

**IPSWICH SELECT BOARD**  
**Meeting of Monday, July 20, 2020**

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

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

With a quorum present, Mr. Whitmore called the meeting to order at 7:06 PM.

**Welcome/Announcements**

**VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES**

There are vacancies on a variety of committees, including the Conservation Commission, Zoning Board of Appeals, ReCreation Committee, Waste Reduction Advisory Committee, Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee. Additionally, the new Cycle Safe Task Force is looking for volunteers. Interested residents can apply to any of these groups by visiting [ipswichma.gov/265/Boards-Committees-Commissions](http://ipswichma.gov/265/Boards-Committees-Commissions), or by contacting the Town Manager's office.

**UTILITIES**

Auto Pay is now available for utility bills.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The Public Safety Facilities Committee will meet on July 21 via Zoom.

The Climate Resiliency Committee will meet on July 21 via Zoom.

**Citizen Queries**

None.

**Board and Committee Business**

- a. Justin Planash – ZBA – Alternate to Regular Member
  - *Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to appoint Justin Planash as a Regular Member to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Reorganization of Select Board**

Mr. Mootafian thanked Mr. Whitmore for a serving as Select Board Chair for the past year. He commended Mr. Whitmore for guiding the Board through the implementation and utilization of remote meetings.

- *Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to appoint Linda Alexson as Select Board Chair for FY21. Dr. Jones seconded. Ms. Alexson accepted the nomination. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*
- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to Dr. Jones as Select Board Vice Chair for FY21. Mr. Mootafian seconded. Dr. Jones accepted the nomination. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

**Annual DPU Report**

Ray Leczynski (Business Manager, Electric Department) presented the annual report that has been submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Public Utilities (DPU). He noted that the DPU report runs on a calendar year, while the Town runs on a fiscal year, and as such the data in the report being presented is valid for January 1, 2019 through December 31, 2019, encapsulating six months of FY19, and six months of FY20.

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

**Application for Change of Manager, Greek Orthodox Community of Ipswich d/b/a Hellenic Center**

Deb Flohr appeared before the Board asking that the Hellenic Center be granted a change of manager to move all applicable licenses into her name.

- *Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to approve the application. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

**True North Ale Company Business**

**TEMPORARY COVID-RELATED OUTDOOR ENTERTAINMENT LICENSE REQUEST**

Gary Rogers (Owner, True North Ale) appeared before the Board seeking to extend his entertainment license to allow for outdoor music on Thursdays from 4:00 PM to 9:00 PM, and on Fridays and Saturdays from 12:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

It was confirmed that all abutters were notified in writing of the request earlier in July.

**ONE-DAY LIQUOR LICENSE APPLICATION**

- I. True North Ale – for Farmhouse Café Event at Appleton Farms on Saturday, August 1

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved to approve the temporary outdoor entertainment license. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*
- *Dr. Jones moved to approve the one-day liquor license application. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

**Living Faith United Methodist Church Easement Front Entry/Property Line**

John Hale (Pion Arch Architecture) explained that the Church is seeking to bring all entries to the church up to code by installing handicapped accessible entrances. To make the front door accessible, a ramp would need to be built, but doing so would encroach on Town-owned land right at the property line.

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to speak to Town Counsel about granting an easement, with the approval of Public Safety and other appropriate Town departments. Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

**Set Special Town Meeting Date**

Mr. Marino informed that Board that state aid figures are expected in September, and recommended Saturday, October 17 at 9:00 AM for Special Town Meeting. An October meeting would allow the Accounting department to apply the state aid numbers for the Finance Committee book.

It is currently assumed that Special Town Meeting will take place with social-distancing precautions in place, outside, under a tent.

Ms. Alexson asked if Special Town Meeting would address articles pulled from the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Mr. Marino responded that they would, and would also include water and public safety articles. Ms. Alexson asked if keypad voting would be in use for Special Town Meeting. Mr. Marino responded that it would be up to the Town Moderator, but that he anticipates their use.

Mr. Whitmore suggested that the Town consider making early voting and/or voter registration available at Special Town Meeting. Mr. Marino stated that the Special Town Meeting would be too far ahead of official early voting times for the 2020 Presidential Election, but would like to see voter registration be made available.

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to accept the Special Town Meeting date of Saturday, October 17, 2020 at 9:00 AM. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

**Consent Agenda**

- I. Weekday and Sunday Entertainment License Applications

- a. TTOR – Two Weekday Licenses for Friday, July 31 and Saturday, August 1
  - b. TTOR – Weekend Entertainment License for Sunday, August 2
  - c. TTOR – Three Sunday One-Day Entertainment Licenses for Sunday Drive-In Concerts on August 16, August 23 and August 30
- II. Over 70 Shellfish Permit Applications
- a. Sharon Lanciani Sloman, 24 River Point Drive
  - b. David A. Comeau, 2 Appleton Park
  - c. Janetis M. Vassiliades, 429 Linebrook Road
- *Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Mackin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Approval of Minutes**

- I. June 15, 2020
- II. June 24, 2020

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

### **New Business**

- I. One Day Liquor License Application
  - a. Essex County Brewing Co. for three-day Pop-Up Brewery Event on 7/14, 7/25, 7/26 at Appleton Farms, 218 County Road

- *Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to approve the application. Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

### **Old Business**

#### **NOISE ORDINANCE**

Mr. Whitmore reported an increase in correspondence from residents regarding the implementation of a noise ordinance. He suggested that the Board set aside time at an upcoming meeting to discuss the ordinance proposed by Mr. Marino at a previous meeting.

Mr. Marino reported that he had planned to introduce the noise ordinance for a vote at the 2021 Annual Town Meeting to ensure time for a Planning Board review and public discussions.

Dr. Jones stated that she would support waiting until 2021 Annual Town Meeting to ensure that due diligence was done, and that any implications of the bylaw are properly reviews.

#### **WATER BAN VIOLATIONS**

Ms. Mackin asked to discuss increasing the fines for water ban violations. Mr. Marino responded that fines are capped by Massachusetts General Law at \$300 per day, per meter, but the Town could explore turning off the water if a house is unoccupied or still under construction. He noted that Town Counsel and the Water Subcommittee would be reviewing such practices under their examination of the water bylaws.

#### **IMPROPER DUMPING**

Ms. Alexson noted that there has been an increase in “free” items being placed on curbsides that are blocking sidewalks. Mr. Marino responded that Public Safety laws and Architectural Access laws should cover penalties for improper dumping, and will look into the matter with appropriate authorities.

#### **BUILDING MORATORIUM**

Ms. Alexson asked to revisit the idea of a building moratorium on multifamily and/or subdivision properties. While there has not been strong support for a building moratorium in the past, there is now talk of a citizen petition coming forward for Special Town Meeting that would address the matter.

Mr. Whitmore cautioned that to approach the subject, the Board would have to define a difference between a full moratorium and a moratorium on multifamily and subdivision properties exclusively. He noted that while water is a key issue, so is affordable housing, and people are often able to move to and stay in Ipswich because of condo developments.

### **Miscellaneous and Correspondence**

#### **LORD SQUARE**

Ms. Alexson asked for an update regarding a work bay at an autobody shop on Lord Square. Mr. Marino reported that Jim Bone (Building Inspector) reached out and made it clear that use of the bay would require working with the Building department first. As of right now, the business is only able to pump gas.

#### **UPCOMING MEETINGS**

The next Select Board meeting is August 3. Mr. Marino will be on vacation and intends to appoint Sarah Johnson (Finance Director) as Acting Town Manager.

### **Town Manager Report**

#### **FY20**

FY20 (July 1, 2019 to June 30, 2020) bills have been wrapped up and paid by the Accounting department. FY21 (July 1, 2020 to June 30, 2021) is underway.

#### **ROAD CLOSURES**

Several letters have been received regarding designated Peabody Street as one-way. Speed bumps have been requested but not acquired, and the neighborhood is now seeking to be blocked off to prevent cut-throughs from Down River Ice Cream patrons.

#### **OUTDOOR SEATING**

Outdoor seating at local restaurants is going well. New tables have been ordered and will be set up at EBSCO. Antibacterial wipe stations have been installed so that patrons may wipe down tables between uses.

#### **ELECTRIC CARS**

A charging station will be installed in the Hammatt Street parking lot. The charger was acquired through a grant.

#### **NEW PLAYGROUND**

Agawam Village was recently awarded a \$220,000 grant to install a new playground. The Town co-sponsored the grant, with both Mr. Marino and Kerrie Bates (ReCreation Director) writing letters of support.

#### **EAST STREET**

“No Parking” signs will be installed along East Street above the Town Wharf after an advertisement in the paper announcing the change.

#### **DOG PARK**

A \$100,000 grant is available for building a dog park on Town-owned land, and can be applied for once the Town has identified and dedicated a specific parcel for the park. Mr. Marino and Megan Sousa (Animal Control Officer) have discussed using one of the fields at Town Hall for the park. Mr. Marino will work with Ethan Parsons (Director of Planning and Development) to identify a few potential parcels and report back to the Board.

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

The Select Board adjourned at 8:29 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page  
07.27.2020*