



Town of Swampscott
Select Board and Board of Health Joint Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, June 3, 2020 – 6:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Peter Spellios (Chair), Naomi Dreeben (Vice Chair), Polly Titcomb, Don Hause, Laura Spathanas

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Marianne Hartmann, (Chair), Emily Cilley, Stephanie Goodman

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator; Jeff Vaughan, Health Director; Neia Illingworth, Public Health Nurse; Marzie Galazka, Director of Community Development; Ron Mendes, Assistant Town Administrator of Administration and Finance; Gino Cresta, Assistant Town Administrator of Operations

The meeting was called to order at 6:04pm

Several Swampscott students/residents joined the meeting to discuss the recent Black Lives Matter protest and the larger context of racial equality and safety in Swampscott. There was a recommendation of launching a community roundtable discussion “Being Black in Swampscott” to gather people in a room to listen to one another and explore ideas. The Board discussed the possibility of having employees and board members take part in Implicit Bias training. There will be a dedicated conversation with a core group of individuals on this topic to discuss next steps.

A statement from the Select Board and Proclamation regarding the murder of George Floyd were shared and approved by the Board.

On Select Board **MOTION** (Spathanas) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve statement and proclamation and invite any Town employee or Town resident who also wants to sign it to do so. Role call: Spellios (YES) Spathanas (YES) Dreeben (YES) Titcomb (YES).

COVID-19 UPDATE

Neia Illingworth provided a brief update on the COVID-19 lab-confirmed cases in Swampscott. To date, there have been 123 cases.

Chair of the Board of Health Marianne Hartmann provided an update on beaches, stating that social distancing and trash removal continues to be an issue but is improving. A beach monitor will be stationed to help remind visitors about social distancing, beach rules, and trash.

Danielle Strauss, Recreation Director provided an update on the plans for Summer Recreation. After consulting with the public health officials in Swampscott, Ms. Strauss announced that Park League will happen adhering to specific protocols. She also presented a list of outdoor youth sports clinics, adult exercise classes, and specialty programs that they will offer safely with updated protocols. The protocols are based on guidelines released by the state.

The Board of Health and Select Board asked some questions to address issues such as PPE. There was also a conversation about affordability, as the price point of programs has increased to address changing registration and Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald stated they would review the budget to ensure programs can continue to be affordable.

Ms. Strauss discussed the Swampscott Farmers Market which will begin on July 5th. The program is adopting new protocols to ensure social distancing including limiting number of vendors, clear entry and exit points, limited number of people within market area, no dogs, controlled pedestrian traffic flow, no music or on-site consumption of food available. There was a discussion about vendors who will be unable to attend the market due to space limitations. The Farmers Market will look into advertising some of the vendors that would usually be at the market but cannot be accommodated due to new protocols.

Public Health Director Jeff Vaughan and Director of Community & Economic Development Marzie Galazka provided an update on the Phase 1 reopening of businesses. Letters are being mailed out to businesses opening in Phase 2 and the Town is awaiting further guidance to help businesses open safely.

Playgrounds and fields remain close for group sports, but there was discussion about whether or not it would be safe to reopen when the state permits it and whether this decision should be left up to the families to gauge this risk.

On Board of Health **MOTION** (Cilley) and **SECONDED** (Goodman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to appoint special authority to the Swampscott Fire Department as well as the position of Beach Monitor to be special health agent of the Board of Health. Role call: Hartmann (YES), Cilley (YES), Goodman (YES)

Director of Community and Economic Development Marzie Galazka provided an update on parklets and the design.

On Board of Health **MOTION** (Cilley) and **SECONDED** (Goodman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to adjourn the Board of Health portion of the meeting. Roll call: Cilley (YES) Goodman (YES) Hartmann (YES)

1st READING OF OUTDOOR CAFÉ GUIDELINES

Senior Planner Molly O’Connell walked through a presentation outlining design guidelines for outdoor cafes both on public and private property. There will need to be a bylaw change which will take place at the Town Meeting on June 22. Once the guidelines have been adopted and the bylaw changed, then the staff can sign off on applications. There was no vote – a final approval of the guidelines will take place at the June 10, 2020 Select Board meeting during the 2nd reading.

VOTE TO OPEN AND CLOSE TOWN MEETING WARRANT

The Virtual Town Meeting bill has not yet been signed. The Town is moving forward to plan for a virtual meeting assuming it will be signed in time. Assistant Town Administrator of Finance and Administration stated that the warrant will need to be closed tonight in order for it to be printed and mailed in time. The Select Board reviewed the index of warrant articles.

On **MOTION** (Hause) and **SECONDED** (Spathanas) it was **VOTED** by roll call to open and close the Town Meeting warrant for the Annual 2020 Town Meeting. Roll call

SWAMPSCOTT FY21 BUDGET ASSUMPTIONS

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald and Assistant Town Administrator reviewed the most recent draft of the budget. The Finance Committee has several meetings scheduled to finalize the budget to be recommended to Town Meeting. They reviewed adjustments to revenue projections from Chapter 70 Aid, Unrestricted Local Aid, and Local Receipts. This will result in reduction in revenue estimate of \$1,241,218. There is a recommendation to transfer money from Free Cash/Stabilization and reducing expenses by \$641,218.

They reviewed the proposed plan to reduce expenses including eliminating raises and performance bonuses, consulting and non-personnel ites, reduction to snow and ice budget, reducing Finance Committee Reserve Fund, etc. The School Dept. will share some of the expense reduction as well. There was a review of several increasing expenses such as increasing staff in the Health Dept. and Senior Center.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Approval of 5/27/20 Meeting inutes
- Vote to accept gift from A Greener Greater Boston, Barr & Solomon Foundation to support construction of the Swampscott Rail Trail

On **MOTION** (Dreeben) and **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve the consent agenda. Roll call: Dreeben (YES) Spellios (YES) Hause (YES) Titcomb (YES) Spathanas (YES)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Town Administrator Fitzgerald ran-through the Town Administrator's Report including:

- FY21 Revised Budget
- Budget/Staffing Reopening
- Facilities Director
- High School Graduation
- Capital Improvement Committee
- COVID Funding
- Summer Interns
- Public, Educational, Government Access Channel
- Summer Recreation/Farmers Market

SELECT BOARD TIME

Ms. Dreeben acknowledged the successful Black Lives Matters protest held in Swampscott. Ms. Spathanas requested an update on Aggregate Industries for a future meeting.

On **MOTION** (Spathanas) and **SECONDED** (Dreeben) it was **VOTED** by roll call to adjourn the meeting. Hause (YES) Spathanas (YES) Dreeben (YES) Spellios (YES) Titcomb (YES)

Meeting adjourned at 9:58 PM.

True Attest,



Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 6/10/2020