

Select Board Minutes
Tuesday, May 5, 2020
7:00pm

The Select Board Regular Meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A. S.20.

Select Board participants:

Chair Alice von Loesecke, Rich Maiore, Kara Minar, Stu Sklar, Lucy Wallace

Town Staff participants:

**Town Administrator Tim Bragan, Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro,
Executive Assistant Julie Doucet**

Announcements

- A special meeting will be held on Tuesday, June 9th for Apple Guy Flowers, an adult use marijuana cultivation establishment, which is seeking approval to operate in Harvard. This will give them an opportunity to introduce their team and describe their plans.
- National Grid has submitted a pole petition request rfor a new service on Old Littleton Road. The hearing will be held at the May 19th meeting.

COVID – 19 updates

Bragan announced community most community events typically held in May are being moved to a virtual format, cancelled or rescheduled.

Bragan distributed guidelines for a phased reopening of the public buildings in town beginning with Town Hall, then the library and finally the Council on Aging. To facilitate safety for opening protective items such as plexiglass shields, hand sanitizer, thermometers and masks have been purchased. Access to Town Hall will remain limited with shorter hours to start, appointments required necessary and any services that can be provided without public entry to the building that will be encouraged. He asked the board members to provide him with any feedback or suggestions they may have.

Lucy Wallace asked if the take it or leave it area at the Transfer Station would be reopening. Bragan will continue working with the DPW Director on safe operations at the Transfer Station. Any changes or news will be communicated to the public.

Resident Paul Green confirmed the volunteers who organize the Town wide Cleanup have decided to cancel the event for this spring.

Bragan reported the newly formed Budget Working Group will hold their first meeting on Wednesday, May 13th. Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro reported during a recent meeting she attended with state representatives assurances were made there will be no cuts to FY20 local aid. Wallace expressed the importance for cities and towns in the commonwealth to push for relief to states and municipalities from the federal government.

Bragan has begun planning for the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) set for June 20th. He said there has been no further guidance from the state that would allow ATMs to be held virtually. He realizes the Bromfield Auditorium is not an option any longer therefore focus has shifted to the gymnasium and ways to accommodate social distancing by possibly utilizing classrooms and their smartboards. Moderator Bill Barton expressed his concern about attendees being able to speak and vote without everyone in one area. Bragan plans to visit the gymnasium and measure out 6ft distances to get a sense of how this could work. They also discussed the possibility of holding the meeting outdoors. Fruitland's Museum was suggested as a possible venue.

Bragan reported the Town Clerk's office is publicizing the ability for voters to do mail in voting or absentee voting for the June elections. He asked the Select Board to consider a request from the Town Clerk to reduce the hours of the election to a five hour period. The board was agreeable to the request and decided on 3:00pm to 8:00pm.

Other Items

Kara Minar asked if the new Building Inspector had started. Bragan said Gabe Vellante is working with Jeff Hayes during the transition period. Vellante has agreed to continue with the school building project. Wallace asked if Hayes could attend an upcoming meeting to be introduced.

Bragan reported the Assessing Dept. has decided to extend the application deadline for the senior tax write off program from May 1st to September 1st.

Bragan is working with the Park & Recreation Commission on opening guidelines for the town fields and the beach/pond.

Bragan reported the 4th of July Committee is meeting later this week and it is likely events will be cancelled for this year.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:50pm.