

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 3, 2019
Swampscott, MA 01907**

ATTENDANCE: *Selectmen Naomi Dreeben, Selectmen Laura Spathanas, Chair Peter Spellios, Vice Chair Pat Jones, Selectmen Don Hause, Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald*

Pledge of Allegiance 7:09 pm

No Resident Comment

Selectmen Spellios

Selectmen Spellios spoke on the passing of Susan Balleza a resident of Swampscott and remarkable woman. She is remembered for so much, but in particular the garden at the monument. We thank her for all she has done for the Town. The Town will pay tribute to her in the near future. A moment of silence was held at the meeting on Ms. Balleza's behalf.

Selectmen Hause spoke about all impactful things we can now see such as the new lights, flowers, turf fields, beach improvements, waterfront master plans. The Fish House is iconic and oldest Fish House dating to 1896. It is in the historic registry. Saying it is falling to disrepair is an understatement.

Selectmen Hause made two important announcements.

First three important improvements- will be made to the Fish House. The roof will be replaced, the top of the building will be restored, and the trim and siding will be replaced. The Town is working with Historic District Committee and receiving funding from FEMA from the 2018 storm.

An amazing idea for beach stickers came out of the Idea Exchange. We will use in lieu of the current beach sticker a rendering that was painted by Ms. Harris the Middle School Art Teacher. For her donated artwork for the new beach sticker, Ms. Harris received the first sticker and was thanked for her help in making this small idea a reality.

Notecards have also been created and 100% of the profit will go to the renovation of the Fish House. These cards will be available on the Town Website.

Ms. Harris spoke about the rich history of Swampscott and that now art is being included and she is thrilled to be part of it.

Selectmen Hause honored Toni Bandrowicz for being named the 2019 Conservation Commissioner of the Year. Toni volunteers so much time and has passion and diligence. She takes initiative in all her work with ERAC, Conservation Commission, Swampscott Conservancy, and Open Space Committee.

Selectmen Hause presented Toni with a proclamation which he read out loud.

*Toni thanked her fellow Commission and urged people to check out the Conservancy website-
<http://swampscottconservancy.org>*

Resident Comment

NO RESIDENT COMMENT

Swampscott Conservancy will be inviting those who talked about the Coyotes to speak about the turkeys

Presentation of Draft Warrant

On May 1st the final decisions will be made on what will and will not be in the Warrant

A suggestion was made to have a meeting between the end of school vacation and May 1st. An additional meeting was added on April 9th.

Discussions on the Warrant Articles:

Began with:

ARTICLE 7- Establish new enterprise fund for cable TV local access program- solely support the local access TV – downside more administrative work- requirement to present a budget each year

ARTICLE 8- Placeholder- Appropriate funds from Free to fund Collective Bargaining Agreement items

ARTICLE 9-Transfer funds from Free Cash to Stabilization/ OPEB

ARTICLE 10- Transfer funds from free cash to certain capital/ grant funds

ARTICLE 11 & 12- Transfer funds from retained earnings in enterprise funds to reduce Water and Sewer Rates

ARTICLE 13-16- Establish & Fund Water & Sewer Capital Stabilization Fund

ARTICLE 17- Appropriation from Transportation Network Fund

ARTICLE 19 & 20- Establish a Veterans' Volunteer Tax abatement program and raise the cap on the seniors tax.

ARTICLE 21- Review local options statutes that are available to diversify revenue sources

ARTICLE 22- Local option on nonresident or foster care tuition receipts

ARTICLE 23- Create 2 additional revolving funds and establish spending limits for all revolving funds – Public Streets and vehicle replacement- increase spending limits on Council of aging 30k- 50k – recreation revolving- 250k- 300k- public street and side maintenance- 300k is spending limit vehicles and equipment- 150k

ARTICLE 26- Technical Amendments to the Snow and Ice Bylaw- Need a clarification of who is responsible for the property.

ARTICLE 27- General bylaw for the Improvement of blighted/unsafe or abandoned buildings

ARTICLE 28- Acceptance of MGL CH. 40U – creates a position of a municipal hearing officer- allows the town to add the fine to the property tax bill

ARTICLE 29- Bylaw prohibiting plastic straws and beverage stirrers

ARTICLE 30- Zoning bylaw amendment- Climate Change updates

ARTICLE 31-32- Placeholder article on sale of property and another potential article

ARTICLE 33- Citizens Petitioned Article- Regulation of Cats

Discussion on Proposed Amendment to Zoning Bylaw regarding resiliency by Planning Board & Conservation Commission- Angela Ippolito & Toni Bandrowicz gave a Power point presentation.

The presentation given was on amendments to the zoning bylaw and the purpose is to incorporate up to date language to update existing zoning bylaw procedures.

The amendment was developed through a Coastal Zone Management grant, local funding and in-town support. The town commission Kleinfelder prepared a coastal climate change study. The study recommended modifications to the existing zoning by law. This update will advance the town's goal of adapting to coastal climate change and impacts per the master plan. The recommended changes will strengthen building codes and zoning.

Angela Ippolito reviewed the proposed by law changes with the BOS.

Selectmen Spellios recommended the language 2.3.6.5- to be more specific and Angela Ippolito agreed to those changes.

Changes will be sent to Town Counsel and revised language will be sent back by the end of the week.

Toni B. spoke about Resiliency and tapping into government grants.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee to discuss initiatives and current projects- Tania Lillak gave a Power Point Presentation.

This committee was formed from the Open Space and Recreation Plan. With this committee you can apply for many grants. In 2013 new plan came about- first plan was in 1983- 2013 renewed commitment to the town.

There are 6 main goals:

Maintain open spaces and recreation facilities

Improve public access and awareness

Expand and improve open spaces and recreation facilities

Preserve the scenic character of the town

Strengthen environmental protection

Establish a green corridor network

The Main Initiative

Economic Importance- benefits recreation sports/ strengthen environment, beauty, exercise/ health, social, emotional spiritual mental productivity

Open space is just not nice to have but viable

Development fails to decrease the tax rate

Commercial taxes not necessarily the answer

Open spaces increase property values

Trees provide economic benefit

Environmental stability reduces costs

OSRP Goals for More open- acquire conservation restriction to protect open space and in perpetuity-

Reviewed the goals for more open space- 6 in total

Current projects-can be found on the website- under the Air Table

Future Projects- plan will be up for renewal next year- ideas so far- illumination in open spaces- education in schools- email addresses for trees- HS student to join our committee each year-

iNaturalist plants and wildlife identification-

Angela Ippolito chair of the Planning Board- talked about the Open Space Recreation Committee and how it came about and how great the committee is, outstanding they are to work with and there ability to do an amazing job on continuing to move forward.

Selectmen Dreeben- spoke about her concern about removal of trees on Town property and not having them replaced.

Selectmen thanked the committee for all their hard work.

Idea Exchange – biggest volume of ideas was from Open Space and the BOS will be involving this committee along with others on exploring the ideas.

4/24/19 The Harbor Advisory will be talking on the draft Harbor Plan. The Town Administrator has been working hard and the Harbor Plan will provoke the dialogue along with state bond bills that will allow us to do some big things on the waterfront.

A concern was raised to make sure committees are more and more included in the budget process The BOS want to make sure as you are looking at ideas- be the feeder and tell the BOS what resources you need.

Discussion of Railroad Depot Building- Thanks to the TA and Marzi Galazka for facilitating a meeting with MBTA to discuss the desire to revive it. The town should seek to revive the first agreement to purchase this property from the MBTA and the BOS are all in favor.

Another copy of the budget was distributed to the BOS.

VOTES OF THE BOARD:

Freedom Run to benefit Stepping Stones for Stella to be held here in Town on June 16, 2019

Vote to approve a 1-day Beer and Wine License Reach Arts “Community Connection Fundraiser for Reach Arts and Sure” on April 26, 2019

Vote to approve a 1-day Beer and Wine License Reach Arts Swampscott Arts Association Spring Show on May 3, 2019

Vote to approve Big Blue Youth Football and Cheer to hang banners on Town and School Property from April 1, 2019 through April 8, 2019

Vote to approve door to door solicitation for Edward Jones Financial Services

Vote to approve a 1-day Beer and Wine License Reach Arts Birthday Celebration April 19, 2019

A motion was made by Selectmen Spathanas to accept the consent agenda and the motion was seconded by Selectmen Hause all BOS members were unanimously in favor.

Town Administrator gave a week in review along with department head updates

Selectman Hause Thanked the Public Works Department for the lights.

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Selectmen Spellios the motion was seconded by Selectmen Hause all BOS members were unanimously in favor.

