



Select Board Regular Session Minutes
Swampscott High School
200 Essex St., B129
February 7, 2024, 6:30 PM

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: MARYELLEN FLETCHER, DAVID GRISHMAN, KATIE PHELAN, PETER SPELLIOS, DOUG THOMPSON

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: SEAN FITZGERALD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, AMY SARRO DIRECTOR OF FINANCE & ADMINISTRATION, PETE KANE, ASSISTANT TOWN ADMINISTRATOR/DIRECTOR OF PLANNING, MARZIE GALAZKA, DIRECTOR OF COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, POLICE CHIEF RUBEN QUESADA, FIRE CHIEF GRAHAM ARCHER, CAPTAIN JOSEPH KABLE, OFFICER BRIAN WILSON, CLIMATE CONTROL ACTION COMMITTEE: MARTHA SCHMITT, CHAIR; RYAN HALE; HARBOR & WATERFRONT ADVISORY COMMITTEE: JACKSON SCHULTZ, CHAIR, LISA BOEMER, ULF WESTHOVEN, MARK WOLINSKY, TED DOOLEY

OTHER: RALPH, SURE; JAY BORKLAND, CONSULTANT FOR HARBOR & WATERFRONT ADVISORY

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER AT 6:35 PM.

A. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- i. TONIGHT, WE'LL LISTEN TO COMMUNITY CONCERNS AND QUESTIONS AS THE BOARD SEEKS TO MAKE A DECISION ON THE PREFERRED DEVELOPER FOR THE HADLEY SCHOOL HOTEL.
- ii. THE POLICE DEPARTMENT IS IN THE PROCESS OF REVIEWING THEIR STATE ACCREDITATION STATUS AS WELL AS REVIEWING INTERNAL PROCEDURES.
- iii. I HAVE BEEN MEETING WITH THE FINANCE TEAM TO REVIEW THE FY25 BUDGET SUBMISSIONS FROM DEPARTMENT HEADS. I CONTINUE TO MEET WITH THE SCHOOL DEPARTMENT ON THEIR PROPOSED BUDGET.
- iv. I MET WITH LYNN MAYOR NICHOLSON TO PREPARE FOR THE FEBRUARY 2ND MEETING WITH THE EOE UNDERSECRETARY TO SUPERCHARGE LOCAL, STATE AND FEDERAL COORDINATION AS WELL AS TO LAY OUT CLEAR EXPECTATIONS FOR WHAT WE SEE AS THEIR SUPPORT.
- v. TOWN STAFF ARE REVIEWING THE DEI CONSULTANT PROPOSALS. WE WILL HAVE A SHORTLIST FOR THE BOARD'S SELECTION IN THE NEXT FEW WEEKS.
- vi. TOWN HALL HOSTED A HOLOCAUST MEMORIAL EVENT LAST WEEK. I AM PLEASED WITH THE TURNOUT ON SHORT NOTICE AS WELL AS PARTICIPATION BY RABBI MICHAEL AND RABBI YOSI.
- vii. THERE IS A JOB FAIR TOMORROW FOR CONSTRUCTION WORKERS FOR ELM PLACE AT THE VFW. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT STAFF ARE COORDINATING PUBLIC ENGAGEMENTS TO DISCUSS THE MASTER PLAN.
- viii. UNFORTUNATELY, THE KITCHEN UPGRADES AT THE SENIOR CENTER ARE RUNNING A BIT BEHIND; THE 2ND ANNUAL CAREGIVERS CONFERENCE IS MARCH 23RD; AGE & DEMENTIA FRIENDLY INITIATIVES ARE MOVING ALONG, INCLUDING STAFF REACHING OUT TO BUSINESSES TO TRAIN THEM ON HOW TO BE MORE AGE & DEMENTIA FRIENDLY AND TALKING TO THE HEALTH TEACHER ABOUT MAKING THIS PART OF HIS CURRICULUM; LASTLY, FRIENDS OF THE SENIOR CENTER ARE PLANNING A "SENIOR PROM" FUNDRAISING EVENT ON APRIL 27TH. STAY TUNED FOR MORE INFORMATION.
- ix. THE ASSESSOR'S DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED 25 ABATEMENT APPLICATIONS FROM NEIGHBORS NEAR THE NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
- x. THE FINANCE TEAM IS BUSY ISSUING END OF YEAR W2s.

- B. PUBLIC COMMENTS: STEVEN IANNAONE, 26 ROCK AVE., DISCUSSED PROPOSAL OF CHANGING TOWN HALL ELECTIONS. HAS HEARD FROM SOME THAT THE PROPOSAL TO CHANGE TOWN ELECTIONS TO COINCIDE WITH STATE & FEDERAL ELECTIONS IS A GOOD ONE. HE WOULD LIKE THE TWO WARRANT ARTICLES BE POSTPONED UNTIL THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING IN MAY.

WAYNE SPRITZ, PRECINCT 3: DISCUSSED ABYSMAL LOCAL TURNOUT. IS IT DUE TO APATHY AND DISENGAGEMENT? THERE ARE 25 TOWN COMMITTEES YET ELECTED SEATS REMAIN UNFILLED. STUFFING THE BALLOT BOX WITH 300 UNQUALIFIED VOTERS WHO HAVE DIRECT INTEREST IN HOW THE TOWN VOTES. DISCUSSED MINORS, INFLUENCE ON THEM BY OUTSIDERS AND FEELS THIS IS A COP OUT. ASKS THAT THE BOARD DROP THIS, CONSULT THE BOARD OF REGISTRARS AND HAVE PUBLIC HEARING.

RYAN HALE, CHAIR, CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT: CONCERNED WITH TRAJECTORY OF PROJECT OF NEW PIER HAS VEERED SINCE 2015 REPORT, THAT THE CURRENT FOCUS IS ON SPENDING FOR A MARINA AND NOT FIXING INFRASTRUCTURE AS PER THE 2016 COASTAL RESILIENCY STUDY AND 2020 HARBOR PLAN WHICH INDICATE THE NUMBER ONE PRIORITY IS INSTALLING INFRASTRUCTURE TO MITIGATE WAVE ACTION FLOODING AND WIND DAMAGE TO PROPERTY ALONG THE COASTLINE. HE RECOMMENDS WE CHANGE COURSE, TAKE THE CAPITAL PROJECT OUT OF THE PLAN AND REDIRECT FUNDING TOWARDS ENGINEERING STUDIES FOR INFRASTRUCTURE AND TACKLE REPLACING THE PIER NEXT.

CHRIS SCHWARTZ, PRECINCT 5: FEELS THE TOWN NEEDS TO DO ALL IT CAN TO PROTECT THE COASTLINE. TIDES ARE RISING, STORMS ARE WORSE, WANTS TO SEE INFRASTRUCTURE BUILT FOR SEWER-FREE HARBOR, THE PIER IS THE ARTERY TO THE OCEAN AND WE NEED TO FIX THAT TOO.

CHARLOTTE DAHER, 11 BANKS TERR: ECHOED MR. SCHWARTZ'S COMMENTS ABOUT THE PIER, FEELS WE DON'T HAVE TIME TO WAIT ON FIXING IT, IT'S A LANDMARK AND A FOCAL POINT OF THE TOWN.

LOUIS STRAZZULLO, 48 FARRAGUT: ECHOES THE COMMENTS ABOUT THE PIER AND BUILDING A WALL TO PROTECT THE COASTLINE. FEELS THE TOWN IS MAKING A TURN, INCLUDING BUILDING A HOTEL, AND THAT THE PIER IS A FOCAL POINT AND WILL BRING IN BOATERS AND TOURISTS.

HILARY FOUTS, PRECINCT 6: IS HAPPY WITH THE PICKLE BALL COURTS. SHE'S A REALTOR, IS ASKED ABOUT AMENITIES, INCLUDING PICKLE BALL COURTS. MASSACHUSETTS IS THE 15TH HIGHEST FOR PICKLE BALL COURTS IN THE US. WE ALL LIVE NEAR SOMETHING. ASKS THE SELECT BOARD TO SUPPORT THE WARRANT ARTICLE AND THE PICKLE BALL COURT.

TED DOOLEY, 58 MAGNOLIA RD.: DISCUSSED THE CONDITION OF THE PIER, THAT IT COULD TAKE UP TO 10 YEARS TO BE BUILT. THE LONGER WE WAIT, THE MORE IT WILL DEGRADE UNTIL THERE IS NO PIER.

DR. STEFANIE NEUMANN, PRECINCT 5: DISCUSSED THE NOISE OF PICKLE BALL COURTS, ISSUES WITH FLOODING IN PHILIPS PARK. SHE ASKS THAT WE CONSTRUCT PICKLE BALL COURTS BUT NOT AT PHILIPS PARK, LISTING A NUMBER OF LOCATIONS.

COLLEEN SPROUL, 2 OCEAN AVE.: IS IN FAVOR OF THE PICKLE BALL COURTS, VOTED IN FAVOR OF THE BIKE PATH. ASKS THAT THE TOWN USE INFORMATION WE ALREADY HAVE, INCLUDING CONSIDERING THAT LOGAN DREDGED THE AREA TO BUILD A RUNWAY.

MARIA WILLIAMS, PRECINCT 5/PURITAN LANE: FAMILY OWNS PROPERTY ON SUTTON PLACE: DOESN'T FEEL THE WATER TABLE WILL BE ABLE TO HANDLE PICKLE BALL COURTS, THE PARK FLOODS, THERE WON'T BE PARKING FOR THE PLAYGROUND, THE BEACH, FOOTBALL GAMES AND OTHER SPORTS AND ASKS IF IT CAN BE PUT NEAR THE DOG PARK, IN THE CEMETERY OR ELSEWHERE.

NEIL PERLSTEIN, PRECINCT 5: DOESN'T WANT PICKLE BALL COURTS IN PHILIPS PARK, HANDED OUT PHOTOS OF A RECENT FLOOD. HE IS ALSO CONCERNED ABOUT THE LACK OF PARKING AND DISCUSSED OTHER LOCATIONS INCLUDING THE DOG PARK, NEAR THE HIGH SCHOOL OR THE CEMETERY.

STEVE RILEY, PRECINCT 5: NOISE IS AN ISSUE WITH PICKLE BALL COURTS AROUND THE COUNTRY. HE HAS ISSUE WITH THE LOCATION DUE TO FLOODING AND PARKING ISSUES.

LISA BOEMER: THE WATERFRONT IS OUR JOY, IT'S IMPORTANT FOR THE COMMUNITY TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF FIXING THE PIER AND FIXING THE COASTLINE. IF THE TOWN WAITS TOO LONG, GRANT MONEY WILL BE LOST.

C. NEW AND OLD BUSINESS (*POSSIBLE ACTION/VOTES OF THE BOARD*)

1. READING OF THE BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION BY SWAMPSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS DESIREE BICKERSTAFF-PEOPLES, ANGEL ANGIENHIEM AND NAINA ALVES VALERIA. CHIEF QUESADA AND OFFICER BRIAN WILSON PRESENTED THE STUDENTS WITH SWAMPSCOTT POLICE DEPARTMENT'S NEW BLACK HISTORY MONTH PATCHES, DESIGNED BY OFFICER WILSON AND SWAMPSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT AJ.

UPON **MOTION**, DULY MADE BY PETER SPELLIOS, SECONDED BY DOUG THOMPSON, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY **VOTED** TO APPROVE THE BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION: ANY IN FAVOR: ALL. ANY AGAINST: NONE. **MOTION CARRIES.**

2. CLIMATE ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE & HARBOR & WATERFRONT ADVISORY COMMITTEE TO DISCUSS RECENT CLIMATE-RELATED IMPACTS TO SWAMPSCOTT: MARTHA SCHMITT, CHAIR OF CLIMATE ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE, SHOWED THE RESILIENCY PRESENTATION WHICH DISCUSSED RESILIENCY ACTIVITIES HAPPENING IN TOWN, OTHER COMMITTEES INVOLVED (OPEN SPACE AND RECREATION, RENEWABLE ENERGY, HARBOR & WATERFRONT, TREE COMMITTEE), FLOODING EVENTS, HEAT ISLANDS IN TOWN. ACTIVITIES INCLUDE SECURING GRANTS, SUCH AS MVP GRANTS, ADOPTING THE SPECIALIZED ENERGY CODE, ADDRESSING REPAIRS TO TOWN SEAWALLS, FOCUS AREAS OF THE CLIMATE ACTION PLAN COMMITTEE IN CONJUNCTION WITH OTHER TOWN COMMITTEES, THE 2016 KLEINFELDER REPORT AND HAZARD MITIGATION PLAN OF 2015.

MR. JACKSON SCHULTZ, MR. JAY BORKLAND PRESENTED HWAC'S PROJECTS AND FOCUS ON THE HARBOR PLAN. THEY'VE RECEIVED TWO GRANTS TO DO A FEASIBLE STUDY FOR THE PIER AS WELL AS 60% DESIGN FOR THE NEW PIER. IF THERE IS A HURRICANE, THE PIER WILL BE GONE AND THERE WILL BE EXTENSIVE DAMAGE TO THE FISH HOUSE. WE'RE BEGINNING TO SEE THAT THE STRUCTURAL INTEGRITY OF THE COAST IS BEING IMPACTED. THERE IS CRACKING AROUND THE FOUNDATION OF THE FISH HOUSE. THERE WAS A DISCUSSION ABOUT CREATING A LIVING REEF. THE GRANT NEEDS TO BE READDRESSSED BUT THEY ARE STILL MOVING FORWARD WITH THE PIER PROJECT. THE SEAPORT ECONOMIC COUNCIL WILL HELP THE TOWN IDENTIFY MEASURES THE TOWN CAN TAKE BUT THERE ISN'T A CLEAR SOURCE OF FUNDING. THERE ARE COMMUNITIES ON THE NORTH SHORE INTERESTED IN CREATING A REGIONAL RESILIENCY GROUP. THE PROBLEM IS HAPPENING FASTER THAN THE GOVERNMENT IS CHANGING ITS WAY OF THINKING.

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:

MS. FLETCHER: 1) WHAT IS THE TOWN DOING IN THIS YEAR'S CAPITAL BUDGET TO WORK ON KLEINFELDER'S 2016 REPORT SUGGESTIONS (NO). SHE IS WORRIED ABOUT CLIMATE (WE'RE WORKING WITH STATE & FEDERAL AGENCIES TO IDENTIFY OPPORTUNITIES FOR THE HARBOR & WATERFRONT PLAN). 2) MR. DUFFY DISCUSSED LEAKS IN GAS LINES AND HOW THAT PLAYS INTO THE CLIMATE. HOW ARE WE FOCUSING ON FIXING THOSE GAS LEAKS WITH NATIONAL GRID (MS. SCHMITT: GAS LEAKS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 8% OF CLIMATE, BUILDINGS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR 52%. NATIONAL GRID IS REQUIRED TO FIX CATEGORY 1 (CRITICAL) LEAKS, FOLLOWED BY CATEGORIES 2 AND 3. WE HAVE 100 KNOWN LEAKS BUT WHEN ONE IS FIXED, MORE SHOW UP. THE BACKLOG HAS BEEN 100 LEAKS FOR YEARS. MR. SPELLIOS: DPU IS REPAIRING THE GAS LEAKS. THESE ARE PRIORITIZED BY THE UTILITIES TO BE REPAIRED. "HEAT" HAS MAPPED OUT GAS LEAKS IN TOWN). 3) HAS LIFTING THE FISH HOUSE AND PIER BEEN CONSIDERED (NO, BECAUSE THEY'RE PROPOSING MOVING THE PIER. WE CAN CONSIDER RAISING THE FISH HOUSE BUT IT WOULD INCLUDE RAISING THE PARKING LOT). 4) WHERE IS THE INFORMATION COMING FROM, DURING HURRICANE SANDY, WATER DESTROYED A WHOLE SECTION OF THE NORTH SHORE DUE TO THE BARRIER WALL (DISCUSSED HAVING TUFTS UNIVERSITY LOOKING AT THIS, A GROUP OF PHDs WORKING WITH COASTAL STORM MANAGEMENT TO ADDRESS ECOLOGICAL SYSTEMS AT THE COASTLINE. WE'RE NEGOTIATING WITH REGULATORY AUTHORITIES THAT WON'T ALLOW US TO DO SOMETHING THAT WILL MAKE THINGS WORSE). 5) PUBLIC OUTREACH HASN'T BEEN GOOD ENOUGH. THIS IS BEING DESIGNED AND DECISIONS MADE BY AN ADVISORY BOARD. ADVERTISE PUBLIC HEARINGS SO PEOPLE CAN COME AND GIVE THEIR OPINIONS.

MR. THOMPSON 1) ASKED ABOUT THE CONDITION OF THE FISH HOUSE, AND IF IT HAS BEEN TESTED TO BE STRUCTURALLY SOUND (NO). DO WE HAVE A SHORT-TERM EMERGENCY REPAIR PLAN (NO. THE PIER IS BECOMING MORE AND MORE IN DISREPAIR). 2) WHAT IS THE TIMING OF THE PIER REPLACEMENT PROJECT (ROUGHLY 2030). 3) HOW MUCH WILL IT COST (THE 60% DESIGN WILL ANSWER QUESTIONS SUCH AS THE TYPE OF MATERIALS AND WILL ALLOW US TO GENERATE A GOOD

COST ESTIMATE. IN ADDITION, THE 60% DESIGN WILL INCLUDE SOFT STRUCTURES TO PROTECT THE FISH HOUSE). 4) DISCUSSED THE COST OF SPENDING \$10-20M FOR THE PIER AS WELL AS BUILDING A LIVING REEF. HE WOULD LOVE TO KEEP THE PIER.

MR. GRISHMAN 1) ASKED IF THE INTENSITY OF STORMS COULD CONTINUE TO DEGRADE THE PIER & FISH HOUSE (WHETHER THE PIER IS REBUILT WHERE IT IS OR MOVED, THE CURRENT PROJECT INCLUDES RESILIENT MEASURES THAT WILL PROTECT THE FISH HOUSE.). 2) WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A BREAKWATER AND A LIVING REEF (A LIVING REEF HAS A LARGER FOOTPRINT. A BREAKWATER IS A WALL. A LIVING REEF BREEDS CRUSTACEANS AND TAKES AWAY THE WAVE ACTION).

MR. SPELLIOS ASKED WHAT IS NECESSARY FOR RESILIENCY VS. WHAT IS NOT NECESSARY. 1) WHAT HAPPENS IF THE PIER DISINTEGRATES (THE EXISTING PIER CAN BE FIXED, IF IT'S DESTROYED, REGULATION AUTHORITIES WILL DETERMINE THERE'S NO PIER IN THE HARBOR AND IT WILL BE VERY DIFFICULT TO BUILD OVER THE EEL GRASS BED). 2) THERE WAS A DISCUSSION ABOUT THE STRUCTURE ALSO BEING WEAKENED DUE TO HIGH-WATER EVENTS. 3) DO YOU BELIEVE THAT THERE IS A GROUP THAT WANTS TO GET RID OF THE PIER? SHOULD WE NOT REPAIR IT OR IS IT ACCEPTED THAT IT IS PART OF OUR COMMUNITY (THEY FEEL THE PIER IS THE FOCUS ON THE DOWNTOWN AREA, BUSINESSES RELY ON IT, IT IS PART OF THE CHARACTER OF THIS COMMUNITY).

MS. PHELAN: 1) WE'RE COMING TO A POINT WHERE WE HAVE TO MAKE THOSE DECISIONS. IF THE PIER AND FISH HOUSE ARE ICONIC ENOUGH THEN WE NEED TO DEFEND. IF WE DECIDE IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE, THEN WE SHOULD RETREAT WHICH MEANS TURNING THE WATERFRONT INTO A BLUE-GREEN WATER PARK, MOVING THE FISH HOUSE AND BUSINESSES. SOME SAY FOR THE BETTER. MR. SCHULTZ HAS TALKED TO HUNDREDS OF PEOPLE AND ONLY ONE HAS SAID WE DON'T NEED A PIER. STATE AND FEDERAL GOVERNMENTS HAVE MONEY WHICH HASN'T BEEN SPENT BECAUSE COMMUNITIES ARE HAVING THESE DISCUSSIONS. THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WORKING ON HOW TO PROTECT THE COASTLINE.). WE CAN EITHER FIX THE PIER OR SAVE THE HARBOR AND THINK ABOUT WHERE WE CAN SPEND THE MONEY. 2) HOW MUCH IT WOULD COST IF WE HAD TO START FROM SCRATCH IF THE PIER DISINTEGRATED (PROBABLY DOUBLE, THEN WE'D HAVE TO THINK ABOUT LONGER TERM POTENTIAL AND EVALUATE A PLAN B. PERMITTING WILL BE A CHALLENGE). 3) HOW MANY GRANTS ARE GIVEN OUT AT THE STATE LEVEL FOR A NEW PIER OR A REBUILD OF THE EXISTING PIER (THERE'S DOUBT AS WHETHER OR NOT THE STATE WOULD FUND A REPLACEMENT. MOST FUNDING IS TO UPGRADING TO RESILIENCY STANDARDS).

TA FITZGERALD: WE HAVE BEEN ASKING ABOUT PROTECTING THE TOWN, THE PIER AND COASTLINE. HE FEELS WE WILL GET MORE FUNDING AND MAKE SMART INVESTMENTS. THERE'S NO BETTER WAY TO TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF THAN TO GET OUTSIDE AND ENJOY THE MOST IMPORTANT RESOURCE WE HAVE.

3. HADLEY SCHOOL HOTEL PUBLIC COMMENT:

MIKE BRISON, PRECINCT 4: NEIGHBORS HAVE CONCERNS ABOUT LIGHTING/LIGHT POLLUTION AND INFRASTRUCTURE AND ASKS THAT THE DEVELOPER COME AND SPEAK AND LISTEN TO THEM AS THEY'VE ALREADY GIVEN UP A LOT FOR THIS TO BE BUILT. HE ALSO STATED THAT HE DOESN'T THINK THERE SHOULD BE A MEETING WHERE PROGRESS ON KING'S BEACH ISN'T MENTIONED.

MR. SPELLIOS: THIS HAS BEEN A MULTI-YEAR PROCESS TO DECIDE WHAT THE OPTION FOR REUSE OF THE HADLEY ARE, INCLUDING CREATING A REUSE COMMITTEE. THE PROCESS WILL BE SIMILAR TO THAT OF THE MACHON — NEIGHBORHOOD AND COMMUNITY MEETINGS, INCLUDING DESIGN PROCESS MEETINGS BEFORE THE DEVELOPER GOES BEFORE THE PLANNING BOARD & ZONING BOARD OF APPROVALS.

ANDREA AMOUR IS IN SUPPORT OF NOANNET FOR THE HADLEY HOTEL AS SHE FEELS THEY DO THE BEST WORK IN THE COUNTRY. THE SELECTED DEVELOPER WILL BE A PARTNER WITH THE TOWN. JORDAN WARSHAW REACHED OUT TO HER LAST WEEK, ASKED QUESTIONS ON HOW THEY CAN HELP CLEAN UP THE BEACH AND ASSURED HER THAT HIS GUESTS WILL NOT USE THE BEACH IF IT'S UNSAFE.

JOHN GIANTIS, PRECINCT 4, SCHOOL COMMITTEE, LIVES ACROSS FROM THE HADLEY, FEELS THAT THE DREW PROPOSAL TOOK MORE INTO CONSIDERATION FOR THE NEIGHBORHOOD. HE & HIS WIFE WERE IMPRESSED THAT THEIR WHOLE TEAM SHOWED UP. THEY DON'T WANT EXCESSIVE NOISE FROM CONSTRUCTION OR DUST, ASKED THE BOARD TO BE COGNIZANT OF

WHERE HEAVY EQUIPMENT PARKS. THEY WANT TO BE ENGAGED IN LIGHT, TRAFFIC, NOISE MITIGATION EFFORTS. HE ALSO DISCUSSED THE PLAYGROUND AND ASKED

LAURIE LEVIN, PRECINCT 4: THOUGHT DREW GROUP WAS THE MOST THOUGHT OUT PLAN, IT CONSIDERED THE NEIGHBORHOOD AS WELL AS THE COMMUNITY DESIRE TO ACTIVATE THE HAWTHORNE CORRIDOR. THEY HAVE EXPERIENCE WITH COMPLEX PROJECTS. IT IS IMPORTANT THAT THE PLAYGROUND REMAIN OR KIDS HAVE A PLACE TO PLAY. THE NOANNET GROUP DIDN'T RESPECT THE NEIGHBORHOOD, INCLUDING THE SCALE OF THE ADDITIONS THEY PUT FORTH. FELT IT WAS A DETRIMENT THAT CLEARVIEW DIDN'T BRING AN ARCHITECT AND SHE WASN'T IMPRESSED WITH THE LANDSCAPING THEY SHOWED. SHE SUPPORTS THIS USE OF THE HADLEY.

COLLEEN SPROUL, 2 OCEAN AVE.: IS IN FAVOR OF DELAMAR. SHE FEELS THEY'RE "ONE STOP SHOPPING" AND WERE THE ONLY DEVELOPER THAT HAS THEIR OWN CONSTRUCTION COMPANY AND THAT ALL OF THEIR PROJECTS ARE SEASIDE PROJECTS. SHE FEELS THEY UNDERSTAND THE HISTORY OF THE TOWN.

MARY DeCHILLO, 7 ROCKLAND ST.: SHE & NEAL ARE SUPPORTIVE OF THE HADLEY HOTEL. SHE STRONGLY SUGGESTS THAT THE BOARD PUT AN ADVISORY COMMITTEE TOGETHER TO WORK WITH THE DEVELOPER TO ACT AS LIAISONS BETWEEN THE DEVELOPER AND THE TOWN. SHE FEELS IT WILL BE A DRAW TO THE TOWN AND ASKS THAT THE BOARD THINK CAREFULLY ABOUT THE MANAGEMENT OF THE HOTEL. MAKE SURE THEY KEEP TO THEIR WORD. SHE HAS CONCERNS ABOUT SUSTAINABILITY AS WELL AS PRIVATE EQUITY AND FLIPPING BUSINESSES.

JER JERMIN, PRECINCT 3: WAS PLEASED WITH THE CALIBER OF ALL THREE PROJECTS, IMPRESSED WITH THE ARCHITECTS AND APPRECIATES THAT CLEARVIEW DIDN'T HAVE AN ARCHITECT INVOLVED. THEIR APPROACH WASN'T TO DEMOLISH IT. THE TOWN NEEDS TO LOOK AT GREEN BUILDING. HE WAS GRATEFUL NOANNET DISCUSSED COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT BUT HAS CONCERNS TO THE SCALE AND PROXIMITY TO THE STREET AND FEELS DREW WAS BETTER SCALE-WISE. THEIR ATTACHMENT HONORED THE SCHOOL. ACCESS TO LINSKOTT PARK IS OK BUT NOT LETTING THEM TAKE IT OVER. HE FEELS ALL THREE DEVELOPERS CAME WITH A CLEAR VISION. THE BUILDING NEEDS TO EXIST FEELING LIKE A RESIDENTIAL PROPERTY WHILE HAVING AMENITIES FOR A COMMERCIAL PROPERTY. THERE ARE MANY URBAN HOTELS WITHOUT PARKING LOTS AND THERE IS OPPORTUNITIES FOR LOCAL CHURCHES TO DEVELOP A RELATIONSHIP AS WELL AS SETTING UP A SYSTEM TO TRANSPORT PEOPLE TO AND FROM PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION.

JOE DOUILLETTE, PRECINCT 3: IS IMPRESSED WITH ALL PRESENTATIONS. AGREE THAT NOANNET SEEMS TOO BIG, LIKES THE STYLE OF DREW BUT NOT THE ENCROACHMENT INTO LINSKOTT PARK. HE DOESN'T WANT TO LOSE THE PARK AS A PLACE FOR KIDS AND FAMILIES TO PLAY WITH A VIEW OF THE OCEAN, ASKED IF A COMMUNITY SPACE WILL ALLOW KIDS TO GO IN & USE THE BATHROOMS. WILL THE HOTEL LET RESIDENTS USE THEIR BANQUET FACILITIES AT A DISCOUNT ONCE OR TWICE A YEAR?

MAURA LAU, OUTLOOK RD.: ASKED THAT THE BOARD CONSIDER THE SCALE OF THE PROJECTS THAT WILL UTILIZE CEMENT AND STEEL, HOTELS USE A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF WATER & ELECTRICITY, PUT LIMITS ON THE REMOVAL OF TREES, USE OF LINSKOTT PARK FOR OVERFLOW SHOULD REQUIRE THEM GETTING PERMITS, ALIGNING TOWN EVENTS WITH FUNCTIONS AT THE HOTEL. SHE CAN HEAR THE SUMMER CONCERTS AND FEELS THE NEIGHBORHOOD WILL HEAR NOISE FROM THE ROOF TOP. KEEP THE HAWTHORNE AS PUBLIC SPACE. THE PINNACLE REPORT SAYS 40 ROOMS, DEVELOPERS ASKED FOR 60 ROOMS, PARKING WILL NEED TO BE ADDRESSED. TRAFFIC WILL CHANGE DUE TO CHECK-IN AND CHECKOUT TIMES. THEIR FOOD & BEVERAGE DOESN'T COMPLIMENT EXISTING BUSINESSES. "BOUTIQUE" SOUNDS EXCLUSIVE. SHE FEELS IT WOULD BE GREAT IF SOME OF THE FINANCES ARE DESIGNATED TO SCHOOLS. ALSO FEELS CLEARWATER IS MORE IN SCALE WITH THE TOWN.

WAYNE SPRITZ, PRECINCT 3: THERE WILL BE APPROXIMATELY 100 EMPLOYEES WORKING AT THE HOTEL. HE'S CONCERNED THERE WILL NOT BE ENOUGH PARKING AVAILABLE UNLESS THEY FIND SATELLITE PARKING. MR. SPELLIOS STATED THAT THE BOARD IS THINKING ABOUT PARKING.

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:

MR. SPELLIOS: LINSKOTT PARK HAS A CONSERVATION RESTRICTION ON IT. IT WILL REMAIN A PARK.

NEXT STEPS: THERE WILL BE PUBLIC COMMENT MONDAY, FEBRUARY 12, THEN THE SELECT BOARD WILL HAVE A DISCUSSION AND DESIGNATE A DEVELOPER IN ORDER TO NEGOTIATE WITH THE DEVELOPER ABOUT THESE CONCERNS. TWO DEVELOPERS PROPOSED GROUND LEASES, ONE PROPOSED BUYING THE PROPERTY. THE GROUND LEASE MEANS THE DEVELOPER CAN'T DO ANYTHING WITHOUT GOING BEFORE THE SELECT BOARD. HE WILL PUT THE NEXT STEPS ON A SLIDE FOR MONDAY. THERE IS A TREMENDOUS AMOUNT OF PUBLIC PROCESS.

4. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE ON DPW'S COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT: TABLED UNTIL FEBRUARY 12.
5. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE FOR USE OF \$30,000 IN TOWN ARPA FUNDS FOR PRESERVATION OF GLOVER: THE TOWN HAS RECEIVED A PROPOSAL FROM A HISTORICAL PRESERVATION FIRM TO PRESERVE ELEMENTS OF THE GLOVER HOUSE. THE TA REQUESTS THE BOARD SUPPORT THIS AS PRESERVING THE BUILDING DOESN'T SEEM POSSIBLE. THERE ARE FUNDRAISING ACTIVITIES AND SUPPORT FOR THIS. WE DON'T KNOW THE TOTAL COST TO SALVAGE ELEMENTS. THIS COULD TAKE 60 DAYS TO DEVELOP THE RFP. WE'RE GOING TO ASK THE FIRM TO EXPEDITE IT.

MS. PHELAN ASKED ABOUT THE \$25,000 FINE COLLECTED (NOT RECOGNIZED AS REVENUE YET AND WOULD HAVE TO BE AUDITED FIRST. THERE HASN'T BEEN ENOUGH FUNDS RAISED). 2) WHAT WILL BE SALVAGED (ABOUT 60% OF THE PROPERTY, THE BEAMS & HEARTH WILL BE TAKEN APART, MARKED AND STORED UNTIL IT CAN BE RECONSTRUCTED. TA FITZGERALD FEELS THE HEARTH IS THE MOST SIGNIFICANT PART OF THE HOUSE). 3) HAVE WE EXPLORED JUST RESTORING THE HEARTH (WE WILL HAVE THAT DISCUSSION AT A LATER TIME)? MR. LEAMON AND MS. SCHULTZ ATTENDED A CONFERENCE ABOUT A HOUSE IN HANOVER THAT THEY DECONSTRUCTED AND PUT BACK TOGETHER. THEY MOVED THE FIREPLACE AND BRICKS INTACT. THE INTENT IS TO END UP WITH A FULL BUILDING.

MR. GRISHMAN IS WILLING TO VOTE IN FAVOR OF THE \$30,000 TO FURTHER EXPLORE THIS.

MR. THOMPSON: THERE HAVE BEEN SEVERAL FUNDRAISING EVENTS WITH A BIG EVENT IN MARCH. MS. SCHULTZ HAS MADE CONTACT WITH A PROFESSIONAL FUNDRAISER. IT WILL BE ROUGHLY \$200,000 TO DISASSEMBLE THE BUILDING AND STORE IT. THE GOAL IS TO RAISE THOSE FUNDS BY MID-APRIL.

MS. FLETCHER IS HESITANT TO SPEND ARPA FUNDS BUT AFTER THE FINANCIAL SITUATION PRESENTED TONIGHT SHE DOESN'T FEEL THERE IS ANY EXTRA FUNDS IN THE BUDGET. SHE WILL SUPPORT USING ARPA FUNDS FOR THIS PROJECT.

UPON **MOTION**, DULY MADE BY DOUG THOMPSON, SECONDED BY MARYELLEN FLETCHER, IT WAS **VOTED** TO ALLOCATE \$30,000 TO START THE PROCESS OF PRESERVING THE GLOVER HOUSE: ANY IN FAVOR: (FLETCHER, THOMPSON, GRISHMAN). ANY AGAINST: (PHELAN). **MOTION CARRIES**.

6. DISCUSSION OF FY24'S SECOND QUARTER BUDGET & FINANCIAL FORECAST: MS. SARRO DISCUSSED REVENUE PROJECTED ESTIMATES, INCLUDING MOTOR VEHICLE EXCISE COMMITMENT OF 6% OVER LAST YEAR. EXPENSES ARE PROJECTED TO BE IN THE RED. SHE IS WORKING WITH POLICE & FIRE TO GET THEIR BUDGETS UNDER CONTROL AND IS MONITORING THEM WEEKLY. T-MOBILE RENEWED THEIR CELL TOWER LEASE FOR \$7,000/MONTH. BUILDING PERMIT FOR ELM PLACE WAS \$512,680. INVESTMENTS ARE 110% OVER. LEGAL LINE IS OVER BUDGET DUE TO SPECIAL OUTSIDE COUNSELS THAT HAVE BEEN NEEDED. FOR THE END OF YEAR, IF WE CONTINUE CURRENT TREND, WE WILL HAVE A DEFICIT OF \$222,879 AND HAVE INSTITUTED A BUDGET FREEZE, CONTINUE WORKING WITH POLICE & FIRE. MS. SARRO DISCUSSED KNOWN CHALLENGES FOR THE FY2025 BUDGET AS WELL AS STEPS TO BALANCE THE BUDGET. THE TA'S BUDGET WILL BE PRESENTED PUBLICLY TO THE BOARD ON MARCH 6TH WITH A DEADLINE OF APRIL 17TH TO CLOSE THE BUDGET. WE ARE ACTIVELY WORKING ON THE 10 YEAR SUMMARY OF PROJECTED REVENUES AND EXPENDITURES.

SELECT BOARD COMMENTS:

MR. GRISHMAN: IS THERE ANY GOOD NEWS (YES, HEALTH INSURANCE IS PROJECTED TO INCREASE 1.5%. WE'VE KEPT LEVEL-FUNDED. THE GOVERNOR SAID SHE'S INCREASING 3% FOR SCHOOL AND UNRESTRICTED. WE'RE WAITING TO GO THROUGH THE PROCESS BEFORE WE PUT FORTH THE TA'S REPORT).

MS. FLETCHER: DID THE GOVERNOR INCREASE SCHOOL AID (WE'VE LEVEL FUNDED THE CHERRY SHEET UNTIL IT PASSES).

TA FITZGERALD: WE'RE LOOKING AT OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR REVENUE.

7. REVIEW OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT:

- i. ARTICLE 1 – NET CHANGE IS 0. MR. SPELLIOS ASKED THAT THE BUSINESS MANAGER OF THE SCHOOLS SEES THIS ARTICLE BEFORE MONDAY AND WE WAIT FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE’S RECOMMENDATION.
- ii. ARTICLE 2 – TRANSFER OF FREE CASH HOMELESS/FOSTER CARE: MR. SPELLIOS DEFERS RECOMMENDATION UNTIL THE SCHOOL BUSINESS MANAGER AND FINANCE COMMITTEE REVIEW.
- iii. ARTICLE 3 – APPROPRIATION FOR FY24 FOR DPW: MR. SPELLIOS: THIS ASSUMES WE TAKE THE VOTE IN THE AFFIRMATIVE. HE ALSO ASKED THAT THE COMMENT BE UPDATED.
- iv. ARTICLE 4 – HOME RULE LEGISLATION REMOVING 61B: REMOVES TAX ABATEMENT FOR OPEN SPACE. MR. SPELLIOS ASKED TO WAIT UNTIL FINANCE COMMITTEE VOTES.
- v. ARTICLE 5 – ELECTION RELATED: MS. FLETCHER WOULD LIKE TO REMOVE THE VOTING QUESTIONS UNTIL THE ANNUAL TOWN MEETING AND GET MORE PUBLIC DISCUSSION ON IT. MR. THOMPSON AGREES AND ASKED IF MR. SPELLIOS HAS ANY THOUGHTS ON PUBLIC DISCUSSIONS (THE SCHOOLS ARE TALKING TO STUDENTS. MR. SPELLIOS WOULD LOVE TO HAVE MORE PUBLIC DISCUSSION. HE WOULD LIKE TO KEEP IT ON THE WARRANT AND LET TOWN MEETING DECIDE TO POSTPONE IT OR NOT. HE FEELS THERE HAS BEEN A HEALTHY DEBATE ABOUT THIS. TA FITZGERALD IS HAPPY TO SPONSOR THIS, FEELS IT IS UNFAIR TO TEENAGERS. THERE WAS A DISCUSSION ABOUT 16 & 17 YEAR OLD VOTING.).
- vi. ARTICLE 6 – ALLOWING 16 & 17 YEARS OLD TO VOTE: MR. SPELLIOS RECOMMENDS THE BOARD DOESN’T MAKE A PRINTED RECOMMENDATION AT THIS TIME.

UPON **MOTION**, DULY MADE BY MARYELLEN FLETCHER, SECONDED BY DOUG THOMPSON, IT WAS **NOT VOTED** TO REMOVE ARTICLES 5 AND 6 FROM THE WARRANT: ANY IN FAVOR: (FLETCHER). ANY AGAINST: (PHELAN, SPELLIOS, THOMPSON, GRISHMAN). **MOTION FAILS.**

- vii. ARTICLE 7 – ADOPT SPECIALIZED ENERGY CODE: MODELED AFTER COMMONWEALTH’S LANGUAGE AND IS IN LINE WITH CLIMATE ACTION PLAN. MR. SPELLIOS DISCUSSED THAT THIS WILL CHANGE THE BUILDING CODE AND ASKED WHAT THE PUBLIC PROCESS IS BECAUSE THIS WILL AFFECT EVERYONE AND HE DOESN’T FEEL TOWN MEETING MEMBERS WILL FULLY UNDERSTAND THIS. MR. THOMPSON STATED THAT THERE WILL BE A PUBLIC MEETING ON FEBRUARY 27TH. THERE WAS A DISCUSSION ABOUT PUBLIC PROCESS. TA FITZGERALD ASKED THE BOARD TO SUPPORT THIS.

UPON **MOTION**, DULY MADE BY DOUG THOMPSON, SECONDED BY PETER SPELLIOS, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY **VOTED** TO RECOMMEND FAVORABLE ACTION ON ARTICLE 7: ANY IN FAVOR: ALL. ANY AGAINST: NONE. **MOTION CARRIES.**

- viii. ARTICLE 8 – PARC GRANT: THIS IS STRICTLY USING FREE CASH AND IS A GENERAL USE OF THE PICKLE BALL COURTS TO BE PLACED SOMEWHERE IN PHILIPS PARK TO BE DETERMINED DURING THE DESIGN PROCESS. FINANCE COMMITTEE HASN’T TAKEN A VOTE. THERE WILL BE A COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT MEETING SCHEDULED AT THE SENIOR CENTER, AT 6PM. STAFF IS REACHING OUT TO THE NEIGHBORHOOD. WE ARE INTERESTED IN CONSIDERING EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD FOR RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES AND FEEL THIS IS A GOOD LOCATION. DECIMAL TESTS WERE CONDUCTED EARLIER THIS WEEK AND THERE WAS NO DISCERNIBLE NOISE. WILL WAIT ON RECOMMENDATION UNTIL FINANCE COMMITTEE HAS VOTED. MR. THOMPSON ASKED THAT MS. GALAZKA BE EXPLICIT REGARDING NOISE MITIGATION TO ALLEVIATE PEOPLE’S FEARS AND CONCERNS. MS. FLETCHER ASKED FOR THE DIMENSIONS OF THE COURTS.
- ix. ARTICLE 9 – INCREASE LOCAL ROOM EXCISE TAX: INCREASE FROM 4% TO 6% EFFECTIVE JULY 1, 2024. WILL WAIT FOR FINANCE COMMITTEE’S VOTE.

D. VOTES OF THE BOARD

1. APPROVAL OF THE CONSENT AGENDA

CONSENT AGENDA

THE CONSENT AGENDA IS DESIGNED TO EXPEDITE THE HANDLING OF ROUTINE AND THE MISCELLANEOUS BUSINESS OF THE BOARD. THE SELECT BOARD MAY ADOPT THE ENTIRE CONSENT AGENDA WITH ONE MOTION. AT THE REQUEST OF ANY BOARD MEMBER, ANY ITEM(S) MAY BE REMOVED FROM THE CONSENT AGENDA AND PLACED ON THE REGULAR AGENDA FOR DISCUSSION.

CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS:

1. VOTE TO APPROVE SWAMPSCOTT HIGH SCHOOL CLASS OF 2026 SPRING KICKOFF RUN, STARTING AND FINISHING AT 9 MONUMENT AVE., SATURDAY, MARCH 9, 2024, 8:00 AM CHECK IN/9:00 AM RACE START
2. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE STEFANIE NEUMANN AND MATTHEW PELLAND AS NEW MEMBERS ON THE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITH 1-YEAR TERMS EXPIRING JUNE 30, 2025
3. DISCUSSION & POSSIBLE VOTE TO APPROVE THE DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC WORKS AS A VOTING MEMBER OF THE WATER & SEWER INFRASTRUCTURE ADVISORY COMMITTEE
4. VOTE TO APPROVE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR MEETINGS OF 1/10/24, 1/24/24 & 1/30/24

MS. FLETCHER ASKED TO REMOVE ITEM #2 – SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE NEW MEMBERS VOTE.

UPON **MOTION**, DULY MADE BY MARYELLEN FLETCHER, SECONDED BY KATIE PHELAN, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY **VOTED** TO APPROVE THE CONSENT AGENDA ITEMS 1, 3 & 4 AS PRESENTED: ANY IN FAVOR: ALL. ANY AGAINST: NONE. **MOTION CARRIES.**

UPON **MOTION**, DULY MADE BY MARYELLEN FLETCHER, SECONDED BY KATIE PHELAN, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY **VOTED** TO APPROVE STEFANIE NEUMANN AND MATTHEW PELLAND AS MEMBERS OF THE SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE WITH TERMS ADJUSTED TO EXPIRE JUNE 30, 2024: ANY IN FAVOR: ALL. ANY AGAINST: NONE. **MOTION CARRIES.**

E. SELECT BOARD TIME

MS. FLETCHER THANKED THE CABLE TV CREW FOR WORKING TONIGHT.

MR. GRISHMAN: NOTHING TO ADD.

MS. PHELAN: NOTHING TO ADD.

MR. SPELLIOS: NOTHING TO ADD.

MR. THOMPSON: NOTHING TO ADD.

UPON **MOTION**, DULY MADE BY MARYELLEN FLETCHER, SECONDED BY DOUG THOMPSON, IT WAS UNANIMOUSLY **VOTED** TO ADJOURN AT 10:45 PM: ANY IN FAVOR: ALL. ANY AGAINST: NONE. **MOTION CARRIES.**

TRUE ATTEST,

Dianne Marchese

DIANNE MARCHESE, ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT TO THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR & SELECT BOARD

MINUTES APPROVED BY THE SELECT BOARD ON APRIL 3, 2024

ATTACHMENTS:

TA REPORT

BLACK HISTORY MONTH PROCLAMATION

CLIMATE ACTION COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

HARBOR & WATERFRONT ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION

DPW'S COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT PRESENTATION

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING WARRANT

CLASS OF 2026 SPRING KICKOFF RUN REQUEST

BOARD RECOMMENDATION MEMO



Town of Swampscott

Office of the
Town Administrator
Elihu Thomson Administrative Building
22 Monument Avenue
Swampscott, MA 01907



Sean R. Fitzgerald

Tel: (781) 596-8850

Swampscott Select Board
Town Administration
Building 22 Monument
Avenue
Swampscott, MA 01970

RE: FEBRUARY 7TH REPORT TO THE SELECT BOARD

Dear Select Board:

I am pleased to be able to offer the following report on programs and initiatives that are on-going in the Town of Swampscott, as well as some updates on a variety of things that have happened since my last report.

HADLEY HOTEL RFP

Last week, we heard three outstanding presentations from the three finalists to construct a boutique hotel at the Hadley School. Tonight, we'll listen to community questions and concerns as we seek to finalize the selection process.

SWAMPSCOTT POLICE DEPARTMENT

The Police Department is in the process of renewing their state accreditation status as well as reviewing internal procedures.

Officers will be wearing Black History Month patches featuring Dr. King through Juneteenth.

FY 25 BUDGET DEVELOPMENT

I have been meeting with the Finance Committee to review the FY 25 budget submissions from the Department Heads. I continue to struggle with the School Department proposed budget that is 5% over last year's appropriation. While I am cognizant of the pressure of the new school on their budget, I don't want to put some of these costs into the operating budget for year one for the new school. I have attached some information on some budget scenarios that we are using to help stress the challenges we are facing.

KING'S BEACH

I met with Mayor Nicholson last Friday to strategize about the meeting we are having tomorrow on King's Beach with State & federal agencies. The Mayor has expressed additional concerns about the outfall extension. I expressed concerns about the UV as I am begrudged to add any additional impact on a tightly

settled neighborhood that has faced significant pressure from development and traffic. With this, we are still going through the due diligence and looking to engage our state and federal partners to do more than simply issue administrative orders that has helped Kings Beach race to the bottom of the Beaches in the Commonwealth.

The Mayor and had a productive meeting with the Undersecretary for Environment Stephanie Cooper this week to discuss tomorrow's "big tent" meeting to supercharge local, state, and federal coordination and lay out some clear expectations for how we see each agency providing more support for the efforts to fix the beach. (I did have a member of the new committee ask to attend this meeting and politely declined as this is not a public meeting.) The Agenda is attached.

DEI RFP EVALUATIONS

Town staff are going through DEI consultant proposals with both the Policed and Fire Chiefs, Pete K. and Select Board members David & Katie. We hope to meet up next week and we will shortlist a few firms to interview.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY

Town Hall hosted Holocaust Memorial event last Thursday, January 25th at 10:00 am. I was very pleased with the turn out on such a short notice and the words from the family members of Holocaust survivors and victims was very moving. A special thank you to Rabbi Michael Ragozin & Rabbi Yossi Lipsker for their participation and words of comfort and support.

As a community we must be sure to build on this event every year and spend some time thinking about the inhumanity that led Germany to take 6 million innocent lives. The event was well attended by Police Officers, Fire Fighters and Town Staff and many participants, including Select Board Member Doug Thompson and State Rep. Jenny Armini read names of Holocaust victims as we pondered how we can prevent hate and foster more love.

COMMUNITY & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

I met with Marzie Galazka last week and she is busy helping to coordinate with Bruce Paradise on the Wescott/Elm Place job fair at the VFW on 2/8, 1-5PM. I met with Bruce last week and discussed the Hotel RFP and the availability of some all-alcohol licenses.

Staff are coordinating some of public engagements for Master Plan committee and she is working on a bike path Master Plan. Would like to focus on schools and assist on a Safe Routes for School application.

SENIOR CENTER

I stopped by the Senior Center this week to evaluate the work on the new kitchen. Unfortunately, it is running a bit behind schedule, and we have rescheduled the grand opening to later in February to be sure the kitchen is operational. A few additional updates for the Senior center:

2nd annual Caregivers conference – developing your own healthy aging plan, 3/23 at Sr. Center, 9-2, funded through sponsorship.

Age & dementia friendly initiative is moving along. Reaching out to businesses. "Forget Me Not" logo.

OMA art project – documentary through HS, working on being edited. On WBZ a few weeks ago.

Meeting with HS Health Ed teacher tomorrow to discuss making this part of curriculum.

Looking at a Black History Month at the Senior Center– Metco Students have been contacted.

A first time Senior prom fundraiser at First Church has been scheduled for April 27th

ASSESSING

I met with Cheryl Mochella and she shared with me that someone sent an email to property owners around the New Elementary Schools and we have received over 25 Abatement from this neighborhood. Attached is a spreadsheet with FY 2024 abatement applications and the applications highlighted in yellow are all residents who live in the Stanley School neighborhood. Many of these neighbors have stopped in to the Assessor's office and believe they are "entitled" to an abatement based on the noise and disturbance due to the new school construction.

The school construction is a temporary outside influence and there is no data showing that there has been any economic impact to the neighborhood. Assessments are based on and ad valorem market value, for FY 24, the assessed value is as of 01/01/2023. (01/01/2022-12/31/2022) While reviewing MLS sales of single family, condominium and multifamily dwellings within .3 mile radius of the school, there has been zero impact to market value, in fact all but 3 of the 18 total sales sold above the list price, see attached. There is no place in proper appraisal methodology to justify an abatement.

Unfortunately, I was informed that several residents shared that a neighborhood wide email was sent out a few weeks ago. I have not personally seen the email or know who sent it, but I am trying to find out who sent it and what it contains. We have spoken to several other towns as well as the Massachusetts Assessors Association and no one has had a situation where an abatement is granted for a temporary nuisance. We did not do this for the Greenwood School redevelopment, the Police Station new construction, or High School. In my opinion, granting an abatement to these residents is unjust and will set a town wide precedence for other projects moving forward. Just remember, if these abatement are granted, it simply shifts the tax obligation onto everyone else in Town. There is one week left for abatements.

FINANCE TEAM

Our Finance Team is busy with issuing all of the W2s for Town Staff, and 1099s, Tax bills due today (2/1); Irrigation bills going out as well. We will be issuing notes & bonds in March & refinancing some debt that is maturing in March.

TOWN CLERK

Town Clerk Jared LaLiberte has been busy with Census has been mailed, coming back now and we are getting great help with our Senior Tax credit staff. Vote by mail postcards have been mailed, and we are ramping up some efforts to get people to vote. The State is upgrading voter registration system, which dates back to 1996 and we will expand early voting for local election & primary. Will have poll stations in Town Hall starting 2/27.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT

I met with our Health Director Jeff Vaughn and we discussed the opioid survey that is online, along with opioid related data from Swampscott and the region. We recently received a report from the Deputy Police Chief in Lynn with a list of over 333 overdoses just in Lynn from Jan-Oct 2023, most from Lynn but some regional, including Swampscott residents. Lynn has Narcan available in street boxes in a number of neighborhoods and Swampscott will be making Narcan available as well.

Maryanne McMaster, the Town's new HR/Employee Experience manager started this past Monday, in the office space next to the break room on the Second floor of Town Hall. Pete Kane will continue supporting

HR as we transition but will be spending more and more time on Planning but will remain in his current office. Pete is working with HRD and coordinating an updated presentation for Hawthorne concept for February 27th.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

I have been working with Ralph Edwards to support Swampscott's Black History Month. This year, the theme is "BLACK HISTORY IS OUR HISTORY". The program will be held on Tuesday, February 27th, 6:30PM at Swampscott High School.

HUMAN RESOURCES

I am pleased to introduce MaryAnne McMasters as the Town's new Human Resources/Employee Experience Manager. MaryAnne started last week and has hit the ground running. Pete Kane will be transitioning to his role as the new Director of Planning in the next few weeks.

We have received over 60 applications for the full time DPW administrative assistant position. Currently, we have openings for an Assistant Engineer/Field Coordinator in DPW as well as for a Police Officer and Summer Recreation Staff.

RECREATION

Recreation has added adult programming, including a basket weave cake decorating class, charcuterie board workshop, a workshop on how to drill sea glass, beach stones & shells, a 4-night crochet class & a seascape heart board making class. These classes, held at 89 Burrill St., are very popular and sell out fast! Also popular adult classes include Bolly X & Yoga at the High School. For more information, visit their website: www.swampscott.myrec.com

Lastly, be on the lookout for information on an upcoming Health & Fitness Expo at the High School on March 9th.

TOWN CLERK

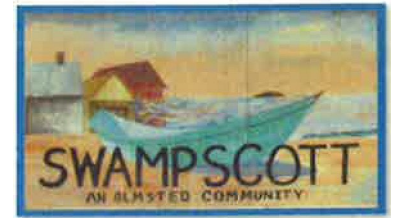
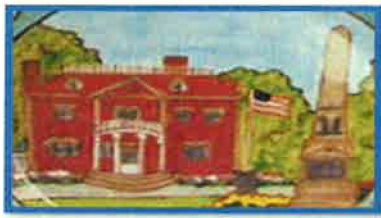
There will be early voting hours for the presidential primary the last week of February as follows: Saturday, 2/24, Town hall will be open 9:00 AM – 3:00 PM, as well as during normal business hours Monday through Thursday.

At its last meeting, the Select Board voted to increase early voting hours at Town Hall for the upcoming April local election. Voters will be able to come in on Saturday, 4/20, 11:00-5:00, Town Hall will be open 8:00-8:00 Monday through Thursday and 8:00-Noon on Friday, 4/26.

Respectfully Submitted,



Sean R. Fitzgerald
Town Administrator



Black History Month

Whereas: February is Black History Month and we call upon the Citizens and Public and Local officials of the Town of Swampscott to honor the history and achievements of Black Americans and to reflect on the centuries of struggle that have brought us to this historic moment of time to lived up to the founding principles of our Nation and the Town of Swampscott - that all people are created equal and have the right to be treated equally throughout their lives; and

Whereas: This observance affords a special opportunity to become more knowledgeable about Black heritage, and to honor Black citizens who have contributed to Swampscott's economic, cultural, spiritual, and political development: and

Whereas: After the Civil War, Exodusters migrated from the South and settled in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts; they brought with them the desire for economic opportunities, freedom from oppression and harassment, and freedom to create their own lives; these settlers played an important role in settling the Commonwealth of Massachusetts and the Town of Swampscott, as well as the rest of the United States; and

Whereas: In 1915, Dr. Carter Godwin Woodson, noted Black scholar and son of former slaves, founded the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, which was later renamed the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH); and

Whereas: Dr. Woodson initiated Black History Week, February 12, 1926; and for many years, the second week of February, chosen to coincide with the birthdays of Frederick Douglass and Abraham Lincoln, was celebrated by Black peoples in the United States, and

Whereas: In 1976, as part of the nation's bicentennial, Black History Week was expanded and became established as Black History Month, and is now celebrated all over North America, Canada and Europe; and

Whereas: While the observance of Black History Month calls our Town's attention to the continued need to battle racism and to build a society that lives up to its democratic ideals, this year's celebrations and recognition of Black History Month are especially significant as we reflect on the historic challenges facing our community and our Nation at this time; and

Whereas: We acknowledge that Black History is American History - stories and facts fully interwoven in the political, economic, cultural, scientific, and democratic fabric that make up our great Nation; and

Whereas: This year, we are proud to celebrate key elements of the 2023 George Floyd Justice in Policing Act: banning chokehold, restricting no knock warrants, and other efforts supported by the Swampscott Police Department that define the best practices with community policing, including the recent hiring of the most diverse group of Swampscott Police Officers and Fire Fighters in the history of our Town. These efforts have helped to advance public trust and safety as we build a brighter, more inclusive future for our Town, our Commonwealth, and our Nation; and

Whereas: The Town of Swampscott is proud to celebrate Black History Month and pledge our continued commitment to build a welcoming community - one that reflects the full talents and diversity of the American people and that celebrates Swampscott's third annual Juneteenth Celebration, among other efforts by Swampscott and broader Community that is committed to build a future that is inclusive and ready to confront deep racial inequities and the systemic racism that continue to plague our community and Nation; and

Whereas: The Town of Swampscott commits to doing everything in our power to demand that we all seek a greater understanding and implement changes to ensure that racism, anti-Semitism and the unjust treatment of any person is not tolerated in any way or form within the Town of Swampscott.

Whereas: Swampscott Unites Respects Embraces (S.U.R.E.) Diversity will host a Black History Month celebration on Tuesday, February 27th, 7PM at Swampscott High School to share important conversations about Swampscott's Black History and work to build a more inclusive community.

Now therefore, the Town of Swampscott hereby establishes February 2024 as:

Black History Month

in the Town of Swampscott, Massachusetts and encourage all faith based and non-profit organizations, residents, businesses, civic and public institutions to acknowledge, honor, value and celebrate **Black Citizens** and celebrate our diverse heritage and culture and continue our efforts to create a world that is more just, peaceful, and prosperous for all.

In Witness Whereof, We have here unto set our hands and caused to be affixed the GREAT Seal of the Town of Swampscott, Massachusetts, this 7th day of February 2024.

David Grishman
Chair, Select Board

Catherine Phelan
Vice Chair, Select Board

Mary Ellen Fletcher
Select Board

Peter Spellios
Select Board

Douglas Thompson
Select Board

Sean Fitzgerald
Town Administrator



Swampscott Black History Month

In Witness Whereof, We too have here unto set our hands in support of this proclamation celebrating Swampscott's Black History Month:

[illegible]

[illegible]

Protecting and Enhancing Our Harbor

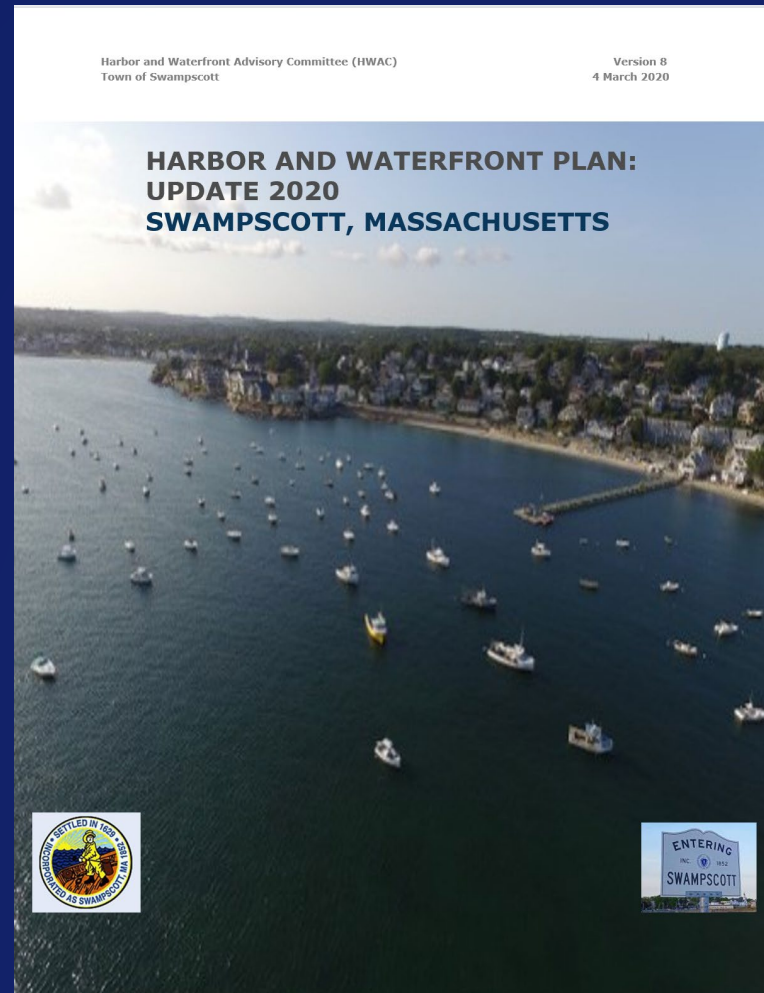
Summary of Existing Conditions and Town and Harbor & Waterfront Advisory Committee (HWAC) Efforts

Update Presentation to the Select Board
February 7, 2024

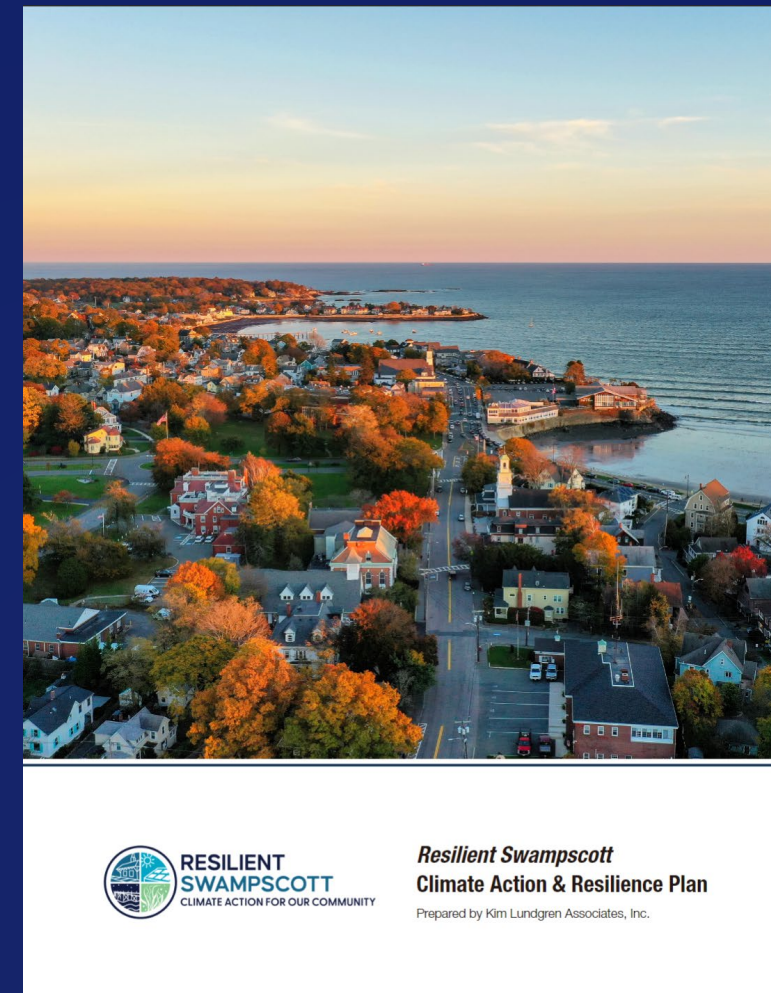
Planning Efforts Defining the Current Work and Guiding the Path Forward



2016



2020



2022

... And Additional Plans Developed by the Town...

The Town and the HWAC are Implementing Key Aspects of the Harbor Plan:

- > Current Focus is on Efforts to Protect and Enhance Fisherman's Beach and Associated Infrastructure
 - > Why Start There? – Because the Situation at Fisherman's is Urgent !!



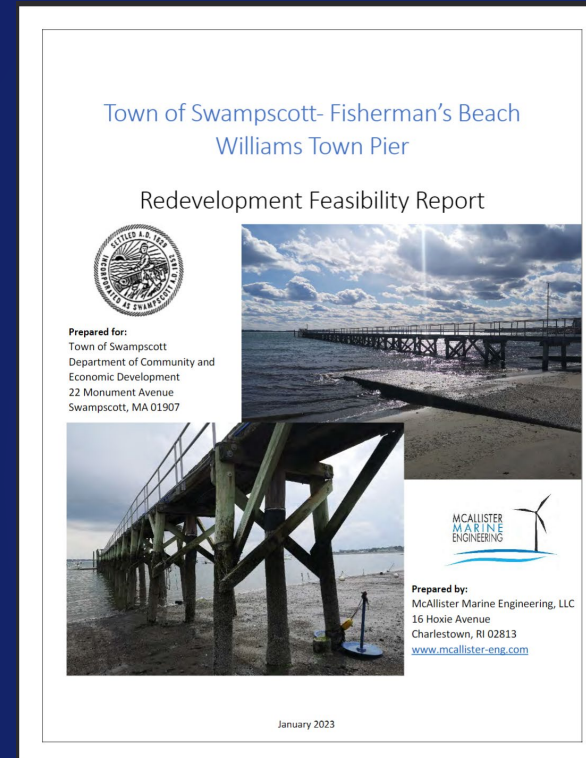
Urgent Projects Include:

- > Town Pier Replacement and Shoreline Enhancements to Protect the Fish House & Humphrey Street;
and
- > A Living Reef Harbor Protection System to add Resiliency & Protect Marine & Shoreline Infrastructure.

Status and Progress:

- In 2020 the Town Submitted Grant Applications to the State Seaport Economic Council (SEC) for both Projects:
 - SEC Indicted Support for Both the Pier and Living Reef Projects;
 - SEC Provided First Funding for the Fisherman's Beach Pier Project;
 - SEC Indicted that it would assist Swampscott in identifying funding sources for the Living Reef Harbor Protection System from other State and Federal sources.

- ▶ The Pier project received an initial State SEC grant in 2021.
- ▶ In 2022, the initial phase of the project was completed with a Feasibility Study.
- ▶ In 2023, the Town received a second State grant to begin the 60% design process for the Pier.
- ▶ **That work began in September 2023 and is currently underway.....**



Emphasizing the Urgency:

- Over the Past several decades, super storms and large named storms have pounded the coast at Fisherman's Beach.



Emphasizing the Urgency:

- Over the Past several years, Climate Change has exacerbated the strength, frequency, and severity of the storms to a point where even “run-of-the-mill” storms are now creating significant damage to the Pier, the Fish House, and the Coastal Infrastructure along Humphry Street.



Emphasizing the Urgency:



**Damage to the
Fish House
Foundation from
the January 10,
and January 13,
2024 Storms.**

Emphasizing the Urgency:



Damage to the Fisherman's Beach Pier from the January 10, and January 13, 2024 Storms.



Emphasizing the Urgency:

Damage to the Fisherman's Beach Pier from the January 10, and January 13, 2024 Storms.



Emphasizing the Urgency:



Damage to the Fisherman's Beach Parking Lot from the January 10, and January 13, 2024 Storms.



The Forces at Work are Incredible and are Causing Extreme Stress on the Infrastructure.

Emphasizing the Urgency:



Damage to the Infrastructure Surrounding Fisherman's Beach from the January 10, and January 13, 2024 Storms.

Emphasizing the Urgency:



Repeated Damage from Multiple Storms, now with higher waves and at a more frequent occurrence is causing the infrastructure to degrade.

Emphasizing the Urgency:

**The Power of the
Storm - from the
January 13, 2024
Storm.**



Emphasizing the Urgency:

**Flooding from
Storms is growing
in severity and
threatens
Humphrey Street
and the businesses
and homes that
exist along
Humphrey.**

The Pier Project: Pier Conditions Were Surveyed as Part of the Feasibility Study



The Pier is over a Decade Past its Design Life. Structural Inspections Indicate the Pier is Aging and Needs to Be Relaxed if it is to Withstand the Coming Storms.



The Pier Project: 2022 Study Results Indicated Permitting and Design Challenges that Require Focussed Design Attention:



**A Healthy Eel Grass
Bed in the Harbor
Complicates the
Regulatory Picture....**



The Pier Project: 2022 Work Results – From 7 Concepts, 2 Preliminary Designs

Town of Swampscott- Fisherman's Beach Williams Town Pier

Redevelopment Feasibility Report

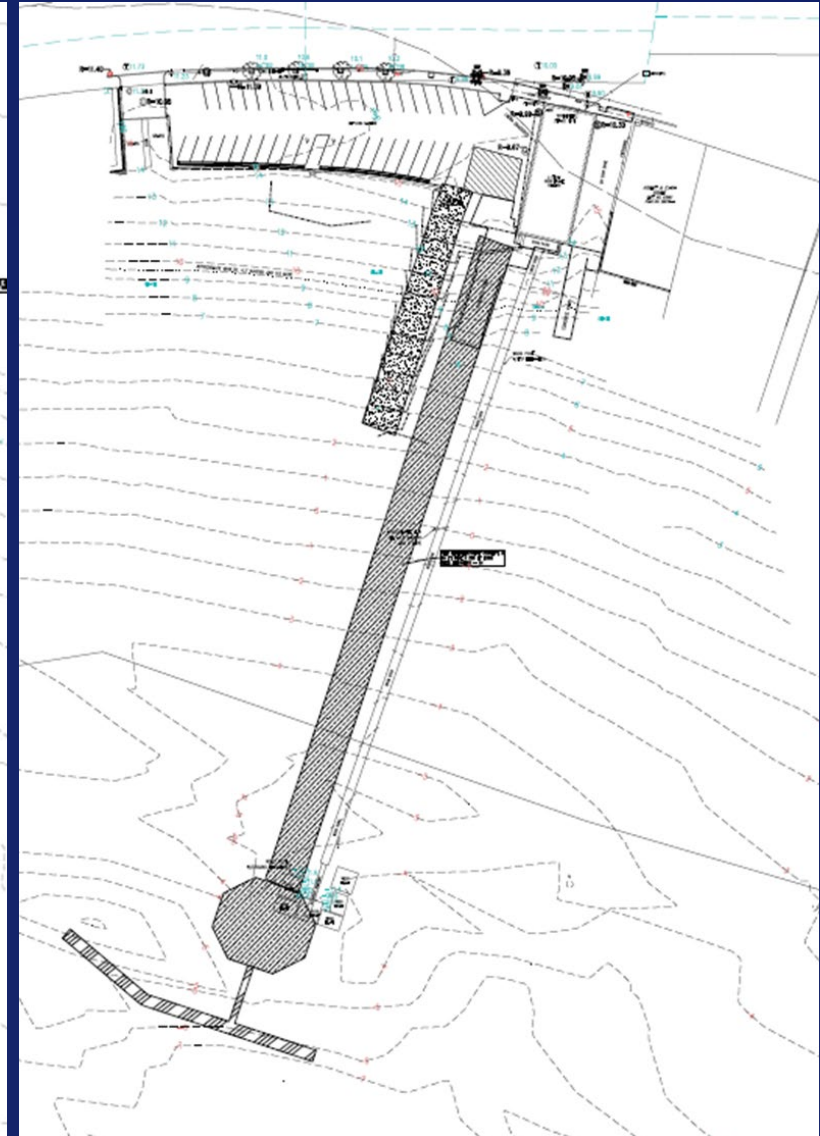
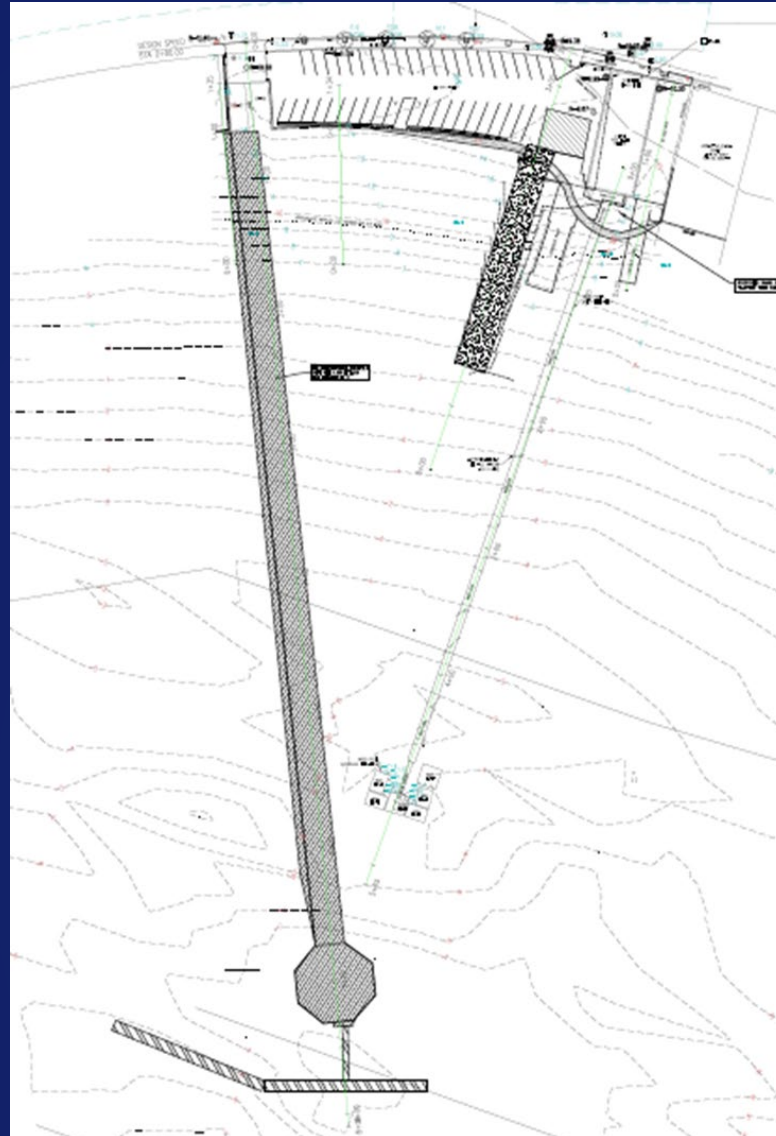


Prepared for:
Town of Swampscott
Department of Community and
Economic Development
22 Monument Avenue
Swampscott, MA 01907



Prepared by:
McAllister Marine Engineering, LLC
16 Hoxie Avenue
Charlestown, RI 02813
www.mcallister-eng.com

January 2023



The Winning Concept (Center) Was Selected After Extensive Review and Outreach.

The Pier Project: Progress and Status – Toward a 60% Design

In 2024 – A Soil Boring Program Is Scheduled to Provide the Critical Geotechnical Information Needed to Advance the Design Process.

- 4 Borings are Planned along the Alignment of the New Pier.
- Regulatory Review of the Plan Registered Concern Over Potential Disturbance the Eel Grass (Even though Minor).
- Necessitating Locating Borings in Low Eel Grass (Sandy) Areas using Underwater Camera to Determine Appropriate Locations.
- Appropriate Boring Locations were Determined from Existing Data and Buoy Blocks were Set at the Appropriate (4 Boring) Locations using GIS.
- Site Marking was Completed in December 2023 – but since then Severe Weather has Hampered the Collection of the Photographic Data.
- Work will Commence Once the Weather Cooperates.
- The Delays will Extend the Work Under this Phase into the Fall.



Marking the Marine Boring Locations to Avoid Eel Grass

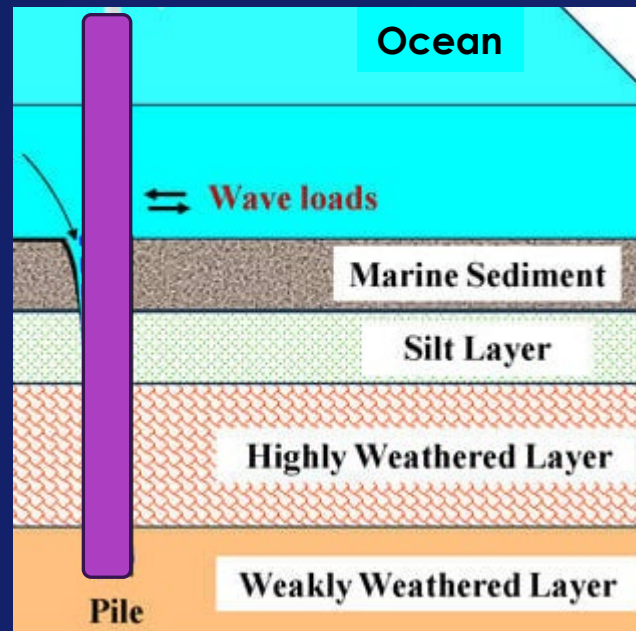


The Pier Project: Next Steps

Conduct Borings



Create Ground Model

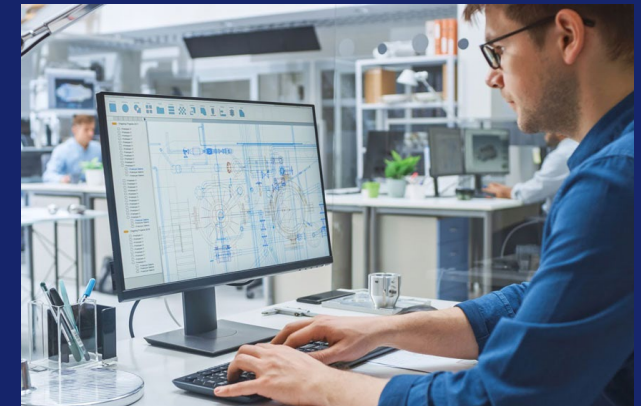


Example Ground Model

Conduct Marine Surveys



Select Pile Sizes and Types and Proceed with Design



60% Design and Town Review Process



**Engineer's Rendering – One Possible Configuration of New Resilient Pier
(More Accurate Rendering will be Compiled Once the 60% Design is Complete)**

The Pier Project: Next Steps as Current Work Scope Matures



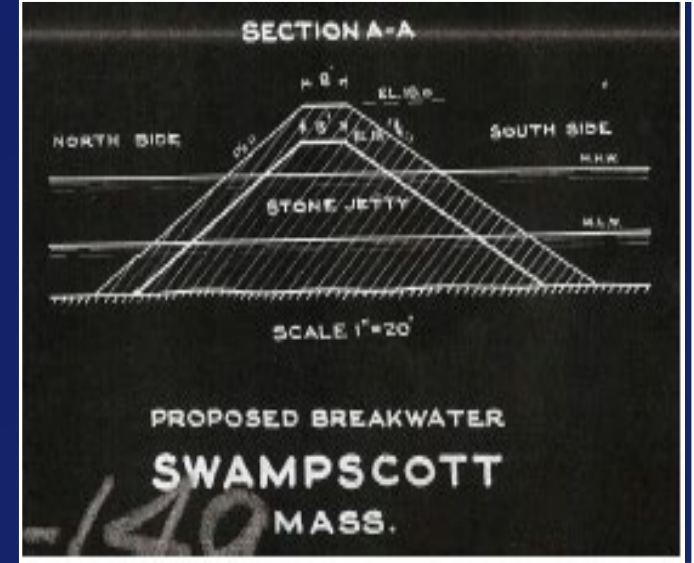
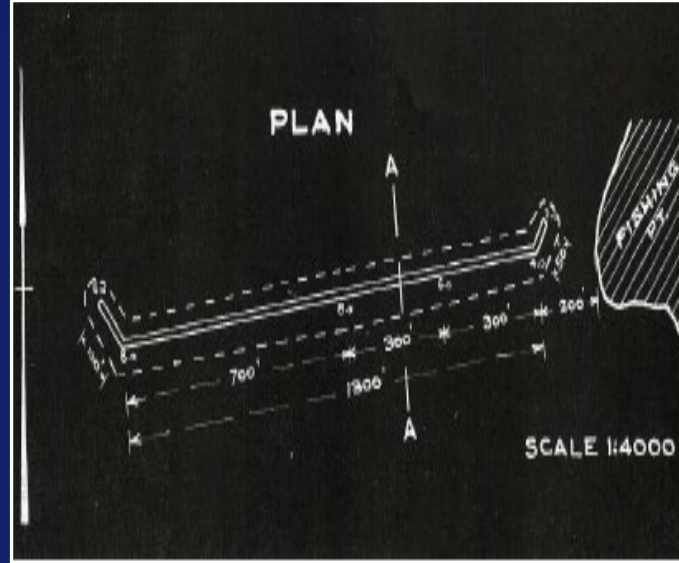
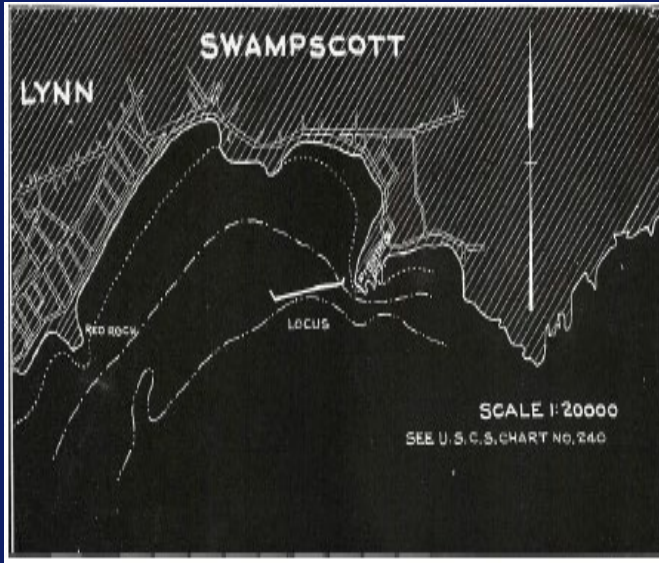
- Acquire Next Phase Grant.
- Next Phase = Permitting.
- Conduct Necessary Studies and Create Reports for Regulatory Review.
- Obtain Permits.
- Acquire Design Grant to Advance to 100% Design.
- Complete 100% Design and Publish Specifications and Bid Package.
- Bid and Select Contractor.
- Construct.

Something to Keep in Mind.....



The City of Revere Lost a Pier in One of the Latest Storms. Once a Pier Falls Into the Water, It Is Very Difficult to Replace.

Future Work....Based on Past Work...



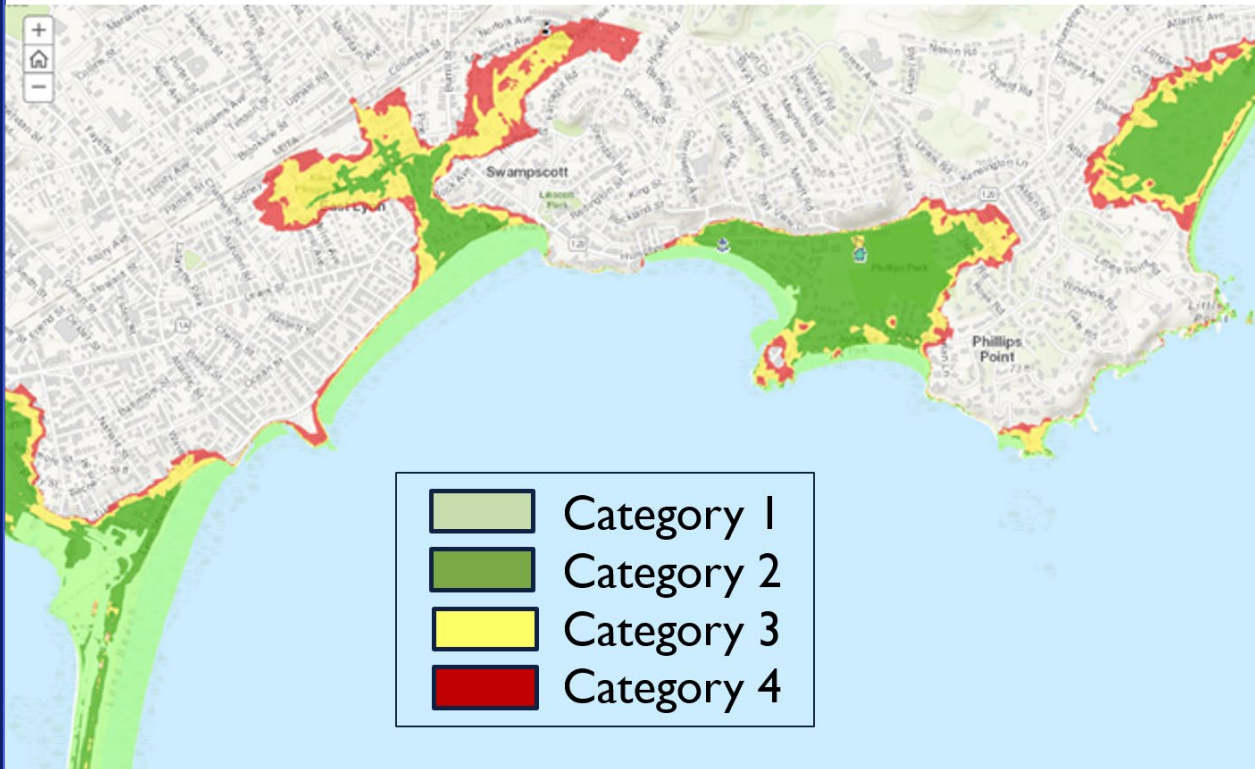
INFRASTRUCTURE
INVESTMENTS TO
SUPPORT HARBOR
AND
WATERFRONT
RESILIENCY HAVE
BEEN PLANNED
FOR SOME TIME...

- ▶ ORIGINAL BREAKWATER DESIGNS - U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS 1924.
- ▶ FEDERAL GOVERNMENT FUNDING WAS PULLED FROM THE PROJECT.
- ▶ THE HARBOR PLAN SUPPORTS A MODERN TAKE ON THE ORIGINAL ARMY CORPS INTERVENTION - A NATURE-BASED DESIGN “LIVING REEF”.
- ▶ THE FIRST PHASE OF WORK FOR THIS PROJECT INVOLVES THE COMPLETION OF A FEASIBILITY STUDY TO ASSESS THE EFFICACY AND EFFECTIVENESS.
- ▶ THE TOWN IS SEEKING GRANT MONEY TO BEGIN THE FEASIBILITY AND DESIGN PROCESS.
- ▶ THE HEALEY ADMINISTRATION HAS A RESILIENCY “CZAR”. REGIONAL RESILIENCY ALLIANCES ARE BEING FORMED AMONG NORTH COAST COMMUNITIES.

The Time is Rapidly Approaching to Decide ...

RETREAT or DEFEND

RESILIENCY





**DRAFT –
DO NOT DISTRIBUTE**

2024 Special Town Meeting

WARRANT REPORT

Town of Swampscott

DRAFT

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2024 Special Town Meeting Warrant

WARRANT FOR SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

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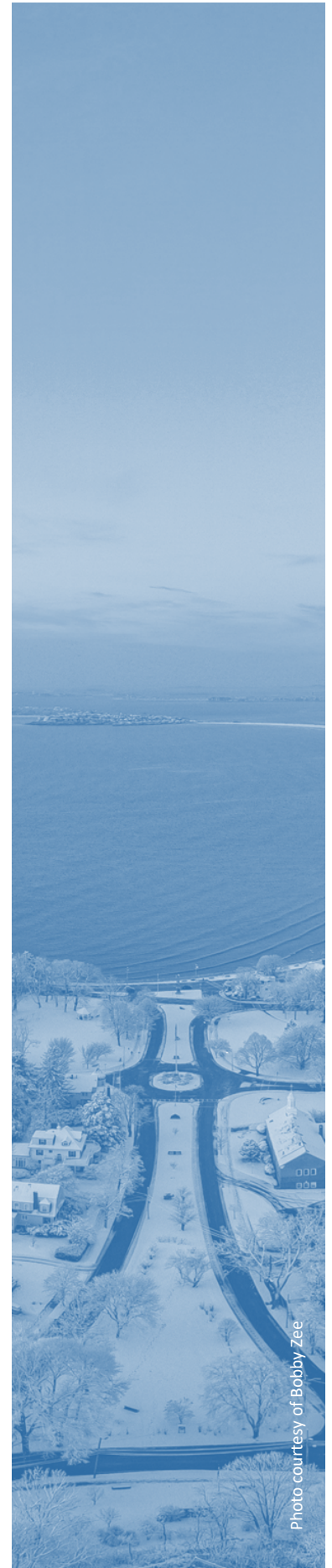


Photo courtesy of Bobby Zee

NOTICE OF SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Monday, March 11, 2024, 7:00 PM

To Town Meeting Members:

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Article II, Section 2 of the General Bylaws of the Town of Swampscott that the Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, March 11, 2024, beginning at 7:00 pm in the Swampscott High School Auditorium located at 200 Essex Street, Swampscott.

The required identification badge is to be picked up at the auditorium entrance when you check in.

Town Moderator Michael McClung will preside.

Respectfully,

Jared H. LaLiberte
Town Clerk

NOTICE OF PRECINCT CAUCUS MEETINGS

Caucus meetings for all Swampscott precincts have been scheduled for Monday, March 11, 2024, beginning at 6:45 pm in the Swampscott High School located at 200 Essex Street, Swampscott. Room assignments are as follows:

Precinct 1 – Room C101
Precinct 2 – Room C103

Precinct 3 – Room C104
Precinct 4 – Room C105

Precinct 5 – Room C107
Precinct 6 – Room B208

NOTES:

Please remember that it is YOUR responsibility to be recorded as being present with the door checkers prior to entering the auditorium for EACH session. Excessive absences are cause for removal from Town Meeting membership. Also, please remember the following:

1. You must wear (display) your Town Meeting identification badge at all times; and
2. Remember to use the microphones when speaking on any issue so that your comments may be recorded on the official transcript of the meeting and be heard by your fellow members in the hall and residents viewing the live cable telecast.

Respectfully,

Jared H. LaLiberte
Town Clerk

TOWN WARRANT | MARCH 11, 2024

Town of Swampscott

ARTICLE 1 AMEND APPROPRIATION FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024 OPERATING BUDGET / ALLOCATION OF CH. 70 FUNDS TO SCHOOL DISTRICT

To see if the Town will vote to amend various line items in the FY2024 budget as recommended by the Finance Committee as follows, and further, to transfer from available funds, or borrow a sum of money therefor, or take any action relative thereto.

Comment: This Article increases the Swampscott School Department Budget to reflect an increase of \$186,001 in additional Chapter 70 aid contained in the final state budget which passed the Legislature and signed by the Governor in July 2023 (after the Annual Town Meeting).

**Sponsored by the
Select Board and
Town Administrator**

The Select Board
recommends ...

The Finance
Committee
recommends ...

FY2023 APPROVED BUDGET	LINE ITEM NO.	ORG/OBJ	DEPARTMENTAL BUDGETS	RECOMMENDED AMENDMENTS	NEW FY2024 RECOM. BUDGET AS APPROVED
			EMPLOYEE BENEFITS		
\$7,311,701		0191402 57050	EMPLOYEE GROUP/HEALTH	(\$186,001)	\$7,125,700
\$14,210,225	59	0191402	EMPLOYEE BENEFITS SUBTOTAL	(\$186,001)	\$14,024,224
\$31,008,713	57	0199202	TOTAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS	\$186,001	\$31,194,714
\$31,008,713	57	0199202	PUBLIC SCHOOLS SUBTOTAL	\$186,001	\$31,194,714
Net Change				\$0	

ARTICLE 2 APPROVE TRANSFER OF FREE CASH – HOMELESS/FOSTER CARE TRANSPORTATION

To see if the Town will vote to transfer from Free Cash \$26,445 to the Fiscal Year 2024 school appropriated operating budget (line 57) to be used to offset the costs in the school appropriated budget for homeless and foster care transportation.

Comment: By law the McKinney-Vento Homeless children and youth program requires that children that attend the school assigned to them by their local school district are entitled to the same transportation that is offered to other children in the district. For pre-school aged children, the district must provide services comparable to those provided for non-homeless children. When a homeless child continues to attend his/her school of origin while staying in a different district, the districts must work together to determine how to share transportation costs and responsibilities. If an agreement cannot be reached, then responsibility and costs must be shared equally. In FY23 the school operating budget incurred a total of \$76,350 in costs for homeless and foster care transportation, the state does reimburse for part of that cost. By law, reimbursement is a general fund receipt and must be received by the town. In FY23 the town received \$26,445 in reimbursements for the costs incurred by the school department for homeless/foster care transportation.

**Sponsored by the
Select Board and
Town Administrator**

The Select Board
recommends ...

The Finance
Committee
recommends ...

ARTICLE 3 APPROVE TRANSFER OF FREE CASH – COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS

To see if the Town will vote to transfer a sum of money from Free Cash to fund provisions of Collective Bargaining Agreements between the Town of Swampscott and AFSCME COUNCIL 93, LOCAL 2610, or take any action relative thereto.

**Sponsored by the
Town Administrator**

The Select Board
recommends ...

Comment: This Article will potentially fund provisions of Collective Bargaining Agreements that are under negotiation if negotiations are settled prior to Town Meeting, otherwise this article will be recommended for indefinite postponement.

The Finance Committee recommends ...

ARTICLE 4 HOME RULE LEGISLATION OR OTHER SPECIAL LEGISLATION

To see if the Town will vote to authorize and request the Select Board to file Home Rule Legislation or other Special Legislation exempting the Town from the requirement to accept and grant applications for valuation, assessment, and taxation of land under the provisions of Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 61B while maintaining the Town's first refusal option and ability to collect any and all application conveyance and roll-back taxes for applications previously granted under Mass. Gen. Laws Chapter 61B, or take any other action relative thereto.

Comment: Chapter 61B was enacted as a way to provide incentives to create and maintain open space by reducing the property taxes of the open space land. This Article seeks to exempt the Town of Swampscott from this requirement as the current entity that utilizes this exemption, Tedesco Country Club, enjoys the reduced tax costs but limits access to its property. The intent of Chapter 61B is being lost – and results in the community members being denied access to the open space while the property owner enjoys lower taxes. The country club saw a tax savings this current fiscal year of \$174,977 and \$1,929,246 over the last ten years. These funds could have been going to help support important services in our community: education, public safety, infrastructure, etc.

Sponsored by the Select Board and Town Administrator

The Select Board recommends ...

The Finance Committee recommends ...

ARTICLE 5 CHARTER & GENERAL BYLAWS AMENDMENT: ELECTION

To see if the Town will vote to:

(A) Amend the Town Charter to establish a minimum number of votes for election as a Town Meeting Member, require a postcard and early voting application be sent to all residents of the Town, mandate early voting in person and early voting by mail, provide for the Annual Town Election to occur after the Annual Town Meeting, and extend the terms of those elected at the annual election occurring the year prior to the implementation of this act to be consistent with the new election date; further, to authorize the Select Board to file with the General Court a petition for special legislation to amend the Town Charter and to authorize the General Court to make changes of form only to the bill without the approval of the Select Board and to authorize the Select Board to approve such changes as are within the public purposes of the petition for special legislation authorized hereunder, as follows:

An Act Relative to the Charter of the Town of Swampscott

SECTION 1. The Charter of the town of Swampscott set forth in section 6 of chapter 106 of the acts of 2016, is hereby amended by deleting the sixth sentence of section 2-2 and inserting in place thereof the following sentence:- The Town Clerk shall, after every election of town meeting members, forthwith notify each member by mail of that member's election, provided, however, that no candidate shall be deemed to be elected if they received fewer than 10 votes.

SECTION 2. Section 2-3 of said charter of the town of Swampscott is hereby amended by deleting the first sentence thereof and inserting in its place the following sentence:- The articles for the warrant for each town meeting, so far as they relate to

Sponsored by the Select Board and Town Administrator

The Select Board recommends ...

The Finance Committee recommends ...

the election of the moderator, town officers and town meeting members, and as herein provided, to referenda, and all matters to be acted upon and determined by ballot, shall be known as the annual town election and shall be acted upon and determined by the voters of the town in their respective precincts on a date following the annual town meeting.

SECTION 3. Section 2-5 of said charter is hereby amended by inserting at the end of the title the following words:- ; Representative Town Meeting Member Vacancies.

SECTION 4. Said section 2-5 of said charter is hereby further amended by deleting the third through fifth sentences thereof and inserting in place thereof the following sentences:- Any vacancy in town meeting membership caused by the resignation of a town meeting member shall be filled by offering the position to the person who received the next highest number of votes at the last election who received at least 10 votes. If there is a tie, then the vacancy shall be filled by lottery. If the person with at least 10 votes who received the next highest vote declines appointment, then the vacancy shall be offered to the person who received at least 10 votes and got the next highest vote or, if a lottery shall be held and if that person declines or if there is no list of persons who received at least 10 votes and got the next highest vote, then the vacancy shall be filled by the precinct caucus, by ballot, by a majority of those present and voting for the unexpired term.

SECTION 5. Section 3 of said charter is hereby amended by deleting sections 3-1 through 3-2A and inserting in place thereof the following and by renumbering the remaining sections of said chapter 3 accordingly:-

Section 3-1 Annual Election. The annual town election shall be held after the annual town meeting on the second consecutive Saturday and Sunday in the month of June. Polls shall be open on both days at least 10 consecutive hours between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., with the polls staying open on at least one day until 8:00 p.m. When polls close on the first day, machine tally tapes will not be posted. Write-in ballots and those in the auxiliary bin of the ballot box will be separately sealed and not reopened until after the close of polls on the second day. On the second day, when the polls close the machine tapes shall be posted for day 1 and day 2 of the election. The totals shall then be adjusted by the write-in votes and auxiliary bin ballots from day 1 and day 2. Except as set forth herein, the election shall be held consistent with state election law.

Section 3-2 Absentee and Early Voting. The Town shall, no later than 45 days prior to a municipal election send a postcard and early voting application to all residences within the town notifying the inhabitants of the date of the election and the process for voting by absentee or early voting by mail or in person.

Section 3-2A Early voting by Mail and In Person. There shall be in the town of Swampscott early voting by mail and early voting in person for all municipal elections not held on the date of a state primary or state regular or special election, which, except as provided herein, shall be held in compliance with section 25B of chapter 53 of the elections laws. Early voting in person shall be provided in a convenient site from the 11th day prior to the date of the election to the 4th day prior to the date of the election, for at least 6

consecutive hours each weekend and 100% of the usual business hours of the clerk's office on other days; provided, however, that if such period includes a Saturday and a Sunday the town need provide early voting in person on only one weekend day. Should the town hold a special election on the same date as a state primary or state regular or special election, early voting shall be conducted as required by section 25B of chapter 54 of the general laws.

Section 3-3 Board of Selectmen. The board of selectmen shall consist of 5 members elected for alternating 3-year terms, with not more than 2 seats expiring in any 1 year

SECTION 6. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 107 of chapter 41 of the general laws, or of any other general or special law to the contrary, each elected official holding office as of the effective date of this act shall serve until their successor is elected and qualified at an election held pursuant to section 5 of this act.

SECTION 7. This act shall take effect upon its passage or January 1, 2025, whichever is later.

(B) Amend the Town Bylaws to set the date for the annual town election following the date of the annual town meeting and to make related changes, with language to be inserted shown in bold and language to be deleted shown in strikethrough, as follows:

Section 1 of Article II of the General Bylaws is hereby amended to provide as follows:

~~The annual town meeting shall be held on the last Tuesday in April in each year. (5/98)~~ **The annual town election shall be held on the second consecutive Saturday and Sunday in June. Polls shall be open at least 10 consecutive hours between 7:00 a.m. and 8:00 p.m., with the polls staying open on at least one day until 8:00 p.m.** For the election of officers, ~~at said annual town meeting unless otherwise provided by law, polls shall be open at seven o'clock in the forenoon and shall remain open until eight o'clock at night. After the counting and declaration of votes for officers at an annual town meeting, said meeting shall be adjourned to the date established by the Town Charter~~ **The annual town meeting shall be held on the third Monday of May at 7:15 p.m.** at the Town Hall or such other place as may be designated by the Selectmen **in the warrant**, and at which time and at any further adjournment thereof, the remaining articles of the warrant shall be taken up. Each further adjournment thereof shall be made to the next succeeding and successive nights at 7:45 p.m., unless the meeting determines otherwise by the vote of two-thirds (2/3) of the members present and voting, as is necessary to conclude the annual town meeting

Subsection (b) of Section 2 of Article II of the General Bylaws is hereby amended to provide as follows:

... Notice of any adjournment of any town meeting other than to the next succeeding night as provided in Section **1** ~~(a)~~ shall be advertised by the town clerk at least once in a newspaper or newspapers published in Swampscott ...

Or take any action relative thereto.

Comment: This Article seeks to expand voting access and ability. The first part amends the Town's Charter with the intention of ensuring that at least a minimum number of votes are given to an elected Town Meeting member (so those who don't want to serve aren't inadvertently elected in), requires that residents have access to and are informed of early voting ability and vote by mail, and adjust (extend) the terms of those elected at the annual town election in the year the changes go into effect (to line up with the new election cycle). An element in the Charter amendment as well as the second part which is an amendment to the General Bylaws changes the annual town election to occur after the annual town meeting so that new Town Meeting members aren't forced to rush and get up to speed on articles of the annual town meeting warrant right after being elected into their role.

ARTICLE 6 CHARTER AMENDMENT: ELECTION AGE

To see if the Town will vote to authorize the Select Board to file with the General Court a petition for special legislation to amend the Town Charter, as set forth in section 6 of chapter 106 of the acts of 2016, to allow otherwise eligible 16 and 17 year-olds who reside in the Town to vote in annual and special Town elections and, further, to authorize the General Court to make changes of form only to the bill without the approval of the Select Board and to authorize the Select Board to approve such changes as are within the public purposes of the petition for special legislation authorized hereunder, all as follows:

SECTION 1. The Charter of the Town of Swampscott as set forth in section 6 of the acts of 2016 is hereby amended by inserting a new section 3-1A, as follows:-
Notwithstanding the provisions of section 1 of chapter 51 of the General Laws or of any other general or special law to the contrary, eligible individuals ages 16 or 17 years old residing in the town of Swampscott who register as pre-registrants in accordance with the provisions of section 47A of chapter 51 of the general laws shall be eligible to vote in, and seek election at, annual or special town meetings or town elections; provided, however, that pre-registrants shall not have the right to vote for any state or federal offices or ballot questions. Individuals registered under sections 1 and 47A of chapter 51 of the general laws shall be "voters" or "registered voters" for purposes of this charter.

SECTION 2. Notwithstanding the provisions of section 21C of chapter 59 or section 3 of chapter 44B of the general laws, or of any other general or special law to the contrary, a local ballot question otherwise required or eligible to be printed on a state election ballot shall be presented to the voters at a special election to be held on the same date as the biennial state election, all at the expense of the Town of Swampscott.

SECTION 3. To implement this act the town of Swampscott is hereby authorized to pass bylaws and the Swampscott board of registrars is authorized to promulgate regulations, guidelines and forms consistent with any such bylaw.

SECTION 4. Nothing in this act shall be construed to confer upon pre-registrants in the town of Swampscott the right to vote for any state or federal office or any state or federal ballot questions.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon its passage.

Or take any action relative thereto.

**Sponsored by the
Select Board and
Town Administrator**

The Select Board
recommends ...

The Finance
Committee
recommends ...

Comment: This Article seeks to address the increasing loss of participation of community members in the right to vote. Vote participation has been on the decline nationally, as well as in Swampscott. The greatest decline of participation has been in local elections that has seen a drop of about 45% over the past 50 years. This Article would amend the legal voting age for local elections to include 16- and 17-year-olds and also permit them to run for local office. A number of other communities in Massachusetts have passed similar charter changes including: Boston, Somerville, Northampton, and Acton.

ARTICLE 7 GENERAL BYLAWS AMENDMENT: SPECIALIZED ENERGY CODE

To see if the Town will vote to enact Article XVI-A of the Town of Swampscott General Bylaws, entitled “Specialized Energy Code” for the purpose of regulating the design and construction of buildings for the effective use of energy and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions, pursuant to the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, including future editions, amendments or modifications thereto, with an effective date of July 1, 2024, as set forth in Appendix A, or take any other action relative thereto.

Comment: This Article seeks to further Swampscott’s commitment to becoming more sustainable, green, and forward-thinking. By adopting the Specialized Energy Code, we are choosing to be a leader among communities in Massachusetts by selecting the most energy efficient and sustainable standards for new construction. The purpose of the Specialized Energy Code is to reduce emissions in newly constructed buildings with a goal of achieving net-zero emissions. The Specialized Code builds on the Stretch Code already adopted in Town General Bylaw Article XVI. The new Specialized Code is a climate-focused energy code option created by the 2021 Climate Act. Currently over 50% of GHG emissions in our town come from buildings, mostly using fossil fuels such as gas and oil for energy. Resilient Swampscott, the town’s Climate Action Plan, adopted by Town Meeting in May 2023, specifies actions that reduce greenhouse gas emissions. Action 2.2.A of the Climate Action Plan is: Adopt the Municipal Opt-in Specialized Energy Code.

**Sponsored by the
Town Administrator**

The Select Board
recommends ...

The Finance
Committee
recommends ...

ARTICLE 8 APPROPRIATION FOR PARC GRANT

To see if the Town of Swampscott will vote to (a) raise, appropriate, transfer from available funds and/or borrow the sum of \$103,870, and authorize the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, to borrow said sum pursuant to the provisions of M.G.L. Chapter 44, Sections 7, 8, 8C and/or any other enabling authority, for the purpose of improving, renovating and equipping Philips Park with four (4) Pickle Ball Courts, including, without limitation, all costs incidental or related thereto; provided, however, that no funds shall be expended until the Town has received a grant commitment or allocation for a portion of such costs under the PARC Grant Program (301 CMR 5.00) and/or under any federal and/or other state program to undertake the foregoing project, and further, that any premium received by the Town upon the sale of any bonds or notes approved by this vote, less any premium applied to the payment of the costs of issuance of such bonds or notes, may be applied to the payment of costs approved by this vote in accordance with G.L. c.44, §20, thereby reducing the amount authorized to be borrowed to pay such costs by a like amount; (b) transfer the care, custody and control of Philips Park to the Select Board for, and to dedicate said Park to, park and active recreation purposes under the provisions of G.L. c.45, §3; and (c) authorize the Select Board and/or its designee to apply for and accept on behalf of the Town funds granted under the PARC Grant Program and/or any other funds, gifts, grants, under any federal and/or other state program in any way connected with the scope of this Article, and

**Sponsored by the
Town Administrator**

The Select Board
recommends ...

The Finance
Committee
recommends ...

enter into all agreements and execute any and all instruments as may be necessary or convenient to effectuate the project on behalf of the Town, or take any action relative thereto.

Comment: The purpose of this Article is to appropriate monies (Free Cash) to construct four pickleball courts at Phillips Park. Location of pickleball courts will be determined by public process post town meeting. This project will be partially funded by the PARC Grant Program, which requires local appropriation, and funds will be partially reimburse to the Town upon completion of the project.

APPENDIX A

Proposed General Bylaws Amendment: Specialized Energy Code

Article XVI-A

Specialized Energy Code

SECTION 1. DEFINITIONS.

International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) - The International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) is a building energy code created by the International Code Council. It is a model code adopted by many state and municipal governments in the United States for the establishment of minimum design and construction requirements for energy efficiency, and is updated on a three-year cycle. The baseline energy conservation requirements of the MA State Building Code are the IECC with Massachusetts amendments, as approved by the Board of Building Regulations and Standards and published in state regulations as part of 780 CMR.

Specialized Energy Code - Codified by the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, the Specialized Energy Code is an appendix to the Massachusetts Stretch Energy Code, based on further amendments to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) to improve the energy efficiency and reduce the climate impacts of buildings built to this code.

Stretch Energy Code - Codified by the combination of 225 CMR 22 and 231, not including Appendices RC and CC, the Stretch Energy Code is a comprehensive set of amendments to the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC) seeking to achieve all lifecycle cost-effective energy efficiency in accordance with the Green Communities Act of 2008, as well as to reduce the climate impacts of buildings built to this code.

SECTION 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC is to provide a more energy efficient and low emissions alternative to the Stretch Energy Code or the base Massachusetts Energy Code, applicable to the relevant sections of the building code for both new construction and existing buildings.

SECTION 3. APPLICABILITY.

This energy code applies to residential and commercial buildings.

SECTION 4. SPECIALIZED CODE.

The Specialized Code, as codified by the entirety of 225 CMR 22 and 23 including Appendices RC and CC, including any future editions, amendments, or modifications, is herein incorporated by reference into the Town of Swampscott General Bylaws, Article XVI-A.

The Stretch Code is enforceable by the inspector of buildings or building commissioner.

APPENDIX B

Definition of Financial Terms Commonly Used at Town Meetings

Appropriation – An authorization by the Town Meeting to make expenditures and incur liabilities for specific purposes. An appropriation is usually limited in amount and as to the time when it may be expended.

Assessed Valuation – A valuation set upon real estate or other property by the Assessors as a basis for levying taxes.

Available Funds – See free cash.

Bond – A written promise to pay a specified sum of money by a fixed date, and carrying with it interest payments at a fixed rate, paid periodically. A Note is similar, but issued for a shorter period.

Cherry Sheet – A State form which shows an estimate of all of the State and County charges and reimbursements to the Town.

Debt and Interest – The amount of money necessary annually to pay the interest and the principal on the Town's outstanding debt. Also known as "Debt Service."

Fiscal Year – The budget period used by the Town running from July 1 of one year to June 30 of the next year. At the end of this period, the Town closes its books in order to determine its financial condition and the results of its operation.

Free Cash – The amount of money left after all prior years' uncollected taxes have been deducted from surplus revenue. This amount may be used as available funds by vote of the Town Meeting.

Overlay – The amount, up to 5% of the tax levy, raised by the Assessors in excess of appropriations and other charges to cover abatements and exemptions.

Overlay Reserve – Unused amount of the overlay for previous years, which the Town may transfer to Surplus Revenue after all abatements for such fiscal year are settled.

Receipts – The cash, which is actually received by the Town.

Reserve Fund – A fund voted by the Annual Town Meeting and controlled by the Finance Committee for extraordinary and unforeseen expenditures incurred by Town departments during the year.

Stabilization Fund – Special Reserve Fund that can be used by a 2/3 vote of the Town Meeting.

Surplus Revenue – The amount by which cash, accounts receivable and other assets exceed the liabilities and reserves. Used in calculating free cash.

Transfer – The movement of funds from one account to another. Transfers between accounts (other than the Reserve Fund) can be made only by vote of the Town Meeting.

Unexpended Balance – That portion of an appropriation or account not yet expended. Any such balances left at the end of the fiscal year are generally used as Surplus Revenue in calculating Free Cash.

APPENDIX C

Table of Motions

Reprinted from **Town Meeting Time**, by Johnson, Trustman and Wadsworth.

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TABLE OF BASIC POINTS OF MOTION							
Rank		Second Required	Debatable	Amendable	Vote Required	May Reconsider	May Interrupt
PRIVILEGED MOTIONS							
1	Dissolve or adjourn sine die	Yes	No	No	Maj.	No	No
2	Adjourn to fix time or recess	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj.	No	No
3	Point of no quorum	No	No	No	None	No	No
4	Fix the time to (or at) which to adjourn	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj.	Yes	No
5	Question of privilege	No	No	No	None	No	Yes
SUBSIDIARY MOTIONS							
6	Lay on the table	Yes	No	No	2/3	Yes	No
7	The previous question	Yes	No	No	2/3	No	No
8	Limit or extend debate	Yes	No	No	2/3	Yes	No
9	Postpone to a time certain	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj.	Yes	No
10	Commit or refer	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj.	Yes	No
11	Amend (or substitute)	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj.	Yes	No
12	Postpone indefinitely	Yes	Yes	No	Maj.	Yes	No
INCIDENTAL MOTIONS							
*	Point of order	No	No	No	None	No	Yes
*	Appeal	Yes	Yes	No	Maj.	Yes	No
*	Division of a question	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj.	No	No
*	Separate consideration	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj.	No	No
*	Fix the method of voting	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj.	Yes	No
*	Nominations to committees	No	No	No	Plur.	No	No
*	Withdraw or modify a motion	No	No	No	Maj.	No	No
*	Suspension of rules	Yes	No	No	2/3***	No	No
MAIN MOTIONS							
None	Main Motion	Yes	Yes	Yes	Var.	Yes	No
**	Reconsider or rescind	Yes	**	No	Maj.	No	No
None	Take from the table	Yes	No	No	Maj.	No	No
None	Advance an article	Yes	Yes	Yes	Maj.	Yes	No

* Same rank as motion out of which they arise.

** Same rank and debatable to same extent as motion being reconsidered.

*** Unanimous if rule protects minorities; out of order if rule protects absentees.

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NOTES

**TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT
MASSACHUSETTS
2023 – 2024**

<u>SELECT BOARD</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
David Grishman, Chair	2026
Catherine Phelan, Vice Chair	2025
MaryEllen Fletcher	2025
Doug Thompson	2026
Peter Spellios	2024

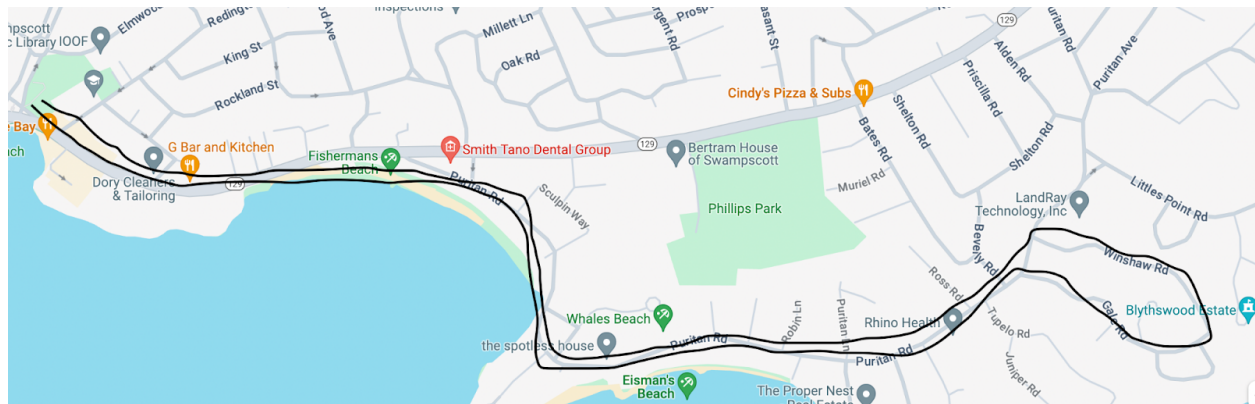
PROFESSIONAL STAFF

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator
S. Peter Kane, Assistant Town Administrator (Administration)
Gino Cresta, Assistant Town Administrator (Operations)
Amy Sarro, Director of Finance & Administration
Patrick Luddy, Treasurer/Collector
Dianne Marchese, Administrative Assistant

<u>FINANCE COMMITTEE</u>	<u>TERM EXPIRES</u>
Eric Hartmann, Chair – At Large	2026
Joan Hilario – Precinct 1	2024
Gregory McDonald – Precinct 2	2024
Naomi Dreeben – Precinct 3	2025
Cinder McNerney – Precinct 4	2026
Erik Schneider – Precinct 5	2025
VACANT – Precinct 6	
Adrian Rodriguez – At Large	2026
Sunit Shah – At Large	2025

Come support Swampscott High School's class of 2026! Spring Kickoff Run! All proceeds will go directly to the class of 2026 to fund events such as prom, senior trip, and much more!

Road Map:



Date: March 9 (rain date March 10)
Time: 9 am start, 8am check in
Start & Finish Line: 9 Monument Ave

Adults: \$35
17 & under: \$20

Donations appreciated



Town of Swampscott

Office of the

Town Administrator

Elihu Thomson Administrative Building

22 Monument Aven

Swampscott, MA 01:

Tel: (781) 596-8850

Email: sfitzgerald@swampscottma.gov

Sean R. Fitzgerald
Town Administrator

TO: SELECT BOARD
FROM: DIANNE MARCHESE, EXEC. ASSISTANT TO TA & SB
SUBJECT: 2024 BOARD AND COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS
DATE: FEBRUARY 7, 2024

OBJECTIVE

The Select Board must appoint new members or reappoint existing members to Swampscott's 2024 Boards, Committees, and Commissions.

PROCESS

1. All current members up for reappointment were contacted to determine their interest in being reappointed.
2. All Board Chairs were approached to confirm their support of reappointing members.
3. A vacancy review was performed along with all current outstanding applications for committees to determine if there were any applicants who could potentially be considered in replacement of an existing member up for reappointment or for an existing vacancy.

SAMPLE MOTION:

The Select Board, consistent with the recommendation of the Town Administrator, appoint individuals recommended in this memo for their appointed terms for the 2024-2025 term.

SOLID WASTE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee is comprised of nine members:

- There are three vacancies on the board due to changes made on January 3, 2024.
- **Town Administrator recommends reappointment for two new members with one-year terms expiring June 30, 2024.**

JONATHAN GOLD	MEMBER - CURRENT	3-YEAR TERM	TERM EXPIRES 2026
WAYNE SPRITZ	MEMBER - CURRENT	3-YEAR TERM	TERM EXPIRES 2026
EMILY WESTHOVEN	MEMBER - CURRENT	3-YEAR TERM	TERM EXPIRES 2026
ALIX SMULLIN	MEMBER - CURRENT	2-YEAR TERM	TERM EXPIRES 2025
KATHERINE MIKK	MEMBER - CURRENT	2-YEAR TERM	TERM EXPIRES 2025
PETER SHECKMAN	MEMBER - CURRENT	2-YEAR TERM	TERM EXPIRES 2025
STEFANIE NEUMANN	MEMBER – NEW	1-YEAR TERM	TERM EXPIRES 2024
MATTHEW PELLAND	MEMBER - NEW	1-YEAR TERM	TERM EXPIRES 2024
NEW MEMBER	MEMBER	1-YEAR TERM	TERM EXPIRES 2024