

Memorial Town Hall, 1 Library Street, Georgetown, MA 01833

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

6/1/2020

6:00PM-General Meeting ~ Broadcast on Georgetown Cable TV via BlueJeans

Verizon channel 42/Comcast channel 9

Selectmen Present: Joseph Bonavita, Chairman; Charles Durney, Clerk; Gary C. Fowler, Douglas W. Dawes; and David J. Twiss

Others Present: Michael Farrell, Town Administrator; Janet Pantano, Administrative Assistant; Police Chief Donald Cudmore; Scott Hatch, Police Lt.; Health Agent Deb Rogers; Town Clerk Kerri McManus; David Surface, Town Moderator; Carol Jacobs, School Superintendent; Peter Durkee, Highway Surveyor; Sarah Cognata, Library; Colleen Fiorello, CoA

Absent:

6:04PM Call to order

Mr. Bonavita read the statement listed here:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Town of Georgetown Board of Selectmen will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Georgetown website, at www.georgetownma.gov. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so in the following manner: Channel 42 Verizon or Channel 9 Comcast, or on the town website at <http://gctv.georgetownma.gov/>. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that meeting the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Georgetown website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Invocation-Douglas W. Dawes

Pledge of Allegiance

Mr. Bonavita thanked Ms. Pantano for her years of service and wished her well in her retirement.

COVID-19 update-Police Chief Cudmore & Deb Rogers BoH Agent

Chief Cudmore stated Ms. Pantano will be missed. He stated have been status quo on Covid 19 and now working on High School Graduation and has Lt. Hatch helping him with the Covid 19 funding. He stated that they are working on the FEMA funds to help us through the end of year. He stated after tonight we need to have a plan on opening the town.

Ms. Rogers stated we have 47 cases of Covid 19 and working on Phase 2 and will have more openings on June 8th. She stated day camps will be allowed to open. She stated restaurants will be able to open with no more than 6 people at a table. She stated working to help the businesses to open safely. She stated that the restaurants can only have outside seating for now.

David Twiss asked if she can tell them where and how the cases in town were contracted. She stated she can get something, that the nurses work with the patients. She stated that she believes some were healthcare workers, and grocery store workers. She stated that they have not seen the rest of the family being infected.

Mr. Dawes stated that Governor has issued Guidelines and asked if the Emergency Management Team has come up with Guidelines. She stated that the town can be more stringent of DPH but not of the Governors Guidelines.

Mr. Fowler asked both if they would be available to discuss opening of parks and buildings. Chief Cudmore and Ms. Rogers stated that they would be. He asked if restaurants could open inside. She stated yes, they can with the 6ft distancing.

Mr. Farrell stated that we cannot be more stringent than the Governor.

Restaurant requests to use sidewalks-Discussion

Mr. Bonavita stated that he received a letter from The Spot, on outdoor seating with a plan. Ms. Rogers stated that this is not her department, it would be just the social distancing, they would have to make sure not more seating than allowed to not tax their septic system.

Mr. Farrell stated that the legislation is in the hopper for the LLA and have given authority to the board on outside seating with alcohol. He stated if they do more outside, they would be on public property and not sure what the liability would be and he has contacted Town Counsel and our Insurance Provider. Mr. Bonavita stated what does the board need to do. Mr. Farrell stated that the board would have to allow the restaurant to sell alcohol outside. Mr. Farrell stated that this has to be voted by the legislature.

Mr. Twiss stated with distancing inside would lose 1/3rd of seating and if could put some tables outside would bring closer to capacity. Mr. Bonavita stated that they are only looking for 2-3 tables outside. He stated some people would be more comfortable eating outside. Mr. Twiss stated that they did pool their customers and most want to eat outside.

Mr. Durney stated that what he received shows outside with inside later in Phase 2. Ms. Rogers stated that the hottest off the press is that inside will be allowed. Mr. Twiss stated with the public property out front could they use the rear. Ms. Rogers stated no as the septic is out back.

Mr. Dawes stated that the issue would be the tables on the public way and that they cannot block the sidewalk and public way. Mr. Bonavita stated he will send out the diagram. He stated that this is the only business that has reached out. He stated businesses are on private property.

Mr. Fowler stated that we need a team and the Building Inspector should be involved and the town planner may also need to be involved. He stated that they may need the electrical inspector

if lights are needed. Mr. Farrell stated that he will talk to the Building Inspector tomorrow and it may be a zoning issue.

Re-Open Town Buildings Discussion

Mr. Farrell stated that unless essential the building can only open at 25% capacity. He stated at the Town Hall, basement can have 9 people, 1st floor 9 people, 2nd floor 11 people, and 3rd floor 12 people. He stated that we need to post posters, plans, order supplies and it will take a couple weeks. He stated have been operating smoothly with staff working remotely. He stated Ms. McManus may be able to give an update. He stated a lock-box is at the back of the building and that is working well. He stated Boxford did a soft opening 8AM to 1PM and did not tell anyone and will see how it goes. He stated for now maintain how we are. Ms. McManus stated that she has been making appointments and meeting residents in the parking lot for what she needs. Mr. Dawes asked how many employees in town hall. Ms. Pantano stated 23 staff members. Mr. Dawes stated that we may need a couple weeks. Mr. Farrell stated yes and a lot to do. Mr. Dawes stated some staff will be apprehensive returning. Mr. Farrell stated that the State says if you can work from home you should.

Mr. Durney stated that at some point the building will have to open and we need to have a plan. He stated with a month you should have a safe plan.

Mr. Surface read the list from the State on opening. He stated his business wrote a business opening plan and could share. Mr. Farrell stated that he has all the information from the State. Mr. Farrell asked when the board wants this to happen. Mr. Bonavita stated if there is a reason to open or if not, then why open. He stated we need a plan first.

Mr. Twiss stated a stagger approach. He stated if a department who is more vital such as building or are their applications held up. Mr. Durney stated a timing question, and can we prepare ourselves so we are ready.

Mr. Twiss stated have to get back into the building. Mr. Bonavita stated that mid-July would be a good target date to have staff back. Mr. Dawes stated July 1st start of the fiscal year. Mr. Bonavita stated he stated that after July 4th the first Monday.

Mr. Fowler stated that the Library and Senior Center are two important departments to get open. He stated do we meet before town meeting on June 15th. Mr. Farrell stated that he assumed a face to face meeting at the ATM with social distancing. Mr. Durney stated must have social distancing.

Chief Cudmore stated that there was a meeting today for ATM and how to set up. He stated that the board could meet at the auditorium stage. Mr. Surface stated that it may be noisy as may be arriving early. Ms. Pantano stated that they can use the Library.

Mr. Surface updated the board on the set up of ATM and how the different precincts will enter the building. He stated they will ask residents to stay seated. Mike Anderson will set up the seating and we will go out and check. Mr. Fowler asked if they can deliver the microphone so people can speak. Ms. McManus asked if one person could hold the microphone and someone tell the question.

Discussion on options for microphone.

Mr. Bonavita stated that we will open the Town Hall on July 13 to town hall to staff.

OLD BUSINESS

Town Election/Town Clerk update-Kerri McManus

Ms. McManus stated that she met for town meeting with Mr. Surface, Chief Cudmore, and Mike Anderson and will be all set. She stated tomorrow is the last day to register to vote for ATM and Election and registration will be by appointment only. She stated that she has a safety plan for elections, and she explained. Mr. Fowler asked if we had a dry run to see how long it will take for each voter. She stated a good idea and will try to get set up the day before. Mr. Fowler asked if there would there be special accommodations for anyone with a handicap. Ms. McManus stated that there would be.

Library, Sara Cognata was online

Ms. Cognata stated that Libraries can start curbside book delivery and would like to start Monday, Wednesday, Friday and she explained the process and hours and will change if needed. She stated that patrons can make holds, order online, will have 15-minute increments for pick up. She stated that they will put the books in a paper bag and leave on a table with name and there will be no contact.

Mr. Dawes asked that all departments to submit plans to reopen.

Mr. Fowler asked if Ms. Cognata will track costs. She stated that she will. Mr. Bonavita stated that in the next phase libraries can open. She stated that she has not seen when they will be able to open.

Mr. Fowler moved to allow curbside pickup and a soft opening of the Georgetown Peabody Library. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

CoA

Colleen Fiorello, CoA director

She stated that they have continued making well calls and this has been working well. She stated meals on wheels is working well. She explained the services they are providing.

Mr. Twiss stated a lot of people do not have technology and a lot of their work is social. He asked how she is handling all of this. She stated that they have made over 1200 calls and are checking on everyone and will see how we move forward. Mr. Fowler stated that he received a call and it will be important to get back together. Mr. Bonavita stated she always does a great job and hopes they have what they need. He stated if she needs anything to let them know.

Parks & Recreation

Mr. Bonavita stated that they had a robust discussion last week and he has had a lot of inquiry on when the parks will open. He asked Ms. Rogers what is being allowed.

Mr. Rogers stated in phase 2 practices, but no games, no shared equipment, no contact sports.

Mr. Dawes stated that next week would be the opening. Ms. Rogers stated in some part of Phase 2. Mr. Dawes asked when the pond will be tested. She stated they test after school ends usually. She stated that the pond should be like a public swimming pool and in the same type of definition. Mr. Dawes stated a public facility and for this season make for residents only. Ms. Rogers stated that is a town counsel question. Mr. Bonavita stated that he agrees only for town residents and not a typical situation and he thinks of the safety for our citizens. Mr. Durney stated he agrees if Town Council agrees. Mr. Twiss agrees.

Concerts

Mr. Twiss stated that the concerts are for residents and a lot of seniors. Ms. Rogers stated falls under the requirement to only have groups of under 10. She stated that she can check but it is over 10 and not allowable at this time. Mr. Fowler stated that at Phase 2 playgrounds can open. He asked if they can open restrooms. Ms. Rogers stated that will somebody be there to manage. He asked for guidelines. She stated that she can forward the guidelines from the State. He stated that geese are taking over and need to open and he stated that we have to open up, and as town fathers we need to run our town. He stated concerts are needed and socialization is needed. He asked about security and will the State funds cover this. He stated we need to open up and get parks open, as people need to get out and they say the average person has gained 5lbs.

Mr. Bonavita agreed that we need to open parks and give citizens the right to choose. He stated for baseball if you do not want your child to play, they choose.

Mr. Dawes agreed can be on a schedule. Mr. Twiss stated surprised that permits where given for the protest, and if these where given out, baseball can start and for the beach need clarification on rights to make for residents only.

Mr. Bonavita stated he would like to open the parks limiting the beach until tested. Mr. Twiss stated opening of the parks does that include the School fields. Mr. Bonavita stated that it does not.

Ms. Jacobs stated that the next school committee meeting is June 11, and they have been using the governor's timeline and she thought it would be longer than he is proposing in phase 2. She stated GAA has submitted a plan for school fields and the BOH is in a tough spot. She stated that how do we do this in a safe manner. She stated getting School open is her priority. She stated GAA wanted all fields open and to keep under 10. She stated that if she opens the turf field there will be 100 kids and no social distancing. She stated she would like to take the 3 weeks and to go by the governor's guidelines and open when everyone else opens. Mr. Dawes stated if following guidelines under phase 1 beaches and parks are open. Discussion on fields. Mr. Bonavita stated he would like to see a staggering the field openings. Ms. Jacobs stated if opening would they make sure there are guidelines and to have social distancing. She stated they are trying to limit large groups.

Mr. Durney stated opening tonight the fields tonight is illegal and is against the guidelines, the State order is clear and a poor decision. He stated opening Camp Denison for trails is okay. Mr. Fowler stated that they have to schedule times and can more forward intelligently. He stated make for our residents and only town residents.

Mr. Fowler moved to open American Legion Park for fishing, Harry Murch Park, West Street Park, Civil War Monument, and Camp Denison for passive recreation.

Mr. Twiss stated he is okay with ALP docks for fishing and Camp Denison. He stated that he does not want to invite groups. He stated if the governor so approves on June 8 then go forward.

Mr. Cudmore stated with regard to Harry Murch Park and Camp Denison are open okay but for the others will we be able to hire security to monitor.

Ms. Jacobs read what was open in Phase 2. Mr. Twiss stated that he does not want to cause more issues for public safety or BoH. Mr. Dawes read list of allowable openings under recreation. He stated how do you police or limit the people.

June 1, 2020

Mr. Fowler asked if we open ALP can we use funds for security. Mr. Farrell stated that it would for security for Covid 19, it is to not to police residents. Chief Cudmore stated use property management not policing for residents.

Mr. Twiss stated he is okay with ALP for fishing, and Camp Denison to open on June 8th with guidelines.

Chief Cudmore read the list of what was closed, ALP, Harry Murch Park, East Main St Fields, Library field, and Camp Denison. Ms. Jacobs stated that she recommends waiting until June 8th. Mr. Fowler stated passive recreation to include fishing.

Mr. Dawes seconded the motion.

Mr. Dawes asked if this is to open tonight or June 8th.

Mr. Durney stated that he was okay with opening Harry Murch Park, Civil War Monument. He stated that ALP is another issue and West Street is recreational. Mr. Twiss stated how about ALP for fishing. Mr. Bonavita stated impossible to open only one part of the park. Discussion on ALP and charging for parking but cannot limit who can use.

Roll Call vote 2-3 motion was not approved.

Mr. Twiss moved to open Harry Murch, Civil War Monument, Camp Denison, and Library field for passive recreation. Mr. Bonavita seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-1 roll call vote.

Mr. Twiss stated that on June 8 they revisit the openings.

Mr. Cudmore stated that now that camp Denison is open can the construction start. Mr. Twiss stated as long as following social distancing.

Mr. Dawes stated that anyone using Harry Murch be respectful of Senior Graduation signs.

Mr. Bonavita asked if Ms. Jacobs needed any guidance from the board for the School Board vote on June 11th. He asked if the board wants to meet on June 8th. Mr. Dawes stated no, Mr. Fowler stated he will try, Mr. Twiss yes, and Mr. Durney yes. Mr. Bonavita stated if not needed he will cancel.

Concerts at American Legion Park Request for Approval

Mr. Bonavita stated that we will pass over a decision on the concerts for now.

WARRANT and MINUTES

Minutes of May 11, 2020

Mr. Fowler moved to approve the minutes of May 11, 2020. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a 4-0 roll call vote. Mr. Twiss abstained

APPOINTMENTS and APPROVALS

FY21 Appointments

Hold to the June 8th meeting.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Farrell stated had we have the National Ave bid and is reviewing, only one bid and will have soon. He stated that he has to grade the bid. Mr. Twiss stated that we need a resolution. Mr. Fowler stated we will have discussion. Mr. Farrell stated that the board has to approve.

Mr. Farrell stated that he is working with staff on how to get funds from the CARES Act and has to turned in on June 5th for FY20 and then will work on FY21.

NEXT MEETING

June 8, and then the ATM on June 15, 2020 6:00 PM Middle/High School

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Twiss moved to adjourn. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Meeting adjourned at 9:11PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano

Minutes approved June 29, 2020.

Documents used in this meeting:

- Minutes of May 11, 2020
- Town Election/Town Clerk update-Kerri McManus
- Re-Open Town Buildings Discussion
- Re-Open Parks Discussion
- Restaurant requests to use sidewalks-Discussion
- FY21 Appointments
- Concerts at American Legion Park Request for Approval