



**Town of Swampscott**  
**Select Board Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, June 2, 2021  
Virtual Meeting

**SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

Donald Hause

**OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Amy Sarro, Finance Director; Allie Fiske, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives; Patrick Luddy, Treasurer/Collector; Marzie Galazka, Director of Community & Economic Development; Graham Archer, Fire Chief

The meeting was called to order at 6:13 PM

Town Administrator Sean Fitzgerald read a Pride Month proclamation. Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives Allie Fiske reviewed several upcoming events including the Pride Celebration on June 12, Juneteenth on June 17, and Unpacking Racism 2 on June 3.

**MASSPORT UPDATE**

Alice Stein, Swampscott representative on the Massport Advisory Committee provided an update on plane traffic. At the moment, flight volumes are still far below normal due to COVID. Because there is low volume, aircraft operators are altering their paths which does lead them over Swampscott which is a temporary anomaly and this is not a procedural change.

If a new procedure is adopted, then in the future, flights could take a more northern approach when it comes to arrivals. Instead of flying over Swampscott, they will fly over the Nahant Causeway.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

A resident advocated for continuing virtual access but asked when Select Board meetings can resume in person.

**AGGREGATE INDUSTRIES**

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** by roll call to enter into public hearing pertaining to an application for Earth Removal Permit request from Aggregate Industries-Northeast Region Inc. located at 30 Danvers Road Swampscott, MA for continued operation of rock quarry and associated activities for the period from July 1, 2021 to June 30, 2022.

Marzie Galazka provided an overview of the changes ERAC is recommending as part of the Aggregate Industries (AI) permit. These include but are not limited to:

- Requires AI to pay for a dust consultant to conduct dust testing 3 times a year and additional dust sampling
- Requires AI to investigate and submit for Town approval a plan for improved dust control
- The hours of operation for crushing have been reduced by 1 hour during the work week.
- Summer operations will still end at 6:00 PM
- Blasting operations was a primary focus of the changes including limiting PPV, expanding seismograph monitoring, blast hole size, and limiting number of blasting.
- Changes to reporting requirements
- Means to address violations of permit

Jay Perkins, blasting consultant, provided an overview of vibrations, PPV statistics and reviewed 2021 activity.

Attorney Chris Drucas representing Aggregate Industries encouraged the Select Board to defer action to create further understanding with AI.

A resident asked for clarification about what role this permit plays if blasting occurs in Salem. There was a conversation about data tracking and allowing residents to have a link to easily submit issues/complaints.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** by roll call to continue public hearing to June 16, 2021 at 6:30 PM. Roll call: Duffy (YES) Titcomb (YES) Grishman (YES) Spellios

## **DRAFT FINANCIAL POLICIES**

On **MOTION** (Grisham) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) it was **VOTED** to approve the draft Financial Guidelines. Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Titcomb (YES) Spellios (YES)

## **WATER & SEWER RATE COMMITTEE**

Treasurer/Collector Patrick Luddy walked through a presentation on Water & Sewer rates including a timeline and methodology. He reviewed current rates and trends used to drive conversations about setting potential tiered rates system. The Board will continue to discuss at a future meeting.

## **TOWN MEETING AND TOWN VOTE**

The Select Board noted that September 13, 2021 will be the date for a special Town Meeting for approval for debt exclusion relative to the funding mechanism for the Elementary School. The public Town-wide vote on a debt exclusion would occur on October 19, 2021.

## **EASEMENT AT 101 FOREST AVE.**

Chair of the Board Peter Spellios provided a brief update on the MSBA process and discussion regarding traffic plans.

## **BOARDS**

Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives Allie Fiske provided a presentation giving the Select Board an update on the status of vacancies on Boards & Committees. Since June 2020, there have been 81 applicants and 48 appointments. Currently there are 36 vacancies, though 20 of these are for 4 boards. There was a discussion of the importance of increasing diversity among board members and the fact that the lack of vacancies might prohibit this effort a bit. The Select Board discussed the appointment process. Ms. Fiske was asked to write a memo that tries to embody some of the presentation with an eye towards recruitment, rotations, and urging chairs to continue this conversation with their boards.

## **JULY DATES**

The Select Board discussed the July meeting schedule and proposed July 14 & July 21 – 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week. These dates will be confirmed on June 16.

There was a discussion about resuming in-person meetings. The Board suggested that an in-person meeting be attempted for the June 16 meeting.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

- Vote to approve meeting minutes from May 3, 2021; May 12, 2021; May 17, 2021; and May 18, 2021 meetings
- Vote to approve appointment to the Hadley Elementary School Reuse Advisory Committee
- Vote to approve application for Freedom Run Road Race to take place on Sunday, June 20 at 9:00 AM

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

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT**

- After action for 2021 Town Meeting
- Civil Service Legislation
- Tri-Chair Meeting
- Annual Aggregate Permit
- End of Year
- New Director of Aging Services
- Elm Place
- Walker Rd. Traffic Study
- Memorial Day
- Unpacking Racism 2
- Pride Celebration
- Juneteenth

**SELECT BOARD**

- Harold King Forest opening
- Friends of the Rail Trail clean-up

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

Meeting was adjourned at 10:02 PM

True Attest,



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Allie Fiske, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives

*Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 6/30/2021*