

## Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 28, 2020

Facilitated @ Scituate Town Hall, 600 Chief Justice Cushing Highway with Remote Participation due to COVID- 19 Emergency

In attendance on site: Mr. Vegnani, Chairman, Ms. Canfield

In attendance via remote participation: Mr. Harris, Ms. Connolly and Ms. Curran

Also in attendance on site: Mr. Boudreau, Town Administrator

### **MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA**

Ms. Connolly made a motion to accept the agenda for April 28, 2020 at 7:12 p.m.

Second by Ms. Curran Unanimous vote (5-0)

### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Vegnani yes**

**Harris yes**

**Canfield yes**

**Connolly yes**

**Curran yes**

Mr. Vegnani reviewed the call in procedures for any resident who would like to participate in the meeting by commenting or asking questions.

### **REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR:**

1. COVID-19. No new cases in Scituate yesterday or today after a busy weekend. That leaves us at 67 cases confirmed of COVID-19 in town. According to the Board of Health, we currently have eight cases still under the 14-day quarantine. The Health Director will be issuing a facemask advisory tomorrow, keeping with our strong recommendations to wear a facemask inside any establishment open to the public and in other instances where social distancing is not possible. To that point, we have blocked off about 1/3 of the parking at the lighthouse to reduce the number of people who can park there in the nice weather. We will continue to monitor that and other areas in town.
2. We have finally received some guidance from the state on “Boating and various other marine and inland waterway related activities”. In a nutshell, it looks to me that under these guidelines we will be able to open the marina on May 15<sup>th</sup> for “Recreational boating”.
  - a. The safe operation of recreational boats is permitted under the following guidelines:
    - i. Only persons from the same household should be together on a boat at one time.
    - ii. No gathering or groups of persons from multiple households will be permitted on boat ramps, docks, piers, etc., and all users shall practice strict social distancing
    - iii. All recreational crafts shall remain a safe distance apart. Tying boats or other crafts together is prohibited
    - iv. All recreational boating is subject to the discretion of local officials, harbormasters and law enforcement
    - v. All local rules, regulations, laws and coast guard requirements still apply

I sent that guidance to the Health Director and Harbor Master and we will be drawing up our requirements and sending them out to boaters.

3. Jim Toomey has rescheduled Town meeting for May 11 and May 12. At this point the Governor has extended the state wide stay at home order to May 18. This includes no gatherings of more than 10 people. I would think this will lead to another postponement of Town Meeting, but I have not had a chance to discuss that with the moderator. .
4. We started grinding on Oceanside today, so paving season is here. We will grind the roads and then pave.
5. Finally, on a happy note for him, but a sad note for us, May 1st will be the retirement date for our Director of Golf Operations Bob Sanderson. Bob has been at Widows Walk since it opened in May of 1997 and has been the Director since 1999. Through his tireless efforts, we went from nothing to one of the nicest, most picturesque courses in the region. Ups and downs, good weather and bad, it has been Bob. It is hard to picture Widows Walk without him being there and he will be sorely missed.

The Board thanked Bob Sanderson for his hard work over the years in managing a premier South Shore Golf Course.

Mr. Vegnani said common sense is the way to go. If you are going out in public, wear a mask. He would like residents to do the right thing. The Governor issued the extension Stay at Home order to May 18, 2020. Ms. Connolly said there have been instances where some take out restaurants are not wearing masks. Mr. Boudreau said these should be referred to the Board of Health. Mr. Boudreau said he would look into it. The difficult part is enforcing this.

Ms. Curran asked if the boating guidelines were from the State and Mr. Boudreau said yes.

#### **SCHEDULED ITEMS:**

**Liquor License Change of Sunday Hours, 7-Eleven, 337 Gannett Road, Doug Whyte, Area Manager, Mary Ellen Hayden, Store Manager**

Mr. Whyte explained they would like to change the

**Move to approve a change of Sunday hours to 10 a.m. to 10 p.m. for 7- Eleven of Massachusetts, Inc., 337 Gannett Road, pending ABCC approval. Motion by Ms. Connolly Second by Ms. Curran  
Unanimous Vote (5-0)**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Vegnani yes**

**Harris yes**

**Canfield yes**

**Connolly yes**

**Curran yes**

**Set poll hours 2020 Annual Town Election June 13th, Kathy Gardner, Town Clerk**

The Annual Town Election will be held on Saturday, June 13, 2020. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and social distancing “Absentee Voting” and “Early Voting” by mail only (allowed per legislature signed by the Governor) will be highly encouraged in order to help decrease the amount of voters at the polls on Election Day. Absentee and Early Voting Ballot Request forms can be found online at the Town’s Website on the Town Clerk’s page (Town Election Information News Announcement) and at the Town Hall front door. The polls

have to remain open on Election Day and the minimum is 5 hours. The Town Clerk's office are preparing the Scituate High School Gymnasium for people who do want to attend in person to accommodate social distancing.

**I move to set the poll hours from 9 AM-2 PM for the Annual Town Election to be held on Saturday, June 13, 2020 at the Scituate High School gymnasium located at 606 Chief Justice Cushing Way. Motion by Ms. Connolly Second by Ms. Curran Unanimous Vote (5-0)**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Vegnani yes**

**Harris yes**

**Canfield yes**

**Connolly yes**

**Curran yes**

**Egypt-Mann Hill Cobble Berm Construction Project \$1,093,185.** Kevin Cafferty, DPW Director  
Postponed to future meeting

**Tax Relief Legislation,** Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

On April 3<sup>rd</sup> Governor Baker signed into law *An Act to Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting From COVID-19, Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020.*

The law provides a variety of relief measures cities and towns that been adversely impacted by the pandemic. There are three measures relative to taxpayer relief that the Board of Selectmen should consider implementing. Each measure will provide taxpayers with greater flexibility in meeting their financial obligations to the Town.

**1) Local Option to extend the due dates of Real Estate and Personal property Tax Bills from May 1 to June 1, 2020.**

Move to extend the due dates for the Real and Property tax from May 1 to June 1, 2020. Motion by Ms. Connolly Second by Mr. Harris Unanimous Vote (5-0)

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Vegnani yes**

**Harris yes**

**Canfield yes**

**Connolly yes**

**Curran yes**

**2) Local Option to Extend Due Date for Exemption and Deferral Applications to June 1, 2020**

Move to extend due date for exemption and deferral applications to June 1, 2020 extension of the due date for Property tax exemptions and deferrals to June 1, 2020 Motion by Ms. Connolly second by Ms. Curran Unanimous Vote (5-0)

This extension applies to applications for the exemptions listed in the third paragraph of G.L. c. 59, § 59, including exemptions under clauses 17, 17C, 17C1/2 and 17D (seniors, surviving

spouses, minor children of deceased parent); 18 (financial hardship –activated military, age and infirmity); 22, 22A, 22B, 22C, 22D, 22E, 22F and 22H (veterans, surviving spouses and surviving parents); 37 and 37A (blind persons); 41, 41B, 41C and 41C1/2 (seniors); 42 and 43 (surviving spouse and minor children of firefighter/police officer killed in line of duty); 52 (certain eligible seniors); 53 (certain eligible properties with septic systems); 56 (National Guard and reservists on active duty in foreign countries); and 57 (local option tax rebates). This extension also automatically applies to applications for residential exemptions under G.L. c. 59, § 5C, for small commercial exemptions under G.L. c. 59, § 5I and for deferrals under G.L. c. 59, § 5, clauses 41A (seniors) and 18A (poverty or financial hardship due to change to active military).

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Vegnani yes**

**Harris yes**

**Canfield yes**

**Connolly yes**

**Curran yes**

**3) Local Option to Waive Interest on Certain Payments made after Due Dates**

The Selectmen did not vote on option 3 at this time.

To waive interest and other penalty for late payment of any excise, tax, betterment assessment or apportionment thereof, water rate or annual sewer use or other charge added to a tax for any payments with a due date on or after March 10, 2020 where payment is made late but before June 30, 2020.

This applies to late payments of bills that have a due date of March 10, 2020 or after, when such bills are paid late but paid on or before June 30. This waiver of interest does not apply to bills with due dates before March 10, 2020 or if the bill is not paid by June 30

**Change of May 11<sup>th</sup> date for Annual & Special Town Meeting, Jim Boudreau**

**Board of Selectmen's Motion re: Moderator's Declaration of Recess of May 11, 2020 ATM**

If the Moderator determines it is necessary to recess and continue the Town of Scituate's Town Meeting, we move that the Scituate Board of Selectmen will support the Moderator's declaration and agree to recess and continue the Town of Scituate's May 11, 2020 Annual & Special Town Meeting to the date agreed. Motion by Ms. Connolly second by Mr. Harris Unanimous Vote (5-0)

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Vegnani yes**

**Harris yes**

**Canfield yes**

**Connolly yes**

**Curran yes**

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

### **1. Liaison Reports**

Ms. Connolly announced that the School Committee offered a Superintendent contract to Mr. William Burkhead. The School Committee did a great job getting this done. Mr. Vegnani thanked Ms. Connolly for representing the Selectmen.

Ms. Curran said the Coastal Visioning project is hosting an online zoom workshop. If anyone would like to participate, it is being held Thursday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 7 p.m. and the link is on the website [www.scituatema.gov](http://www.scituatema.gov). Ms. Curran said the Scituate Food Pantry needs monetary donations at this time. Demand has increased and they are cannot accept food donations due to the COVID-19 emergency. Donations can be made via mail or paypal.

Ms. Canfield said the Public Building Commission met and discussed the library change order request and upon review of the scope of the project they approved the work. The Master Plan meetings are postponed during the pandemic. The EDC is working with merchants, the Chamber of Commerce, etc. and are forming a sub-committee to marshal resources to relaunch Scituate from a business perspective. They will be developing a plan and the goal is to present to the Board of Health and the Board of Selectmen within one month. Rollout will be contingent on State advisories and guidelines.

The next step with the Shellfish Advisory Committee is to interview applicants at an upcoming Board of Selectmen meeting. A future public hearing will be scheduled. The Shellfish Advisory Committee has completed their review of applications and rankings and have provided the information to the Selectmen.

Selectmen and Town Administrator video updates will continue on Mondays and Thursdays at 9:30 a.m. and can be viewed live on Scituate Community Television Channel 9. The links will be posted on the Town of Scituate Facebook page and website also.

### **2. Correspondence**

A letter was sent to Go Green from Deputy Chief Al Elliott concerning their facility on the Driftway. Their operation is in violation of the fire code and they will no longer have a license for mulch storage if it is not corrected. The pile cannot be more than 25 feet high. Mr. Vegnani asked Mr. Boudreau to send a letter to Go Green with the issues that need to be resolved at the site. Mr. Harris said there was a piece of equipment brought in by the owner to try to resolve some of these issues.

The South Shore Irish Heritage Trail meeting is postponed to September or October.

### **3. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

**Move to accept the meeting minutes for the Board of Selectmen meeting held on April 7, 2020. Motion by Ms. Connelly second by Ms. Canfield**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Vegnani yes**

**Harris yes**

**Canfield yes**

**Connolly yes**

**Curran yes**

4. Adjournment and Signing of Documents

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:11 p.m. by Ms. Canfield second by Ms. Curran

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Vegnani yes**

**Harris yes**

**Canfield yes**

**Connolly yes**

**Curran yes**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Devin, Recorder

### **List of Documents for April 28, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting**

- Agenda
- Liquor License Change of Sunday Hours for 7-Eleven
- Request from Town Clerk to set poll hours for Town Election with COVID-19 guidelines.
- Tax Relief motions under new legislation due to COVID-19
- Preparation to plan for another Change of Date for Annual & Special Town Meeting due to COVID-19 at the request of the moderator
- Correspondence
  - Letter from Deputy Chief Elliott 167 Driftway Go Green
  - Letter from Lynda Ferguson owner Inn at Scituate Harbor requesting delay of tax due date
  - South Shore Irish Heritage Trail Meeting postponed to September/October
- Approval of Meeting Minutes for April 7, 2020

## Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes for April 28, 2020

### BOARD OF SELECTMEN

---

Anthony V. Vegnani, Chairman

---

Shawn Harris, Vice Chairman

---

Karen B. Canfield, Clerk

---

Karen E. Connolly

---

Maura C. Curran