

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Conducted Via Virtual Meeting (ZOOM Meeting)**

**April 27, 2020**

**6:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Jonathan H. Freedman, Karen Adelman-Foster, Vice-Chair, Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Clerk, Michael J. Hickey, Jr., and Susan G. Salamoff

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Administrator Melissa A. Malone, Director of Finance, John Townsend, Deputy Town Administrator, Bill Chenard, Chief of Police James Hicks, Director of Dept. of Public Health James White, Director of Department of Public Works Jeremy Marsette, and Executive Assistant, Joan M. McNamara

**ABSENT:** None

Chairman Freedman called the meeting to order at 6:02PM, and noted that the Meeting is being recorded by Pegasus and Zoom. Mr. Freedman also noted that all votes taken will be by Roll Call Vote. Mr. Freedman also pointed out that there is a “raise hand” button for those who wish to participate during this meeting.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed for those suffering during COVID-19.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A. MBTA Station Project**

The MBTA has awarded a construction contract for accessibility improvements at the Natick Center Commuter Rail Station. Station improvements will include new accessible high-level platforms, elevators, ramps, lighting, & station signage. Construction will continue through spring of 2022.

**B. 2020 Open Space & Recreation Plan Update Seeking Community Participation**

The Open Space Advisory Committee and Community & Economic Development have been working on updating the Town of Natick’s Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP). The OSRP is a crucial guiding document in the community that inventories the Town’s open spaces and recreational amenities, tracks accomplishments made since the last OSRP Update, and establishes an action plan of goals, objectives, and projects.

Feedback received will be incorporated into a Draft 2020 OSRP and released for public review. The second phase of outreach will likely begin in late May/early June.

- C. Ms. Malone made a statement regarding the Natick Sewing Support Group. She indicated that the Town is extremely grateful to the group for all of the cloth facial masks and headbands given away to hospitals town employees and the Natick housing authority residents. They have made over 3300 masks and 1100 headbands. Thank you to Ms. McPherson and the entire group. In addition to thinking about the community in need, they have asked others to make a donation to the food bank.

Ms. Malone wished to remind everyone that Next Monday, May 4, 2020, we will have our Board meeting and our delegation will be present. We will post that item later this week on our agenda.

- D. .MathWorks' scholarship applications will be accepted through May 8, 2020.

### **CITIZENS' CONCERNS**

Mr. Josh Ostroff spoke during Citizens' Concerns and wished to give his personal thanks to Mr. Hickey, former Board Chair, for all of his work over the last year.

### **BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATES**

#### **A. COVID-19 Updates**

1. Mr. James White, Director of Department of Health, gave an update on the latest Natick confirmed COVID numbers: 1 active confirmed, 156 total cases removed, 112 total confirmed since 3/1/20. Mr. White was happy to report that the numbers seem to be levelling off and headed in the right direction.
2. Mr. Jeremy Marsette, Director of Department of Public Works, confirmed that the household hazardous waste day is still going forward. Mr. Marsette also added that the last day to register is May 4, 2020, and the cost is \$5.00.
3. Police Chief James Hicks gave an update on his continued focus for personal protection equipment (PPE) which he is now focusing on for the Department of Public Works.

### **REQUESTED ACTION**

- A. A Public Hearing to Dedicate the Square at Glen & Pleasant Street in honor of the Chase Family; Leighton E., William Louis and Augie A.Chase

On a Motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, a Roll Call Vote was taken to open the public meeting. The Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

Mr. Jennett opened the public meeting at 7:00pm. The Board, on a Motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, voted 5-0-0, by Roll Call Vote, to Approve the Chase Family Square Dedication at the Corner of Glen Street and Pleasant Street. The Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

On a Motion by Ms. Adelman Foster, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, a Roll Call vote was taken to close the Public Meeting at 7:20pm by the Clerk, Mr. Jennet. The Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

B. The Verve Hotel/DDH Hotel Natick Worcester, LLC's Application for a Change of Manager for an S12 on premise Alcohol License

On a Motion by Ms. Adelman-Foster, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0-to approve The Verve Hotel/DDH Hotel Natick Worcester, LLC's Application for a Change of Manager for an S12 on Premise Alcohol License. The Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

## **DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

### **A. Spring Annual Town Meeting 2020 Scheduling**

Moderator Foss: After the last discussion there was a determination to postpone the Town Meeting for up to 30 days at a time. This would mean the Town Meeting would need to happen 30 days after the emergency ceases to exist. We would not know when that date is. There is legislation happening to perhaps let Town Meeting happen via a remote process.

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to Support the Moderator's Renewed Declaration to Recess and Continue Natick's 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting. The Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

### **B. Town Election Scheduling**

Ms. Packer/Town Clerk: Ms. Packer spoke about the options to request an absentee ballot and early voting by mail. She directed citizens to go to the link on the Town of Natick website for instructions. She also added that the ballot is the same as it was before. The recommendation is for a June 30, 2020 election, with no option to delay into the next fiscal year.

On a Motion by Ms. Adelman-Foster, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to set a date of June 30, 2020, for Town Election. The Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

### **C. Fiscal 20/21 Budget Updates**

Ms. Malone presented a Financial Scenario update with a PowerPoint presentation that contained the following highlights:

- Primary focus is the health, safety and welfare of the residents and employees of Natick
- Decision Points – defining the general course of budget development. Ms. Malone presented 3 potential scenarios:
- Scenario A – State Aid is severely reduced; Local Receipts while starting out the year

- depressed make a comeback in Q3 & Q4 – Projected deficit - \$2,327,879
- Scenario B - State Aid is severely reduced; Local Receipts are seriously reduced throughout FY21 – Projected deficit - \$3,939,016
  - Scenario C – Given that 15-20% of our revenues are still unconfirmed does the Board wish to recommend delaying Town Meeting until the fall? If yes, the Board will need to adopt a plan for a monthly budget of 1/12 of FY20 budget until a special Town meeting or the Fall Annual Town Meeting. Projected deficit - \$1,200,000
  - Regardless of the scenario selected, the current economic conditions will warrant the use of stabilization funds to support Town Operations for FY21:  
Scenario A – 25% (\$2.3million) • Scenario B – 35% (\$3.3million) • Scenario C - 1/12 – 13% (\$1.2million)

Deputy Town Administrator, Bill Chenard, presented a PowerPoint presentation which contained an overview of the following information on Capital:

- An update on Capital Appropriations – Release to Free Cash •
- Review Appropriated Capital Projects to preserve liquidity •
- Update the 2020 Spring Annual Town Meeting Capital Requests

Mr. Townsend, Director of Finance, reviewed “Collections” decision points:

1. Whether or not to adopt the provision to waive interest and payments due on June 1, 2020, for excise, tax, betterment, water or sewer, for bills due between March 10 through June 30, 2020 ?

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Adelman-Foster, the Board moved to not extend the due dates and to not waive the penalties and interest and to communicate this decision with robust communications as soon as possible. The Board voted 3-2-0, by Roll Call vote as follows:

Ms. Adelman Foster:	Yes
Mr. Jennett:	Yes
Ms. Salamoff:	No
Mr. Hickey:	No
Mr. Freedman:	Yes

2. Whether or not to adopt a provision to extend the due date of property taxes until June 1, 2020? No action.

#### D. Acceptance of Safety Committee Recommendations

The Safety Committee put forth two Agenda items for consideration to the Board:

1. Resident Request to install MUTCD Double Backed High Visibility Pedestrian Activated Crossing Signs at Crosswalk on Pond and High Streets;

Chief Hicks spoke to the cost which is about 25k per unit, however, if the Board approves it, this

will go onto a list of funding grants and would be considered for the next capital round. A Board member asked if this was the least expensive way to correct the problem. The Chief responded that they have tried warning signs but a high level of security is what is needed at this time.

On a Motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to approve the Acceptance of Safety Committee Recommendations for Agenda Item 1. The Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

2. Request to address serious safety concern on Route 9 and Oak Streets in the area of Scrub-A-Dub.

Chief Hicks reviewed this location on Rt. 9 by Scrubadudb and assessed as to whether this is a safety issue or not. Chief Hicks also noted that the accident data is not high, however people are cutting through neighborhoods because they cannot take the left hand turn here which creates a safety issue.

On a Motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to Approve the Acceptance of Safety Committee Recommendations Agenda Item 2. The Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

E. Adult Use Recreational Marijuana - proposed timeline modifications

On a Motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to Extend the Deadline in responding to the Adult Use Recreational Marijuana RFI to June 8, 2020.

The Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

8:40PM CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Approve Reappointments to the Zoning Board of Appeals with Terms Expiring May 1, 2023
  - A. Katherine Durrane - Full Member
  - B. Geoff Lewis - Full Member
- B. Contract Amendment - BETA Engineering - North Main Street Construction Services
- C. Approve Meeting Minutes
- D. Weekly Warrant Review
- E. Appoint Joel Barrera to the Cochituate Rail Trail Advisory Committee -Term Expires 6/30/2023
- F. Approve 2020 flammable storage registration renewals
- G. Request of NCCC to hang LOVE 01760 Banner over Main Street from May 11-18th

On a Motion by Ms. Adelman Foster, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to Approve the Consent Agenda. The vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board unanimously voted, by Roll Call Vote, to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 10:48PM. The Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey-	Yes
Mr. Freedman	Yes

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Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Clerk

Meeting Date April 27, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes Approved by the Board of Selectmen on  
\_\_\_\_\_, 2020

All documents used at this Board of Selectmen meeting are available at:

<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=745&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agend>