



Town of Swampscott Select Board Meeting Minutes

January 12, 2022
Virtual

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Polly Titcomb (Chair), Neal Duffy, David Grishman, Peter Spellios

MEMBERS ABSENT

Don Hause

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENTS

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Allie Fiske, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives; Marzie Galazka, Director of Community & Economic Development; Gino Cresta, DPW Commissioner

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- COVID-19 cases: We continue to see a significant rise in cases of COVID, specifically the Omicron variant. Town Administrator Fitzgerald reminded everyone to wear masks and be careful in indoor spaces.
- The Police Dept. and Fire Dept. hiring process is moving forward
- The Town will be bringing in a consultant from CLA to review policies, practices, and perform an HR Audit
- There are several positions currently open that the Town is reviewing
- Several establishments were in violation of a recent liquor license compliance check and the Town Administrator would like to schedule an Executive Session to discuss a potential show cause hearings for the violations.
- The All Ages Committee has produced their report
- There will be a pop-up library at the Senior Center
- This winter there is a snowman contest

Town Administrator Fitzgerald provided an update on providing additional testing opportunities both for residents as well as rapid tests for employees.

INFRASTRUCTURE IMPROVEMENTS

Assistant Town Administrator and DPW Commissioner Gino Cresta gave an update on the progress of Phase IC Stacy Brook Sewer Rehabilitation Project. He outlined the impacted streets which have experienced closures or narrowed traffic due to service main work. There will be a more comprehensive update on schedule, public engagement efforts, and communication in the next few weeks.

Mr. Cresta reviewed recent gas main work on 9 streets and expressed concern about how work has been performed and the level of disruption. This gas main work is complete and there are new plastic lines.

There was a discussion about the Stacy Brook project and ARPA funding. The Select Board discussed the disruption of the construction and that there is little accountability for National Grid to clean up after projects, particularly on streets with new pavings. It was asked that the Town refrain from paving streets if we know work will be performed on them. The Town Administrator will work with the DPW Commissioner to prepare a more comprehensive update at a future meeting.

DISCUSSION ON MASSHOUSING RESPONSE LETTER

Director of Community and Economic Development provided an update on the Foster Rd. 40B project and the Town's effort to coordinate a neighborhood meeting which was declined by the developer. The Select Board must issue a comment letter to MassHousing, and Marzie and David Grishman are currently working on this for the Board's review. The Select Board decided to add a discussion on this development to the January 19, 2022 meeting in order to receive comments from the community to augment the Town's letter to MassHousing.

2022 BOARD GOALS

The Select Board discussed how to identify goals for 2022 and how to distinguish between board goals and Town Administrator goals, and where they intersect.

- DAVID:
 - Land Use Summit
 - Open Space expansion review
 - Community events
 - Funding citizen-led initiatives
- NEAL:
 - Complete a Net Zero action plan for the Town
 - Create comprehensive Athletic Field Conditions Assessment and Maintenance Plan
- POLLY:
 - Land Use Summit
 - Housing Production Plan
 - Support completing collective bargaining contracts and filling positions at Town Hall
 - Select Board Handbook and Code of Conduct
 - Individual Boards & Committees creating their own mini-handbooks

The board will return at a future meeting to identify and prioritize goals.

CONSENT AGENDA

Vote to approve meeting minutes from December 15, 2021.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** to approve the consent agenda. Spellios (YES) Grishman (YES) Duffy (YES) Titcomb (YES).

SELECT BOARD TIME

None.

On **MOTION** (Spellios) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** to leave public session and continue the Executive Session which was continued in a meeting earlier in the evening, and that at the conclusion of the Executive Session the Select Board will not reconvene to in public session. Roll call: Spellios (YES) Grishman (YES) Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES)

True Attest,



Allie Fiske, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives

Minutes approved by Select Board in vote at meeting on 1/19/22