Resolution of the North Haven Select Board:

WHEREAS, the spread of the novel coronavirus known as COVID-19 is a pandemic, affecting countries around the world, including the United States and the State of Maine;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is a potentially deadly virus, having caused 7,962 deaths worldwide and 75 deaths in the United States;

WHEREAS, COVID-19 is transmitted by personal contact between humans and by human contact with objects touched by a person carrying the virus;

WHEREAS, Donald J. Trump, President of the United States, has declared a national emergency and issued Coronavirus Guidelines for America calling for, among other things, avoiding discretionary travel;

WHEREAS, the Governor of Maine, Janet Mills, has issued a Proclamation of State of Civil Emergency to Further Protect Public Health;

WHEREAS, the Town of North Haven, Maine, is situated on an island of the same name lying twelve miles off the coast of Maine;

WHEREAS, the only ways to reach North Haven Island are by small aircraft, boat, or by motor vessels operated by the Maine State Ferry Service;

WHEREAS, the Town of North Haven operates a non-terminating medical facility known as the North Haven Clinic;

WHEREAS, the North Haven Clinic is staffed by one nurse practitioner and is not licensed or operated as an emergency medical facility;

WHEREAS, patients with serious emergency medical conditions, including patients with COVID-19 requiring hospitalization, must be transported to a mainland emergency medical facility by ambulance on a Maine State Ferry Service vessel;

WHEREAS, transporting patients who are potentially positive for COVID-19 leaves the Town without a nurse practitioner, without a lead Emergency Medical Technician, and without its one ambulance for at least three hours;

WHEREAS, the Town has a limited supply of medical equipment, personal protective equipment, and medicine to treat potential COVID-19 cases;

WHEREAS, the North Haven Grocery is the island’s only grocery store, serving the entire island;

WHEREAS, J.O Brown’s operates the only gasoline pump and the only heating oil and kerosene oil truck on the island;
WHEREAS, GRM Plumbing and Heating operates the only propane gas delivery truck on the island;

WHEREAS, Penobscot Island Air is the only air carrier serving the island, including the Town’s primary means of emergency medical transport;

WHEREAS, the Maine State Ferry Service has a limited number of certified captains, engineers, and able bodied seamen to operate its ferries;

WHEREAS, Dr. Nirav Shah, the Director of Maine’s Center for Disease Control and Prevention has noted that whatever steps governments take before the crisis will be seen as overreach, while the same steps taken after the crisis hits will be viewed as insufficient;

WHEREAS, six counties in the San Francisco, California area have imposed lockdowns affecting millions of people to contain and combat COVID-19;

WHEREAS, Codogno, Italy has imposed a travel ban into and out of the town and that has dramatically improved the town’s ability to limit the effects of COVID-19;

WHEREAS, the North Haven Select Board has considered the above factors, including the limited availability of people, equipment, and supplies needed to support the island’s population, and believes it is obligated and duty bound to take steps to protect the people who live on the island from the effects of COVID-19;

NOW THEREFORE, in order to best protect the people in the Town of North Haven from the spread of the novel coronavirus known as a COVID-19 and the effects of the virus, the North Haven Select Board hereby resolves to strongly encourage people who are on the island or considering traveling to the island to heed and observe the following:

1. Refrain from traveling away from the places where you are currently living — whether that is on North Haven or elsewhere — and that if you reside in places with better access to medical care than North Haven can provide you should refrain from traveling to the island; all travel to the island should be limited to travel for “essential purposes,” as defined below;
2. Contractors who work on the island but do not live on the island should refrain from traveling to the island due to the significant increase in risk associated with the transmission of COVID-19 and North Haven’s limited ability to care for people who contract the virus;

(Note: The Board recognizes the economic difficulty this causes for contractor and the people who work for and otherwise rely on them. The Board appreciates the voluntary steps people have taken to refrain from traveling to the island to work, and asks the community to help by asking their contractors and subcontractors
to comply with this resolution and not to travel to the island except for essential purposes.)

3. Travel for “essential purposes” shall mean to receive or provide medical care, to provide direct caregiving to people who reside on the island or elsewhere; to resupply bulk food items, fuel, and other products required for human consumption, habitation, and wellbeing; to conduct law enforcement activities, to fulfill Knox County, State, or Federal obligations and to perform duties related to those obligations; and travel for other similar purposes associated with lifesaving, firefighting, and other activities related to the emergency care of persons or property;

4. For the time being, “essential travel” shall also include travel to the mainland and back to North Haven Island for the purpose of obtaining groceries and other essential items;

(Note: This may change should the likelihood of an outbreak of COVID-19 increase. The Town of North Haven is working with North Haven Grocery and Penobscot Island Air to arrange for shipment and pick-up or delivery of groceries and other essential items at the North Haven Grocery or via Penobscot Island Air or the Maine State Ferry Service. The Select Board strongly encourages people to order their groceries, foodstuffs, and other necessaries through the North Haven Grocery or from a service that will deliver the items via the Maine State Ferry Service or Penobscot Island Air. The Town will also coordinate efforts to screen and obtain volunteers to help with the delivery of groceries and other essential items to persons who are quarantined or who are otherwise unable to obtain these items themselves. Volunteers would be asked to place the items on people’s doorsteps; not to come into contact with quarantined people directly.)

5. For the time being, “essential travel” shall also include delivery of building supplies and materials needed for island residents to perform their jobs;

(Note: This may change should the likelihood of an outbreak of COVID-19 increase. The Town will work with Viking, Spears, and other suppliers of building materials and other materials needed for island residents to perform their jobs to find ways to obtain needed materials in a manner that minimizes the likelihood of transmission of COVID-19.)

6. People on the island shall avoid close human contact with people other than their families or others with whom they reside;

7. People on the island shall not meet in groups larger than ten persons, unless a family gathering would include more than ten persons;

8. The North Haven Town Office will be closed to visitors, but the staff will remain at work during regular work hours to assist customers by telephone and online;
9. People who believe they may have come into close contact with a person who has COVID-19 or may have contracted COVID-19 shall remain in their homes for at least 14 days and shall contact the North Haven Medical Clinic (207.867.2021) for medical advice and care, and shall notify the Town Office (207.867.4433) so that arrangements can be made to deliver food and supplies as needed during the 14-day quarantine period;

10. People who believe they may have come into close contact with a person who has COVID-19 or may have contracted COVID-19 shall not enter the North Haven Medical Clinic — healthcare providers will instead come to their homes wearing appropriate personal protective equipment; and

11. The Town Administrator is hereby directed to formally ask Governor Janet Mills to take appropriate steps to limit non-essential, discretionary travel to and from North Haven.

The order issued by the Board on the 15th day of March, 2020 is hereby rescinded.

This resolution is effective immediately and will be revisited and reissued as necessary as facts and circumstances surrounding the COVID-19 public health emergency warrant.

Issued this 17th day of March 2020, at a meeting of the Town of North Haven Select Board.

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Jonathan Demmons, Chair

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Alexander Curtis, Member

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Patricia Lannon, Member

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Jeremiah MacDonald, Member
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