

## **ORDER DECLARING A LIMITED EMERGENCY**

WHEREAS, in the Spring of 2021 the COVID-19 Pandemic had seemed to be coming to an end with the advent of vaccines and good vaccination rates, but instead infection rates, and new variants, hospitalizations, and deaths from the COVID-19 virus have been increasing in recent months; and,

WHEREAS, a majority of the new infections in the United States and the State of Maine involve the Delta variant, a highly contagious SARS-CoV-2 virus strain, which was first identified in December 2020; and,

WHEREAS, the Delta variant has increased transmission, the severity of COVID-19 infections based on hospitalization and case fatality rates, and decreased susceptibility to therapeutic agents; and,

WHEREAS, the Delta variant represents 47.6 percent of all sequenced samples collected in July in the State of Maine; and,

WHEREAS, as a result of the Delta variant and the increase in COVID-19 infections, the United States Centers for Disease Control and Prevention announced on July 27, 2021, that fully vaccinated individuals should wear masks in indoor public settings in parts of the country that are experiencing a substantial or high transmission of COVID-19; and,

WHEREAS, the Maine Center for Disease Control and Prevention similarly announced on July 28, 2021, that masks are recommended to be worn by fully vaccinated individuals in public indoor settings in almost all Maine counties, including Cumberland County; and,

WHEREAS, the risk of COVID-19 virus transmission from vaccinated individuals to unvaccinated individuals (for example children under 12) remains unknown; and,

WHEREAS, the technology infrastructure and processes currently exist to continue to continue to allow remote participation in and public access to the General Board of Appeals meetings in accordance with Maine law; and,

WHEREAS, the General Board of Appeals is committed to continuing to provide opportunities for public engagement which are accessible and safe; and,

WHEREAS, all of the General Board of Appeals has or will be adopting a Remote Participation Policy as authorized in 1 M.R.S. section 403-B.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT ORDERED AND DECLARED by the General Board of Appeals that a limited emergency continues to exist within Yarmouth and the surrounding region; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED, that as a result of the declared limited emergency and the existence of an “emergency or urgent issue” as described above, pursuant to 1 M.R.S. section 403-B and the General Board of Appeals recently adopted Remote Participation Policy, being physically present for meetings in Yarmouth Town offices is not practicable at this time, and therefore requires that General Board of Appeals meetings continue to be conducted by remote technology/methods only until the limited emergency is terminated; and

BE IT FURTHER ORDERED that this Order is enacted as an Emergency so that it may take effect retroactively to July 30, 2021.