

Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, August 4, 2020

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

In attendance on site: Ms. Canfield, Chairman, Mr. Vegnani, Vice Chairman, Ms. Canfield, Ms. Connolly and Ms. Curran

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

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

Ms. Curran made a motion to accept the agenda for August 4, 2020 at 6:35 p.m.

Second by Mr. Vegnani Unanimous, vote (5-0)

Ms. Canfield 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 Jim Boudreau**

1. Since last Tuesday, we have had six (6) new COVID cases reported for Scituate. Two were family members who had traveled out of state, another two were a husband and wife and an additional case is a Scituate resident who is at SS Hospital. The state -wide rate of infection was 1.7% last Monday and was 2.6% yesterday. The Governor is concerned that house parties and gatherings where people are not following the guidelines is leading to the uptick in cases. The new travel rules are in place, people traveling to Massachusetts from other then a pre-determined set of states are required to quarantine for 14 days upon arriving in Massachusetts or produce a negative COVID test from within 72 hours of travel. This also applies to MA residents traveling out of state. NE states, NY, NJ and Hawaii are not included in the quarantine requirement. All the good work that people have doe following the guidelines and driving the numbers down will be for nothing if we do not stay vigilant. I know it is hot and the masks can be uncomfortable in the heat, but it is working.
2. Discolored water complaints are up significantly – we believe this is due to the warmer than average temperatures which has increased the Manganese in our raw water to the Treatment Plant. Due to the drought like conditions, we are not releasing water from Old Oaken Bucket Pond, which is also contributing to the elevated levels of manganese. Given the age of our Treatment Plant, it was not designed to remove manganese so it is getting out into the system, oxidizing, and discoloring the water. Some people are not adhering to the Full Water Ban as is indicated in our usage (see below) which puts an even greater burden on our Treatment Plant. We are meeting with an Engineering firm this week to perform testing to see if an additional chemical will remove the manganese before it gets out into the system. Other alternatives are also being looked into.

The Reservoir is -45” or approximately 50% full - do not want to drop below 20% (to maintain an emergency supply for fire protection) so I would say we have 30 days’ supply until we get to 20% unless we get some significant rainfall. Average use for the last 7 days = 1.985 million gallons per day – up from 1 week ago of 1.898 mgd. That is up a mgpd. I understand the weather has been hot but we need the residents to conserve water during this difficult time.

3. Library. The library will be open for patrons beginning today at 10:00 am with senior hour until 11:00, and then it will be open for general patrons. The hours and capacity will be limited to a maximum of 60, including staff, as will the ability to browse all the stacks. In addition, there will be no study rooms or seating available for patrons to stay and read. You will be asked to take your materials with you. Masks will be mandatory. We will be installing benches and tables outside on the library grounds that patrons will be able to sit at and enjoy their materials. We are also working to boost WIFI at the library so patrons will also be able to access that from the outside tables. The library will still be open for curbside pick-up 6 days a week with hours Monday-Thursday from 10 am – 8 pm and Friday and Saturday from 10 am – 4 pm. In addition, patrons will be able to borrow Library of Things objects, book museum passes and print documents remotely. Visit [scituate town library.org](http://scituate town library.org).
4. Tropical Storm Isaia will be making its way up the east coast this week with impacts to Scituate today. We are currently in a tornado watch until 9:00 pm. This applies to all of southern New England. The current track remains to the west of us, which will most likely preclude us from getting significant rainfall from the storm. Less than ½” of rain is forecast with wind gusts 40-50 miles an hour. There is the potential for scattered power outages. Also, swimmers and bathers should be aware of the potential for rip currents through the day tomorrow.
  - a. Mashicut berm work has started. There is equipment on the berm preparing it for the arrival of the stone. Stone s being delivered and we anticipate 16 truck loads a day. This is a FEMA project being paid for with 75% federal funds and it will bring the berm back to its original designed height.
  - b. Bailey’s Causeway culvert and Gilson Road culverts are underway and are a 3-4 week construction period. Bailey’s causeway is closed and Glades road will be both ways. Gilson road is also closed. These culvert projects have been years in the making and have been and are dependent on the gas company for completion. We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause, but the new culverts should help to significantly reduce flooding in those areas.
  - c. Athletic field’s project is nearing final completion. The stadium field with the track and the baseball field have already been turned over to the town. The first baseball game was schedule for tonight. The softball field is being put down even as week speak, with the remaining bleachers also being installed. The project is scheduled to be substantially complete by September 1. The contractor will be required to return later in the fall to do some seeding and repair on the grassy areas that have not been able to germinate due to current drought conditions.

Ms. Curran asked about expanding the reservoir. Mr. Cafferty said we are waiting for funding and approval. We are waiting to see if we receive a grant. Mr. Vegnani asked if there was a problem with the proximity to Route 3A. Mr. Cafferty will check on this. Mr. Cafferty said there is a problem with Conservation because we would be eliminating wetlands if we expand the reservoir. Ms. Curran asked for a summary of all the issues so the Selectmen can get an understanding of all the issues. Ms. Connolly asked about the issues in the harbor with closing the streets. Mr. Boudreau said the complaints were mostly Otis and they stopped traffic from going up Otis from Cole Parkway. Traffic has gone down substantially since the Town made this change. Ms. Canfield said regional sewer is a priority. Ms. Canfield met with Cohasset and Hull Selectmen chairs and all agreed this needed to be put on the front burner for all three communities. They would like to meet with all of the Selectmen and sewer commissioners. We need a drop dead date when this will be decided. We expect a

decision by September. Ms. Canfield thanked Mr. Boudreau for the excellent work on the athletic field's project coming in on time and on budget.

### **SCHEDULED ITEMS:**

**35 Year Service Anniversary Recognition for Firefighter John Smith**, John Murphy, Fire Chief  
Firefighter Jack (John) Smith started on 1/2/1985 and he retired on 2/10/2020. Jack's 35<sup>th</sup> service anniversary was 1/2/2020.

Chief Murphy said Jack was an EMT and dedicated to the Town of Scituate Fire Department. He worked hard and would never let anyone down. Jack was a mentor to many. In the early 90's he was a mechanic and is a CPR instructor. He has always been involved and always stepped up. He is an outstanding member of our department and a good friend. Chief Murphy thanked Jack for his service and is glad he is enjoying his retirement. Jack Smith said he enjoyed working as a partner with Chief John Murphy. Mr. Smith said it was his father that encouraged him to become a firefighter. Ms. Canfield said people say he would do anything for anyone, great fire fighter, great EMT, etc. Mr. Vegnani thanked Jack Smith for his 35 years of service in a high stress job. He appreciated all he gave to the Town. Ms. Connolly said she went to her first Firefighters Sunday this year and she appreciated all the effort that Jack put into that day. Mr. Goodrich said anytime there is a crisis look for a helper and thanked Mr. Smith for being a helper. He thanked Mr. Smith for his dedication. Ms. Curran thanked Jack for his service and 35 years is remarkable. She asked if he had one memory that he recalls. Mr. Smith said he was visiting Humarock and he got a call about a 2 ½ year old that was not breathing. He got in his car and it was a 2 ½ year old girl unconscious with labored breathing. He saved the young girl and she ended up having croup and an infection in her airway that caused the problem. This was a memorable time in his career. Mr. Smith said it is a young man's sport. Al Elliott, Deputy Chief appreciates his unflappable character and wanted to congratulate Jack on his retirement. Ms. Connolly presented a gift to Mr. Smith for his 35 years of service to the Town of Scituate Fire Department.

### **Acceptance of Donations:**

#### **1. Scituate Loves Local**

Ms. Canfield said this was a donation of a production video done for the Scituate Loves Local campaign. The Selectmen said thank you and it was a very well done production.

**Move that the Board of Selectmen accept a donation to the Town of Scituate from Midnight Brunch on behalf of 95 Creative for the "Scituate Loves Local" campaign commercial. The donation stated value is \$8,015.50. Motion by Mr. Vegnani Second by Mr. Goodrich Unanimous Vote (5-0)**

#### **2. Friends of Scituate Dog Park, Lisa Huffman, President Friends of Scituate Dog Park**

Beth King lost her sister eight years ago who was an avid dog lover and employee at Scituate Animal Hospital. She would like to donate a library box to the Friends of Scituate Dog Park. The cost to register the library is \$35 and would be donated by Friends of Scituate Dog Park. It is a free book-sharing box on the honor system. There are three registered free libraries in the Town of Scituate currently. This would be a fourth donation box. Ms. Curran asked if the Friends of Scituate Dog Park will be responsible for the ongoing maintenance of the library box. Ms. Huffman said yes the Friends of Scituate Dog Park will be responsible ongoing. There will be a plaque on the donation box. Mr. Goodrich asked if would be decorated in a dog theme. Ms. Huffman said she is open to that if people are interested.

**Move that the Board of Selectmen accept a donation from Beth King of a wooden Little Free Library to the Friends of Scituate Dog Park. Motion by Mr. Vegnani Second by Ms. Connolly Unanimous Vote (5-0)**

**Finance Director/Town Accountant Contract**, Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

Extension of employment contract for Finance Director/Town Accountant for the period of July 1, 2020 through to June 30, 2023. Ms. Connolly received a very nice email from someone on the Advisory Committee regarding the professionalism of Nancy Holt. Ms. Vegnani said Ms. Holt does a great job, is spectacular and provides the Board of Selectmen with everything they need. Ms. Curran thanked Ms. Holt for the excellent job she does. Ms. Holt is there for everybody and her willingness to go to all the night meetings and demonstrates her leadership skills. Mr. Goodrich learned so much from Ms. Holt and she shows much patience explaining to people municipal finance.

**Motion to approve employment contract for Finance Director/Town Accountant. Motion by Ms. Connolly Second by Ms. Curran Unanimous Vote (5-0)**

**Ratification of Restaurant Extension of Premises**, Revisions for Salt Society and Hibernian Tavern, Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

Two additional requests came in to the Town. Hibernian Tavern will like to take advantage of the street closure and will have outdoor seating Thursday to Sunday on Front Street. Salt Society would like to put seats out in front of Molisse Realty and received permission from the owner. Ms. Connolly asked if there was a way to put a caution sign in the entrance/exit of Mill Wharf plaza

**I move that the BOS ratify the Temporary Licenses issued by the Town Administrator to the Salt Society and the Hibernian Tavern to serve Liquor under a Temporary Extension of Premises & Outdoor Seating License in accordance with COVID-19 Order No. 35 and consistent with the process of approving such requests established by the Board of Selectmen. Motion by Ms. Curran Second by Mr. Vegnani Unanimous Vote (5-0)**

**Special Town Meeting Date November 16, 2020**, Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

Mr. Boudreau said they have checked with the Moderator and November 16<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Canfield reviewed the schedule and we will open the warrant at the next Selectmen meeting. There is a lot of uncertainty with the State and Federal budgets for the Town. There will be some Federal money, the Cares Act and the Heroes Act we just don't know how much and when and if we will get it. Ms. Curran will like to see if we can change the name of the Board to the Selectboard instead of Selectmen. Mr. Boudreau said it is on his list.

**Move to hold the Town of Scituate Fall Special Town Meeting on Monday, November 16, 2020 at the Scituate High School gymnasium. Motion by Mr. Vegnani Second by Ms. Curran Unanimous Vote (5-0)**

## **NEW BUSINESS:**

1. New Drain Layers License for Gregory Pflaumer  
**Move to approve a new drain layers license for GA Pflaumer. Motion by Mr. Vegnani Second by Mr. Goodrich Unanimous Vote (5-0)**
2. Poll Hours for State Primary on Tuesday, September 1, 2020  
Ms. Canfield encourages the public to vote. There is a schedule on the Town Clerks page. Early Voting is available.  
**Motion to set poll hours for the State Primary for Tuesday, September 1, 2020 at the Scituate High School gymnasium located at 606 Chief Justice Cushing Highway. State election polls hours are 7:00 AM-8:00 PM. Motion by Ms. Curran Second by Mr. Vegnani Unanimous Vote (5-0)**
3. **Board & Committee Appointment Charter Review Committee**  
Joe Norton passed away this year and now we are looking to add a member to the committee. Marla Minier has served on CPC, Advisory, Capital Planning, Master Planning Committee, Library Foundation and is a dedicated volunteer in Scituate and the Board is aware of her extensive background. Mr. Vegnani said she will be a good addition. Ms. Connolly said she is a dedicated volunteer.  
**Move to appoint Marla Minier to the Charter Review Committee for a term of one year or until a successor is named and completion of the conflict of interest law online training program is completed within 30 days. Motion by Mr. Vegnani Second by Ms. Connolly Unanimous Vote (5-0)**

## **OTHER BUSINESS:**

1. Liaison Reports  
Mr. Vegnani, Mr. Boudreau and Mr. Bangert met with Scituate Wind last week to get their arms around what is going on there and if there is any new technology. There is nothing they can do mechanically to the device. Mr. Vegnani received a lot of information that he is going through. They were very willing to make any adjustments we want. Mr. Vegnani said it is a lot of information we have to get through. The complaints are not aligning with our current shutoff. This needs to be reviewed. Is there a pattern to the complaints we are receiving now? Do we need to change the shutoff period? The shutoff that was approved is occurring. Ms. Curran asked to understand what the implications are when the information is presented. September 22<sup>nd</sup> is the target date to invite Epsilon in to the Selectmen meeting to have a robust discussion at that time.  
  
Ms. Connolly said the Conservation Commission need personal devices removed from Museum Beach by August 15, 2020.  
  
Ms. Connolly and Ms. Canfield congratulated the Class of 2020 and attended graduation that went very well.  
  
Mr. Goodrich had conversations with the Commission on Disabilities and they will be involved with Widows Walk renovations.

Mr. Vegnani said his son graduated this year and the town and school did a great job with the graduation. It was a beautiful day and he thanked everyone involved. The baseball game tonight, there are two Scituate pitchers pitching against each other.

2. Correspondence

- Selectmen invitation to Purple Heart Community unveiling of signs 8/7 at 7 p.m.
- Friday, 8/7/20 Luminaria in honor of purple heart day
- Lawson Tower Bell Concert 8/9 @ 6 p.m.
- Lighted Boat Parade 8/7 @ 8:30 p.m.
- MA Dept. of Revenue DLS letter Baseline FY21 and Chapter 70 Information now available

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

**Move to accept the meeting minutes for the Board of Selectmen meeting held on July 21, 2020. Motion by Ms. Connolly Second by Ms. Curran Unanimous Vote (5-0)**

4. Adjournment and Signing of Documents

**Motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. by Mr. Vegnani second by Ms. Curran Unanimous Vote (5-0)**

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Devin, Recorder

## **List of Documents for August 4, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting**

- Agenda
- 35 year service anniversary recognition Firefighter John Smith
- Acceptance of Donations
  - Scituate Loves Local
  - Friends of Scituate Dog Park
- Finance Director/Town Accountant Contract
- Ratification of Restaurant Extension of Premises
  1. Salt Society
  2. Hibernian Tavern
- Special Town Meeting Date November 16, 2020
- New Drain Layers License for Gregory Pflaumer
- Poll Hours for State Primary on Tuesday, September 1, 2020
- Board & Committee Appointment Charter Review Committee
- Correspondence
  1. Selectmen invitation to Purple Heart Community Unveiling of signs
  2. Friday, 8/7/20 Luminaria in honor of purple heart day
  3. Lawson Tower Bell Concert 8/9 @ 6 p.m.
  4. Lighted Boat Parade 8/7 @ 8:30 p.m.
  5. MA Dept. of Revenue DLS letter Baseline FY21 and Chapter 70 Information now available
- Selectmen meeting minutes for 07/21/2020

## **Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes for August 4, 2020**

### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

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Karen B. Canfield, Chairman

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Anthony V. Vegnani, Vice Chairman

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Karen E. Connolly, Clerk

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Maura C. Curran

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Andrew W. Goodrich