



Town of Swampscott
Select Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, September 2, 2020 – 6:00 PM
Virtual Meeting

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

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

BOARD OF HEALTH MEMBERS PRESENT

Marianne Hartmann (Chair), Emily Cilley, Stephanie Goodman

MEMBERS ABSENT

None

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENT

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator; Ron Mendes, Assistant Town Administrator – Administration and Finance; Marzie Galazka, Director of Community & Economic Development; Molly O’Connell, Senior Planner; Joe Doulette, Cable TV Coordinator; Alyce Deveau, Library Director; Neia Illingworth, Public Health Nurse; Jeff Vaughan, Public Health Director

The meeting was called to order at 6:05pm

COVID-19 UPDATE

Neia Illingworth shared a graph of lab confirmed cases and probable cases. This graph is comprised of interactive data demonstrating positive case trends and can be found on the Swampscott website. This data comes from the state’s online reporting system (MAVEN). As of 9/2/20 there have been 160 lab confirmed cases. Individuals who have completed isolation is 159. There have been 29 probable cases and 10 deaths.

MANDATORY MASK ORDER ZONE

Jeff Vaughan presented a proposal for mandatory mask zones in 3 regions of Swampscott: Humphrey St. (Shelton Rd. to Lynn Line), and by the MBTA station. The justification behind the order sites concerns about high volume areas where people cross paths more frequently, increasing requests from residents about zones, increased transmission in neighboring Towns, and the need to remind people about mask education in general.

He shared text from an Emergency Order as well as a graphic of signs that will be placed around to help enforce the order.

There were some questions about how these zones will be enforced. Mr. Vaughan provided a few examples of other communities that have ambassadors or Police enforcement. There were some concerns about safety to ambassadors. Town Administrator Fitzgerald commented that the Police Department and Board of Health have worked well together and that the goal is to work with citizens and educate them.

Board of Health member Stephanie Goodman pointed out that implementing these zones ensures that diners remain safe from passerbyers while dining outdoors. There was a question about whether or not there is a present issue with mask-wearing in this area. Mr. Vaughan confirmed there have been complaints about this issue. It was determined in conversation that volunteers or ambassadors is not safe option.

There was a discussion about the protests that occur in this zone

The Board of Health elected to table the new policy and discuss it at their Board of Health meeting on Tuesday, September 8.

DIVERSITY

Chairman Peter Spellios shared an image of graffiti at Preston Beach on rocks (blacked out).

He introduce Tamy-Fee Meneide, Swampscott resident working in the education sector in charter/urban schools. She stated that a lot of community groups have formed to address issues in racial equality in Swampscott, and that it is time to bring some structure on the Town level to make the town welcoming. She shared a graphic: “Becoming Anti-Racist” which shows different zones – Fear Zone (ex. I avoid hard questions), Learning Zone (I recognize racism is a present & current problem), and Growth Zone (I speak out when I see Racism in action). Ultimately we as a Town need to move from the “I” to the “We” – the transformational change at the Town level.

Ms. Meneide stated that the issues the Town is setting out to address is a multi-pronged approach. There has to be a personal journey with each individual taking on a leadership role in the Town. This does not need to be in a public forum.

The Select Board and Board of Health discussed a forum to bring together the community to begin to highlight issues in diversity in Swampscott, to better frame the effort to create a diversity coalition. There is a question about whether or not the focus should be just on racial equality but also a larger conversation about diversity including sexual preference, sexual orientation, abilities, socio-economic. There was not consensus on this topic and is up for further discussion.

LIBRARY REOPENING

Director of the Swampscott Public Library, Alyce Deveau provided a presentation on a potential reopening plan for the library. She started by sharing what other libraries in the Noble Library System are doing to demonstrate where Swampscott falls in the spectrum of services.

She discussed 3 Phases:

- Phase 1: Current operations (window service, home delivery, online programs)
- Phase 2: Indoor limited use of computers
- Phase 3: Use of library by limited number of patrons by appointment only for the purpose of browsing, checking out books, and utilizing computers.

In each phase she outlined what safety precautions will be put in place.

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

ELEMENTARY SCHOOL PROJECT

Chairman Spellios framed the discussion that in the case that Hadley School becomes excess property it is important the Board begin now discussing how that building could be utilized. There was a brief discussion about potential options, and several board members expressed interest in the space being maintained and repurposed not for residences, but for creative uses such as incubator spaces, commercial space, etc.

CALYX PEAK RETAIL MARIJUANA ESTABLISHMENT

Direct of Community & Economic Development Marzie Galazka provided background information about the property at 16 New Ocean St. and the RFP process which resulted in the selection of Calyx Peak Companies

Following up on a community meeting, Peter D'Agostino shared the same presentation given to the community. Calyx Peak is proposing to open adult-use marijuana retail establishment at 16 New Ocean St. The facility meets all current zoning requirements. Calyx must still complete a Host Community Agreement with town of Swampscott and then go through the state licensing process conducted by the Cannabis Control Commission.

Mr. D'Agostino presented plans to replace existing building with a new building, which will allow for better parking and will comply with all security requirements. There will be no production or manufacturing on site so will have no odor issues.

Mr. D'Agostino discussed security which is highly regulated by CCC. It goes well beyond the placement of cameras and other physical security measures. Includes engagement with the community, police, and fire dept. Calyx has incorporated policies into operation of facility to address security, under-age access, and the prevention of diversion.

Calyx will need to address employee parking as no employees will be permitted to park on the street. There are concerns about traffic flow and Calyx will be performing a traffic study.

Resident spoke to express concern and encourage greater public participation. Chairman Spellios reviewed the process in the past and what next steps will engage the community. Multiple residents expressed concern about lack of public outreach and engagement by the Select Board.

The Select Board will work with the Office of Community & Economic Development to schedule a site visit.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** by roll call to authorize the Town Administrator and the Director of Community & Economic Development to open negotiations with Calyx Peak Companies for a Host Community Agreement. Hause (YES) Titcomb (YES) Grishman (YES) Duffy (YES) Spellios (YES)

WATER & SEWER

Ron Mendes presented a recommendation for an ad hoc working group to explore Tiered Water Rates. It was asked that two residents (one a business owner) and one Select Board member also be appointed to the board.

On **MOTION** (Grishman) and **SECONDED** (Titcomb) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve water sewer tiered rate task force membership as presented plus two residents and a Select Board member, and that Neal Duffy will be the member of the task force. Roll call: Hause (YES) Titcomb (YES) Grishman (YES) Duffy (YES) Spellios (YES)

VERIZON NEGOTIATIONS

Assistant to the Town Administrator Ron Mendes shared a list of the makeup of the Verizon Negotiation working group. David Grishman will serve on the board.

On **MOTION** (Duffy) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve the negotiating team and ascertainment committee as presented and allow Joe Douillette and Town Administrator to be on the committee. Grishman (YES) Titcomb (YES) Duffy (YES) Hause (YES) Spellios (YES)

BLIGHTED PROPERTY

The Select Board discussed blighted property at the gas station on Paradise Rd. and the Glover Property. Town Administrator Fitzgerald spoke about actions that had been taken, the most recent letter sent out, and future fines.

CONSENT AGENDA

- Vote to approve meeting minutes from August 19, 2020

On **MOTION** (Hause) and **SECONDED** (Hause) it was **VOTED** (by roll call) to approve the consent agenda with amendments to the National Grid petitions as put forth by Ms. Titcomb.

TOWN ADMINSTRATOR UPDATE

- Update on food delivery services
- Blighted properties
- Facilities
- Facilities Electric Vehicle Incentive Program
- Town Clerk early voting information
- Fire Department grant
- Police Department grant
- Civil Service Committee
- Cable Negotiations
- COVID Update
- Graffiti

On **MOTION** (Duffy) 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 8:57 PM

True Attest,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allie Fiske". The signature is stylized with a large, looped "A" and a cursive "F".

Allie Fiske, Assistant to the Town Administrator

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board 9/16/20