

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

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

Memorial Town Hall

6/8/2020

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;

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 stated he wanted to congratulate and honor the seniors graduating this week.

Old Business

Update on Covid-19

Re-Open Parks Discussion

Lt Hatch stated all has been steady and not many changes this week.

Mr. Bonavita stated he wanted to commend the department on their support of the protesters this weekend.

Ms. Rogers stated not a lot of changes and that Georgetown has 55 confirmed cases. She stated she has been doing a lot of reading on the new guidelines. She stated that we are starting Phase 2 part 1 now and then part 2. She explained what information she has been gathering.

Mr. Dawes asked if the part 1 is different. Ms. Rogers stated that the difference is only outside dining in part 1 and they are working on guidelines. Mr. Twiss asked if she knew why we have so many cases. She stated she will have that information at the end of the week.

Mr. Bonavita asked how long for part 1 and part 2. Ms. Rogers stated that it is up to the Governor. Mr. Bonavita discussed 3 weeks between phases and then they allowed the demonstrations. Mr. Twiss stated that a political decision because could not stop protests. Discussion on numbers in town and why our numbers were so high. Mr. Twiss stated he does not want to risk any funding by not following the rules.

Mr. Fowler asked about the playgrounds and parks and sports and where they fit into part 1. Ms. Rogers explained and listed that only practices and not more than 10 attendees. Mr. Bonavita stated that they cannot control people outside the fence. She stated that it does not say parents cannot social distance. Mr. Bonavita stated that he forwarded the GAA draft guidelines and they are in good shape.

Mr. Fowler asked about playgrounds. Ms. Rogers stated she has reached out to other towns and others have at their own risk and Park & Rec can do some disinfecting.

Mr. Dawes asked about the guidelines on restrooms. Ms. Rogers stated that there are guidelines on sanitizing the restrooms. She stated that they will need to be sure they are cleaned regularly.

Mr. Fowler stated that someone does open and clean in the morning and then lock up at night.

Mr. Twiss stated that cleaning needs to be done. Mr. Dawes stated that signage must be posted that using the restrooms is at your own risk. Mr. Twiss asked if the BoH could limit to town residents only. Ms. Rogers stated not that she knew of. Mr. Dawes stated BoS could with conjunction with the BoH. He stated that he will forward to Ms. Rogers the information. She stated that they will be sampling the water next week and depending on the sample will open the beach after that.

Mr. Farrell stated that the easiest way to control the people using the beach is to restrict parking and to limit to only town residents. He stated that this could be looked at as racist. He stated that that this is the less controversial method. Mr. Fowler stated if limited to 20 cars and with social distancing. He stated that tennis courts, field, beach, and playground will be opening. He stated that they can run the plates on cars to see where they are from.

Mr. Bonavita asked to limit parking or limit residents do we need a vote. Mr. Farrell stated for safety reasons the BoH must also vote. Mr. Durney stated that we need a plan first. Mr. Dawes agreed. Mr. Durney stated that there are guideline on beaches. Ms. Rogers stated that there are with a checklist and they need separation. Mr. Bonavita stated that who is going to enforce this. Mr. Farrell stated that we do not have staff to monitor the beach.

Lt. Hatch stated the Police Chief recommended a management company and will need someone to check id's, parking passes for in town, check out of State, and set up cleaning. He stated that there will be issues.

Mr. Durney stated that we should have a group come together and come up with a plan. He stated that otherwise we are spinning our wheels. Mr. Dawes agreed. Mr. Durney stated we all want to open the beach, but we need to do this safely. Mr. Twiss stated that the beach stays closed and the park open and the tennis courts open. Mr. Fowler stated bathrooms will be cleaned twice a day. He stated he agrees with Mr. Durney we are spinning our wheels. He stated that the Park & Rec are looking at kiosks for charging for parking, and will give residents

stickers. He stated that we can open the park for tennis and pickleball and use the playground at your own risk.

Mr. Bonavita stated opening everything but swimming.

Mr. Durney stated there is swimming or closing the beach. Mr. Dawes asked if beaches are open. Ms. Rogers stated they are. Mr. Twiss stated until tested they must stay closed.

Mr. Fowler read recommendation from town counsel on parking, limits, and need more guidelines.

Mr. Twiss moved under Governor Bakers Phase 2 part 1 and the reopening due to pandemic to open the parks, except the beach and pond for sunbathing at American Legion Park, with the exception of East Main St Park which is not open to the public. Mr. Bonavita seconded the motion.

Discussion on needing to prepare for the opening.

Mr. Bonavita stated that if the beach is closed there will not be a lot of cars. He stated if just opening the baseball fields, and tennis courts. He stated that we do not need to over govern and let citizens make own decisions.

Mr. Twiss moved to amend motion to limit to open parks with exception of water area and Beach and playground at ALP. Mr. Bonavita seconded the amendment. The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Twiss stated that will not have results on the beach water testing until June 15 and then vote on June 29 whether to open the beach. Mr. Fowler stated that if Mr. Farrell or Ms. Pantano can find out the capacity of the playground from the Building Inspector.

Mr. Bonavita asked if some of the GYCC staff could help with some issues at the park. Mr. Fowler stated that the GYCC will not have staffing over the summer. Mr. Farrell stated that we can reassign staff under the State guidelines. Mr. Fowler stated that the GYCC is limiting over the summer so they have funds for the fall. Mr. Bonavita stated will have to look into this. Mr. Twiss asked if the funds could be used for the management of the playground.

Discussion on the funds from the Federal Government.

Lt. Hatch stated that the high school seniors need community service hours and may be able to help. He stated that if the funds are used for a Covid-19 issue and may be available to be reimbursable, but will need the funds in the budget.

Mr. Bonavita stated that on June 29th we should have some guidelines ready to be approved.

Restaurant requests to use sidewalks-Discussion

Mr. Bonavita stated that we have a formal request from The Spot for outside seating. He stated that they have submitted a plan and we have to vote on ability to serve alcohol outside. Ms. Rogers stated as long as 6 ft distancing and no more than 6 at a table. Mr. Bonavita stated that if already had outdoor seating they are all set, if not they need approval. He stated that Pomadori has permission from their landlord.

Mr. Farrell stated that they had a legal opinion. He stated that if already have liquor license can open and if do not already then have to adopt rules and regulations and if alcohol have an application, if never had alcohol a process. He stated rules and regulations for if on public property. He stated have to issue a license to use the property and it allows the Town Administrator to approve and be expedited. Mr. Bonavita asked what boards are involved. Mr.

Farrell stated that just a sign off of departments, fire department, police, BoH, planning and they have to be ADA compliant and not the block sidewalk. Mr. Bonavita stated have someone go down and review. Mr. Farrell stated that they will have to see that the seating matches the plan.

Mr. Durney stated who does application go to. Mr. Farrell stated to him. Mr. Durney stated goes to Town Administrator and then to departments. Mr. Bonavita stated that the license is good until November 1st. Mr. Farrell stated add outdoor dining information to go out with BoH information.

Mr. Dawes read regulations from KP Law that the board would have to accept. Mr. Farrell stated that the board would have to accept the regulations.

Mr. Durney stated that we will need a motion to adopt regulations, one for outdoor dining and one for public property outdoor dining.

Mr. Twiss moved to adopt the rules and regulations for outdoor dining with application as presented by legal counsel. Mr. Durney seconded the motion

Mr. Durney asked if they have to come back to the board. Mr. Farrell stated yes they would have to come back to the board.

The motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Dawes moved to adopt the rules and regulations for private property outdoor dining. Mr. Durney seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Fowler stated that the layout for the Spot does not leave egress for the public. He asked if we could eliminate the 3 parking spots and put up jersey barriers and give them addition space. Mr. Bonavita stated that looking at the area on the plan, has to be passable. He stated that could they spread out the tables. Mr. Fowler stated has to be in front of business and be able to see the tables.

Mr. Farrell stated that one business is asking for a 15 minute spot in front of CBD shop. Mr. Dawes stated there is one 15 space already. Mr. Bonavita stated that that the business owner stated that the CBD shop needs one as some people have a condition that limits mobility. Mr. Dawes stated cannot make parking spot just for one business. He stated that the plan for The Spot does not plan for any room for pedestrians. He stated cannot approve as presented as uses all the sidewalk. Mr. Farrell stated that they have to be ADA compliant. Mr. Farrell stated that they will be given an application and will have to have a plan approved.

Re-Open Town Buildings Discussion

Mr. Bonavita stated open on July 13 for staff and then a week later for the public.

Mr. Fowler asked about boards and committees meeting. Mr. Farrell stated have to wait to be open to the public and need training and cannot exceed 10 in a meeting. Mr. Bonavita stated that the ConCom is not meeting and how long do we wait. He stated that they do not want to vote remotely. Mr. Dawes stated that he asked the agent and they are not meeting. Mr. Bonavita stated that he does not understand why they are not meeting. Mr. Farrell stated that they cannot hold hearings but can hold meetings. He stated that they are planning to hold hearings in July.

Mr. Twiss stated that this is not going away and have to figure this out. He stated for a septic there should be a way to hold the hearing. Mr. Dawes stated that the inaction is holding up two transactions that he is aware of. He stated that the Agent and Chairman have to figure this out. Mr. Fowler stated that not just a problem now. He stated that they only meet once a month and if no quorum they wait until next meeting, and does not find this acceptable. Mr. Bonavita stated that if a board holds up a transaction and someone loses the sale is the town liable. Discussion. The Chairman of the ConCom is the hiring authority of the Agent.

Mr. Bonavita stated that July 13th town hall will be open for staff and a week later for the public following guidelines.

Mr. Bonavita asked if the Planning Board is meeting. Mr. Farrell stated that they are holding meetings but no hearings.

Appointments and Approvals

Concerts at American Legion Park-Request for Approval

Mr. Bonavita asked how the board feels.

Ms. Rogers stated that the concerts are not allowable in this Phase and cannot approve for large gatherings.

Board stated that they will wait to see if the orders change.

FY21 Appointments

Mr. Fowler asked if we could vote the list in one motion.

Mr. Dawes stated that we have had complaints on Conservation Commission and he feels we have to address these before reappointments. Mr. B stated 2 people to renew. He stated to remove Conservation Commission. He stated on EDC John Duggen will not be returning.

Mr. Fowler moved to appoint the persons as listed on the Selectmen Appointments Spreadsheet and as noted in the June 8, 2020 packet for dates as listed to exclude Conservation Commission and EDC John Duggen page 26 commencing July 1, 2020. Mr. Twiss seconded the motion and the motion was approved by a unanimous roll call vote.

Mr. Bonavita stated that his is the only board that he has had complaints about. He stated that they work in a silo and things need to change. He stated if changing bylaws, or people, need to increase revenue.

Mr. Dawes stated that there seems to be an issue with ConCom and unfortunately, they have come off confrontational and had a septic plan presented in February and still not approved. He stated we need a conversation with the board.

Mr. Twiss stated that we are elected and many commissions and boards are appointed and he has had many complaints. He stated bylaw could be upheld and have to work in kind and in a professional manner. He stated that they have to have a change in behavior. He stated are a service to the public.

Mr. Durney asked if we should have a conversation before the vote.

Mr. Fowler stated that the commission members maintain those positions until we fill the positions. He stated that the chair does a nice job on meetings. He stated that we never get people to fill positions and need some healthy conservation. Mr. Twiss stated that he has had someone approach him regarding appointment.

Mr. Twiss asked how the person should apply. Ms. Pantano stated an email to her and/or Mr. Farrell.

Mr. Bonavita asked when should the Conservation Commission come to a meeting. Mr. Farrell stated that if it is consensus of the board then they could invite to next meeting. Mr. Fowler stated ask Mr. Farrell to talk to ConCom and set something up, and the sooner the better.

Mr. Dawes stated communication from a resident on tree cutting by National Grid and Light Department. Mr. Farrell stated that if a resident sends a letter it should be responded too. Mr. Bonavita stated forward to ConCom.

Next Meeting

June 15, 2020 6:00PM Middle/High School

Adjournment

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:04PM.

Minutes transcribed by J. Pantano.

Minutes approved August 17, 2020.

Documents used in this meeting:

- Restaurant requests to use sidewalks-Discussion
- Re-Open Parks Discussion
- Re-Open Town Buildings Discussion
- FY21 Appointments
- Concerts at American Legion Park Request for Approval