

BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
TOWN OF NATICK

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**MEETING MINUTES**

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

**July 8, 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, Deputy Town Administrator, James Errickson, James White, Director, Department of Public Health; Susan Ramsey, Director Department of Council on Aging; Karen Partanen, Director of Parks and Recreation; Dorothy Blondiet, Director of Human Resources; Executive Assistant, Joan M. McNamara

**ABSENT:** None

Chairman Freedman called the meeting to order at 6:04PM. Chairman Freedman read the Executive Session topics for this evening. This portion of the meeting is not open to the public. Mr. Jennett moved and Ms. Salamoff seconded a motion to move into Executive Session. The Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to move into Executive Session. The Vote was as follows:

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

- A. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(3) - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the Chair so declares: Supervisors' and Administrators' Association (DPW Supervisors); Public Employees Local Union 1116 (DPW Laborers); Public Employees Local Union 1116 (Clerical); Public Employees Local Union 1116 (Library); Maintenance and Custodians Local 1116 (Facilities Maintenance); Deputy Chiefs Association; International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO, Local 1707; New England Police Benevolent Association, Local 182; New England Police Benevolent Association, Local 82; Natick Patrol Officers' Association

At 7:04PM, the Board reconvened Open Session. Mr. Freedman 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. Instructions were made that there is a "raise hand" button for those who wish to participate during this meeting. For those participating by phone, please press \*9 to raise your hand and #6 to unmute your phone.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed for our Armed Forces that are protecting us abroad.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **A. Pending Service line changes at MetroWest Medical Center**

On or about Monday, July 27, 2020, VHS Acquisition Subsidiary Number 9, Inc. (d/b/a MetroWest Medical Center, intends to submit a formal ninety-day (90) notice of the proposed discontinuation of the Medical Center's Medical/Surgical Service, Intensive Care Unit, Operating Rooms, Emergency Department, and Outpatient Rehabilitation Service at MetroWest Medical Center, Leonard Morse Campus at 67 Union Street, Natick, MA 01760 ("LMC"). As a consequence of these closures, only LMC's psychiatric service, sleep lab service, and CT service will remain open.

2020 Census: Please fill out and return your census form. The federal government decides how much each town is allocated based on the Census.

## **CITIZENS' CONCERNS**

None this evening.

### **1. BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATES**

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

##### **A. Town Hall and other Municipal Building re-openings**

Mr. Erickson: We are on target for Monday, July 13, 2020, for a soft reopening of Town Hall. Some of the details for a soft opening – installing plastic shields, but looking toward permanent glass and office barriers that will actually allow people to work safely in an office environment. We will also be getting touchless faucets, paper towel dispensers and those types of items that will provide safety to employees and citizens.

Partitions would be installed at the Board table in the Board Conference room, however, we would need to consider when we would be allowed to hold a public meeting and when those restraints would be lifted.

Ms. Blondiet, Director of Human Resources: There is a comprehensive training for our staff. This is coordinated with our Town Administrator and the Department of Health. We are putting finishing touches on the rollout of this training for our employees.

##### **B. Public Health**

Mr. White: Over the last 7 days we have had 17 probable cases in Natick. We have 3 active cases in isolation in Natick. We have seen a slight uptick of 2% in the state.

Hospitalizations have also gone up. The average death rates continue to go down. The decision regarding gatherings will be made at the State level.

Susan Ramsey, Director Council on Aging: We were able to reduce anxiety by delivering meals on wheels and virtual programming for our seniors. We are also working with Bay Path elder services to provide Natick residents with grab and go lunch. Natick Connector van service will be working again by the end of the month 3 days a week in a modified fashion. This will be carrying 1 passenger at a time instead of 12. Once our building completes its modification, we will be able to resume services. We will be partnering with JFK transportation to get seniors to medical appointments. This will help us bridge that connection to health care providers. We have received help to mark out our gymnasium so we will be able to offer an exercise and fitness area.

C. Summer Programming, Karen Partanen, Director of Parks and Recreation: Scheduled to open the beach on Saturday, July 11, 2020. We have close to 800 people registered for the beach. Staff has been training all week.

#### B. Update on Town Administrator Goals

Ms. Malone: When we look ahead we want to see what policies this Board may want to focus on given we have been blown off course with COVID. We may want to get this information from a 3<sup>rd</sup> party non-biased source. Our financial forecast was accurate, but due to COVID, we need to recalibrate what and how we want to use our revenue streams. At this point we do have our 4<sup>th</sup> quarter hotel and meals numbers but we won't have data points until November and December. It is important to have that as a goal for Fiscal 20.

1. Finance – capturing what the community is looking for as a Town.
2. Governance

As we roll out and adapt, our Governance structure doesn't allow us to be as nimble as we should be. It is incumbent upon us to look at how we are delivering services and is it the best way going forward.

As a threshold matter, are we content with what we established earlier in the year? Does the Board see things differently compared to earlier in the year? These are questions we need to answer.

Some of the items need to be prioritized, for example are going virtual. A permitting system, online, would be a priority. I think that we would need to just reprioritize. Given where we are in the calendar year, financially, by October or November, it will be unlikely to do a 4 or 5 year forecast. I would actually take out the Redevelopment Authority and focus on the Permitting.

Next Steps: Please share with Ms. Malone your thoughts and input on this topic in order to not violate any Open Meeting laws and email them to her by July 17, 2020.

## 2. DISCUSSION AND DECISION

### A. Approve Extension of Premises Applications

- A. Hampton Inn/Skybokx
- B. Oga
- C. Kells
- D. Agostinos

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to approve Extension of Premises Applications for Hampton Inn/Skybokx, Oga, Kells, and Agostinos. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

### B. License for use - Public Spaces/Downtown Outdoor Dining

#### A. Agostinos

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to authorize issuance for license for use- Public spaces/Downtown Outdoor Dining, for Agostinos. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

### C. 60(R) Harwood Land Donation

This property is landlocked. The owners wish to donate the land in honor of their mother who passed away. Conservation Commission did environmental site assessment for contamination and looked at environmental contamination. There were no red flags for environmental conditions. There were no conditions included in the summary on page 20 as attached to today Looking for approval of land donation from property owner. Permission to move forward.

On a motion from Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to approve acquisition of this parcel subject to standard due diligence of Town Counsel. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

C. Stonegate Development Agreement

Mr. Hanrahan, Attorney for Stonegate is present this evening and refers to a letter that was delivered to the Town a couple of days ago. The letter is attached to this agenda and dated July 7, 2020. Mr. Hanrahan is here tonight to ask to hear the Board's response for Stonegate to "ride" until the next Town Meeting which would be sometime in the early Fall. Stonegate would like to do this only if they think there is enthusiastic support from this Board. Absent support from this Board, Stonegate has skepticism that they would gain approval at Town Meeting given an applicant has failed twice before.

Mr. Freedman: The Board does support the Development Agreement that we signed back in February. Our approach to that has not changed at all.

D. Consider Board Recommendations for Spring Annual Town Meeting

Article 20 Home Rule Petition: Amendment of Special legislation authorizing the appointment of Special Police Officers to increase the maximum age to 70

Article 25 Amend Zoning By-laws: Downtown Mixed Use Parking Zoning Amendment

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 4-0-0 to recommend no action in Article 25. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

Ms. Salamoff fell off the Zoom/Internet platform and did not vote.

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 4-0-0 to referral to sponsor in Article 20. The Moderator will be notified to recommend to Town Meeting. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

Ms. Salamoff fell off the Zoom/Internet platform and did not vote.

### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- A. Weekly Warrant Review
- B. Approve Acceptance of Donations to Recreation & Parks to offset fees associated with Recreation Programming
- C. 2020 Open Space and Recreation Plan - Letter of Endorsement

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to approve the Consent Agenda. The Roll Call 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 Ms. Adelman-Foster, the Board unanimously voted, by Roll Call Vote, to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 9:14PM. 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 July 8, 2020

\_\_\_\_\_Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes Approved by the Select Board on \_\_\_\_\_.

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

<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=767&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agend>