

The Board of Selectmen met on Tuesday July 14, 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 That order, which was effective immediately and until it is rescinded or the State of Emergency is terminated.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. We will start with three quick points of order, all votes taken by roll call vote, thanks to Jim O' Neil for his guidance & leadership of this Board over the last year through some challenging times for this Town. Lastly I would like to welcome Aoife Kelly as the new executive assistant.

New Business

Shared Spaces Grant

Ashley Clark, Community Planning Director was present to provide an update on the shared spaces grant and gave a short presentation. **Ashley**, the goal is to make targeted and impactful changes in the downtown area. The grant is in awards of amount of \$5,000 to \$300,000 and the idea is to have things that can be quickly implemented. The grant closes on September 29th and we are working with a technical consultant to help fine-tune our application. Having the downtown action plan and the parking study are helpful tools when these grants come up. I have broken it down into 3 areas, the first is Spring Brook Park, the second is the Main Street element and then the elm connection idea. We are discussing adding a crosswalk at Spring Brook Park it would not just paint on the ground but something in place to alert cars that there maybe people up ahead. I did want to add tables as part of this grant but with this grant you can't use the money to put furniture in parks. The Main Street element: I think it would be fun to do some painted crosswalks bookending the main street, just to add some fun aesthetic. Another thing we are looking at is adding parklets, right now there is some seating out from of Raven's Nest and Tessie's but the idea would be to build a removable structure in these spaces. There is also talk of different calming measures in general for around main street and we are looking for recommendations from our technical reviewer on the best fastest way to do that. There are lots of fun ways to make the parklets unique for the individual space. We have a really wide main street so is there a way to make it more pedestrian friendly. The town center program also known as the elm connection, this would be an extension of the pilot program, obviously the specific details and dates would depend on when the funding came through, how much of the funding came through. The idea would be to close off Elm Street and add some moveable tables and chairs and potentially add some astroturf. I think having a giant park in the middle of downtown Walpole would be a huge amenity for the town especially with those five hundred some odd units coming online so. We would need to be very intentional in terms of the signage that is included in terms of where they can go with detouring the traffic. That is the overview of what we are working on for the grant application.

Board member O'Neil, Ashley this is tremendous & I love this concept. A couple of questions, I wonder would it be possible to take a little more space and actually increase the parklet? **Ashley**, one thing the technical reviewer recommended that we think about is that we could do is move the parking spaces since there is room we could create more space and making the space wider. **Board member O'Neil**, the parklet is really pretty and a nice amenity, if was a little bit wider it would be nicer. I don't really think the plants would work there but the place where I think the plants might work, if you ran the plants down Elm Street if that would soften it up and make that more attractive, just a thought. My question is for the grant that you are requesting how much of this can reasonably be done with the grant? **Ashley**, so the goal of the grant is really quick implementation, my hunch is that there might be more grants down the road. They want to know in the grant application what the interest is in making these changes permanent.

Board member O'Neil, the picnic tables, I wonder if we reached out to Tri-County could they make these for us, and I know we have some local landscape companies and people like Brad Murphy, I wonder if they would be willing to help out. I love the idea of the full park with the common, these commons are beautiful but are split up.

Clerk Gallivan, I do like the whole concept, I am a little worried about Elm St piece with traffic flow, I just want to make sure we really take a look at that and don't shut down the Elm St connection and then create a traffic nightmare around the rest of the town.

Vice Chair Mackenzie, to build on this I am worried about traffic, I think it would be great for the weekends cause traffic going through there, it is a very heavily travelled piece of road. I love the idea of the planters. There are also the prisons that do metal work and things like that to make these tables, a good resource to look into. Otherwise it looks great, I would love a crosswalk down by Spring Brook park area. A few years ago we looked into an outdoor adult gym there, we had applied for a grant. If you could keep your eye open for something like that it would be a fun place. **Ashley**, just one comment on the temporary closure of Elm St. I spoke with the planner in Norwood, initially just going to do it at the weekend but they found that the labor that went into putting it together took much longer than expected.

Chair Barrett, thanks very much Ashley for putting this together and identifying the grant and going after it. All three items would be great additions to the downtown and much needed. This is just scratching the surface of what is out there for us to go and get in terms of grants. These are largely temporarily initiatives and while that is nice I think a lot can lead to permanent fixtures.

Jim Johnson, while we have Ashley on the call can we go over the Pinnacle Point Project.

Vote to review and approve letter to Mass Housing regarding proposed Pinnacle Point Project

Jim Johnson, this is something for Pinnacle Point in East Walpole right on the waterway, its just 1.3 or so acres there and proposing to put a 40b down there with just about forty houses. We got this application in the middle of COVID for Mass Housing we asked for an extension which we were granted on to respond and the deadline is coming up soon, August 1st. We are waiting on Dept. Heads to get some comments back but wanted to make sure we had Ashley weigh in, counsel and a couple of people we have worked with in the past have also worked with us on this. We are good to go if everyone else is comfortable with this and authorize you to sign this.

Clerk Gallivan, I like the letter I think Ashley has summed up the issues well, I'm especially concerned about the lack of detail about this project, I like the letter I think we should go forward with it.

Vice Chair Mackenzie, I'm good with all the comments.

Board member O'Neil, I'm good as well, there is a lot of information that is lacking with the proposal and we really do need a lot more detail in order to assess the project, Ashley I think you did a nice job in laying that out. So thank you, I think it was an extremely well written letter.

Chair Barrett, I think it strikes the right tone of what we need on this item so I really appreciate it.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve the letter to Mass Housing regarding proposed Pinnacle Point project and authorized the Chair to sign. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Fire Chief Tim Bailey quarterly update

Chief Bailey was present to give an overview of the quarterly department activities. On March 16th we had 12 members that were put out on quarantine for possible exposure to a member at the station, that ended up being negative and we all came back to work on the 20th. On the 20th we also opened up station 2 and currently still have in place today. We made it so all of the administrative can work remotely and we did not miss a beat. Since that time we have had 8 other members out due to possible exposure and all came back with negative effects. I owe a tremendous amount of gratitude to my staff who are out on the front line every day, they are taking care of sick patients in the back of the ambulance, they wear all of the proper protective equipment and I am proud to say that none of my members have come down with COVID as of this point due to their diligence in protecting themselves. EMS statistics from since we went out on COVID, 605 total incidents of that COVID runs were 179. PPE continues to be an issue, it's a process to procure and stock up, we have a moderate supply at this point.

Call volume currently, 1,842 emergency calls, the largest day being on April 13th when we had a small microburst come through we did 44 calls in a five-hour period. We have also done 1,752 inspections and permits, that phase of our operation has been severely impacted by the closure. We have been trying to do inspections when there is nobody home or in a business but not always possible. That brings us to 3,594 calls for service or 18.5 per day which is a little bit down from last year. We have had 10 fires since January, two of those occurred on June 28th, the day we had the storm come through, we also went to Norwood Hospital on a second alarm to help with the evacuation process.

I had a meeting last week with the hospital and they wanted to reassure us that their goal is to reopen Norwood Hospital. They are looking to do this in a three phase approach, first phase would be to reopen the emergency department the second phase would be to open up the labs, surgery, day surgery and some inpatient rooms and phase three would be the reconstruction of the Iorosso building. This means we can't go to Norwood Hospital for our transports, we are required to go to the closest medical facility. Our medical control currently is through Good Samaritan; they will give us medical control for any hospital that we choose to transport to. Since then we have transported to BID Needham 29%, Good Samaritan 26%, Newton-Wellesley 9%, BID Medical Center West 6%, Brigham & Women's 6%, Sturdy 6%, Mass General 3%, Norfolk Hospital and Rhode Island both 3%. Turnaround time used to be about 45 minutes now it's up to 1hr 15 minutes upwards of 2hrs, depending on where we transport. One issue we are dealing with, in order to get our medications replenished we have to have a medication exchange agreement with the hospital. We currently have two of those, Good Samaritan and Beth Israel Deaconess Needham. I am currently working with my EMS Coordinator to try to get other exchange agreements to come before your Board. In the first six months of the year we received mutual aid 21 times and gave it 45. In the last two weeks alone we received it 7 times and gave it 10. The first agreement is the Ambulance Service Affiliation Agreement and two agreements for medication exchange. Counsel suggested I not sign these as I am not the appointing authority but in the nature of trying to get this turned around quickly they said I could sign and then bring before the Board.

Our current ambulance account has \$1,965,619, for FY20 we brought in \$1,351,776, with COVID we have had a decrease in run volume that is pretty consistent with everyone around. What did happen in that timeframe, even though we had a decrease in number of calls, the number of serious calls increased.

We did stop details in March but have since resumed. Smoke and CO inspections have also resumed.

The new ambulance arrived in mid-march and is in service, the turnout gear is being ordered and will replace the 25 sets of gear that have expired and bring in the second set of gear for all of our members.

We are working on a regional grant for portable simulation lab, also submitted a regional supplemental grant for personal protective equipment. Through the Cares Relief fund we received \$27,279, we also applied for a CESF along with the Police Department we asked for \$24,708.

We are finally caught up with all of our double poles and line transfers with the exception of Route 1A.

We had one member who started in the Academy on July 6th and another going on September 28th and October 26th. We will have one member who will be out for about 3 weeks and I have a veteran who is being deployed in December for 11 months.

Chair Barrett, we appreciate all of your hard work and everyone on the department, what an extraordinary job you all do.

Board member O'Neil, how you decide which place to go to? **Chief Bailey**, many times its case involved but it could also be the area of town that we are in.

Vice Chair Mackenzie, I'm worried about the Norwood thing, right now we only needed mutual aid 7 times but as volume is going up turnaround time is going to be even longer. 20square miles is a lot, when you guys aren't here and we need to get to those emergencies. **Chief Bailey**, it also reduces my firefighting capabilities, having the ambulances out on calls. We have mutual aid as well, so we will all be relying on each other through this period.

Chair Barrett, what is the time line with the emergency department opening first. **Chief Bailey**, they are hoping in 2-3 months for the Emergency department. Even though they won't have the capacity to deal with everything there it would still be a destination for stabilization.

Clerk Gallivan, we have about 4months experience with COVID – is there anything you had or wish you had more of, any pieces of equipment. Now is a good time to bring that up with the opening of the Fall Warrant. On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to ratify the medication agreement with Steward Good Samaritan Medical Center as presented in our packets. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to ratify the medication agreement with Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital Needham as presented in our packets. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to sign the ambulance service affiliation agreement with Steward Norwood Hospital Inc. as presented in our packets. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Chief Bailey, I have a member going for a physical abilities test a second time and the appointing authority has to sign it. **Jim Johnson**, we were not aware of this but given everything that is happening I'm comfortable with you as the appointing authority authorizing the Chief to sign this. **Chair Barrett**, yes this is time sensitive so we should address tonight and allow the Chief to sign.

Vote to appoint Democratic Election Workers for 2020

Jim Johnson, this is for election workers that Liz has working the polls. **Vice Chair Mackenzie**, where do people find this list? **Jim Johnson**, I believe its posted in the minutes and on Liz's website.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to appoint the Democratic Election Workers for 2020 as presented in the packet. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Vote to appoint Republic Election Workers or 2020

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan voted to appoint the Republican Election Workers for 2020 as presented in the packet. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Vote award of bid contract No. 2020-29 for Cleaning, Redevelopment and Chemical Treatment of Gravel Packed wells

Jim Johnson, we received just one bid so I recommend we award the bid to Denis L. Maher Co. Ayer, MA for the lump sum price of \$103,935. Rick anything to add?

Rick Mattson, DPW Director, we received one bidder, we have used this company in the past with no regret and unit prices were in line with what we had expected.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to award bid contract No. 2020-29 for cleaning, redevelopment and chemical treatment of gravel packed wells. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Vote award of bid contract No. 2020-31 for Professional service for on call service support & SCADA systems upgrade.

Jim Johnson, we only received one bid so I recommend awarding the bid to Woodard & Curran for \$232,768. **Rick Mattson**, Woodard & Curran has been our technical support for many years and have provided great service to us.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to award bid contract No. 2020-31 for professional service for on call service support & SCADA systems upgrade. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Vote to grant Jim Johnson, Town Administrator, permission to sign the weekly warrants in the Boards' absence

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan voted to grant Jim Johnson, Town Administrator, permission to sign the weekly warrants in the Boards' absence. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Vote to open the 2020 Fall Town Meeting Warrant

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan voted to open the 2020 Fall Town Meeting Warrant. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0) **Jim Johnson**, right now we are at 20+ articles and I expect I will be asking the Board to close that on August 18th.

Vote award of bid contract No. 2020-32 for paving on Coney Street and Route One

Jim Johnson, this project started under the TIF back in 2015-2016, this is one of the end phases. We got four bids in and the lowest and most responsive bidder was Walsh Contracting Corp. at \$1,263,532.60. The remaining funding will come from the MassWorks Grant and Siemens AG.

Rick Mattson, we are still working with Siemens to get the supplemental appropriation so if you award the contact so once we receive the funds we can go ahead and execute it.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to award bid contract No. 2020-32 for paving on Coney Street and Route One. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Vote award of bid contract No. 2020-33 for crack sealing by fiber reinforced method

Jim Johnson, the lowest and most responsive bidder was Superior Sealcoat Inc.

Rick Mattson, they were the lowest qualified bidder.

On motion of Vice Chair, Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to award bid contact No. 2020-33 for crack sealing by fiber reinforced method. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Chair Barrett, thank you to Town Clerk Liz Gaffey and Aoife Kelly for helping out over the past week with pulling together the administration of the appointed boards and committees. We want to formalize the process, bring to the forefront the rules of conduct, the ethical requirements. A lot of this paperwork, review and testing has fallen by the wayside a little bit. It is going to be a work in progress but hopefully we can get it administered a little more efficiently for everyone in the future. Making sure everyone is aligned with the current goals and plans are that were established by the town, and even more importantly to ensure that we have racial equity across our boards and committees that are appointed by the town.

Vote to appoint Bailey Ziemba to the Conservation Commission

Chair Barrett, we appreciate you coming on tonight, Bailey can you give some background on your application. **Bailey**, I moved to Walpole about 6months ago. I live on a property that has a water conservation pond, always grown up loving nature, and am part of a family preservation trust. I love the idea of assisting the community and maintaining these natural spaces for future wildlife and people to enjoy.

Board member O'Neil, thanks for willing to volunteer and being part of a very important board.

Clerk Gallivan, thanks for volunteering, and I hope you know what you are getting into, it is a good but pretty busy board.

Vice Chair Mackenzie, welcome, we have a very experienced board so I think are going to be excited to learn a lot.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to appoint Bailey Ziemba to the Conservation Commission. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Vote to appoint David Nardelli to the Housing Partnership Committee

David, Walpole resident born and raised, I recently graduated with Master in urban planning & policy so I think that will give me good technical skills for the position and I also personal experience of living in public housing in Walpole for a short period of time. I just want to make sure that Walpole is doing its due diligence for creating affordable housing in the town, sufficiently and effectively.

Chair Barrett, it is nice to have additional educational background in this subject as well. As a member that will be very welcome indeed.

Board member O'Neil, great qualifications for the board, educationally and personal experience, thank you for volunteering. This is very important board, we have a lot going on and I look forward to working with you.

Clerk Gallivan, welcome aboard.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to appoint David Nardelli to the Housing Partnership Committee. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Vote to appoint Clodagh Drummey to the Walpole Cultural Counsel

Board member O'Neil, thanks for volunteering and look forward to working with Clodagh.

Clerk Gallivan, thanks for volunteering, one of the things what makes Walpole a great community is all the people who are willing to volunteer their time for the other residents of the town.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to appoint Clodagh Drummey to the Walpole Cultural Council. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Vote to appoint Sarah McCracken to the Walpole Cultural Counsel

Sarah, I've been in Walpole for 2 years and I have been looking for opportunities to contribute to the town. I was really drawn to the Cultural Council, to help bring more events to Walpole. I do work for a sustainability nonprofit in Boston, through that I have done quite a bit of work on grant reporting. I think that would be a useful skill to bring to the counsel.

Board member O'Neil, thanks for volunteering, really appreciate it and look forward to working with you.

Clerk Gallivan, looks like you have a good background and look forward to working with you.

Vice Chair Mackenzie, welcome and thanks for finding us.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to appoint Sarah McCracken to the Walpole Cultural Council. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Vote to appoint David Anderson to the Zoning Board of Appeals

David, I am a resident in Walpole. What I do for a living is a lot of entitlement consulting for developments in the city of Boston. I spent two years as the President of the Cedar Grove Civic in Boston and a big part of my job was to help facilitate the meetings between abutters, developers and the residents.

Board member O'Neil, great qualifications, another tough board, one that requires a lot of effort, a lot of work. Sounds like you have a great background for it.

Clerk Gallivan, thanks for volunteering, I like what you said about being involved with meetings with neighbors and residents, I think that's great to be able to facilitate discussion.

Vice Chair Mackenzie, thank you for taking the time to volunteer cause as Jim said it's a lot of commitment.

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to appoint David Anderson as an Associate to Zoning Board of Appeals. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Town Administrator's Update

Concerts on the Common will not be going forward this year, a lot all of Brendan's acts have pulled out.

Pools are open - \$10 per hour per family or a group of 4, we decreased the rates yesterday.

Aoife is a welcome addition to the team, she comes from Norwood and prior to that in Brookline.

Solar Project, Norfolk County offered us a first right of refusal to lease some land on Morse St., and another parcel off of Fisher St. I expect this board will be considering this sometime in August, we do have 90 days to respond to them.

Board member O'Neil, that solar farm is going to be a hot topic, we need to make sure we got to that sooner rather than later. It's going to be a contentious issue and we need to get ahead of it as best we can.

Clerk Gallivan, I agree with Jim and we want to talk about it as soon as we can.

Chair Barrett, look to our meetings in August for more information on that item.

Minutes

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve the Minutes of June 9, 2020. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve the Minutes of June 16, 2020. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

On motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to approve the Minutes of June 29, 2020. Those in favor: Board members O'Neil, Gallivan, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)

Board member O'Neil, Cindy has been the board secretary for many years, as we welcome Aoife we also say good bye to Cindy and I would like to read her message on the June 9th minutes. So Cindy thank you & thanks for many years of service.

Chair Barrett, thank you for highlighting that Jim.

No other business being presented for consideration, on motion of Vice Chair Mackenzie, seconded by Clerk Gallivan, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:30 p.m. Those in favor: Board members Gallivan, O'Neil, Mackenzie and Chair Barrett. Motion Passed (4-0-0)