

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Monday, June 24, 2020
Ipswich Town Hall | 25 Green Street

The Select Board participated in this meeting remotely utilizing Zoom in accordance with the Governor's March 12 Order suspending provisions of Open Meeting Law and to promote public health and social distancing.

Board Members present: William Whitmore, Chair; Linda Alexson, Vice Chair; Dr. Tammy Jones; Kerry Mackin; Nishan Mootafian

Also present: Anthony Marino, Town Manager; Eileen Page, Recording Secretary

With a quorum present, Mr. Whitmore called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

Welcome/Announcements

TOWN MEETING

Annual Town Meeting will be held Saturday, June 27 at 9:00 AM at the Ipswich Middle/High School. Masks will be required. Residents who do not want to sit under the tent may listen to the meeting on the radio from their cars, and vote using electronic key pads.

ELECTIONS

Town Elections will be held on Tuesday, June 30 at the Ipswich YMCA. Hours have been reduced due to COVID-19. Voting will be open from 10:00 AM to 2:00 PM. Early voting is available in the Town Clerk's office until Monday, June 29. The Town Clerk's office is open to the public Monday through Thursday from 8:00 AM to 2:00 PM, and Friday from 8:00 AM to 12:00 PM. Masks are required for both Early Voting and for Election Day voting.

Citizen Queries

None.

Shellfish Reimbursement Request

Alfred Boucher (Newburyport) obtained a non-resident shellfish permit for \$160, and later became aware of a veteran shellfish permit available at a reduced cost of \$40. Mr. Boucher wrote to the Board seeking reimbursement of the \$120 difference, and provided his DB-214 as proof of military service.

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to approve the reimbursement. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

PUBLIC HEARING: Consider Lowering the Quorum for Town Meeting

"Residents of the Town of Ipswich, please note that the Select Board will conduct a remote public hearing on Wednesday, June 24, 2020 at 7:15 PM to consider lowering of the quorum for Town Meeting scheduled for 9:00 AM on Saturday, June 27, 2020, at Ipswich Middle/High School." - William D. Whitmore, Select Board Chair

- *Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to open the Public Hearing. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Dr. Jones stated that she believes the Town will achieve a quorum of 200 at Annual Town Meeting, but would be open to reducing the quorum to 150.

Ms. Alexson stated that she is not in favor of lowering the quorum, as she believes 200 is already too low for the number of registered voters in town. Ms. Mackin agreed.

Mr. Mootafian stated that that the Town has gone to great lengths to ensure the Annual Town Meeting is held as safely as possible, and it would be a shame not to reach the quorum of 200, but he believes 200 is a reasonable number.

Tom Murphy (Town Moderator) stated that if a quorum isn't reached on June 27, he plans to adjourn to June 28 and spend Saturday evening making calls encouraging residents to attend the meeting.

Walter Hartford (3 Mulholland Drive) stated that he does not support lowering the quorum.

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to close the Public Hearing. Ms. Mackin seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Consent Agenda

- I. Entertainment License Application
 - a. 1640 Hart House - 51 Linebrook Road
- II. Temporary Extension of Outdoor Premises Application
 - a. 1634 Meadery - 3 Short Street

Mr. Mootafian recused himself as an abutter of the Hart House.

Kim Lesko (1640 Hart House) requested for the restaurant's entertainment license to be extended outside, as dining currently takes place under a 5,000 square foot tent. Ms. Lesko intends to hire local musicians to provide entertainment on Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights, ending at 8:30 PM.

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved to approve an outdoor entertainment license for the 1640 Hart House through November 30, 2020. Ms. Mackin seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Dan Clapp (1634 Meadery) requested the Board's permission to set up sampling stations outside the Meadery, as much of his sales rely on a customer's ability to sample before purchasing.

- *Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to approve a temporary outdoor liquor license for 1634 Meadery. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Authorize Signature of Purchase & Sales Agreement (P&S) for Pineswamp Land Purchased as Potential Public Safety Building Location

A parcel of land across the street from Our Lady of Hope Church (1 Pineswamp Road) has been identified as a potential site for a Public Safety Facility. Following negotiations with the Archdiocese of Boston, a P&S has been drafted for a purchase price of \$630,000. If signed, \$10,000 from the FY20 budget will be moved into an escrow account. If the sale is not approved at a future Town Meeting, the funds will be released and certified as Free Cash.

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved to give Tony Marino, Town Manager of the Town of Ipswich, permission to sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement with the Roman Catholic Archbishop of Boston for a portion of an 11+ acre parcel of land owned by the seller. This portion of the 11+ acre parcel is approximately +/- seven (7) acres which is to be more accurately depicted on a mutually satisfactory Approval Not Required Plan to be created in accordance with the terms and provisions of this Agreement. This portion of the 11+ acre parcel runs from approximately the stream that bisects the parcel to Linebrook Road and is bounded by Pineswamp Road and 32 Linebrook Road. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

New Business

CRANE BEACH WEDDING

A residential couple has requested a one-day parking pass be granted so that their non-resident parents may travel to Crane Beach for the exchange of their vows while maintaining proper social distancing. There will be a total of 10 people at the wedding.

Ms. Alexson and Dr. Jones expressed their support for the pass.

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved to grant the residents a temporary pass for a wedding at Crane Beach, on Monday, August 3. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Old Business

ABATEMENTS

The Board of Assessors has received one late abatement application, and are seeking to accept it with Select Board approval. If the abatement is not accepted, the application will go to a tax title.

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved that, pursuant to the Select Board's authority under section 10(a)(iv) of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, the deadline for filing of abatement applications under MGL Chapter 59, Section 59 be extended from April 1, 2020 to June 1, 2020. Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

SYMES DEVELOPMENT AT LINEBROOK ROAD

Ms. Alexson asked for an update on the Symes Associates development on Linebrook Road. Mr. Marino responded that they have switched from using sprinklers to soaker hoses. Two more houses have sold, and so as the development is now only watering two lawns, their fines have decreased from \$900 per day to \$600 per day. They have also reportedly ordered water tanks that will be filled with non-Ipswich water.

Keri MacRae (31 Heartbreak Road) wrote in the following comment: "Can the board share the update on the usage with the general public? And I will also say soaker hoses are better than sprinklers." Mr. Marino stated that he will gather an update on water usage and make it available to the public.

Miscellaneous and Correspondence

Mr. Whitmore would like to discuss implementing a noise ordinance at the next meeting.

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to adjourn. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

The Select Board adjourned at 8:23 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
06.29.2020*