



**Town of Swampscott**  
**Select Board and Board of Health Joint Meeting Minutes**  
Wednesday, July 8, 2020 – 6:00 PM  
Virtual Meeting

**SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT**

Peter Spellios (Chair), Polly Titcomb, Don Hause, Neal Duffy, David Grishman

**BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT**

Marianne Hartmann, (Chair), Emily Cilley, Stephanie Goodman

**MEMBERS ABSENT**

None

**OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT**

Julie Delillo, Interim Town Administrator; Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator; Ron Mendes, Assistant Town Administrator of Administration and Finance; Michael McClung, Town Moderator; Marzie Galazka, Director of Community & Economic Development; Molly O’Connell, Senior Planner; Gino Cresta, Assistant Town Administrator of Operations

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm

Select Board Chair Peter Spellios congratulated and welcomed the two recently-elected Select Board members, David Grishman and Neal Duffy.

Mr. Spellios spoke about in what ways the Town and school have continued to engage in dialog in important discussions about racial justice, and the need for actual action to address the themes coming out of these discussions and forums. The Town is working on putting together implicit bias training for all staff and committees – including the Select Board, Planning Board, Zoning Board, and others. Mr. Spellios also commented on the need to address the lack of diversity in Town staff and the possibility of creating the position of Diversity Officer.

Aaron Berdofe from the Swampscott Racial Justice Action Group spoke briefly about the organization’s mission, and shared a poster “Everyone is Welcome Here”. The organization will work with businesses to include the poster in windows.

Marianne Hartmann commented that the Board of Health should put together a task force to move forward ideas on how to address racial inequality and issues in Swampscott.

Neal Duffy brought up affordable housing and that addressing this would go a long way to increase diversity and support the community. He commented that a Diversity Masterplan could be a valuable process.

There was a discussion about having a Select Board meeting specifically about this topic and how to move forward on action items.

Select Board Member Don Hause stated that he will be hosting a question and answer session from 6:00-7:30pm.

### **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Several residents spoke on the topic of racial justice and encouraged the Town to look not just at macro-issues of racial justice, but also the micro-issues including the upcoming forum with Don Hause. One resident raised concerns about the assertion by some residents that the Select Board doesn't play a role in racial justice. She asked what the role of the Select Board believes they have in regards to racial justice and could there be anything permanent and enduring that could be stated on the part of the town to ensure justice and equality for all citizens.

Marianne commented that all boards should be contributing to this conversation. Town Moderator stated that he would commit to this.

One resident asked what the cost is for a recall election. Election expenses comes out of Town Clerk's Office. Ron Mendes will follow-up with the expense

### **COVID-19 UPDATE**

Neia Illingworth provided a brief update on the COVID-19 lab-confirmed cases in Swampscott. To date, there have been 133 cases.

Marianne Hartmann spoke about the issues occurring on public fields. There have been youth and adult groups arranging organized sports which is not currently safe or permissible by the state or town. Permitted sports programs consisting of drills is allowable. Additionally, any organized group activity on the field needs a permit from the Athletic Director. Mr. Spellios acknowledged that Little League has modeled best practice by taking all safety plans and considerations seriously.

### **ORGANIC FIELD MAINTENANCE**

Marianne Hartmann provided some background on conversations around applying organic materials to fields for maintenance purposes and commented that there is currently no funding in the budget for the switch to organics. It is a long-term expense. The process for transitioning to organic materials is a 3-5 year process during which time fields may not look as healthy as they do now. After 5 years they will then improve. Marianne commented that a budget for organic field maintenance should come forth to Town Meeting. The Boards requested becoming more information about the cost implications of this change and how it could be incorporated into the budget.

It was suggested that the Athletic Field Advisory Committee and Town Administration work together to produce a maintenance plan and that a report be provided to the board in September.

Select Board member Neal Duffy commented that there are questions about what is being applied to the fields right now and the need to communicate that to the public.

At the Board of Health's request, Select Board Member Polly Titcomb provided information about the new Waste Removal Program and the information session scheduled for July 9. There was a discussion about how the program will certainly challenge many households, but this is a financial necessity that hopefully will result in households thinking creatively about waste disposal and generating less waste.

On Board of Health **MOTION** (Cilley) and **SECONDED** (Goodman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to adjourn the Board of Health portion of the meeting. Roll Call: Hartmann (YES) Cilley (YES) Goodman (YES)

### **GENERAL FUND TRANSFER**

Assistant Town Administrator Ron Mendes outlined line items that need additional funding, as well as line items where funding is still available. Chairman Spellios asked that there be some analysis into the budget and operations of the cemetery.

On **MOTION** (Titcomb) it was **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve transfers as presented. Roll call: Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Hause (YES) Spellios (YES)

### **RFI FOR 86 BURRILL ST.**

Director of Community and Economic Development Marzie Galazka provided a brief history of the former Police Station located at 86 Burrill St. The Town put out an RFI to assess all options and gain insight from public – private and public – for the best use of the space. The Town received 5 responses:

- Swampscott Historical Commission
- Arsenal Consulting (Digital Forensics Consulting Firm)
- Breen Construction Services LLC
- Anchor Food Pantry
- Big Blue Bargains

There was a discussion of the ambulance service and the terms of the lease and whether or not the service could be relocated. There was a question about whether Big Blue Bargain and Anchor Food Pantry could cohabitate. There was a lot of interest in the building being used for a community-based organizations.

The Select Board requested that the Request for Proposals prioritize the use of the building by community-based organizations. The Select Board will coordinate a time to do a site-visit of the building.

## **OUTDOOR SEATING**

The Select Board discussed an application for outdoor seating and an ABCC license for Thai Thani to consume alcohol outside. There will be no loss of parking.

On **MOTION** (Hause) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve Thai Thani's application outdoor seating and the ABCC application. Roll Call: Hause (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (YES) Titcomb (YES) Spellios (YES)

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

National Grid petitions were taken out of the Consent Agenda to be discussed separately. The remaining consent agenda items are:

- Review of meeting minutes from the following meetings: June 24, 2020
- Approval of 1634 Meadery LLC Application by a Farmer Winery for License to Sell at a Farmer's Market for the Swampscott Farmers Market
- Approval of Application for Common Victuallers' License for Flip the Bird located at 450 Paradise Rd.

On **MOTION** (Hause) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve the consent agenda. Hause (YES) Titcomb (YES) Grishman (YES) Duffy (YES) Spellios (YES)

## **NATIONAL GRID PETITIONS**

A representative of National Grid and Gino Cresta reviewed two petitions.

- Approval of petition of National Grid to excavate the public highways and to run and maintain underground electric conduits, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as it may find necessary for the transmission of electricity, said underground conduits: Eastman Avenue
- Approval of petition on National Grid to locate poles, wires, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures along and across the following public way: Eastman Avenue

Chairman Spellios stated that there needs to be progress on issues raised with previous petitions presented to the Select Board.

On **MOTION** (Duffy) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve two petitions on Eastman Ave. as shown. Roll Call: Grishman (YES) Duffy (YES) Spellios (YES) Hause (YES)

## **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT**

- Farmers Market
- Re-opening Town Hall on Monday, July 13
- Senior Center starting rides for shopping
- Food Summer Food Distribution Program

- DPW Projects
- Fire Department HVAC upgrades
- Fire/Police Dept. collaborating on grant
- Birthday Drive-bys

### **SELECT BOARD TIME**

- Polly Titcomb provided information about the Waste Reduction Program presentation on July 9.
- David Grishman asked about parking restrictions at beaches due to COVID-19. Chairman Spellios indicated this would be brought to an upcoming Emergency Management Team meeting.
- Neal Duffy asked about the process for assigning board liaisons, which will be voted upon on the same day as board appointment.
- Peter Spellios raised issues about fireworks and requested that this be discussed with the Police Chief.

On **MOTION** (Hause) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to adjourn the meeting. Roll call: Grishman (YES) Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Titcomb (YES) Hause (YES)

Meeting adjourned at 9:18 PM

True Attest,



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Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator

*Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 8/4/2020*