks. She said this would create less exposure to the staff from the outside. She said a minimum of three signatures will still be needed before the warrants can be approved at a Selectmen's meeting.

Ms. Gilles said two people should be appointed, with the second person serving as a backup.

Mr. Colby moved and Ms. Gilles seconded a motion to designate Ms. Chase to sign the warrants on the Boards behalf and Ms. Gilles, to be the backup, if needed. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

5.26 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Town Meeting Date

Ms. Chase said with the current situation, the Budget will not be ready for the May 4th Town Meeting Date. She said she is suggesting June 15th as the new date.

Ms. Gilles moved and Mr. Colby seconded a motion to move the Annual Town Meeting from Monday, May 4th to Monday, June 15, 2020.

Ms. Chase said we will continue to monitor the situation.

Mr. First said he has asked MDOT to examine the Stevens Brook Bridge to see the status of it having to be as soon as possible or if it can wait a year.

The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

5.27 To See What Action the Board Wishes to Take in Regard to Establishing the Last Day to Accept Warrant Articles by Petition for the Annual Town Meeting

Ms. Donovan moved and Mr. Colby seconded a motion to set the date of April 24th, as the last day to accept warrant articles by petition. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

5.28 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to FY21 Budget

Mr. First said staff needs to review the revenue numbers in the proposed budget before the Board does their review on the Budget.

Ms. Chase said with the Town Meeting date set for June 15th, the May 4th Selectmen's meeting would be the Board's first review of the Annual Town Meeting Warrant and the May 18th meeting is when it would be signed.

Mr. First said he has spoken with the Chairman of the Budget Committee and they will need to review the complete budget before they hold a Public Hearing.

Ms. Chase said the Board will need to schedule a workshop to review the budget one revenues have been reviewed and adjusted.

The Board tabled this item.

5.29 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Scheduling Second Selectmen's Meeting in April

The Board tabled this item.

5.30 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Approving Minutes of the March 2, 2020, Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Ms. Gilles moved and Mr. Colby seconded a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 2, 2020, Board of Selectmen's Meeting. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

5.31 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Approving Minutes of the March 4, 2020, Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting

5.32 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Approving Minutes of the March 11, 2020, Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting

5.33 To See What Action the Board Wishes to take in Regard to Approving Minutes of the March 17, 2020, Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting

Mr. Colby moved and Ms. Donovan seconded a motion to approve the Minutes of the March 4, 2020, March 11, 2020 and the March 17, 2020, Special Board of Selectmen's Meetings.

Ms. Chase said on the March 17, 2020 Meeting Minutes, David Barrett was not physically in attendance at the meeting but was in attendance via phone and to amend the meetings stating this.

The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Mr. Colby said the Board received a copy of a petition from Town Farm Road residents concerning the shape of the road and it needs to be repaired. He said the other roads that are on the paving plan for FY21 could be pushed back and this road taken care of.

Ms. Chase said staff will review this information.

Ms. Donovan said she wanted to thank Mr. First for steering the ship these last few months and staff for their help.

Mr. First said he wanted to thank the Board and the community.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION

A. Per M.R.S.A. 31 Title 1, Chapter 13 § 405, 6. A. Discussion or consideration of the employment, appointment, assignment, duties, promotion, demotion, compensation, evaluation, disciplining, resignation or dismissal of an individual or group of public officials, appointees or employees of the body or agency or the investigation or hearing of charges or complaints against a person or persons subject to the following condition: (1) an executive session may be held only if public discussion could be reasonably expected to cause damage to the individual's reputation or the individual's right to privacy would be violated; **and F.** Discussions of information contained in records made, maintained or received by a body or agency when access by the general public to those records is prohibited by statute (*Town Manager Search*)

Ms. Gilles moved and Mr. Colby seconded a motion to enter into Executive Session Per M.R.S.A. 31, Title 1, Chapter 13 § 405.6.A, Town Manager Interviews, at 8:29 pm. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

VIII. RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

The Board returned to open session at 8:55 pm.

IX. ADJOURN

Ms. Donovan moved and Mr. Colby seconded a motion to adjourn at 8:56 pm. The motion carried on a vote of 4-0.

Approved April 22, 2020

Linda D. Chase, Chairman

Karen L. Gilles, Vice-Chairman

George W. Colby

Joseph S. Davis

Tammy L. Donovan

Sharlene Myers

From: Sharlene Myers
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 6:12 PM
To: George Colby ; Joseph Davis ; Karen Gilles ; Linda Chase ; Paul First ; Sharlene Myers; Tammy Donovan
Subject: FW: zoom meeting info request

fyi

From: Spencer-Reed Family [mailto:spencereeds@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 6:11 PM
To: Sharlene Myers <SMyers@newgloucester.com>
Subject: Re: zoom meeting info request

Thank you. Below is a letter of public comment from my family.
Rachel

From the Spencer-Reed Family, April 2020

Dear Board of Selectmen,

We are writing in support of the New Gloucester Public Library. When we searched for a home in 2013, one of the factors that landed us in New Gloucester was the availability and proximity of the town library. Our children have checked out countless books, some multiple times, and both librarians have been a wonderful resource to our family. We strongly oppose the proposed budget cuts. Reducing hours and eliminating the position of one of the librarians would make the library less accessible, and less safe, for both the staff and patrons. When our older child heard about the proposed budget cuts, he offered to donate his allowance to help make a difference for the library. Though his small contribution won't go very far toward saving the library, we agree with his sentiment that we and all town residents should contribute more tax revenue so the town can continue to provide the amenities and services the residents want. A robust public library is an essential component of small-town life and should be maintained at all costs.

Sincerely,

The Spencer-Reed Family
34 Rustic Way

On Wed, Apr 22, 2020 at 3:42 PM Sharlene Myers <SMyers@newgloucester.com> wrote:

Good Afternoon,

Below is the Zoom info for the Special Board of Selectmen's Meeting on Wednesday – April 22, 2020 – at 6:00pm

Website: www.zoom.us

ID: 929-1776-5274

Sharlene Myers

From: Sharlene Myers
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 5:19 PM
To: George Colby ; Joseph Davis ; Karen Gilles ; Linda Chase ; Paul First ; Sharlene Myers; Tammy Donovan
Cc: Sharlene Myers
Subject: FW: Selectmen meeting

Another comment

From: Hannah Blackburn [mailto:htbeem@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 4:42 PM
To: Sharlene Myers <SMyers@newgloucester.com>
Subject: Fwd: Selectmen meeting

Dear Selectmen and Selectwomen,

I am very sorry that I will not be able to make it to tonight's meeting as I had planned, but wish to register my opinion on a certain subject if I may.

I believe that including a citizen Budget Committee in the budget process is beneficial to the community. Having served on various community based goop's boards, I know that it can be easy to get focused on one thing and run with it. I believe that including a group of invested individuals, outside of those already willing to serve our town formally (thank you for your time and effort you so generously donate), and bring a fresh perspective, while including more details than the average resident with an opinion (me). We all need refocusing sometimes, or

I will also say that when the budget does become the focus of talk, I hope you will resist cutting what makes a town a community at all costs. Regaining a sense of togetherness after the quarantine will be difficult at best, and all efforts should be made to rebuild our bonds. Parks and Rec, the Library, and the safety of our citizens are all important factors in this. As a tax payer I would rather have an increase in taxes than not have a community available to me.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Hannah Blackburn
310 Woodman rd

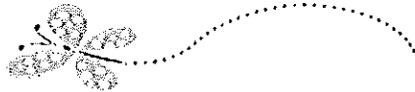
Sharlene Myers

From: Sharlene Myers
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 4:08 PM
To: George Colby ; Joseph Davis ; Karen Gilles ; Linda Chase ; Paul First ; Sharlene Myers; Tammy Donovan
Cc: Sharlene Myers
Subject: FW: Written comment for addition to Zoom meeting

This just came in....

Sharlene F. Myers

Acting Town Manager
Deputy Clerk / Deputy Registrar
Town of New Gloucester
385 Intervale Road
New Gloucester, ME 04260
Tel. (207) 926-4126 ext. 1
Fax. (207) 926-4136
smyers@newgloucester.com



The Town of New Gloucester Board of Selectmen considers home email addresses personal information and asks anyone who sends or receives email with home email addresses displayed to respect peoples' privacy and consider the addresses as personal information. Once an email address is displayed on a public document, however, it may be open to public scrutiny.

From: Penny Collins [mailto:pennyc711@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 4:06 PM
To: George Colby <gcolby@newgloucester.com>; Joseph Davis <jdavis@newgloucester.com>; Karen Gilles <kgilles@newgloucester.com>; Linda Chase <lchase@newgloucester.com>; Sharlene Myers <SMyers@newgloucester.com>; Tammy Donovan <tdonovan@newgloucester.com>
Subject: Written comment for addition to Zoom meeting

Good afternoon,

Please add this written comment to the statements received in reaction to the current and proposed budget process ongoing for the town of New Gloucester. I reside at 30 Hillside Drive and my name is Penny Collins.

I am writing in protest to both the current proposed budget cuts to the library, fire and rescue, and recreation programming. I am also extremely opposed to the methodology being applied to this process.

I serve as the vice chair for the Fiddlehead School Board in Gray. I am also a small business owner. I know that this is a difficult time to plan and to make ends meet. I know the easiest way to make a budget work is to cut jobs. I have been at that table many times and I do not envy the task.

However I also know that districts have been given a grace period on finalizing budgets and that this is not a time to rush, but to be particularly transparent and reflective. There is absolutely zero call to rush the budget process, hinder public participation, or to make decisions without protocol.

I am disappointed in the approach being taken and the lack of conversation around income and taxes. You are proposing deep cuts to our services and community recreation. A town that can't afford to staff their rescue service, library, or recreation is simply NOT CHARGING ENOUGH to live here. The idea that we would continue to circle around a death grip on our notoriously low taxes in lieu of taking care of our citizens and our communal property is past due to change.

In these difficult times we need to serve our community MORE, not less. It seems completely against the wishes of the town if we asked for our own fire and rescue facility only to have it run unstaffed and underfunded. It's time for our recreation staff to find ways to keep NG outside, healthy, active, and in good spirits. Children will have been learning from home for months. You suggest they also have no library to support their learning?

It's a small town with very few services. Let's keep them high quality and in place. Otherwise we might as well shutter our beautiful town center and just go to a deeply rural lifestyle with no supports. Those that want it that way will be happy, and others will leave town in search of communities willing to better support their families. Even if it means paying taxes for the improved quality. I'm happy to do it!

Thank you for your consideration and good luck on your difficult task.

Best regards,
Penny Collins

April 21, 2020

Memo to:
Board of Selectmen
New Gloucester, ME 04260

Re: Special Board Meeting / Budget Process

Dear Board of Selectmen,

I urge you to reconsider your move to abolish the Budget Committee. Now more than ever, we need to be able mine the wisdom of a diverse group of experts who will thoughtfully consider all facets of the financial situation and make sound recommendations that respect the best interests of all the citizens of New Gloucester. The budgeting process must be transparent. Townspeople need to be able understand what the compromises entail, have an opportunity to provide input, and have confidence in the choices that are made. This can only happen if the Budget Committee is able to continue to function and deliver on its mandate.

Sincerely,

Pamela J. Fischer

Sharlene Myers

From: Fred Brusseau <fred.brusseau@verizon.net>
Sent: Wednesday, April 22, 2020 9:15 AM
To: Sharlene Myers; lilacwine72@yahoo.com
Subject: Select Board - Input RE: Budget

Thank you for the meeting details, Sharlene. Also, are you gathering citizen input for the Select Board regarding the budget issues? If so, could you please forward to them the below:

Dear Select Board,

RE: Budget Cuts

There must be some other way. To strip this town of services that give it life and personality cannot be an option. The Library is an amazing service for so many people and so is the Parks & Recs Dept, PLUS both inspire many volunteers from the community to donate their time and energy to making this the wonderful town that it is. Can we imagine a Fairgrounds with nothing in it? No pavillon with birthday parties, no playground with laughing kids? Well, without the Parks & Recs Dept along with its volunteers, those two sites would not exist. And we would all be poorer for it.

Dissolving the Budget Committee is also something my wife and I disagree with. This community is well served by having a second opinion about such an important item as the town budget.

Thank you

Fred and Kimberly Brusseau
482 Cobbs Bridge Rd
NG

Letter from Joanne McKee for Select board meeting April 22
Originally written for budget committee in February

Dear Select Board,

I would like to express my support of Morgan Rocheleau as recreation and sports director. His education and background have been important in developing wonderful programs for people of various ages and for those interested in more than sports.

He has developed a wonderful news letter so people are aware of the programs. Given enough time, I know he will offer more programs to all residents. New Gloucester residents no longer have to go to Gray to participate in programs there and have alternatives to the adult education program offered there.

Morgan has been a wonderful resource in helping to make the Community Fair successful.

He is working with the Environmental Resource Committee to continue to develop some areas of the fairgrounds for use of all residents and to improve other areas with environmental concerns that are a potential resource for more recreational programs.

He is developing long terms plans for improving many of the fields that have been a source of concern by all for years.

It is wonderful to have a full time director who is so resourceful and I hope he will continue in this full time position any years to see some of his ideas become a reality.

Joanne McKee
2/19/2020
4/22/2020

New Gloucester Town Manager
New Gloucester Budget Committee
Selectboard

April 22, 2020

From Douglas Smith

The New Gloucester Parks and Recreation Department is one of the most visible and positively interactive departments in the town. If cut, even partially, the affect would be felt across town because so many families and residents use the facilities and take advantage of the programs offered by the department. Especially in times such as these.

This letter was originally meant for the budget committee, pre-coronavirus, and I understand that budget constraints may be tighter than ever now. But in some ways it has become more important for recreational and other public activities to be available to residents of New Gloucester. I have observed people increasingly using open public spaces for social distance- friendly recreation over the past few stay-at-home weeks.

A cut will also effect the work of two town committees for which the P&R director is the staff liaison and active participant: Parks and Recreation, and the Environmental Resources Committee. I can assert this because I am a member of and chair of the ERC and have first- hand experience of the dedication Morgan Rocheleau has show to his job and the enthusiasm he has brought to development of new programs (many revenue producing).

Please consider alternatives to cuts to this department. You have a complex job with the budget and I wish along with this request that I could offer specifics for solving this problem.

Douglas Smith

22 April 2020

Dear Members of the New Gloucester Board of Selectmen,

In the COVID-19 crisis with all of the unknowns it has created, the challenges of budget development are beyond difficult. Austerity is a natural response. Thinking about the future, as well as the present, is important. Budgets are about dollars, but they also reflect what we value. I encourage the board to consider how positions and departments on the chopping block contribute not just to the fiscal picture, but to the educational, cultural, environmental and health assets of our community. Perhaps this is the rainy day that reserve funds are set aside for.

Community engagement is more important than ever. In developing a budget that the community can support, the Budget Committee plays a vital role. A budget hearing provides an important opportunity for taxpayers to weigh in. Honoring both of these will make it more likely that we'll be able to pass a budget at Town Meeting.

Several of the proposed staffing cuts will handicap the community in moving forward once the crisis is over.

- Under Morgan Rocheleau's leadership, Parks and Recreation has grown not just programs, but partnerships with other organizations and committees that have multiplied the opportunities for residents of all ages to enjoy all that our beautiful town has to offer. New Gloucester's quality of life and its identity are tightly entwined with the work of this department, especially as it supports the use of the Fairgrounds and Rowe Station and coordinates with the Environmental Resources Committee, and the Royal River Conservation Trust/ Little League project in the Lower Village. Programs generate funds, and the potential for more revenue generation must be considered. The larger contributions of this department are immeasurable.
- The library, as you've heard from many, is the heart of this community. With the changes taking place in the larger world, the role of the library is more vital than ever. The library's total budget is tiny in the big picture, but the value to the community is huge. The library budget was cut several years ago, the librarians are among the lowest paid in the state, and the volunteer group, Friends of the Library, works diligently to generate funds to replace those lost for books and programs.
- The town planner has a demanding, more-than-full-time job. As a member of the Comprehensive Plan Update Committee, I've come to appreciate how much Scott Hastings' expertise and steady focus contributes to the town. Our comp plan, which hasn't been updated since 1990, is essential to guiding the town forward, and it is not finished. The next phase of work, soliciting community input, is scheduled for this spring. It may have to take place virtually, but it must move forward. Other projects that will stall include the Upper Village and the work of the Land Management and Planning Committee. A half-time planner will be limited in what he can do.

In closing, I encourage you to:

- Support the continued work of the budget committee, and host a (virtual) budget hearing; and
- reconsider your proposed position cuts for Parks and Recreation, the library and the town planner positions, based on the important contributions that each make to the community.

Sincerely,

Debra R. Smith
9 Cobb's Bridge Road

Town Manager

From: Devan McKay <devyltm@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, April 20, 2020 6:09 PM
To: Town Manager
Subject: Recreational Program

To whom it may concern:

I'm writing regarding the recreational program and my support to keep the programs funded. I grew up in New Gloucester and it's a wonderful town that I feel invests in the future generation. Although, I am not a current resident in New Gloucester I chose to enroll my child in the cheering and tumbling program through the New Gloucester recreational program because I felt this program offered an amazing opportunity for my child. My daughter has been with Coach Becky for two years now in the cheering program. What an outstanding program that has changed my daughter in so many positive ways. This is the only sport/program she will do. She is shy and timid but in this program she has learned confidence, determination, integrity, courtesy, and the importance of physical fitness to stay healthy. Not only does this program offer physical fitness opportunities for the cheerleaders, Coach Becky teaches them to be outstanding citizens in the community. You will not find a better behaved, respectful, and kind group of cheerleaders. We as parents hear in the stands how respectful the Gray New Gloucester Diamonds are and they have received compliments from other teams and coaches. They are learning life lessons which is important for the future generation. It's important to have these activities to keep the children active and it's important for their mental health as well to be with friends doing something positive and rewarding. Coach Becky has done amazing things for this program and these cheerleaders. You will not find this just anywhere. New Gloucester is lucky to have her mentoring these children and the success of this program speaks a lot for her as a coach and the town for offering the program and supporting the program through the years. New Gloucester should be proud of such a wonderful group of ladies that represent the town. Please reconsider cutting these important programs for the children. These kids rely on these programs in so many ways. Let's invest in these children so their future can be bright.

Thank you for your time.

Devan Thompson McKay

To: The Town Manager of New Gloucester
The Selectmen of New Gloucester
Budget Committee of New Gloucester

From: Jennifer Bradstreet
288 Rowe Station Road
New Gloucester, ME 04260

Re: Proposed Reduction of Library Staff and Hours

Date: March 23, 2020

Dear Friends,

I am writing this letter to express my profound support for the New Gloucester library and to vehemently reject the current proposal to cut the library budget, effectively eliminating the Assistant Librarian position and reducing library hours substantially.

I had hoped to share my story in person at the public hearing (despite my dread of public speaking), but I appreciate you taking this letter as a substitute given appropriate COVID-19 precautions.

Admittedly, my family and I are fairly new residents to New Gloucester — we purchased our home in December 2017. I normally wouldn't get involved in things like this, thinking it isn't my place as a newcomer. However, I've read several letters in support of the library recently from more established residents and I think it's important that the town understand how this decision would effect young families like mine — and those who may consider moving here in the future.

My husband, Evan, and I started seriously considering New Gloucester as a potential residence in the fall of 2017. I was pregnant with our first child, he had just started a new job at Pineland, and we wanted to find a good, safe, rural community to raise our family. When I drove out to New Gloucester to see what it was like, I was charmed by the Village Store, of course, but my very next stop was the library. I was so impressed with all the resources this small town library had to offer and it was this positive visit that cemented our decision to move to this town.

Fast forward a few months later, our first son, Jonah was born. My husband went back to work and I was feeling very alone in a new town with a new baby, miles from friends and family. I was desperate for community and very lonely, so, even though Jonah was just an infant, I decided to attend the children's storytime at the library. I felt silly bringing a baby for what was clearly not a baby event, but I was welcomed warmly by Sue and Carla and the families they brought together there. Being able to meet and talk with other parents and residents was so important — it really helped my survival as a new mom. It also helped me start to feel part of the town we

moved to for the first time. Not being a part of the local school system yet and also working from a home office can be isolating. As such, the library has really been my single source of community.

Jonah and I have been going to the library storytime for two years now (and counting!). We aren't able to come every week, but when we do, we are both greeted by name by both Carla and Sue when we enter the door. Jonah knows and loves them both and it's a joy to see him toddle around the place as if he owns it! I visit the Village Store, town hall, Hannaford, and the post office all on a regular basis... yet the library is the *only place in town* where my son and I are greeted by name and I feel like I am known and valued as a member of the community.

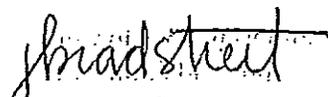
The library has also been an amazing resource for my husband and I. As recently as this past Christmas, when being home with a toddler was just too much, I visited the library alone during their late hours and worked on the puzzle for a bit, chatting with Carla and just having some time to relax. Even my husband, who is not natural "joiner" of activities, participated in the recent Cribbage Night after work. He really enjoyed it and it's now on our regular event calendar! Having extended hours means that we are able to go to the library after work or after Jonah is in bed. Too many local places are only open during "bank hours," which significantly reduces the time with "9 to 5's" are able to use them.

Having two librarians with such different and complimentary personalities is key to the chemistry of the place. I can't imagine eliminating the Assistant Librarian position, not only because I like Carla, but because I don't see how the library could do as much as they do now with just one staff member. Both librarians are integral to the programs like Cribbage Night and the Summer Reading Program — programs that bring residents of all ages together in a positive way.

Our town is growing with young families every year — on my dirt road alone, there are currently no less than three new family homes being built. We would do these families and our community an extreme disservice to cut our library funding in the manner that has been outlined. Quite simply, I find this decision to be extremely short-sighted as we look to grow our community.

I sincerely hope that the town staff can put their heads together to figure out another way to meet our budget needs without outting this vital community resource in such a drastic way.

Respectfully,


Jennifer Bradstreet
(207) 251-9035