



TOWN OF SWAMPSCOTT
SELECT BOARD REGULAR MEETING MINUTES
MAY 11, 2022 – 6:15 P.M.
VIRTUAL

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: NEAL DUFFY, MARY ELLEN FLETCHER, DAVID GRISHMAN, KATIE PHELAN, PETER SPELLIOS,

MEMBERS ABSENT: NONE

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT: SEAN FITZGERALD, TOWN ADMINISTRATOR, HEIDI WHEAR, DIRECTOR OF ELDER SERVICES, JOHN PICARIELLO, CHAIR, ERAC, BOB POWELL, MEMBER, SFAA, MAX KASPER, FACILITIES MANAGER, JEFF VAUGHAN, DIRECTOR, HEALTH DEPT.

A. PUBLIC COMMENTS: Cindy Cavallaro, 85 Pine St. asked if the anyone on the Board attended the ZBA meeting. No one replied.

B. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

EARTH REMOVAL PERMIT – NEW ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

I met with John Picariello, Toni Bandrowicz, Chief Archer, Marzie Galazka and Max Kasper to update the permit (attached). We all had an extensive discussion as a follow up to the Select Board meeting and have made some substantive changes inclusive of the Select Boards suggestions as follows:

- 1) Included Language updating the claims reporting process
- 2) Increased the radius for a pre-blast survey to 500' and added language that allows residents outside of the 500' to request to be added.
- 3) Street Sweeping language updated to include DPW Director and TA
- 4) Included Language for a Mandatory Meeting before blasting with the Blasting Contractor; added an ERAC Meeting on site with neighbors, and added a meeting after 30 days of blasting to hear concerns from the neighbors.
- 5) PPV has been updated from 1.0 to 2.0
- 6) The Fire Department has researched recent blasting projects and will be present at the SB meeting to report. We have reviewed the blasting logs for Greenwood, White Court and a few other projects.
- 7) Blasting Hours set to 9AM—3;30PM.
- 8) Language added to specify Warning System and Notification as part of the pre-blast Community Meeting after feedback from residents.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

I met with Chief Archer several times this week to discuss some of the staffing challenges facing the Swampscott Fire Department. Although the bar for increasing racial, and gender diversity within the SFD ranks could not have been lower, I met with Chief Archer today to compare where we were six months ago and where the SFD currently stands regarding diversity. Here are the numbers:

In October of 2021, the Swampscott Fire Department below the rank of Chief Officer was:

- 100% male
- 100% white
- Had never hired an openly LGBTQ+ firefighter

Assuming all new SFD hires successfully complete all screenings and complete their probationary period, as of June 2022 the SFD will be:

- 90.6% white
- 9.4% black
- 93.8% male
- 6.2% female
- Has hired its first openly LGBTQ+ firefighter

In summary, based on the Town's first post-Civil Service outreach, recruitment and hiring efforts, we have achieved accomplishing the greatest diversity in hiring in a six-month period in the history of the SFD. To be clear, each of these candidates we have recently hired are extraordinarily well qualified. While change like this is never easy, I do believe that by every measure, we would have to consider the initiative to remove the SFD from Civil Service to be an extraordinary success. With this, I have asked Chief Archer and Chief Quesada to prepare a formal report that can be shared with the Select Board and public over the next few weeks detailing the challenges and opportunities are we focus on addressing as we look to the future.

LIBRARY

I spoke with Ellen Winkler of the Library Trustees yesterday and they are finalizing several candidates that they will be presenting to me shortly for the vacancy in the Library Director Position. I also spoke to the recruiter who was coordinating the search and he believes that we have two very strong candidates.

RECREATION

I met with our Recreation Director several times this week to discuss updating a Recreation Calendar of activities that residents can review and plan for as we emerge from the Pandemic. I think it will be important to expand some recreational opportunities in Swampscott to help build community over the next few months.

- June 4th – Pride Day Celebration on the Town Hall Lawn from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Free public event
- June 6th – Annual Golf Tournament to raise funds for July 4th Celebration. Tickets available on-line through the Town Website, Recreation tab: <https://epay.cityhallsystems.com/selection>
- June 12th – October 30th -Farmer's Market, Sundays, 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM on the Town Hall Lawn
- June 16th – Juneteenth Celebration on the Town Hall Lawn, 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM. Free public event
- June 25th – Harbor Festival at Fisherman's Beach, 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. Free event. There will be food, kids games, and a concert with Phillip Kids & Sea Shanty's
- June 26th – Strawberry Festival on the Town Hall Lawn from 4:00 PM – 8:00 PM, Parade at 5:00 PM, Brian Maes concert at 6:00 PM. There will be a beer garden, food & other vendors
- June 25th/26th – Swampscott's 170th Anniversary historical events will be tied in with other events
- June 27th – start of summer programs
- July 3rd – Independence Day Celebration, 5:00 PM – 9:00 PM on the Town Hall Lawn featuring a beer garden, food, fireworks and concert with the Bordello's & MSF Band
- July 10th – Garden Walk with REACH Arts
- July 13th – August 24th – Swampscott by the Sea Summer Concert Series, Wednesday evenings
- July 7th – 25th – Thursday evening movie nights at Linscott Park
- July 16th – Bentwater at the Beach featuring a beer garden & concert
- August 27th – Family Day at Fisherman's Beach
- September 10th/11th – Castleberry Fairs on Linscott Park
- September 10th – Swamptoberfest featuring food, beer garden & a concert
- October 9th – Car Show on the Town Hall Lawn
- November 20th – Indoor Thanksgiving Farmer's Market
- November 20th – Turkey Hunt Event
- December TBD – Breakfast with Santa
- December TBD – Holiday Festival, parade, gingerbread houses & Light Up Swampscott event
- December 31st – First Night Swampscott

Other Ideas in Discussion (Not yet Scheduled)

- December 31st – First Night fireworks show
- Kids Corner
- Library/Recreation Outdoor Music Theater
- Town-Wide Yard Sale—we have set a date for June 11 from 8AM—12PM.

- Taste of Swampscott – close Humphrey Street, featuring bands, food, music and fun
- Halloween, Mardi Gras, Snowball & Holiday Tree Hunt Events

BODY CAMERAS

I discussed the implementation of the Body Cameras with Chief Quesada last week. He informed me that Lt. Gary Lord has been leading the efforts and has done a commendable job coordinating the schedule and logistics for the body cameras for all Swampscott Police Officers. Our hope is to have all officers equipped by early June 2022.

SENIOR CENTER

Our All Ages Director Heidi Whear has let me know that all things are going great at the Center and both staff and people are excited to be engaged in activities again. The variety of events, outings, educational programs, and activities is terrific thanks to the efforts of the staff. We are getting more and more programs up and running hosting new Solo Seniors Support group, multigenerational programs, evidence-based programming for balance and outreach with the help of Sonja and Sabrina.

Swampscott's Active Aging Resource Guide is about ready to go out to a few select individuals on the Swampscott for All Ages (SfAA) team for their review before we send it out to the printer. Heidi has let me know that they continue to push the limits of our transportation and can't wait until they have an electric van!

C. NEW & OLD BUSINESS

1. Discussion and possible vote to opt out of M.G.L. c. 252 – Aerial spraying/ground spraying by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board: Jeff Vaughan, Director, Health Dept. is here to seek a certified vote to opt out of allowing the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board to conduct aerial and ground spraying of mosquito pesticide over Swampscott in the event they feel there is a public health hazard. The Town has the option to spray for mosquitos if mosquitos or humans are found to have EEE in Town. EEE is a rare but serious virus caused by mosquito bites. No infected mosquito has ever been found in Town with the majority of outbreaks happening in Bristol, Plymouth, and Norfolk. Swampscott is part of the Northeast Mosquito Control and Wetlands Management District which collects and tests mosquitos. If the Town doesn't opt-out now, we won't have any say in spraying or the ability to opt-out until next year. Marblehead also opting out. The Board of Health thinks it is important to have local control and discussed it at their last meeting. There is a standing protocol that if EEE is found in Swampscott, they will act. This serves as confirmation that the Select Board has been consulted. The opt-out application is due May 27th. There were no public comments.

Upon **MOTION**, duly made by David Grishman, seconded by Mary Ellen Fletcher, it was unanimously **VOTED**: To approve the Health Department's request and opt-out of M.G.L. c. 252 – aerial spraying/ground spraying by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board for 2022: All in favor Yes. Any opposed No. Motion passes.

2. Restructure Swampscott for All Ages Committee: Heidi Whear, Director of Elder Services, first discussed upcoming social events, the new resource guide for aging in Swampscott, the Senior Center's new website and funding for an electric van. Swampscott for All Ages Committee started in 2018 after a needs assessment completed by UMass Boston. There were sixty-four members of which thirty-two were sworn in. There is now a working list of fifty-two, twenty-four of whom are active and eight who attend meetings regularly. Bob Powell has come up with a plan to recreate the Committee: Create a committee of thirteen with the Director of Elder Services and the Director of Community & Economic Development as ex-officio members. The remaining eleven members will be comprised of one member from each of the domains (Open Spaces & Buildings; Transportation; Respect & Inclusion; Housing; Communications & Information; Civic Participation & Employment; Health & Community; Social Participation) and will have rolling terms. There will be two co-chairs, elected by a simple majority and all members can serve two consecutive terms. Members will be responsible for co-chairing specific age-friendly domains and for creating a sub-committee to execute the SfAA's plan.

Upon **MOTION**, duly made by Mary Ellen Fletcher, seconded by Katie Phelan, it was unanimously **VOTED**: To re-establish the Swampscott for All Ages Committee with a membership of 13, including the Director of Elder Services and the Director of Community and Economic Development as Ex-Officio members. The remaining eleven members will have staggered 3-year terms: All in favor Yes. Any opposed No. Motion passes.

3. Review and possible vote on Earth Removal Permit draft for new Elementary School: Steve Rosenberg, 60 Lewis St., met with neighbors and voiced concerns including lack of communication from the town. Neighbors wanted the draft permit online. They are concerned about blasting, woods, traffic, their properties and the number of construction days (6/week). Steve would like for the Select Board to not vote on this permit until the neighbors have had more time to review it. He suggested pre-blast surveys be given to everyone within 1500' of the blast, that the permit and all updates posted on the Town website, and a paid town employee to act as liaison to the neighborhood for concerns and complaints. **Tasia Vasiliou, 16 Lewis St.**, restated her concerns that building a new school is a community issue, not just the neighborhood. Even students are talking about it.

Board members commented that they understand neighbors concerns and appreciate the feedback. The Town wants to work with the neighborhood and do what it can to prevent damage. Mike Carroll, Hill International, will have someone onsite every day. Mary Ellen called Braintree to find out how their Middle School project is going. They said they are very happy with it and that the blasting is not bothering anyone, even students. Mary Ellen also stated that she feels construction for 6 days/week is too much for the neighborhood. Project updates will be given during Select Board meetings. There was a discussion about setting a precedence if they expand the pre-blast survey radius to 1500', noting that the 250' radius is set by the State's experts. Houses within 300' radius will get pre-blast surveys, 300'-500' it will be offered to them, 500'-1000' can ask and their request will be taken on a case-by-case basis.

Upon **MOTION**, duly made by Peter Spellios, seconded by David Grishman, it was **VOTED**: to approve the revised permit changes with additional revisions: that the permit make clear that residents between 300'-500' be given notice that a pre-blast survey is available to them and that residents between 500' – 1000' be given a notice that they can request a pre-blast survey which will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis: All in favor Four. Any opposed One (Mary Ellen is opposed due to language not being clearer for residents withing 500'-1000'): Motion passes, 4-1.

4. Discussion and possible vote on comments letter to Mass Housing on eligibility application for the Atlantic Bay View Residences (Foster Road/Archer Street) 40B Proposal. No action as the letter is not ready. David reiterated that anyone with comments should email Marzie Galazka at mgalazka@swampscottma.gov as soon as possible. The letter will be ready for the public hearing Monday, May 16th. TA Fitzgerald will try to get information on the Town's website and in the newsletter.
5. Review of 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant: Articles that the Select Board wants to recommend favorable action on or indefinite proposal on.
 - Article 2: Finance Committee speaks
 - Article 3: Already recommended favorable action. The Finance Committee will speak to this one
 - Article 4: TA Fitzgerald will report on. A Select Board member may speak to the importance of contracts
 - Articles 5/6: Neal is comfortable speaking on this. He is comfortable with Patrick's assumptions
 - Articles 7/8/9/10: Recommend favorable action
 - Article 11: Peter will speak on
 - Article 12: Select Board will recommend indefinite postponement
 - Article 13: Finance Committee will speak on
 - Article 14: Peter anticipates favorable action, he wants to review the language
 - Article 15: Neal will speak to this with High School students and the Climate Action Comm
 - Article 16: Recommend favorable action. Katie will speak on behalf of this.

D. VOTES OF THE BOARD

1. Consent Agenda Items:

Upon **MOTION**, duly made by David Grishman, seconded by Mary Ellen Fletcher, it was unanimously **VOTED**: To approve all Consent Agenda items.: All in favor Yes. Any opposed No. Motion passes.

E. SELECT BOARD TIME

1. Neal Duffy: 1) asked Select Board members to send a list of committees they are interested in for liaison appointments by email & select their preferences. After Town Meeting, they'll decide on which committees they'll be liaison with. 2) He had a fantastic lunch at the Senior Center on Wednesday. David went last month and Peter is scheduled to go in June. Heidi will reach to Mary Ellen & Katie to schedule a lunch with them. He would like to make it a regular occurrence.
2. Mary Ellen Fletcher: will be holding office hours at the gazebo on Saturday at 9:00AM
3. David Grishman: Danielle and her team put together a great recreation schedule. He is looking forward to attending these events & volunteering.
4. Katie Phelan: agrees with David's comments. She's excited to see events. They add value to the community. She is excited to be part of what's happening around town.
5. Peter Spellios: Nothing to add.

Upon **MOTION**, duly made by David Grishman, seconded by Mary Ellen Fletcher, it was unanimously **VOTED**: To adjourn at 8:15 P.M.: All in favor Yes. Any opposed No. Motion passes.