

**BOARD OF SLECTMAN
MEETING MINUTES
WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2019
SWAMPSCOTT, MA 01907**

ATTENDANCE: Selectman Naomi Dreeben, Chair Peter Spellios, Selectman Polly Titcomb, Selectman Laura Spathanas, Selectman Don Hause, Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald

Pledge of Allegiance was led by the Brownies Troop #72182 and Daisies Troop #67132

Presentation of Citations to the Brownies Troop #72182 and Daisies Troop #67132 for their work on bringing awareness to keeping Swampscott Beaches Clean.

The troops stenciled on the storm drains "no dumping this drains to the ocean."

Selectman Spathanas thanked the girls for their work and presented each girl with a citation.

Madelyn Tina

Nora Lentz

Parker Bosken

Kiki Andrianopoulos

Jolina Phea

Lucy Gentry

Reagan Pelletier

Irian Andrianopoulous

The girls spoke about how much fun they had with this project.

Update from Swampscott's Veterans Agent- Michael Sweeney – Regional Veteran's Agent for Lynn/Swampscott

Mr. Sweeney has been the director for Swampscott's Veterans Services for the last year. He has been the Veteran Service's agent in Lynn for the past 15 years and is a Veteran himself. Mr. Sweeney thanked the former Veteran's Service Agent, Jimmy Schultz for always being a phone call away. Mr. Schultz been very valuable. Veteran Services across the board has evolved. Mr. Sweeney has been working hand in hand with the Council on Aging. Mr. Sweeney said outreach is key along with being innovative. In the last year services have ramped up. He would like to drill down on the number of veterans in Swampscott and be able to reach out to them in a more direct way. Housing and mental health are big issues Veterans are facing. It is important to create an environment where Veterans can attend with their families. If families can attend with veterans, they are more apt to use the services. Trust is also a key factor.

Selectman Dreeben asked what are the services that the Veteran's Agency are primarily called on? They are called on disability claims, healthcare, and education benefits.

Discussion on resources in terms of housing. Mr. Sweeney is proud to announce that Lynn is the the first city to end Veterans homelessness and wants to bring the resources here to Swampscott. Selectman Spathanas asked if there any common theme of what the town is lacking and looking for? Mr. Sweeney said the people they see the most are Vietnam veterans for mental health and housing resources.

Mr. Sweeney said failure of a lot of Veteran's programs is asking what is wrong instead of building a relationship.

Selectman Hause asked about the VFW facility evolving as a resource center? Mr. Sweeney said more organizations are trying to go in the route of connecting with the families and having more of that type of resource center.

Selectman Spellios asked about how outreach is done? Mr. Sweeney does not have a comprehensive list of all the Veterans in Swampscott, but the goal is to drill down on that.

Discussion on the Veteran Abatement program being underutilized, and the towns goal is to give as many abatements as possible. The Veteran Agent will be promoting this program in the future.

Discussion on a community interaction program.

Selectman Spellios spoke about the VFW. The police has brought the licensing issue as a consistent problem. Selectman Spellios asked Mr. Sweeney about his current interaction with the VFW and ideas on how to support each other more and find a better path.

Mr. Sweeney said any organization has to be part of the continued services we are providing and is hoping there is a resolution because the members at the VFW do bring a lot of referrals.

Steven and Teri residents of Pine Street were present and expressed frustrations with the VFW site.

The VFW needs to stop being thought of as the VFW bar, but as a VFW social resource.

Selectman Spellios said he is excited about the need to have renewed energy and leadership.

Town Administrator thanked Mr. Sweeney for his services and Mr. Sweeney thanked the BOS members and the support of the town.

Review and Recommendations for 2019 Warrant

Article 5- Vote to Recommend deferred action and will take this up at the Fall meeting

Article 6- No Recommendation and there will be a continued conversation with FINCOM

Article 8-Motion for an indefinite postponement by Selectman Hause and seconded by Selectman Titcomb and all BOS members were unanimously in favor

Article 9 Motion for an indefinite postponement by Selectman Dreeben and seconded by Selectman Spathanas and all BOS members were unanimously in favor

Article 10 Motion favorable action by Selectman Hause and seconded by Selectman Spathanas all BOS member were unanimously in favor- motion on the floor for revised language (insert new numbers)

Article 11 – Motion favorable action by Selectman Dreeben and seconded by Selectman Hause and all BOS members were in favor for amended amount of

Article 12 /13 – Motion favorable action by Selectman Spathanas and seconded by Selectman Hause and all BOS members were in favor

Article 14/15/16/17 - Motion favorable action by Selectman Spathanas and seconded by Selectman Dreeben and all BOS members were in favor

Article 19 – Motion for an indefinite postponement by Selectman Titcomb and seconded by Selectman Dreeben and all BOS members were unanimously in favor

Article 25 – Motion favorable action by Selectman Titcomb and Seconded by Selectman Hause with an additional 50k for Burpee Road line item # 26 all BOS members were unanimously in favor Selectman Titcomb abstained from the vote on line number 26

Article 27- Motion favorable action by Selectman Hause and seconded by Selectman Dreeben an all BOS members were unanimously in favor

Article 29- Exemption for disability in the bylaw-holding off till Monday for recommendation

Article 30- Holding off till Monday for recommendation

Article 31- Holding off till Monday for recommendation

Article 32-Discussion on the possibility to move forward to subdivide and just sell the C & L liquor parcel / and table VFW until we see what Mike Sweeney brings to the board motion on the floor just for C & L

Selectman Hause spoke about how he agrees and disagrees with the change due to potentially losing a potential developer

Article does not mandate the sale

All other BOS members agreed on taking a step back on the sale of the VFW

Selectman Spellios spoke on how social media is the worse way to communicate with the BOS and to please reach directly to the BOS or Town Administrator.

Residents Terry and Steven of Pine Street spoke about the Veterans not being the problem, but the problem lies with all the others that visit the VFW. They want to make clear they are not against the Veterans.

Motion favorable action by Selectman Dreeben and seconded by Selectman Spathanas for authorization to sell the C & L portion of the property and all BOS members were unanimously in favor

Article 33- Vote to Recommend deferred action till Monday night

Article 35- No Recommendation

BOS Assignment of Articles

Article 32 Selectman Spellios

Article 29 Selectman Dreeben

Article 27 Selectman Hause

Article 20 & 21- Selectman Spathanas

No further discussion on the FY2020 Operating Budget and Capital requests at this time.

Consent Agenda

Vote to appoint Janet Fischer to the Board of Registrars for a 3-year term thru March 21, 2022

Vote to approve a 1-day beer and wine license for a ReachArts event on June 14, 2019

Vote to approve a 1-day beer and wine license for a ReachArts event on June 6, 2019

Vote to approve Meeting Minutes from April 3, 2019

A motion was made to approve the consent agenda by Selectman Dreeben the motion was seconded by Selectman Spathanas and all BOS members were unanimously in favor

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

Selectmen Time

Selectman Dreeben reminded everyone of the Women's Leadership Forum being held on Thursday, June 6th

Selectman Spathanas announced that the hanging plants on Monument Ave and Humphrey Street will be up next week

Selectman Hause wished everyone a Happy Memorial Day and reminded everyone of the Memorial Day Ceremony in Swampscott on Monday May 27th

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made by Selectman Dreeben and seconded by Selectman Hause and all BOS members were unanimously in favor.

Ana Langille