



**Town of Swampscott**  
**Select Board and Board of Health Emergency Joint Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, March 25, 2020 - 6:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

**SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Peter Spellios (Chair), Naomi Dreeben (Vice Chair), Don Hause, Polly Titcomb, 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; Graham Archer, Fire Chief; Ron Madigan, Police Chief; Neia Illingworth, Public Health Nurse

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm

**COVID-19 UPDATE**

Public Health Nurse Neia Illingworth provided an update on COVID-19. She gave a refresher on the basics of COVID-19, transmission, and prevention.

Select Board Vice-Chair Naomi Dreeben provided an update about the Food Availability Program. Since starting distribution in March, over 400 meals have been delivered/provided to Swampscott residents. If anyone would like a delivery of meals or Anchor Food Pantry supply, they can call the Senior Center. She also gave information about a volunteer network and provided information for people to sign up to volunteer (<http://tinyurl.com/volunteer-swampscott>.) Laura Spathanas provided additional information about how people can access supplies from Anchor Food Pantry. She also provided information about how to donate food or money by finding them on Facebook.

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald provided an update on Town Operations with a reminder about public building and select space closures, social distancing protocols, new virtual programs, suspension of building and fire inspections, etc.

Fire Chief Graham Archer provided an update on Emergency Management Team

Mr. Spellios made an announcement encouraging small businesses to reach out to Community & Economic Development Director Marzie Galazka to learn about COVID-19 related business support. He also introduced Senator Brendan Crighton and Representative Lori Ehrlich.

Public Health Director Jeff Vaughan presented a Stay-at-Home Order in effect until May 4, requiring the public to stay home except to perform essential activities including visiting a healthcare professional, obtaining supplies and groceries, engage in outdoor activity, perform work for an essential business, and to care for a family member, pet, or other vulnerable persons. Residents may be outside so long as no congregating takes place and adhere to social distancing protocols (6 feet of separation.) There is no restriction on the congregation of a family or residents within their dwelling and no change to the Governor's list of essential businesses. However, these businesses must still adhere to social distancing protocols.

The Select Board and Board of Health engaged in discussion about the order, emphasizing that this step is vital to slow the spread of COVID-19. Ms. Cilley emphasized that it's important to not focus on positive tests and assume that more individuals are affected to best distance ourselves from others.

Ms. Titcomb asked if the order could be revisited on a weekly or bi-weekly to continue to evaluate the need for the order. Mr. Spellios commented that a date was selected to correspond with the current advisory under Governor Baker but this can be lifted by the Town at any point. She shared concern about the inconsistency between the Governor's essential business order and the Town's proposed order.

Senator Brendan Crighton spoke briefly to provide some information about what local congressional leaders are doing to address the COVID-19 emergency at a regional and state level. Representative Lori Ehrlich commended the Emergency Management Team for setting an example for the rest of the state by putting in place an order. Representative Ehrlich provided some information on obtaining PPE and COVID-19 related materials. Chief Archer gave an update on their stock of PPE.

Ms. Titcomb asked about the status of schools and what services outside of school are being offered. Chairman Spellios referenced an email Superintendent Angelakis sent to families regarding enhancing enrichment opportunities for students. Teachers are proceeding to teach by video and think outside the box.

There was a discussion about a clarifying order produced by Governor Baker regarding construction, which has been deemed essential but needs to follow a mandatory process including social distancing protocols. The Towns do not have the right to usurp this decision. The boards also discussed landscapers who, though they work outdoor, do travel often in close quarters. Chairman Spellios suggested that landscapers be added to the order as needing to follow social distancing protocols.

A resident spoke in concern of the prevalence of teen activity in the community and asked additional if there is anything in place to protect emergency personnel and remind the public to only use the first responders for emergencies. Chief Archer and Chief Madigan provided a

description of how the Fire Dept. and Police Dept. respond to calls practicing social distancing and how response protocols have been adjusted.

On Select Board **MOTION** (Dreeben) and **SECONDED** (Hause), it was **VOTED** (unanimous) to adopt the Stay at Home Order with the modification relative to landscapers being subject to the same social distancing guidance provided by the Governor to constructors.

On Board of Health **MOTION** (Goodman) and **SECONDED** (Hartmann), it was **VOTED** (unanimous) to adopt Stay at Home order with the modification relative to landscapers being subject to the same social distancing guidance provided by the Governor to constructors.

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald spoke about Town finances during this time. The Town has among the strongest stabilization funds and free cash availability and we will be able to weather the next several months.

Meeting adjourned at 8:49pm.

True Attest,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allie Fiske". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

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Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator

*Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 4/22/20*