

SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF NATICK

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Conducted Via Virtual Meeting (ZOOM Meeting)

July 22, 2020

6:00 PM

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Melissa A. Malone, Deputy Town Administrator, James Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator, John Townsend, Dorothy Blondiet, Director of Human Resources; Paul Carew, Director of Veterans' Affairs; Executive Assistant, Joan M. McNamara

ABSENT: Michael J. Hickey, Jr.

Chairman Freedman called the meeting to order at 6:06PM. 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. We would like to take a moment of silence for John Crisafulli who recently passed away.

This evening, Mr. Paul Carew, Director of Veterans' Affairs is present to pay respect to John Crisafulli who has recently passed away. He was a Korean war veteran. Mr. Carew stated that on November 9, 2019, Mr. Crisafulli was honored by the Town of Natick with a square dedication. Mr. Carew also notes that Mr. Crisafulli was a major supporter of Veterans and raised over \$30,000 for the Memorial fund.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. 6:10PM ANNOUNCEMENTS

A. MBTA's Natick Center Station Project Update – Per attached memo

Over the next two-three weeks our contractor will be hauling heavy crushed stone for railroad bed improvements via Mechanic Street to their yard and along a portion of the Cochituate Rail Trail. The ballast will then be placed onto the track bed over the course of a weekend in early August. This weekend work will be happening continuously on the inbound track, including over Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights. It is important to note that construction activities along the railroad right-of-way must be performed during times of little or no train activity for worker and public safety reasons. In addition, utility relocation/upgrades, along with building temporary station platforms, regrading approach ramps and other construction activities are ongoing at the Natick Center site. We appreciate your continued cooperation and patience as we work to upgrade the station.

- B. District: LOVE 01760 is a community-wide public art project conceived by members of the Natick Center Cultural District, SPARK Kindness, local artists, businesses, and organizations to help connect us while we all continue to practice responsible social distancing. The town-wide collaborative art project, launched during SPARK Kindness Week, asked participants of all ages and abilities to print out a template of a half heart, decorate it and write their names on it before dropping off at The Studios @ 3 Adams. The heart halves were then connected with others making them whole and symbolizing the community's solidarity in these times of social distancing.
- C. Microenterprise Grant: On Thursday, July 16th, Governor Baker awarded \$4,950,000 in federal funds to a consortium of twenty three (23) communities across Metropolitan Boston, including Natick, to help small businesses reopen from the COVID19 pandemic. Natick will receive over \$300,000 in these federal funds, from the CDBG-CV program, for grants of up to \$10,000 to "microenterprises" located in Natick affected by COVID-related revenue losses. Microenterprises are for profit businesses that have five (5) or fewer employees, including the owner(s). The Commonwealth has placed other eligibility requirements on these grants, which will be administered by another state entity, the Massachusetts Growth Capital Corporation (MGCC). Natick's Community & Economic Development Department (CED), Economic Development Committee and Natick Center Associates will assist with marketing the program to the local business community. Interested businesses should reach out to Ted Fields in the Community & Economic Development Department. 508-647-6450.

CITIZENS' CONCERNS

Aileen Zogby raised a citizen concern regarding the correspondence section of the Select Board agenda. If this is a feature of the Select Board agenda that could be brought back, that would be great. Mr. Freedman noted that this section was being brought back.

Ms. Salamoff noted that in the past, mostly vendor correspondence had been shared, and that in order to set proper expectations as to what would be shared, a process should be considered. Mr. Freedman agreed that expectations should be set.

1. BOARD OF SELECTMEN UPDATES

A. COVID-19 Updates

Ms. Malone, Town Administrator: Natick has had a small uptick in cases over the last 5 days. The Massachusetts case rates have been holding steady to date at 1.7% over the last 9 days with a slight uptick yesterday to 2.1%. Since the March/April time frame, however, the numbers have come down.

Mr. Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator: Natick Town Hall is open to the public by appointment only. This gives us a way to control who is coming and going from the building per the order of Governor Baker pertaining to contact tracing purposes. We are keeping a log of all those coming and going per this Governor's Order. Also, additional signage has been added to the front and inside of the building. Restrooms have been marked for employees and for public usage. Also, citizens are now able to pay bills and taxes at the Collector's office as of today.

2. DISCUSSION AND DECISION

A. Approve Extension of Premises Applications

1. Mexicali Grill

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 4-0-0 to Approve the Extension of Premises application of Mexicali Grill. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

B. Announce 2020 Fall Annual Town Meeting

This agenda item will not be taken up this evening.

CONSENT AGENDA

A. Approve Municipal Employee Exemption for Recreation and Parks Department Summer Program

B. Weekly Warrant Review

C. Approve Meeting Minutes May 4, 2020 – removed

On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Adelman-Foster, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 4-0-0 to Approve Consent Agenda Items A and B only. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

Chairman Freedman reads the Executive Session topics for this evening. This portion of the meeting is not open to the public.

A. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, section 21(a)(3), to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, where an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the public body, and the chair so declares

B. 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.

Ms. Salamoff moved and Ms. Adelman-Foster seconded a motion to move into Executive Session. The Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 4-0-0 to move into Executive Session. The Vote was as follows:

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

The Board will not return to Open Session and will Adjourn directly from Executive Session.

Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Clerk

_____Select Board 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=769&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agend>