

The Board of Selectmen met on Tuesday, August 18, 2020 remotely at 7:00 pm. The following Board members were present:

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

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 issued an 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 That order, which was effective immediately and until it is rescinded or the State of Emergency is terminated.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 the 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) All Alcohol Common Victualler's License for Gregoriadis Inc., d/b/a GG Pizza Company

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to open the public hearing. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Mackenzie, Gallivan, Salvatore and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Socrates Gregoriadis President of GG Pizza Company, I was recently in front of the Board for a common victualler's license and we have been doing well and customers have been asking for alcohol service. **Board member O'Neil**, glad to see you doing this. **Clerk Gallivan**, congratulations I hear you are doing well and I am in favor and paperwork looks good. With no communication on this matter from the public, on motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Chair Barrett and on roll call vote of the Board, voted 5-0-0 to close the public hearing. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan and on roll call vote of the Board, voted 5-0-0 to approve the all alcohol common victualler's license application for Gregoriadis Inc., dba GG Pizza Company.

7:15pm – Vote to approve proposal for Shared Street Grant Application as prepared by TOOLE Design

Jim Johnson, this grant came up over the last few months to encourage usage of outdoor space. **Ashley Clark Community Development Director**, I would just like to note that all of the projects bar the crosswalk are temporary and we have an opportunity to use state funding to help pilot these ideas. **Kristen Lohse TOOLE Design**, I wanted to also introduce my colleague Brian Tang. First off is the East Street Crosswalk, what we are proposing is to put in a formal crosswalk with flashing beacon. The idea behind this is to calm traffic and have a safe connection for people to cross to the park. **Board member O'Neil**, can you talk about the bus stop shifting. **Brian Tang**, the purpose of moving it is we are installing a new sign directly in front of that utility pole so we would be moving the bus stop sign to new pole for the crosswalk. **Board member O'Neil**, I want to hear about the traffic coming out of the center and whether there will be a backup in between the crosswalk and the center. **Kristen**, the flashing beacon only goes on when pedestrians activate it, it only goes on for a few seconds, the time it takes to cross the street. **Board member Salvatore**, is this consistent with the look and feel of the intersections at School Street and at Westover, it would be appropriate to have all the crossways along that

street to look the same for driver identification. Is there going to be a calming hump on either of those intersections? **Jim Johnson**, would be my intent to have the same equipment that we have right across at the High School. **Ashley**, level of detail would be after grant approval, and they are not intended to be humped.

Kristen, creating some expanded space for walking and dining on Common Street, proposing to widen out the sidewalk by creating a painted space. Essentially just pushing spaces into the street and narrowing the travel lanes. Also proposing at the corner of Stone Street to revise the curve radius and we have talked to the Fire Department about their concerns in getting large vehicles around the corner. A modular bus stop, pushes the bus stop out into the street, boarding and lighting of bus would happen on that platform. Some planters along the edge of the walking area, and showing in two places some parklets. Basically taking two spaces for a place for people to sit and eat. The main thing is we aren't diminishing the parking supply greatly only taking a couple away and creating a lot more walking space. **Chair Barrett**, its similar to what we do now outside of Tessie's and Ravens Nest, but making it look nicer. **Board member O'Neil**, I'm in favor of parklets, I like what we are trying to do in the downtown area, we need make sure we do this in a way that does not impact public safety. Need to be careful that we don't do anything to stop fire & ambulance getting through there. **Chief Bailey**, my concerns are the bus is a problem today, it can be there for 5 to 15 minutes at a time, I don't think pushing it out into the street is going to elevate the problem. Stone Street at the intersection of Main Street – many times we have vehicles coming at us and trying to move to the right, people aren't going to pull over and have their cars come in contact with those. If cars waiting on lights to turn and we are trying to come down with fire apparatus they wouldn't have anywhere to turn like they do now. **Chief Carmichael**, 12feet in the middle is a tight squeeze for Main Street in that location. Delivery trucks park on that island, to make deliveries. Parallel parking, cars will pass them on the left, which is something to consider. **Board member O'Neil** would we be better off sacrificing just parking spaces and that's it, are we trying to accomplish too much there, give up five parking spaces and it gives you the parklet. **Kristen**, they really are looking for communities to implement these quickly, they are not always intended to be permanent. There is not a lot of time for revisions, these would go for review process, they are not without scrutiny. **Ben**, on another project we worked on we certainly made some fairly substantial revisions even after the grant was awarded. **Ashley**, so it sounds like you could condition your approval tonight based on final design review approval.

Vice Chair Mackenzie, I like the idea of staying within the parking spaces, definitely if we start having delivery trucks down there and impede the businesses. I love the planters, love what they have done so far. As far as making it more difficult for the bus or firetrucks, that gets me concerned. **Clerk Gallivan**, I like the general concept, concerned about how much of the driving lanes we are taking up. People complain about the downtown creating traffic gridlock going both directions out, forcing people to single stream that is really going to slow things down even more. I am a little uncomfortable with this being the first time we are seeing the detail and we are being asked to vote right away normally we would do something like this in a workshop. If we do vote to move forward what are we really committing to, I'm feeling uncomfortable approving a specific design. **Board member Salvatore**, Ms. Lohse mentioned something about traffic calming reducing speeds, could you explain how that occurs, and what the expectation is. **Kristen**, the theory behind traffic calming, the lanes are narrower it induces people to slow down. We would just narrow the lanes to slow people down. Appropriate speed in business district is 25/30MPR. A big wide turn allows people to move pretty quickly, so basically trying to narrow the corner. **Board member Salvatore**, what was the response of downtown business owners to the loss of parking spaces and generally this design, and did Economic Development Committee have a view on this. **Ashley**, one of the priorities in this was to lose as few parking spaces as possible, what I have heard being discussed would mean more spaces being lost. Destination Downtown provided a letter of support for this application. The EDC has not had a meeting and discussed this application.

Chair Barrett, if nothing else the overview of our Main streets, shows how inoperable the Main Street downtown is. We had a parking study done that the lots behind these businesses are rarely full. So regardless of what happens today we should take those four or five items away from this, and they are action items we need to look at and act on as soon as possible with their impact to the downtown.

Kristen, we are proposing to close Elm St in the middle of the common with temporary barriers, this could be done with paint to create a more interesting space and put out tables and chairs, lawn games, and create a

special space in the middle of town. This is a pilot and would include detour signs to redirect traffic. **Board member O'Neil**, good idea on a very temporary basis, when would be thinking the street would be closed. **Ashley**, this isn't something that we could set up on a Friday and breakdown on a Sunday, Norwood have a similar concept and ended up deciding to do it full time. From what I have heard people have really loved it. This would be a longer term pilot program, 2-3 weeks and reassess. All of the furniture and materials that we would get as part of this grant, we could repurpose it somewhere else in town if we shut down the program. **Board member O'Neil** that would concern me, if we shut down that part of the road it will create gridlock in downtown, it is a pretty main road. I love the idea but I think it is a non-starter. I just have a really hard time figuring out how we would make this work. **Clerk Gallivan**, I have some of the same feelings as Jim. I don't want to make it nicer for a few pedestrians at the cost of hundreds of people, who are Walpole residents getting stuck in a massive traffic jam. We also hear from people right now how hard it is to get to the train station at rush hour and would make this whole area even more confusion. This is one of the ones that if we could do a workshop, I'm pretty much against this at this stage. **Board member Salvatore**, so someone travelling towards Medfield coming from Common Street and want to continue on Elm Street, their only option will be take a right and then a U-turn onto West Street, is that where the vehicles will end up. **Chair Barrett**, it depends on how it is enacted. If that Elm Extension that goes all the way to 27 is also closed, then no they couldn't take that left. They could take a left down by Bank of America or they would go all the way down to 27 and take 27 around, there is a couple of ways that could work out. **Board member Salvatore**, the Stone Street light how is that activated, the West Street light and the Stone Street/Main Street intersection how are the cross intersection lights activated. **Carl Balduf**, the lights are on cameras now for activation. **Board member Salvatore**, is Toole Design a traffic engineering firm, did any traffic engineers look at this. **Brian**, no we have some on staff but none have looked at this, I don't believe we were scoped to do a full traffic study. **Board member Salvatore**, this is a waste of time, I don't know how we got this far, there is no way you can shut down that road. Firstly, the concern downtown is that traffic is too slow. Stone Street intersection and the West Street intersection are on demand they are never green at the same time. You are now going to make the West Street on demand even more necessary. Coming up Elm Street people will either take a right or left which will increase traffic on these roads. I don't know how this got this far, we should be talking about items that reduce traffic, get people through downtown more quickly. I don't even know why we have spent time on this, no proposals, no concern no discussion by this Board on getting traffic to flow better through downtown. Now what we are talking about is actually slowing down traffic and doing something that will actually create a disaster. Is it time to vote because I am ready to vote.

Vice Chair Mackenzie, David I know you haven't joined us but we have had a few meetings that we did touch on this, we did get a presentation. We have expressed some of these concerns in previous meetings, to show up tonight and be this upset I find that weird. To go back to the design, I love the idea of all of the things you are doing in that area, but I think we need to move it to the Commons. I think what could happen here is what happens to South Walpole when there is a patriot's game. Traffic is a concern and the neighbors around think it could be a recipe for disaster. Norwood made a really great use of a very dead space that wasn't a cut through. As far as traffic calming, we want it to be calm, pedestrian friendly we want it to be inviting, but people want to get through and get home. I think we have a great idea but as far as eliminating roads that are heavily travelled, we have plenty of green space that we could rework. **Chair Barrett**, we could spend two hours on this and I think it would be time well spent. Structural issues that need to be addressed and we need to shift our priorities, my priorities are not to make it easier for tractor trailers to go downtown they should be finding the main routes that are intended for them. I would point out that a traffic study is being considered, downtown wide traffic study, and want everyone to keep this in the forefront of their mind and how really messed up the downtown area is and how completely unwelcome it is for businesses who want to have open areas out on the sidewalks. Seeing that there isn't a motion we will move on in our agenda. Thanks again to Ashley, Kristen and Brian for being with us and putting all this together. I think it's an opportunity missed for our downtown area. **Clerk Gallivan**, I think we all agree that downtown needs some work, I think we should schedule a workshop sometime in the future. The downtown serves Walpole very well and I think it needs some work and I'd welcome the opportunity to do a workshop.

7:45pm – Vote request of Matt & Nicole Murphy for street opening permit at 20 William Street which is under a moratorium

Jim Johnson, looking to transition over to gas for new heating system. **Nicole Murphy**, moved to Walpole last September, assed by Columbia Gas and said could pull the gas in for free but now hoping the moratorium can be broken to help us through this hardship so we can get gas. **Rick Mattson**, typically the DPW is not in favor of granting waivers, Carl, I and Drew Hand reviewed this request and we think the request is reasonable. The trench must be patched to specifications that we typically use. Patching would fall on Columbia and need to commit to paving the trench in that manner. William Street is lightly travelled; we would have no objection to granting if the Board so desired. **Brian Gillis, Columbia Gas**, we would be responsible for the restoration on those trenches. Typically, we do abide by the permit conditions and we are mandated to do inspections on all our trenches. **Vice Chair Nancy**, we don't grant these often, so there is gas on the street and no other why to get it into the property, financially commitment that the town puts into these roads is huge. Every time we cut it open it weakens the road. Are you willing to put a guarantee through the end of this moratorium? **Brian**, I wouldn't be opposed to taking care of it, carry the trench for 3 years, we are pretty reactive to any complaints we get. **Carl**, it is five years so they would have to carry the trench for three years and we can make that a condition of the permit if that is the will of the Board.

Vice Chair Mackenzie, it is rare for me to agree to this but as long as Columbia will go for the full time then I will give you my vote. **Clerk Gallivan**, I'm comfortable if Columbia will take it through the end of the moratorium. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to grant the request of Matt & Nicole Murphy for street opening permit at 20 William Street which is under moratorium on the condition the road will be maintained by Columbia Gas to the Town's level of okness until the end of the moratorium and subject to applicant abiding by the conditions set forth in the memo from Director of Public Works Richard E. Mattson. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Mackenzie, Salvatore and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

7:50pm – Vote request of Columbia Gas for street opening permits at 13 Eleanor Road, 180 Stone Street and 261 Stone Street which are under a moratorium

Jim Johnson, Eleanor Rd was paved in 2019 and Stone Street was paved in 2018. **Carl**, Rick provided correspondence and our requirements are similar to what we discussed on William Street as long as trench is restored to our specification. These are service replacements and gas company must replace under their own maintenance program. **Vice Chair Mackenzie**, what triggers the maintenance, is there a gas leak? **Brian**, these have no leaks associated with them, there is a four-year program to replace high pressure services of inside meter fits, this initiative that didn't exist last year. These are in our plan to get replaced, so within 4years we have to get all of these replaced. **Vice Chair Mackenzie**, I take roads very seriously, as far as I'm concerned if not an immediate leak or hazard I would suggest you find roads that are not in moratorium. Our engineering department spends a lot of time reaching out to the utility companies, we go through a bidding process, we do a lot of things to give tax payers great road. **Board member O'Neil** is there any risk to not doing this, can we defer this. **Brian**, there is little additional risk there, this is coming out of Merrimack Valley incident, obviously high pressure gas with gas meter inside the house does pose additional risks. **Board member O'Neil**, any other houses on theses streets that you will be coming back to us next year, need to get this list sorted by Walpole to see. **Brian**, this is something that got rolled out three months ago, so is new to us, these are targeted services they are going after. I wouldn't be opposed to waiting until the five-year moratorium is up and coming back to it. **Carl**, that question was asked of someone else in gas company, if it was optional to let them ride out the moratorium and we got a different answer, we were led to believe that it must be done. **Board member O'Neil** I would want to know the answer to that question, what is the real risk here, we have conflicting data. **Brian**, I'm the one in charge of these so you are getting the right answer. We are noting that on our plan and these will just get pushed further back.

Vice Chair Mackenzie, I think we need to respect the moratorium, but if you want to come back if there is higher risk then I'm willing to listen. **Board member Salvatore**, I appreciate that Columbia Gas is doing this and they recognize that these need to be retrofitted and taken out of the homes and I would support doing this. On motion of Board member Salvatore to allow Columbia Gas to have an exception for the moratorium for these properties, no second. **Jim Johnson**, do you mind if we table this. I'm concerned with risk and I will work with Brian, Carl & Rick on this. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Board member O'Neil, voted to table the request until the next meeting. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Mackenzie, Gallivan, Salvatore and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

New Business

Vote to close the 2020 Fall Town Meeting Warrant

Discussion of Articles

Jim Johnson, I'd like to run through the Articles and give the Board an update. They need to be vetted by counsel and I recommend the Board not sign this as we really don't know when we will have a Town Meeting. Two options really, have on the football field or do it virtually. Town Meetings are exempt but I think we need to set an example for the whole town, really only 83 could fit in the auditorium. We have the operational budget adjustment that is under Article 2, might see a few small things Liz may need something for early voting, we are watching everything pretty close as far as budget adjustments. Article 3 is grouping all the collective bargaining agreements and salary schedule into one article. Then we have the capital articles which are all pretty standard, the infrastructure, the roads and equipment purchases and then borrowing for the roads. Recommending just about \$1.2 million or so be used on those purchases. Then we have stabilization and OPEB, I am recommending about 3.5% of operating budget to stabilization. My recommendation is about \$327,000 going into OPEB. Article 10 gets into the Medicaid, the McKinney-Vento and the student parking reimbursements. The Assessors are looking for a consultant to do state mandated certification program. We have PEG Access which wasn't addressed in the Spring. Then we have the inclusionary zoning bylaws, we are going to refer those to the Planning Board as quickly as possible. We have the stretch code which was again on the Spring Town Meeting, something this Board was comfortable with back then. Next article is expanding requirements for limited site plan review, to allow outdoor dining and entertainment. Couple of street acceptances, which we have grouped into one article to streamline things. Then we have the citizen petitions which this year we have five, three we were familiar with. One from Cyndi Hoag which is the stadium event parking, two proposed from Richard Pilla which were on the Spring Warrant. Richard also proposed another regarding Norfolk County Pension System and putting it into the State System and also putting town employees into the GIC system. The other citizen petition was for Harwood Engineering, proposing a Solar Farm off of South Street, seems like a good project from what I have seen. Overall that is an overview of these Articles with much more to come.

Vice Chair Mackenzie, stabilization, I think is a great idea, why do we save well that never event is here, all of you have been doing such a fabulous job. One thing about stadium parking, I think it's a great way to get revenue, I reached out and said if they needed any help I'd be happy to help them. As far as the citizen petition for pension, I feel like we just went down this road and not to mention with contracts and to be in breach of contracts I have some trouble with that. Considering everything that is going on you guys are staying on top of everything, it is very impressive. **Board member O'Neil**, stabilization is critical for the reasons Nancy raised, I like the stadium parking overlay makes a lot of sense to me, so much deferred from prior Town Meeting. Inclusionary zoning bylaw getting it to Planning Board asap is good idea. I'm sure Finance Commission will take it up in the not too distant future. **Board member Salvatore**, perhaps we could reach out to Mr. Kraft to use his covered field as a location for our meeting. I would like to reiterate what I said in the Spring regarding Town Meeting, if we can perhaps create along with Walpole Media, a packet of videos for each warrant item, Town meeting members can click on that and see all meetings in regards to it with videos, minutes, agendas attached. Town meeting members can do a little more homework, by accessing these files. An opportunity to ask questions in that area so that Town meeting members can have the information and have questions addressed even before the meeting occurs.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to close the 2020 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Mackenzie, Gallivan, Salvatore and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote request of Gina Rodriguez to use Adams Farm on September 05, 2020 for a birthday celebration

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve request of Gina Rodriguez to use Adams Farm on September 05, 2020 for a birthday celebration, subject to them complying with all COVID19 guidelines that are in place at the time of the event. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Mackenzie, Gallivan and Chair Barrett. Board member Salvatore opposed. Motion Passed (4-1-0).

Vote to ratify and sign Memorandum of Agreement with:

- DPW Union
- Clerical Union
- Library Union
- Police Union

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Chair Barrett, voted to ratify and sign the memorandum of agreement with DPW, Clerical, Library and Police Unions. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Mackenzie, Gallivan and Chair Barrett. Board Member Salvatore opposed. Motion Passed (4-1-0).

Vote request of Debevino Winery for Annual Weekday Entertainment License and Seasonal Weekday/Sunday Live Music License

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve request of Debevino winery for annual weekday entertainment license & seasonal weekday/Sunday live music license. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Mackenzie, Gallivan, Salvatore and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Discussion on the naming of Route 1A Field complex

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to name the Route 1A Field complex the South Walpole Sports Complex. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Mackenzie, Gallivan and Chair Barrett. Board member Salvatore abstained. Motion Passed (4-0-1).

CONSENT AGENDA

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

Nadeem Yunus & Rummana Alam to Community Policing \$50

Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Mackenzie, Gallivan, Salvatore and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Town Administrator's Update

COVID

273 positive cases in Walpole, five cases are undergoing monitoring, our numbers have gone up slightly over the last two weeks.

Town Meeting

As soon as Dan makes the call on what he is comfortable with, I will keep the Board involved in that, Capital has already started meeting.

MSBA Update

Brian Jarvis explained the Middle School Project is moving along, Compass is working on gathering information on the various sites being considered. Next big item is the education program which needs to be developed with school officials and the consultants.

Fields project

Project continues to progress. Second turf field may have started this week laying the green down on that one, work on grass fields continues to progress. Seeding in the grass area expected to take place in early September to catch good growing season.

Vice Chair Mackenzie, just a little public service announcement. I have spent from mid-March till mid-June completely exposed to COVID at work. I have so far not gotten COVID and don't have antibodies, my PPE has worked. I have a nurse friend who does the same as I do until her daughter went to a high school party and caught COVID there and drank out of her mother's water bottle and her mother caught COVID. PPE is important, our family our loved ones who we bring it home to its serious. I've never worked in a hospital filled with the same diagnosis, not fake definitely real, it's sad and scary. But it also kills people that you don't think it should or you don't think it would. As we start to go back to school, kids are going to do what they want to do. Just remember take care of our elderly, our family, and our family members that are at higher risk and hopefully we will get there some day but it might just take a little while. Keep plugging along everybody and we can get there eventually. **Board member O'Neil**, really well said Nancy and thank you for everything that you are doing.

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 O'Neil, Mackenzie, Gallivan, Salvatore and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

The Board moved out of executive session at 10:10 p.m.

On motion of Chair Barrett, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 10:10 p.m. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Mackenzie, Gallivan, Salvatore and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (5-0-0).