

The Board of Selectmen met on Tuesday, August 04, 2020 remotely at 7:00 pm. Board member David Salvatore was absent. The following Board members were present:

Benjamin Barrett, Chair
Nancy Mackenzie, Vice Chair
Mark Gallivan, Clerk
James O'Neil

Also participating
James Johnson, Town Administrator
Patrick Shield, Assistant Town Administrator
Aoife Kelly, Executive Assistant

Executive Order on Remote Participation

Thursday March 12, 2020 governor Baker issue and "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting G.L. c 30A Section 20. That order, which was effective immediately and until it is rescinded or the State of Emergency is terminated.

Chair to announce that all members will be participating remotely during the meeting due to unprecedented time in history of the Commonwealth. The Governor has authorized remote Participation for all public boards due to the Emergency declaration order that was issued on March 12, 2020. Every vote taken will be taken by roll call vote.

Chair Barrett called the meeting to order followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Appointments

7:05pm – (P.H.) Ganen Walpole, Inc., d/b/a Sakura, 691 Main Street

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to open the public hearing. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0). With no communication on this matter from the public, on motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan and on roll call vote of the Board, voted 4-0-0 to close the public hearing. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan and on roll call vote of the Board, voted 4-0-0 to approve the transfer of the license. **Jim Johnson**, they applied for an entertainment license for one tv and radio music, I would like to request that we grant that approval. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve request for an entertainment license. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

7:15pm – Police Chief Carmichael

➤ Introduction of Officers: (New officers Baker, Mitchell, & Ordway)

Chief Carmichael we have three officers that graduated from the academy. Officer Baker & Mitchell have already completed 12 weeks of field training program and Officer Ordway has completed phase one. **Chair Barrett**, that you all for joining us and we appreciate you taking the time to be with us. **Board member O'Neil**, welcome and looking forward to working with you, thanks for what you are doing and being willing to protect us as a community. **Clerk Gallivan**, congratulations and look forward to meeting you out on the street. **Vice Chair Mackenzie**, welcome and sorry, you had to graduate under such horrible circumstances but we are all very lucky to have you.

➤ Valor Awards: Officers Genard, Habr, Byrd, Slavin & Foley

Chief Carmichael this evening we recognized five officers from the Police Department and we awarded them with the Medal of Valor. It is the highest award of the Walpole Police Department. We had several situations that our officers responded to difficult situations. Officer Byrd responded to an emotional disturbed person call for a person with a gun inside a neighborhood. Officer Habr and Genard responded to an emotional disturbed person a person on a roof. Officer Slavin, Genard and Detective Foley responded to the armed robbery at

Cumberland Farms. Because of each of these incidents, we wanted to recognize them for their commitment to the community and for keeping our community safe. **Chair Barrett**, it was great to see you all at the ceremony and congratulations again. Thank you so much not only for your actions on the evenings in questions but also for the work you do for the department. **Board member O'Neil**, congratulations and I am so pleased that we are taking the time to recognize the great work that our police officers do. I could not be more pleased with the way Chief Carmichael has the department running. **Clerk Gallivan**, thank you for all your fine work in protecting the citizens of Walpole. It is great to see the fine work that you are doing, I especially like the community policing idea, so congratulations and thank you. **Vice Chair Mackenzie**, great job everybody these last few months have been more difficult than ever and the way the country has been treating and talking about treating police it is not right and not kind. Yet you guys go to work every day and do your job, and most of us really appreciate it so thank you.

➤ Presentation of top candidate Sergeant John White for Lieutenant Position.

Chief Carmichael, part of our strategic plan is additional officers and making sure our command staff is up to par. This Lieutenant position is going to be in charge of all of our community services. Sergeants Becker, Benner and White were the top candidate. Several board members had the opportunity to interview all three. Deputy Chief Kelleher and myself concluded that Sergeant White would be our recommendation. He did achieve the highest mark on the assessment center and has been a police officer here since 2005, and a Sergeant since 2011. Veteran of the United States Army and he has a Bachelor's degree from UMASS, a Masters from Curry College and a Juris Doctorate Degree from the New England School of Law. I ask the Board's consideration in accepting our recommendation. **Sergeant White**, I have been here for the last fifteen years, I have been in public service since I was 18. I think we have a great organization and group of people, the town is fantastic. We have a great community policing program and I am excited to be a part of it. **Board member O'Neil**, I wholeheartedly support this nomination, but I also wanted to say that Sergeant Becker and Benner did an outstanding job in the interview process, and this is good for the future of the department. Sergeant White you are the right choice, your background is incredible, your command presence was superb in the interview. Congratulations on the nomination and I think you will make a fine Lieutenant. **Clerk Gallivan**, I really enjoyed our time on the call, I think you will make a fine Lieutenant and you will get my vote. **Vice Chair Mackenzie**, congratulations, John you are going to do a fabulous job and the other two candidates are awesome too. **Chair Barrett**, I would just echo what everyone has said. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to promote Sergeant White to the position of Lieutenant in the Walpole Police Department. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

➤ Quarterly Report: Focus on Community Policing philosophy

Chief Carmichael, when Jim was the Chair he mentioned he would like to see a discussion brought to the Board about community policing. In light of everything that has been going on in the police world that can also translate into what is being done for twenty-first century policing. The big question when I became Chief was how to measure performance. The performance of the department is measured by the community, and they determine the effectiveness of the department. The strategies of it need to be accepted by the community, buy in from the department and performed from the top down. We did a citizen survey back in 2014/2015; we ended up getting over 3,000 responses. They wanted to see the department engaging the community more, they wanted us to develop partnerships, more problem solving orientated. What we found was in certain situations arrest was not solving the problem and community policing is about identifying the underlying issues and curbing these issues so they don't reoccur, mental health is one of the most frequent calls now. We came up with programs, such as the positive ticket program. We added an SRO in the schools who has a golden retriever with him, which has many documented situations of helping to deescalate and calm. This year we are a finalist for an award with the US Attorney's Office for distinguished work in policing. **Clerk Gallivan**, I am a big supporter of community policing and I love that you continue to adapt and evolve. Great job to you and the department. **Board member O'Neil** I sensed there was a lack of knowledge in the community about what you were doing in the community policing program, and thought this was a good venue to do that in. I think you do an outstanding job and going back to the strategic plan that was such a central component of it. Your philosophy

as Chief reignites well within the department. You took those responses and built them into the strategic plan. **Chair Barrett**, I would echo everything that has been said, the department and Chief are doing a great job at executing on this vision. We can always have additional training, particularly when we look at the twenty first century policing packet, one of the key note pieces of that in having accountability, approachability of police officers, is implicit bias, and I think it is incumbent upon us to do everything that we can both as a community and a department to confront that. Maybe it is time to have another citizen survey. **Chief Carmichael**, thanks I appreciate all the comments, and I would be remiss if we didn't recognize twenty first century policing. They came up with very good recommendations most of which this department has adopted. It is something we can always get better and policing changes all the time so we have to be ready to adapt. It's tough to watch these cities across the country that are now just doing implicit bias training, talking about use of force. Procedural justice has been extremely important to us, allowing people to have a voice during encounters. Something that we will continue to work on and the command staff has discussed the survey and definitely something that we want to do.

7:45pm – Norfolk County Presentation with regards to request of lease to purchase option

Jim Johnson, the county is proposing a solar farm at two sites and they are required to offer it as a lease to the Town. Supt. Tammy Quinn is going to give us a quick introduction and then Andrew from Kearsarge is going to walk us through the project. **Supt. Tammy Quinn** gave a brief overview of the environmental science program at the Aggie. Installing solar would enable the school to run on clean energy, allow the students to see the benefits on a daily basis, and would like to see our campus mirror our commitment to solar energy. **Andrew Bernstein** gave an overview presentation on the proposed project and spoke on the background of Kearsarge Energy and the various public private partnership they are involved in. He detailed the two ground mounted projects they are looking to develop which they will own and operate. The taxes to the Town over the twenty years will be in the range of \$1.5million, they could also provide excess electricity to the Town all while trying to maintain the fiscal strength of the school. Fisher St ground mount is very far away from any neighbors. North St ground mount, on the north side there is very limited visibility from the road and 300ft from the homes but on the other portion, they will be adding extensive screening as cars are driving up South St where you could see the corner of the arrays. **Vice Chair Mackenzie**, as far as voting, my concern is the public can't give us their comments. What is the Aggie currently using for renewal energy and how will it fit into their curriculum. **Tammy**, we don't have solar on campus; it will be a huge piece of the environmental science program. **Jim Johnson**, our ninety days are up on September 25, 2020, I believe the first year of the lease is roughly \$200,000. **Chair Barrett**, this is the county's land and project and all we would be voting on tonight is if we wanted to take on this lease. If people have, comment on this they should send them into the county. **Clerk Gallivan**, the most amount of outreach you can do for the neighbors would be great; I had some reach out to me today. The only thing we get to vote on is the leasing of the land, which is a simple decision from my perspective. Neighbors need a little more vision on the project and to make suggestions. **Board member O'Neil**, have we done any cost benefit analysis? I think it is important that we understand the tradeoffs. **Jim Johnson**, it would take in terms of revenue approx. \$100,000 in taxes versus the \$200,000 we would pay out with a 1.5% escalator. Both of those sites are pristine sites that even some of the neighbors have expressed concerns to me. At this point it is a matter of coming up with the \$200,000 for the next twenty years. **Chair Barrett**, we would need to convene a Special Town Meeting by that date in order to consider this. **Board member O'Neil**, what level of guarantee we could get that these arrays are not going to be visible. **Andrew**, can never say it will be 100% invisible, but happy to commit that we will continue to maintain the trees, work with landscapers to come up with a plan. The guarantee is that we will try to work with the neighbors from the start. **Board member O'Neil**, is there a way to minimize the footprint? **Andrew**, the numbers we presented are based on a certain size project, can move about 5% of the panels around. **Board member O'Neil**, I would like to get public input, and if we could wait until the next meeting, I would like to have a full board when we take that vote. **Vice Chair Mackenzie**, they came in two years ago and we weren't interested then and now they bring it again when municipalities are strapped for cash, it's almost like they came back when they knew it would be not financially possible for us. Does it go before the planning board? **Jim Johnson**, Walpole has a

zoning overlay district to outline that specific parcel to be voted on at Town Meeting. The county's position is they are not required to do this, as they are exempt. **Attorney Scott Lopez**, the county is exempt from zoning, we want to work with the Town and meet the requirements the Town reasonably requests, however we can move forward with the project even though the area in question is not zoned for solar. **Jim Johnson**, this is not the Town's proposal, we are not pushing for this, and the Select Board's option is whether to lease the property. **Chair Barrett**, seeing no motion, we will continue discussion of this item at another meeting. **Jim Johnson**, Special Town Meeting requires seven days advance notice. Public comment was received from the following residents, Rudy Barajas, Tracy Firth, Susan Shocket, Brian Murphy, Anthony & Deanna Fruci and Victor Scena. **Vice Chair Mackenzie**, I am looking for suggestions on how we would pay for this, we agree we would love to keep the open space, the help we need is how to make it possible for the Town to lease this land.

8:15pm – Historical Commission interviews and vote for appointment

➤ Mike Amaral

Mike, I am an associate member of the commission. I am asking for the Board's consideration to appoint me as a voting member, I originally served on the commission from 2007-2015, and served as Chair from 2011-2015. I was instrumental in working out the application and nomination of Union Station to the national register of historic places. More recently as an associate member, I came up with two initiatives, to address the vandalism of the Endean Estate site and I proposed the rail tunnel going under 1A be considered for a national register of historic places nomination. As a person that was raised in Walpole, I provide a local viewpoint on the historical commission. I have a lot of respect for Rob Doane and was impressed with his background, great to have other people get involved.

➤ Ryan Bringham

Ryan, I grew up in Walpole with a love for history and I have a bachelor's degree in history and currently work at Tufts University. The historical buildings and sites in our town are a powerful way for people to connect with their ancestors and my concern is once you lose them they are gone forever. I have a passion to do what I can to help preserve historical buildings and sites, so they can be shared with future generations, I think it's more urgent than ever to preserve, protect and enhance the public visibility of our historic buildings so we can move forward without losing our links to Walpole's past.

➤ Rob Doane

Rob, I want to thank Mike for his comments, I have nothing but respect for him as well. My professional background has been in the historic field for about 15 years. I have submitted nominations for two properties to the national register, nothing in this area but I have experience on how the process works. I have been active with the commission for a year now as an associate member, bringing some of my own knowledge to the process. The heart of the commission's work is trying to figure out when we can work with a property owner to help save the building, just help the owner understand the process. I have started a facebook page to advertise a bit more of what we do.

➤ Philip Graham

Philip, I have a doctorate in anthropological archaeology and have been privileged to work in many sites all over the world. The growth that has been happening, I really wanted to get involved with the town. My passion is really preservation, dealing with historical landscapes. I thought my skills might be complimentary to some of the skills already present on the commission.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to appoint Rob Doane to the historical commission for 3 years. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0). **Vice Chair Mackenzie**, that will open an associate position and what would be the process to add another associate. **Chair Barrett**, yes anyone that has an interest we should be able to involve them, and if this board needed to add a position then we could.

8:25pm – Norfolk County Advisory Board interview and vote for appointment

Robert, this is a great opportunity to represent the town I love and play a role in some key decisions to benefit the town. It would give me an opportunity to engage with representatives from other towns. The agricultural school falls under the budget of the Norfolk County, making sure the school got what they needed. I have been a RTM for 11 years and a Library Trustee for 7 years and I have good experience with budgeting, how to collaborate with others. We may not always vote the same way but I respect everyone and get that respect in return. **Board member O'Neil**, thank you for applying and I like what you said and I think you would do a fine job so you have my support. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to appoint Robert Damish to the Norfolk County Advisory Board for a one-year term. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

New Business

Vote on request from NSTAR Electric for grant of location for a pole relocation at 1925 Washington Street

Jim Johnson, this is a request for a grant of location for pole relocation at 1925 Washington Street. It is located right in someone's driveway. Carl Balduf our Town Engineer sent a letter recommending approval of this request from his department. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to grant the request from NSTAR Electric to relocate the pole at 1925 Washington Street as approved by our Town Engineer. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to approve location for Signage within ROW of North Street and Bubbling Brook Road

Jim Johnson, these are related to the improvements that 1350 North Street were required to make, Carl is comfortable with the signage and the police have signed off. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve the location for signage within ROW of North Street and Bubbling Brook Road as presented. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Review and Vote on proposed updated charge for the Economic Development Commission

Chair Barrett, I spoke with Marc Romeo, Chair of the EDC, the idea being that we wanted to change the intent of the charge but also tie it to some documents that are approved at the Town level. It ties us to some of the planning that has been done here in Town. **Board member O'Neil**, I think this is important and overdue and I support it, thanks. **Vice Chair Mackenzie**, appreciate all the work you guys did to get this done, thank you. **Clerk Gallivan**, yes I feel the same way I think it is a good change. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve the updated charge for the Economic Development Commission. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to sign the September 01, 2020 State Primary Warrant

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to sign the September 01, 2020 State Primary Warrant. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote request of David & Anne Marie Jenks to use Adams Farm on September 12, 2020 for a wedding ceremony

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve request of David & Anne Marie Jenks to use Adams Farm on September 12, 2020 for a wedding ceremony. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0). **Jim Johnson**, Aoife has reached out to both of these groups and just said we need to be mindful of requirements as far as group gatherings and it could change.

Vote request of Liz Burgess to use Adams Farm on August 31, 2020 for a yearbook signing

Vice Chair Mackenzie, this is a great creative idea, great job Liz. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve request of Liz Burgess to use Adams Farm on August 31, 2020 for a yearbook signing. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote request of Bike to the Beach to use town roads on September 05, 2020 for a charity ride for Autism Speaks

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve request of Bike to the Beach to use town roads on September 05, 2020 for a charity ride for Autism Speaks. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to confirm the appointment of the Town Administrator as the tax title custodian, and further to ratify, validate, and confirm any past actions of the Town Administrator as tax title custodian, and further to authorize the Town Administrator to sign all documents and take all necessary actions related to the sale of tax title properties

Jim Johnson, Marilyn could not find the vote that authorized me as tax title custodian. So, after speaking with Town Counsel they suggested we place this item on the agenda since we had the meeting tonight and the closing on both of the tax title properties at noon on Thursday. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to confirm the appointment of the Town Administrator as the tax title custodian, and further to ratify, validate, and confirm any past actions of the Town Administrator as tax title custodian, and further to authorize the Town Administrator to sign all documents and take all necessary actions related to the sale of tax title properties. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan voted to accept with gratitude the following donation:

Donna Sherman to Walpole Trails Committee Gift Account \$50

Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Town Administrator's Update

COVID Update:

There are 263 total confirmed positive cases in Walpole, with three active cases right now.

Storm Update:

Currently have about 991 households without power. Baker Street, Carriage Lane, Common Street, North Street near Northwood are closed due to wire issues. Eversource are aware of the incidents, we have a crew of two parks guys that stayed on and will be on past midnight. Only two water outages that are going to be resolved soon and on backup generators.

Community Development:

Ashley pursued the community development block grant and successfully partnered with other area communities. Walpole was able to get \$90,000 and will be able to award grants of up to \$10,000 per business. Application period is open until the end of August and currently have 32 businesses that are interested in pursuing it. \$9,000 of that was awarded to the Food Pantry and Bill is making the determination as to whether or not they are going to pursue that. So great work from Ashley.

Town Meeting:

Starting to prepare for Town Meeting, currently have a draft warrant; departments have submitted their capital budgets. I don't anticipate we will have much money for capital as I think any undesignated fund balance that we have should go toward the stabilization and savings.

Marilyn Thompson:

I have received her formal retirement notice; she had done a great job working for us for the past 7+ years. If we didn't have her we wouldn't have been able to do all the borrowing and the creative financing that we did to get all the buildings constructed in recent years. I know we have a capable bench; Jodi and Lisa have been doing a great job.

Reopening Public Buildings:

Town Hall, Blackburn, Police Department, Fire Department have all been reopened over the past few weeks. We are getting traffic in here and haven't had any issues with people not wearing masks and it has been going well. Opening the library on a limited basis but by September 7, they have to be open 59 hours per the Mass Board of Library Commissioners. The senior center is slowly adding outdoor activities, but nothing inside.

In person Meeting:

Boards are starting to enquire about in person meetings, the Planning Board met at the High School and already asked for another date there. Not sure when this Board wants to talk about that. **Board member O'Neil**, I'm not sure we are ready to come back in just yet. Seeing a little spike in the numbers right now and from where I am sitting this is working out ok. **Vice Chair Mackenzie**, we should start looking at a plan as to how it is going to look when do and maybe start at the planning stage. I would say end of September is when we should be looking at progressing that way. **Board member O'Neil**, another thing is the Fall Town Meeting, its not too soon to start thinking about what that plan is going to look like. **Jim Johnson**, I have reached out to Dan and he is thinking about it. You will note when you get the warrant I have highlighted the time and place. I think we should close the warrant, give to Town Counsel to review but we should leave it open as long as legally possible and come up with a plan with Dan for the place. We have booked the football field for a few Saturdays in October and the auditorium for the standard third Monday. **Chair Barrett**, let's definitely keep the Board up to date on that and willing to support the moderator on whatever he thinks.

Minutes

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve the Minutes of July 14, 2020. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Executive Session

Chair Barrett stated the Board's intention to go into Executive Session for Purpose 3: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares and the Board will not return to open session at the conclusion of the executive session.

On motion of Chair Barrett, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to enter into executive session for the purpose stated, with the Board not returning to open session at the conclusion of the executive session. Those in favor: Board members Mackenzie, Gallivan, O'Neil and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0).

The Board moved out of executive session at 9:40 p.m.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 9:40 p.m.