

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Monday, August 17, 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: Tony Marino, Town Manager; Eileen Page, Recording Secretary

With a quorum present, Ms. Alexson called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Welcome/Announcements

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING

Citizens Petitions for Special Town Meeting are due to the Town Clerk by 4:00 PM on Monday, August 24.

CENSUS

The 2020 Federal Census is in progress. Residents who have not yet responded should do so online at My2020Census.gov or by calling (844) 330-2020.

PUBLIC SAFETY

The Public Safety Facilities Committee will meet at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 18.

The public safety departments have a new website, IpswichSafety.com.

DONATION

A resident has anonymously donated \$1,000 to the Police Gift Account. The account is used for purchasing t-shirts, gift cards and other items that are given out during school and community events.

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to accept the gift. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Citizen Queries

None.

Discuss Upcoming Special Town Meeting and Voting Procedures

Tom Murphy (Town Moderator) would like to hold Special Town Meeting with the same tent and parking lot model as Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Murphy will be attending tomorrow night's Public Safety Facilities meeting to get an idea of the presentation coming to the meeting and better assess what kind of crowd can be expected. Mr. Murphy is not inclined to use electronic voting, as he believes it takes away from the legitimacy of Town Meeting, but has not yet ruled it out. Mr. Murphy will attend a late September or early October meeting to discuss details of the meeting further.

Discuss Potential No Wake Zone from Town Wharf to Plum Island Sound on Ipswich River

The Board had previously discussed hazards on the Ipswich River related to boating, and asked the Waterways Advisory Board to make safety recommendations regarding speed.

Chris Murray (Waterways Advisory Board, Chair) advised that making the majority of the River would be a massive undertaking, and that there may be more value in emphasizing boat safety education. He added that there should also be more investigation into the environmental impact of boating waves on the marshland.

Ms. Mackin stated that she is in favor of reducing the speed limit on the River.

Mr. Whitmore stated that he is not in favor of making the entire River a No Wake Zone, but doesn't think that it is an unprecedented idea to look into, citing the Annisquam River as a No Wake Zone.

Dr. Jones asked if there were any interns who could assist in GIS Mapping of the River. Mr. Marino reported that the Town currently has one intern from Salem State University.

Gary Champion (3 Palomino Way) would like to require Boating Safety Certificates to launch at Town Wharf, noting that this is a requirement of local boating clubs for membership, and a bill that is currently in the Senate that would also require new boaters to produce the certificate. Police Chief Paul Nikas stated that he has written two letters of support for the bill. Ms. Alexson asked if any other towns have implemented a required boating safety certificate at public launches. Chief Nikas responded that they have not, but he would look into the logistics of enforcement.

Review of Cycle Safe Task Force Requests, Mission and Goals

Mr. Marino reported that 10 applicants have applied to participate in the Cycle Safe Task Force, and asked the Board how they would like to proceed regarding membership numbers and a mission statement.

Mr. Whitmore stated that he would like to let the Task Force form their own mission statement and hear their ideas for bicycle safety in town. He suggested the Select Board set an initial deadline for an update.

Dr. Jones stated that she would like to see input from off-road bikers and family bikers as well, and asked what Town staff might be appropriate for the Task Force. Chief Nikas stated that he has an officer in mind who is heavily involved in the cycling community and would be helpful to the Task Force.

Mr. Marino stated that he would send appointment letters to the applicants and set up the first meeting, and task the group with drafting a mission statement.

Mr. Whitmore volunteered to be the Select Board liaison.

- *Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to instruct Mr. Marino to move forward with setting up the Cycle Safe Task Force. Ms. Mackin seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Referral of Zoning Article to Planning Board

Keith Anderson (Planning Board) asked that the article submitted for 2020 Special Town Meeting be referred to the Planning Board, so as to coordinate public hearings and discussions.

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to refer the article to the Planning Board. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Select Board Sign Warrant for the State Primary Election

- *Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved for the Board to sign the Warrant for the State Primary Election. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Consent Agenda

- I. One Day Wine & Malt Application
 - a. TTOR at Appleton Farms for Guided Hikes and Craft Beer on 8/19 and 9/16

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

Approval of Minutes

- I. July 30, 2020
- II. August 3, 2020

- *Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to approve the July 30 minutes. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*
- *Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to approve the August 3 minutes. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Town Manager Report

SPECIAL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES

Articles on the warrant for Special Town Meeting include the hot stopper ban, the New England Biolabs TIF, amending chapter 25 of the Town Charter, a Government Study Committee article regarding waterways, revisions to the demolition review bylaw, a decrease in dog license fees for residents over 70, and Open Space funding for a non-motorized launching dock at Peatfield Landing.

COVID-19

The Town has begun receiving guidance regarding CARES Fund reimbursements. \$600,000 in funds was given to the Town, and about \$420,000 has been spent on COVID-related expenses.

Outdoor seating in downtown continues to be popular.

DOG PARK

Mr. Marino has reached out to residents circulating a Change.org petition for the installation of a dog park to let them know that a petition must be brought forth as an article at Town Meeting, and must include wet signatures. The fields at Town Hall have been identified as a potential location for a dog park, and Mr. Marino and Megan Sousa (Animal Control Officer) have been looking into a \$100,000 privately-funded grant.

ESSEX PASTURES

Mr. Marino has drafted a letter from the Select Board to be sent to the Zoning Board of Appeals regarding opposition to the Essex Pastures development.

New Business

WATER

Ms. Mackin reported that a Water Use Mitigation Plan (WUMP) was sent to the Select Board for review, and public hearings will take place in September and October. She also noted that there is a citizens' petition in the works to rework Ipswich water rates based on Wenham and Danvers fee structures.

Mr. Marino responded that he has been in touch with Jim Engel and Chris Florio on the WUMP. The Water/Wastewater Subcommittee has asked to bring the WUMP forward on their own.

UPCOMING MEETINGS

A Triboard Meeting has been tentatively scheduled for September 2 at Town Hall under a tent. The meeting will include a presentation from the Strategic Planning Committee, a discussion regarding prioritizing capital items, and a discussion on reopening schools.

Bean Counting will not be held prior to Special Town Meeting.

Old Business

SHELLFISH PERMITS

Ms. Alexson, George Hall (Town Counsel) and the Department of Marine Fisheries (DMF) had a conference call regarding a non-resident veteran, over the age of 70, who had previously applied for a shellfish permit. The meeting decided that DMF will issue a memo to all shellfishing communities explaining that over 70 resident fees should also apply to veterans over 70, even if they are not a resident. This will allow veterans to obtain their permit for the lowest available fee.

WHITTER REGIONAL TECHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. Alexson asked if there were any significant savings due to the pandemic shutting down schools in the annual financial report from Whittier. Mr. Marino responded that there were not, as bus contracts were honored and teachers were paid for teaching remotely.

WATER

Ms. Mackin reported that flows in the Ipswich River are currently less than 5% of the level that the US Geological Survey is found necessary to sustain a river ecosystem.

Miscellaneous and Correspondence

The next Select Board meeting will be Tuesday, September 8 at 7:00 PM. The Planning Board will also be in attendance to provide a presentation on the draft Housing Production Plan. There will be a warrant hearing for Special Town Meeting.

The following Select Board meeting will be Monday, September 14 at 7:00 PM.

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

The Select Board adjourned at 8:21 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
08.28.2020*