

EAST LYME BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SPECIAL EMERGENCY MEETING OF MARCH 16, 2020
MINUTES

PRESENT: Mark Nickerson, Kevin Seery, Rose Ann Hardy, Marc Salerno, Dan Cunningham and Paul Dagle

Mr. Nickerson called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Nickerson explained that this special emergency meeting has been called to discuss COVID-19 (Coronavirus) and its impact on Town services, departments and municipal meetings. He explained that he signed a Declaration of State of Emergency for the town of East Lyme earlier in the day, and Mr. Seery read the declaration into record. Said declaration is attached hereto as Exhibit 1. Mr. Nickerson stated that this declaration gives him the authority to do things such as close town buildings and cancel municipal buildings, but that it also makes the Town eligible for financial assistance in the wake of this emergency. Mr. Nickerson then read into record a letter outlining East Lyme's current response to this emergency, attached hereto as Exhibit 2.

MOTION (1)

Mr. Seery MOVED to support the Declaration of State of Emergency for the Town of East Lyme declared by the First Selectman, Mark C. Nickerson on March 16, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.
Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Motion passed 6-0.

MOTION (2)

Mr. Seery MOVED to adjourn the March 16, 2020, special emergency meeting of the East Lyme Board of Selectmen at 7:44 p.m.
Seconded by Mr. Cunningham. Motion passed 6-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Sandra Anderson
Recording Secretary

FILED

March 18 2020 AT 8:10 (AM/PM)
Cunningham
EAST LYME TOWN CLERK

Town of



East Lyme

Mark C. Nickerson
First Selectman
MNickerson@eltownhall.com

108 Pennsylvania Ave.
P.O. Box 519
Niantic, Connecticut 06357
Phone (860) 691-4110
Fax (860) 739-2851

Recorded Mar 17 2020
9:15 ^(AM) PM Carrie Miller Hallow
East Lyme Town Clerk

**DECLARATION OF STATE OF EMERGENCY
FOR THE TOWN OF EAST LYME**

WHEREAS, on March 10, 2020, the Governor of the State of Connecticut declared a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency for the State of Connecticut, pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes 19a-131 and 28-9, in response to the global pandemic of COVID-19 disease associated with a novel coronavirus that is currently affecting multiple countries and states; and

WHEREAS, on March 13, 2020, the President of the United States declared a national emergency to combat the coronavirus that is currently infecting the population of the United States; and

WHEREAS, the effect of the transmission of COVID-19 has resulted in the spread of infections in Connecticut and throughout the country, as well as resulting in shortages of personal protective equipment and other supplies that could jeopardize public safety and civil preparedness; and

WHEREAS, in response to the issuance of declarations of a public health emergency and civil preparedness emergency by the Governor of this State, and a national emergency by the President of the United States, and the spread of COVID-19 as a result of the global pandemic, the Chief Executive Officer of the Town of East Lyme, its First Selectman, Mark C. Nickerson, hereby finds that a state of emergency now exists in the Town of East Lyme; and

WHEREAS, due to the significant danger to public health posed by the spread of COVID-19 and shortages of supplies and equipment necessary to protect the public health and safety, the First Selectman must take action for the purpose of ensuring civil preparedness and mitigating the effects of this public health emergency situation upon the residents of the Town of East Lyme.

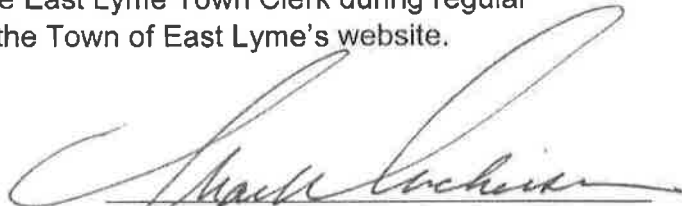
NOW, THEREFORE, IT IS HEREBY PROCLAIMED pursuant to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 28-1(8) and 28-8a(a); Section 3.2 of the Charter of the Town of East Lyme; and Section 31.06(E) of the East Lyme Code of Ordinances, that a state of emergency now exists in the Town of East Lyme; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that during the existence of said emergency, the Chief Executive of the Town of East Lyme, its First Selectman, Mark C. Nickerson shall assume powers, functions and duties prescribed and provided by law, including but not limited to Connecticut General Statutes Sections 28-1(8) and 28-8a(a); Section 3.2 of the Charter of the Town of East Lyme; and Section 31.06(E) of the East Lyme Code of Ordinances, and may take such action as may be necessary or desirable to protect the public health and mitigate this emergency; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that this state of emergency shall remain in effect until further ordered; and

IT IS FURTHER PROCLAIMED AND ORDERED, that this order shall be available for review and inspection in the Office of the East Lyme Town Clerk during regular business hours and shall be posted on the Town of East Lyme's website.

Date: March 16, 2020
Time: 1:00 pm



Mark C. Nickerson
First Selectman

Attested: Edward B. O'Connell
Edward B. O'Connell
Town Attorney

Town of



East Lyme

Mark C. Nickerson

First Selectman

MNickerson@eltownhall.com

COVID-19 East Lyme response

As of March 16th, 2020 at 4PM

108 Pennsylvania Ave.

P.O. Box 519

Niantic, Connecticut 06357

Phone (860) 691-4110

Fax (860) 739-2851

Impacts of the virus crisis are being felt all over town. We are struggling to keep up with the rapid changes and updates.

As of tonight at 8PM, all town buildings will be closed to the general public until further notice. Town Hall phones will be answered during normal business hours at 860-739-6931. Other departments in the Community center and other buildings will do the same. I have asked town employees to continue to report to work normally and do their business via phone, regular mail and email. We are confident that we will find workarounds for most of the issues that will come up.

The town transfer station will remain open during normal business hours but they have changed the way they do business. The public will not be allowed in the toll house/weigh station. The only form of payment accepted will be credit cards. In addition, town personnel will not be allowed to assist patrons unload their items.

Trash and recycle pick-ups will continue under regular schedules until further notified.

While the senior center is closed, transportation for our seniors will continue on a limited basis (medical and grocery only). Those citizens already know the drill...they should contact the Senior Center for further information and to schedule a ride.

There will be NO PUBLIC MEETINGS for any commission for the duration of the town hall shutdown. While we are hopeful that we can resume operations by the beginning of next month, we are being told to plan for a longer period of time.

We are hopeful that we will not have to fully shutdown all non-essential town services. However, the rapid pace of the events and cancellations surrounding this has caused our team to begin to prepare for different scenarios. Our town's leadership team and Emergency Operations Center has been busy planning for the possible next steps.

Closings that were previously announced continue and are as follows:

- All public school, activities including sports. All activities at the schools.
- Park and Rec – suspended all program activities
- Senior Center – all programs and activities including café meals. Meals on Wheels will continue.
- Fire Marshal – prioritizing inspection schedule

- Town Clerk & Registrars – Awaiting word from Sec of State’s office re: upcoming primary. Absentee ballots will be available on April 7th unless primary is cancelled (4/28)
- Water Department – Water meter replacement has been suspended
- Library – closed

Emergency Services:

- Fire and EMT – A number of procedures to enhance the safety of personnel and their patients have been put in place.
- Police – procedures in place to limit exposure. Overall state of awareness.

This is an ever-evolving plan. Closing public buildings to the general public and keeping employees at work has been referred to as Plan A. I am hopeful that we do not have to implement further reductions in services however our team is already working on alternate plans to include only essential personnel and first responders working and a total reduction of town non-essential services.

I ask everyone to take extra caution during this period of time. Avoiding this virus can mean the difference between life or death, not just in you but those who may be in contact with you. Please take care of the CDC’s recommendations and take personal responsibility for your own safety.

Respectfully Submitted,



Mark C. Nickerson

First Selectman