



## Town of Swampscott Select Board Meeting Minutes

Monday, September 20, 2021 | Swampscott High School

### **SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

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

### **MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

### **OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Sue Duplin, Town Clerk; Allie Fiske, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 PM.

Town Clerk Sue Duplin provided an update on the current special acts relevant to elections. The act allowing for early voting in Massachusetts has been extended and thus can be put in place for the October 19, 2021 election.

Ballots can be returned before polls close on Election Day

- Ballot dropbox outside of Town Hall
- Dropbox in Town Hall
- Mailed (needs postage) must be received before polls close

If someone requests an absentee ballot or early ballot, they can still show up to the polls to vote in person instead.

Select Board Member Grishman requested that hours on Wednesday be extended to 8:00 PM to increase access to voters.

On **MOTION** (Titcomb) and **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** by roll call, pursuant to the provisions of Section (l) of Chapter 255 of the Acts of 2020, as amended by Chapters 5 and 29 of the Acts of 2021, that the Swampscott Select Board approve the use of “in-person” early voting for the October 19, 2021 Special Town Election, in addition to early and absentee voting by mail; and, for such purposes, to set the dates and times for “in person” early voting as follows:

Saturday, October 9<sup>th</sup>: 9am-2pm

Tuesday, October 12<sup>th</sup>: 9am-8pm  
Wednesday, October 13<sup>th</sup>: 9am-8pm  
Thursday, October 14<sup>th</sup>: 9am-8pm  
Friday, October 15<sup>th</sup>: 8am-12pm

Hause (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Titcomb (YES) Spellios (YES)

Sue described the High School has a rear entrance which has an elevator and stairs which lead to the gymnasium. The Town needs to figure out how to make parking accessible. The gymnasium provides twice as much space as the cafeteria which was the previous polling location. Parking at Senior Center. 10/19/21 may also be an early dismissal day which will also open up parking that day.

Select Board member David Grishman asked if the Town can work with the Schools to have election days be no-school days. The Select Board asked if the school, Town Clerk, and Town Administrator can work together to plan the school year to accommodate voting days, particularly so that voting can take place in its entirety at the high school.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) it was **VOTED** by roll call pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 54, §24, as amended by Section 11 of Chapter 115 of the Acts of 2020, to establish the Gymnasium at Swampscott High School, located at 200 Essex St. Swampscott, MA 01907, as the temporary voting location for the upcoming October 19, 2021 election for all precincts; this is a one-time change of location for the Special Town Election only; and, further, finding that that use of the Gymnasium will provide better access for all voters including those with disabilities, better space for social distancing, and, being located in the same building, will not negatively impact voters on the basis of race, national origin, disability, income or age; provided further that this portion of the vote concerning the temporary change of the polling place for the Special Town Election shall take effect 3 days after the Clerk's report concerning access to the polling place is posted on the website, and to request that the Town Clerk post such report as soon as possible; and, that the following actions be taken to notify the public of these actions, including a description of the polling place: post on the Town's landing page on its website and on the Town Clerk's page, at the Clerk's office, on the Clerk's bulletin board, and, if feasible, using an electronic means such as list-serves, as well as by reverse 911 call.

Hause (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Titcomb (YES) Spellios (YES)

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** to adjourn the meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 6:27.

True Attest,



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Allie Fiske, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives

*Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 11/3/21*