



**Town of Swampscott**  
**Select Board Meeting Minutes**  
March 25, 2021 – 6:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

**SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Don Hause

**TOWN STAFF:**

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Allie Fiske, Director of Communications; Ron Mendes, Assistant Town Administrator of Finance & Administration; Sue Duplin, Town Clerk; Joe Duplin, Media Manager; Marzie Galazka, Community & Economic Development Director; Michael McClung, Town Moderator

Meeting called to order at 6:20 PM

**COVID UPDATE**

Director of Communications Allie Fiske provided a brief presentation on the recent COVID-19 outbreak among Swampscott High School students. At least 20 people associated with a non-school event have tested positive for COVID-19. Five Swampscott School nurses and the Public Health Nurse along with the Community Tracing Collaborative are doing extensive contract tracing. At the recent High School testing, 121 COVID tests were collected and several more positive cases were identified. There are 100 people who have been identified as close contacts.

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald recapped the important steps the community must take to stay safe and to not let their guard down.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

A resident spoke to thank the Select Board for the March 24, 2021 meeting regarding the Police Investigation.

**APPOINTMENTS**

Recommended appointees to the Renewable Energy Committee and the Council on Aging were introduced and invited to speak briefly about their interest in their respective committee.

On **MOTION** (Titcomb) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to appoint to the Council on Aging:

- Molly Rowe, Term expires 2022
- Deb Newman, Term Expires 2023
- Barbara DiPietro: Term Expires 2024

Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios (YES)

On **MOTION** (Titcomb) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to appoint to the Renewable Energy Committee

- Talia Steinman: Term Expires 2022
- Joe Roman: Term Expires 2023

Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios (YES)

## **PUBLIC HEARING**

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** by roll call to re-open the public hearing continued from March 24.

- 6:30 PM Public Hearing: Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at 6:30 P.M. on Zoom (info below) during the Select Board meeting for all parties interested in an application for an Alteration of Premises request from G Restaurant, LLC located at 254-256 Humphrey St. Swampscott, MA 01907.
- 6:40 PM Public Hearing: Notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held on Wednesday, March 24, 2021, at 6:40 P.M. on Zoom (info below) during the Select Board meeting for all parties interested in an application for a Section 15 Off-Premises Retail Wines and Malt Beverage Package Store license request from Little G Provisions LLC located at 250-252 Humphrey St. Swampscott, MA 01907.

Owner of G Bar and Little G Provisions, Gregg Brackman was present to speak about the project. He is expanding the premises in order to create an additional casual dining space and also sell provisions including wine and beer. He additionally is requesting to alter his premises to include outdoor seating.

On **MOTION** (Titcomb) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve the Alteration of Premises application for G Restaurant and the New Off-Premises Retail Wine and Malt Beverage Package Store License for Little G Provisions LLC and additionally for the owner to monitor air conditioning noise to accommodate neighbors if requires.

Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios (YES)

A resident spoke to indicate how receptive Gregg was to her concerns about noise coming from an air conditioner.

On **MOTION** (Titcomb) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to amend the previous motion to include that the owner of G Bar to address any sound issues from the air

conditioner if requested by neighbors. Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios (YES)

On **MOTION** (Titcomb) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to close the public hearing. Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios (YES)

## **TOWN CLERK**

Town Clerk Sue Duplin spoke briefly to provide an update on elections for April 27, 2021 and state requirement to vote on early in-person voting and changing polling locations.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** by roll call pursuant to the amendment of Chapter 255 of the Acts of 2020, Subsection (l), that the Swampscott Select Board accept the option for in-person early voting for the April 27, 2021 Town election to be set as follows:

Saturday, April 17<sup>th</sup> 9am-2pm

Monday, April 19<sup>th</sup> 9am-4pm

Tuesday, April 20<sup>th</sup> 9am-8pm

Wednesday, April 21<sup>st</sup> 9am-4pm

Thursday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 9am-8pm

Friday, April 23<sup>rd</sup> 8am-noon

Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios (YES)

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) it was voted pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 54, §24 to establish Swampscott High School located at 200 Essex St. Swampscott, MA 01907 as the temporary voting location for the upcoming April 27, 2021 election for all precincts. This is a one-time change of location for the Town Election only.

Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios (YES)

Town Clerk Sue Duplin reviewed the different options for early voting for the April 27, 2021 election:

- Early mail-in ballot
- early voting in-person
- at polls on election day.

Mail-in ballots need to have postage if dropped off at the post office, which is different front the state election.

## **STREAMING LEGISLATION**

Cable Media Manager Joe Douillette spoke about pending legislation relative to streaming entertainment operator's use of public rights of way. Following the model of cable franchises, the bill would impose a 5% fee on digital streaming providers which are using public rights of way in order to sell their services to Massachusetts residents.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) it was **VOTED** by roll call to support the legislation and affix signatures to missive. Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios (YES)

## **UPDATE ON PROPOSED TA BUDGET**

The Town Administrator provided a very brief update on the status of the FY22 Proposed budget. The Finance Committee has been reviewing the budget and has recommended some changes. New information from the Group Insurance Commission (GIC) will necessitate some adjustments to the budget.

## **FY22 CAPITAL PLAN**

The Capital Improvement Committee continues to meet to review projects. They will be meeting on April 6 to finalize a review at which point the Town Administrator will be able to provide an overview to the board at the next meeting. The intention in 2021 is to have the plan completed by the fall in order to have the plan in place at the start of budget season. At the next Select Board Meeting, Mr. Fitzgerald and Mr. Mendes will provide a comprehensive presentation on Capital Projects. There will also be a joint meeting of the Capital Improvement Committee and Finance Committee meeting in mid to late April.

Mr. Spellios reminded the administration to speak with the legislation expressing concern about Chapter 70 allocations and assessments.

Chairperson Spellios recommended that Select Board members review some certain Finance Committee meetings to be better informed about the budget prior to Select Board discussions.

## **TOWN MEETING WARRANT**

Town meeting will be on May 17, the third Monday in May. At the next meeting, the first discussion of items on the warrant take place along with who the point person is and who the clearinghouse of warrant articles.

Town Moderator Michael McClung spoke to call for a virtual Town Meeting, indicating that it will likely be a 2-3 night meeting.

On **MOTION** (Duffy) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) it was **VOTED** by roll call to open Town Meeting warrant for Monday, May 17, 2021. Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios (YES)

## **OUTDOOR DINING**

Director of Community & Economic Development Marzie Galazka spoke regarding outdoor seating. Businesses are looking to provide outdoor dining again as the warm weather approaches. At the next meeting, Ms. Galazka will request approval to extend Governor's order to allow businesses to serve alcohol. Mr. Spellios asked if we should be advocating for a permanent order regarding outdoor dining and drinking.

## **TREE FUND**

The Town has a Special Tree Gift Fund. In order to spend money on trees the Select Board must vote but would like to avoid having to accept every single gift granted through the fund.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** by roll call that the Select Board vote, pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 44, section 53A, to expend monies received in the Special Tree Gift Fund to purchase and plant trees in Swampscott along with any incidental and related costs, such costs to be authorized at the discretion of the Town Administrator. Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios (YES)

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Vote to approve meeting minutes from March 1, 2021; March 3, 2021; and March 18, 2021
- Vote to approve funds from Peabody Properties, Inc. as a gift to cover costs of the Swampscott Senior Center's St. Patrick's Day Event in March.

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

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- Elm Place
- Mass DPH Digital Message Board
- Forest Ave. Sidewalk Project
- Fire Dept. trainings
- Donate Pumper Truck
- 182 Paradise Rd. property being demolished

There was a conversation about the proposed Elm Place Development which has been approved by DHCD. The Town has funding available to hire a firm to allow us to study the project and lend our voice to protect the interest of the Town.

## **SELECT BOARD TIME**

Mr. Spellios thanked board for participation in the March 24, 2021 conversation about the Police Investigation.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) it was **VOTED** by roll call to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting adjourned at 8:14pm.

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 4/8/21*