



Town of Swampscott
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 21, 2021
Virtual Meeting

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Amy Sarro, Finance Director; Allie Fiske, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives; Marzie Galazka, Director of Community & Economic Development; Patrick Luddy, Town Accountant

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 PM

GIRL SCOUTS

Several Girl Scouts were in attendance to be honored by the Select Board for their work on the Ridge Trail Project. The Girl Scouts described the project, showed pictures, and Select Board members commended them on their work.

PUBLIC COMMENT

A resident commented on the industrial container in the parking lot at Fisherman's Beach belonging to a Paddle Board company citing concerns about its placement there. A second resident spoke in support of the container and the company it belongs to and why the container is important for storage, safety, and operations. Chairperson Spellios stated that Town property is under the authority of the Town Administrator.

SWAMPSCOTT HOUSING AUTHORITY

The Swampscott Housing Authority spoke about their experience meeting with Elm Place. They expressed concerns about trail and train access and what that means for liability. Mr. Spellios clarified that the Town has not proposed any plans regarding this access, though Elm Place's plan does indicate some changes. There was a question regarding a letter mailed to tenants from the Housing Authority regarding displacement, which is not part of the Elm Place plan and may have caused undue alarm among residents.

There was a conversation regarding the Housing Authority turning down the opportunity to apply for a Technical Assistance Grant. The Housing Authority chair outlined some recent improvements to the building. The Select Board encouraged the Housing Authority to hold their meeting in a more accessible location, and offered Town services to broadcast the meetings on Cable Access TV and Zoom to allow greater attendance by residents.

INTERIM POLICE CHIEF UPDATE

Interim Police Chief David Kurz from MRI provided a brief update on his role with the Swampscott Police Department including the hiring process, radio communication issues, traffic safety, cameras, and officer visibility.

He discussed upcoming conversations with various stakeholders to better understand what the community needs.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Vote to approve meeting minutes from June 30, 2021 meeting

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) it was **VOTED** to approve the consent agenda. All in favor.

DISCUSSION RELATIVE TO PEDESTRIAN SAFETY INITIATIVES

Gino showed where new thermal plastic crosswalks and Rapid Flashing Beacons and will be located – with a concentration around the schools. The Select Board discussed the locations as well as other proposed solutions to pedestrian issues. There were discussions about making sure the signs on the RRFB's are visible and not hidden by other poles. There was a conversation about the importance of enforcement and public education. The Board also discussed ensuring that cars are not parking close to intersections and that the areas are hashed off.

The Administration will return after Labor Day with potential additional beacon locations or other traffic calming measures. They will also work with interim Chief to recruit new crossing guards and provide additional training.

WATER & SEWER RATE UPDATE

Treasurer/Collector Patrick Luddy ran through a potential recommendation for updates to Water & Sewer rates and what level of retained earnings this would require. The Advisory Committee has not determined how base rates should be tiered – the rate structure would be iterative at this point. The Board asked that the analysis focus at the moment on just tiering and not retained earnings.

The Select Board discussed sending water bills out later in order to have more time to set water & sewer rates. The discussion will resume at the next meeting.

AUGUST DATES

Warrant items and water & sewer rates on August 3 pending schedule of media staff.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

- COVID Update
- Human Resources & Hiring
- Pedestrian Safety Projects
- Senior Center
- Community & Economic Development
- Fire Department
- Water Quality
- Bentwater Festival

SELECT BOARD UPDATE

- David Grishman asked for more specific information about how the beach water sampling occurs and how often.

MEETING SCHEDULE

- The next meeting is scheduled for August 3.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** to adjourn the meeting. All in favor.

Meeting was adjourned at 9:10 PM

True Attest,



Allie Fiske, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 8/3/21