

LYNDEBOROUGH BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
April 29, 2020
Final

I. Call to Order:

Chairman Chamberlain called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

II. Introduction of Members Present:

Chairman Chamberlain, Selectman Douglas (via phone), and Selectman McQuade
Town Administrator (and Recorder) Russ Boland

Public Present: Tim Berry, Mont Vernon Selectman

Media Present: Jessie Salisbury

III. Appointments:
None

IV. Community Forum and Public Comment:
None

V. Decision Making Actions:

a. Old/Tabled Business:
None

b. New Business:

– **Purgatory Falls Vehicle Parking:**

Chairman Chamberlain opened the discussion by stating a parking problem has developed on Purgatory Road as a result of large crowds visiting the Purgatory Falls hiking trails. Chairman Chamberlain recognized Police Chief Deware to provide an overview of the problem.

Chief Deware reviewed the history of the parking accommodations for Purgatory Falls by describing the parking lot off Purgatory Road and explaining the lot has spaces for between 6-8 cars. The parking lot is at the trailhead that leads to the Lower Falls. Chief Deware stated since the Covid-19 pandemic there has been increased activity at the Falls which has resulted in people parking on Purgatory Road. Several weeks ago, a no parking zone was established by the Board of Selectmen on Purgatory Road adjacent to the parking lot, and then the no parking zone was subsequently expanded in reaction to the original zone being too small to be effective. Enforcement in the last several weeks has been constant, resulting in many parking tickets being issued; in the last two days 38 tickets have been issued. During the past several weekends as many as 74 cars have been observed parked on Purgatory Road creating a public safety issue for both the traveling public and emergency vehicles.

Mont Vernon Selectmen Tim Berry asked who owns the property in question. Mr. Berry was advised the property is owned by Granite State Concrete and is managed by the

Town of Lyndeborough Conservation Commission. Mr. Berry stated he understood the problem that is trying to be solved and acknowledged the Lyndeborough Board of Selectmen have a hard decision to make.

Selectman Douglas stated he has a strong concern with asymptomatic people visiting the falls and unknowingly spreading the virus. Selectman Douglas also observed many out of state vehicles parked on Purgatory Road. Chief Deware confirmed the observation by stating license plates from Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York and one plate from Florida have been seen parked at the area in question.

T/A Boland advised the Board he has spoken several times over the phone with the owner of the property, Peter MacLellan, and he is very supportive of any corrective actions the Selectmen feel are needed.

Selectmen Douglas stated Milford's Highway Department Director has offered to assist the Town of Lyndeborough with traffic control signs, if necessary.

Chairman Chamberlain explored the idea of restricting parking to one side of Purgatory Road as the next step to correct the problem. Selectmen McQuade and Douglas expressed doubts that would be successful, given that previous attempts to correct the problem by restricting parking were not working; expanding the no parking zone would probably not work too. Mr. Berry expressed concern that if access to the Falls was closed in Lyndeborough, people would just park further up the street in Mont Vernon upsetting their residents and traffic flow.

Vote: Selectman Douglas made motion seconded by Selectman McQuade to close access to the Upper and Lower Purgatory Falls on Purgatory Road and Purgatory Falls Road until such time the State of New Hampshire reopens the State Parks and Trails, effective Thursday April 30, 2020 at 12 pm. Any person violating the no access could be fined and or charged with criminal trespass in accordance with State of New Hampshire statutes, enforced and classified as a violation and a summons issued accordingly.

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ROLL CALL VOTE (Name and Vote):	Mark Chamberlain, Chairman - <u>No</u>
	Fred Douglas - <u>Yes</u>
	Rick McQuade - <u>Yes</u>

Motion passed 2-1.

Mont Vernon Selectman Tim Berry thanked the Board for informing Mont Vernon of the meeting and closed by stating the action taken will make parking for the Falls a problem Mont Vernon will now have to face.

The Board directed T/A Boland to notify the Conservation Commission, post the decision on the Town's website and to coordinate with the Highway Department to have signage installed at both sites warning the public of no access to the Falls from Lyndeborough.

VI. Adjournment:

Vote: Motion to adjourn by Selectman McQuade seconded by Selectman Douglas at 7:00 pm.

ROLL CALL VOTE (Name and Vote): **Mark Chamberlain, Chairman - Yes**
 Fred Douglas - Yes
 Rick McQuade - Yes

Motion passed 3-0.

Next regular meeting: May 6, 2020 at Citizens' Hall at 6:00 p.m.

Russ Boland, Transcriber

The signatures below are for the April 29, 2020, Selectman's meeting:

Chairman Mark Chamberlain_____

Selectman Fred Douglas_____

Selectman Richard McQuade_____