

**Select Board Minutes**  
**Tuesday, June 2, 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

**Additional participants**

Harvard General Store owner Scott Hayward, School Committee member SusanMary Reddinger, Board of Health members Libby Levison, Tom Philipou, Sharon McCarthy, Moderator Bill Barton, Park & Recreation Chair Bob O'Shea

**General Store request for outside dining**

Select Board member Rich Maiore spoke about helping local businesses during the Covid-19 pandemic. One business he did reach out to was the General Store about their plans for outdoor dining. He also mentioned Siam Pepper noting Sorrento's Pizzeria already has an outdoor seating area. Store owner Scott Hayward offered details about his ideas for the area next to the store and the parking lot. Town Administrator Tim Bragan confirmed the current on-premise liquor license does include 2,500 sq. ft. in the greenspace between the store and church. Bragan said the license conditions require an agreement with the town for outdoor dining. Hayward will submit a plan to the town for consideration at the next meeting.

**Special meeting on June 9<sup>th</sup> with Apple Guy Flowers LLC, an adult use marijuana cultivation establishment**

Town Administration had reached out to finalize details for the meeting with Apple Guy Flowers but had not heard back and due to the meeting date quickly approaching they decided to suggest a date later in June either the 23<sup>rd</sup> or 30<sup>th</sup>. This will sufficient time to notify the public at least two weeks prior. They decided holding this meeting by the end of this month is a must or it will have to wait until September.

**Public communication**

Bob O'Shea, Harbormaster & Park & Rec Chair, spoke about the citizens petition he submitted for the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) requesting parcels of land be placed under the authority and jurisdiction of the Park & Recreation Commission (ownership remaining with the citizens) related to the following properties:

Pond Road Walking Path – 0.9 acres along Pond Rd.  
Bare Hill Pond Beach – 8.27 acres on the end of Pond Rd.  
Bare Hill Pond Woods – 9.17 acres on Pond and Whitman Rd.  
Charlie Waite Fields – 5.05 acres on Lancaster County Rd  
Harvard Park/McCurdy track – 13.93 acres on Lancaster County Rd.  
Ryan Land & Depot Rd. Fields – 30.33 acres on Depot Rd.

He is hopeful the town will support this request granting the Park & Recreation Commission the necessary authority to make independent decisions to continue positive progress on fields and programs. In addition, this will alleviate these responsibilities from the Select Board.

### **Update from the Budget Working Group**

Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director Marie Sobalvarro reviewed unemployment cost increases explaining these figures are likely to go up due to uncertainties about the return to school in the fall and with recent school department layoffs. Sobalvarro explained the complexity with the numbers considering the many factors involved.

Sklar asked for an explanation about the school bus company contract. School Committee member Susan Mary Reddinger was able to explain the renegotiation was for 45% of the original contract amount for the final three months. They anticipate bus usage will be necessary in some fashion this fall.

Von Loesecke began a larger discussion with respect to health insurance. She explained as the committee works to find ways to reduce costs/balance budgets health insurance is an area that must be considered. This would include adjustments to the premium share for active employees, union members and retirees. She explained Harvard has been quite generous with their premium share of 20 or 25% paid by employees or retirees. She asked board members for their input. Sobalvarro shared the current health insurance enrollment picture and estimates for increases in this percentage. The board members were in agreement all union members, other active employees and retirees should share in the same cost increases. They realize this will require the School Committee to reopen the teachers' contract which was just settled. They decided an increase to 30% or 35% for active employees was within their comfort zone with the understanding if the teachers' contract is not reopened the school department will need to find other way to realize those savings.

### **Various Covid-19 updates**

Bragan reported signage will be installed at the beach by the DPW tomorrow. He thanked Park & Rec Chair Bob O'Shea for his assistance. All employees will keep a log of anyone who comes in with contact information in the event someone were to contract Covid-19. Guidelines for the beach have been posted on the town website.

Bragan reported operations at the Town Hall are working well with appointments only for members of the public. Residents are able to purchase Transfer Station stickers through the town website. The Town Clerks is continuing to encourage mail in voting. A form is being included in the Annual Town Meeting Finance Committee booklet being mailed to residents.

### **Annual Town Meeting (ATM) planning**

Moderator Bill Barton along with Board of Health members Tom Phillipou, Libby Levison and Sharon McCarthy joined the Select Board to discuss details for the ATM. Bragan reviewed a summary of possible indoor and outdoor locations. Philipou said the Harvard Press did an informal survey which indicated many residents would prefer an outdoor location. McCarthy explained there is research published that viral load (measure of virus particles) is higher with indoor exposure and can make those infected much sicker because ventilation systems cause a more concentrated strain. Everyone agreed delaying the ATM further is not an option therefore the field in front of Library and Bromfield School was chosen as the outdoor location.

Preparations/details discussed:

- Masks will be required.
- If weather is an issue the meeting will be continued or moved to the following day (Sunday, June 21)
- A large tent, chairs and sound system will be ordered.
- Two smaller tents will be donated by the Lions Club for those who cannot wear a mask due to a medical condition, senior's citizens and disabled residents.
- The Council on Aging van can be available to transport senior citizens from the Hildreth House to the field.
- The meeting will begin at 10am; residents will be encouraged to arrive at least a half hour early to expedite the check in process and bring a 3x5 card with their name on it.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Minar – aye, Maiore – aye, Sklar – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to require masks to enter the ATM area.

Moderator Bill Barton officially decided to hold the ATM on Saturday, June 20th at 10:00 am on the field hockey field.

Lucy Wallace took a moment to acknowledge a letter received from resident Debbie Garfield praising the Council on Aging staff and their many programs.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Documents referenced:

General Store request for outside dining – email dated 5.26.2020

Update from Budget Working Group – insurance shift dated 5.26.2020

BoH letter to Select Board – dated 5.26.2020