

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, April 24, 2019
Swampscott, MA 01907

ATTENDANCE: Selectmen Naomi Dreeben, Chair Peter Spellios, Vice Chair Pat Jones, Selectmen Spathanas, Selectmen Hause, Town Administrator, Sean Fitzgerald

Pledge of Allegiance 7:15pm

Chair Spellios recognized Patrick Jones on his last meeting as a selectman for the Board. Selectman Jones's children Nathaniel and Lizzy were in attendance. Selectmen Jones Chair of the Planning Board, Chair of the new police dpt., along with holding many other volunteer positions. What makes a good BOS is having the commitment, showing a curiousness as well as understanding and Pat has all of that. Pat handles things with humility, a soft and powerful voice, challenges the BOS, and causes the BOS to rethink. These qualities will be hard to fill. His children are here tonight because they are really proud of their dad. Chair Spellios thanked Pat's children for sharing their dad.

Selectmen Dreeben spoke on Pat's balance and viewpoint especially to the buildings in towns. "Pat kept things light when tense times happened, it's been a job."

Selectmen Spathanas thanked Pat for his knowledge on the board and enjoyed sitting next to him and is sad he to see him leave.

Selectmen Hause recognized all Pat did for the town. "It's not the meetings it's the work that was put in between the meetings. He did a great job and his demeanor is perfect for the BOS. It is bittersweet to acknowledge all of your accomplishments."

Town Administrator Fitzgerald thanked Pat on behalf of all the town employees. "Pat always reported himself in the highest standards and on behalf of the town we are proud of you and will see the fruit of all you put into the BOS in the up and coming years."

Selectmen Jones thanked everyone that had the vote of confidence in him. He stated he tries very hard to be honest with himself and his colleagues. He said this is the hardest working Board he has worked with. The Town is very lucky to have this BOS and is in good hands.

On behalf of the BOS and Town of Swampscott Selectman Jones was presented with a beautiful chair inscribed with the town seal and Pat's name & years of service.

Welcome to Swampscott sign was brought back today. The sign is located at the entrance to Swampscott from Lynn Shore Drive. Reach Arts will rotate artwork in this sign. Thank you to Reach Arts and Don Hause for working hard to have this reinstalled.

Resident Comment

Tom Pallaria- 30 Stanwood Road- address the board on land ownership. In 2017 the BOS stated that title research proved none of the abutters owned the land in the corridor and it was owned by Tedesco, the Town and National Grid. Today, title was filed by 20 abutters proving land ownership in the corridor and the town has moved on Jan 30th to take the land from National Grid that they own within the corridor. What is left now is the taking of land of 80 or more town residents by eminent domain. 20 deeds have been filed by National Grid- adjudicating ownership. 600k- was budgeted for the taking of land by National Grid, but it ultimately has cost over 100k. Mr. Pallaria appreciates the town residents support for the last 2 years. He is disappointed to say that never did any of the BOS or leadership support the abutters right to ownership. He hopes the BOS does not move forward with the plans of taking the land by eminent domain.

Chair Report

Chair Spellios gave a current update on the Rail Trail. On Jan 30th the BOS gave an update on the Rail Trail Design. The Town also sent letters to neighbors and have met with over 60 of them. All but 75 sq. ft will be located within the former right of way of railroad and now utility area. Chair Spellios gave an update on the acquiring of easements. The town was aware that a number of neighbors living along the trail had retained counsel to reach out and challenge ownership of certain portions of the corridors along their property. The town is pleased to hear that National Grid had settled with those neighbors and decided in order to secure their easement rights, they granted 17 release deeds, but reserving for national grid the utility easement over that portion of the land. Anticipating this, the town sent letters to these neighbors and other similarly situated neighbors to discuss mitigation. The town wants to assure all neighbors all along the trail that they are willing to meet and want minimal impact to them and their family. No further action on easement acquisition will happen till at least July 1st and perhaps event later. There is no current timeline for construction. There will be a number of community meetings that will happen prior to the start of the construction. Please reach out to Chair Spellios or Marzie Galazka with any questions.

Power Point Presentation of draft Swampscott Harbor Plan by Harbor Advisory Committee- JACKSON SCHULTZ, JAY BORKLAND AND THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

The agenda included: Swampscott & the Sea, Goals of the Harbor and Waterfront Plan, Risk to Safety, Vision of the Waterfront, and Next Steps

Town Administrator went through the waterfront history of Swampscott

Discussed Swampscott's wayfaring history, and the sunken ships.

Today Swampscott is a vibrant waterfront community.

Goals are to: increase public awareness and access to the Harbor and Waterfront,

Maintain the scenic Character and rich maritime history

Think about infrastructure- damage to seawalls and hide tides- coordinate with local and state officials- look into grants- Path for resiliency and investment.

Jackson Schultz introduced the Harbor and Waterfront Advisory Committee

Jackson discussed how Swampscott is vulnerable to storms. Rates of storms dramatically increased, 2005 had 28 named storms. Showcased 10 most destructive storms in history. There is an estimated 40 million in damages over the past 25 years. It's not just the immediate coast that is at risk, Storm damage is felt far inland.

Jay Borkland spoke about the resiliency aspect and we should take advantage of the funds that are available.

Lost over \$7000 in mooring fees from storm.

Proposals in Harbor Plan

Protective living Reef

Fish house repair and upgrades

*Fisherman's Beach Pier upgrades
Swampscott Promenade and Cliff Walk Hotel Conference Center
King's beach pier at the start of the promenade
Parking
Eisman's Beach Bathhouse and Snack Shack
Phillips Beach Bathhouse and Snack Trucks
Raising and widening Fisherman's Beach Pier
Town Trolley loop ties it all together
Creating a sense of place- have art installations, festivals, celebrations and concerts
Discussed Town Goals met by the Plan
Presented funding opportunities
In May the Harbor Plan will be presented at Town Meeting.
In June the town will have 3 public listening sessions
Selectman Hause- stated if you put a resiliency plan in place, we can qualify for public funding not costing the taxpayer's money
Audience spoke about how impressed they are on the presentation. Waited a long time for this and don't want to wait any longer.
Amy Powell said the protected reef will help with the development.
Talked about how Swampscott should be more of a destination and also be celebrated. Attract people to this town.
Larry Sweazy thanked everyone. He said out of 15 new applications there was only 1 mooring. 5- guest moorings will happen this summer
Other comments from the audience:
Invest on our seaside and protect it.
Whatever we do we will do it financially responsible.
Protecting the coastline and the HWAC really pulling ideas for resiliency Swampscott can become a pilot
Selectman Dreeben stated this one plan addresses all the issues we have had in this town.
Selectman Spathanas asked when you do come back be prepared to share from the public session a common theme
Selectman Spellios thanked the presenters for the road map*

Presentation of Town Meeting Procedure

*Whisky Wolinski- spoke on behalf of the Town Meeting Procedure Committee. The committee was appointed 2 years ago, there are 3 members.
Ideas recommended by the committee:
Procedural vote at the beginning of the meeting to do away with oral reading of the article. Moderator will run it by legal counsel.
Consent agenda- decides a group of routine articles and bundle into one vote. These articles would not be controversial.
Above 2 are the strongest proposals:
Below are some other suggestions, but committee is not moving forward with them:
Folks at the back not being seen when they raise their hand- hand out hand raisers
Pre town meeting seminars
Talked about having an open town meeting
Discussed electronic voting- at the cost of 50-60k
Lottery for the warrant articles ahead of time*

Town meeting website

Presentation on the relocation of the White Court Conservation Easement- Max Kasper and Marzie Galazka
Proposing Article at Town Meeting that will include: the acceptance of the proposed public conservation restriction-the discontinuation approved entry way and the adaptation of a new entrance to the site.

Partners Nick Mennino partner and Andy Rose- spoke about the lookout that is close to the coastal bank – Selectman Spellios asked to stake to the BOS to show where it will be.

There was a discussion for a strategy for parking at the look-out area.

The BOS asked Menino to work with Marzie for a better presentation at Town Meeting of these changes.

Town Meeting Warrant review of Articles: Sean Fitzgerald and Ron Mendes

Article 1

Article 2

Article 3

Article 4

Article 5- Add breakdown of total to the warrant

Article 6-

Article 7-

Article 8

Article 9 – Come back with more information from free cash

Capital plan is lagging behind the debt management plan

Article 10 – There was a question on the transfer of the 225K to school dept line item- going to reserve and not to the school dpt.

Article 11, 12, 14, 14, 15, 16

Article 17

Article 18- Retirement board meeting with FINCON and they are presenting

Article 19

Article 20

Article 21

Article 22- Having a conversation about this with the school dpt.

Article 23

Article 24

Article 25- Recommendation from FINCON will happen next week

In the future we need to look at capital like capital and not operating expense.

Article 26

Article 27 – Reviewing language with counsel- before next week’s meeting need other suggested options from other communities

Article 28

Article 29

Article 30

Article 31

Article 32 - C & L and VFW Town parcel- language to make clear that proceeds from the VFW are reinvested to support Veteran services. This is a question for Town Counsel.

Article 33

Article 34

Placeholder for BOH on ongoing issue of dog feces and unleashed dogs. Recommendation to allow the BOH to close parks to dogs off leash. They expressed interest and will speak on this. Follow up with Jeff Vaughan, Health Inspector.

Motion was made to approve the consent agenda below by Selectmen Jones the motion was seconded by Selectmen Spathanas all BOS members were unanimously in favor.

Vote to approve a late 2019 entertainment license for Bertucci's Restaurant

Vote to approve a 1-day beer and wine license for Reach Arts Viva La Mama event on May 8, 2019

Vote to appoint Sierra Munoz as a member to the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

Vote to approve meeting minutes from September 5, 2018, September 20, 2018, March 20, 2018, and April 9, 2019

The vote for the Machon school was taken off the consent agenda and moved to the May 1st meeting.

Town Administrator gave a week in review along with department head updates

***Selectmen Time-** A number of cultural events. The Swampscott Blue Big Band will be holding a concert on the 27th at 1:30 at the first church. Also, Friday night fundraiser with Sure and Reach Arts*

Happy Administrative Assistant Day to Ana and thank you for all you do.

Selectmen Spellios- BOH took an initiative to ban the flavor of flavored cigarettes and ecigs.

The BOH voted to amend their regulation regarding tobacco and nicotine device sales. With the exception to adult 21+ tobacco only stores (only allowed to sell tobacco and nicotine products) no other vendor will be allowed to sell any flavored tobacco or nicotine products in town starting July 1 (including menthol).

Thank you to the board of health for doing what they believe is right.

Town Administrator will speak with Mayor McGee regarding the timing of the light near the Nahant rotary.

The Traffic study committee to include an examination on parking around the library. There is a lack of available parking.

Tuesday, April 30 is town election- The BOS encourages everyone to turn out and vote.

Motion to adjourn the meeting made by Selectmen Jones the motion was seconded by Selectmen Dreeben all BOS members were unanimously in favor.