

SELECT BOARD  
TOWN OF NATICK

---

**MEETING MINUTES**

Meeting Conducted Via Virtual Meeting (ZOOM Meeting)

September 2, 2020

6:00 PM

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Administrator Melissa A. Malone, Deputy Town Administrator, James Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator, Operations, John Gadson, Director of Facilities, Dorothy Blondiet, Director of Human Resources; James Freas, Director of Community Planning and Economic Development, Jillian Wilson-Martin, Sustainability Coordinator, James Hicks, Chief of Police, Executive Assistant, Joan M. McNamara

**ABSENT:** None

Chair Freedman called the meeting to order at 6:05PM and noted that the Meeting is being recorded by Pegasus and Zoom. He also noted that all votes taken will be by Roll Call Vote. Instructions were also given 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.

Chair Freedman states that he will read the items for Executive Session this evening and also notes that we will be returning to Open Session at approximately 8:00PM. Chair Freedman noted that we have one item for Executive Session and read the following:

- 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

On a Motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to enter into Executive Session. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

Open session resumed at 8:15PM.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence was observed. Tonight the moment of silence will be observed for Mr. Mysore Ravindra who passed away on August 15, 2020. Mr. Ravindra dedicated quite a bit of time on the Building Committee as well as other Committees in Natick. He leant his experience as an Engineer to the Town on many different projects. Mr. Ravindra was an avid cricket and tennis player and was extremely moved when the Town showed its appreciation by naming the Natick High School tennis courts in his honor. Chair Freedman wishes to take this moment to celebrate his life and honor him. Ravi was one of the people that this town relied on in building the High school and Community Senior Center in addition to other contributions to the Town

### **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

#### **A. St. Patrick's Project Update**

As of 8/27/20, the Natick Building Department has approved our demolition permit for 4 & 6 Lincoln Street at the former St. Patrick's Parish Property. Our contractor will be performing the demolition sometime after Labor Day. As soon as the start date for the work is confirmed, we will let everyone know. As a reminder, we will only be tearing down the former funeral home (4 Lincoln St.) and the 2-story house/barn (6 Lincoln St.) at this time. The demolition will not include either the former school (45 E. Central St.) or the former convent (5 Wilson St.).

#### **B. Flu Clinics Update**

Appointed times for the Senior Flu Clinics of Age 50 and above scheduled for Wednesday, September 23rd & Wednesday, September 30th, at the Community Center are full; registration is currently closed.

A Drive-thru flu clinic for the general public (Natick residents only) is scheduled for Saturday, October 3, 2020, at the Department of Public Works garage located at 75 West Street. The clinic hours are 8:00 am – 4:00 pm. Please go to [www.natickma.gov](http://www.natickma.gov) for registration information and for other days that may become available.

### **CITIZENS' CONCERNS**

None.

## **SELECT BOARD UPDATES**

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

Numbers continue to trend well with low rates. As we head into Fall season, we still have concerns with what that holds for us.

Mr. Errickson: The Cole Center is planning on opening up next. We are still doing "appointments only" at the Town Hall. We are looking at an October 1 plan for a very soft opening for the Senior Center. If we see any changes in COVID numbers, that may adjust. There will, at first, be small amount of services offered at the Senior Center.

Mr. Gadson, Director of Facilities: We are in very good shape for the reopening of the schools. All the barriers are in now and are being installed. Signage will all be installed next week on the floors.

### **B. Tax Rate Primer - Informational Only**

Eric Henderson, Director of Assessing, gave an "informational only" presentation and produced a PowerPoint Presentation this evening. The full presentation is attached to the agenda. This presentation went over the "rate process".

### **C. Green Communities Grant Award**

Ms. Wilson-Martin, Sustainability Coordinator, presented the Green Communities Grant Award letter as attached to this evening's presentation. The Department of Energy Resources (DOER) Green Communities Division has approved an award of \$100,000 for the following projects proposed in the Town of Natick: \$44,234 for the Police LED lighting, interior and exterior and \$55,765 for the Wilson Middle School Retro-commissioning.

## **1. DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

### **A. Kaycha Labs - Application for Independent Testing Laboratory**

Mr. Schwartz is here on behalf of Kaycha labs. Kaycha would like to establish a testing site for cannabis. Mr. Freedman, Chair states that the Board's action would be, if we would like to move forward, to authorize the Town Administrator to establish a Host Community Agreement with Kaycha Labs.

James Freas, Director of Community Planning and Economic Development: Kaycha Labs is an independent testing laboratory. Their job is quality control testing for other business and are required to be independent. They are highly experienced and are an impressive operation. They are ISO certified in all processes and have a full security plan with regard to other properties. They receive very small quantities of marijuana and dispose of them per state requirements. This is not a retail facility. This is situated in the back of an industrial park. There are no members of the public going to this facility. They are willing to support STEM education and represent economic

development opportunities. We are recommending that the Select Board open negotiations with Kaycha labs.

Mr. Freas has also attached Kaycha Labs full RFI to this agenda as well as a Memo titled Kaycha Labs – Recommendation of the Municipal Staff Review Group for the Board and the public's review.

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Adelman-Foster, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to Authorize the Town Administrator to establish a negotiating team for the purpose of entering into negotiations with the host community agreement and Kaycha Labs and that Mr. Hickey act as the Board member representative to that negotiating team. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

**B. Accept Provisions of GL. c.110G regarding the use of electronic signatures**

Mr. Freedman explains that we would be voting on this authorization for use of electronic signatures for things like the eminent domain and the taking of land. This would become relevant, for example, in the South Main Street and North Main Street matters. Ms. North, Town Counsel, has attached a memo which outlines this specific use to this evening's agenda.

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to recognize and accept the provisions of M.G.L.c. 110G regarding the use of electronic signatures and that our members will henceforth execute documents either with electronic signatures or with "wet" ink signatures and that both will carry the same legal weight and effect. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

**C. Approve Safety Committee Recommendations for Pedestrian Safety**

This has been reviewed by the Safety Committee.

On a Motion by Ms. Adelman-Foster, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to Approve the Safety Committee Recommendations for Pedestrian Safety with respect to roadway improvements. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes

Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey:	Yes
Mr. Freedman:	Yes

**D. Discussion of Scheduling and Process for Equity Task Force**

Board members discuss whether or not pre-screening interviews should be conducted or whether all 19 interviews should be conducted with the full Select Board being present. Mr. Hickey suggested that the full Select Board should be conducting interviews with all of the 19 candidates. If the Board has any questions that they suggest, please forward those questions to Ms. Adelman-Foster or Ms. Salamoff.

**E. Select Board Sponsored Fall Annual Town Meeting Articles  
(previously referred to as the Stonegate articles)**

**Motion Article 1**

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to support that the Town amend the Town of Natick Zoning Map to change the following parcel from the Residential General (RG) Zoning District to the Downtown Mixed Use (DM) Zoning District: Assessors Map 44 Lot 180 known as 45 East Central Street. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

**Motion Article II**

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to support that the Town authorize the Board of Selectmen to file a Home Rule Petition with the General Court for a special law authorizing the Town to grant an additional license for the sale of alcoholic beverages to be drunk on the premises for the property located at 45 East Central Street, Natick. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

**CONSENT AGENDA**

**A. Weekly Warrant Review**

**B. Procurement Officer Award Contracts**

1. Approve Contract Extension with Municipal Citation Solutions, LLC for parking ticket collection services
  2. North Main/Rt. 27 Fire Alarm Relocation and Associated Work
- C. Affirm Approval of the Use of the Common for the Markey Campaign - REMOVED
- D. Approve Meeting Minutes

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to Approve items A, B and D of 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

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Hickey the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to Adjourn the Select Board Meeting at 10:45PM. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

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

---

Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_, Select Board Meeting Minutes Approved by the Select Board on \_\_\_\_\_.

All documents used at this Select Board meeting are available at:

<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=792&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agend>