

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES  
MONDAY, MARCH 2, 2020  
APPROVED**

**SB Members Present:** Alison S. Manugian, Chair; Joshua A. Degen, Vice Chair; John F. Reilly, Clerk; John R. Giger, Member; Rebecca H. Pine, Member

**Also Present:** Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Ms. Manugian called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Ms. Manugian reminded everyone that it was super Tuesday and that people could vote between 7am and 8pm. Ms. Pine said that Precinct 3 voted at the Town Hall, Precinct 1 voted at the Center, and Precinct 2 voted at the Country Club.

**PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD**

Mr. Schulman asked if the Town had any thoughts on the Coronavirus. Ms. Pine said it was on the agenda for the BOH tonight at the Light Department. Ms. Manugian said that the superintendent sent out an email about planning going on.

**TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

1. Mr. Haddad said that at the request of the Board he reached out to the Town of Pepperell for an update on the Landfill Issue. He said that he received the following email from the Pepperell Town Administrator Andrew Maclean:

*"Mark, Thanks for checking in on this. For a deep dive, follow this link where we share all the public documents on the topic. <https://town.pepperell.ma.us/566/4080/Soil-Reclamation-Proposal>. Here is the quick update: January 2019 ZBA overturned the Building Inspector decision that the use was not allowed as it constituted a Commercial Dumping Ground. The Town and a local citizens group appealed to Land Court. The lawsuits were joined in court. It has been nearly a year and we are just finalizing the discovery processes for all the parties involved. Once completed, the parties will request a trial or a summary judgement. We anticipate this going to trial. In the meantime, there is no related activity occurring on the site and we continue to encourage alternative uses that the Town would approve of (housing, etc.). Thank you, Andrew"*

It was discussed and decided by a consensus of the Board that they would remove the item from their on-going issues list and updates would be given as they arose.

2. Mr. Haddad said that he spoke with Ms. Sammie Kul, Admin for the Board of Health who advised him that the Mosquito Control warrant article was on the Board of Health's agenda for that evening. He said that he would provide the Board with an update as soon as he received it. Mr. Robertson said that the Finance Committee was waiting to hear also adding their next meeting was on March 16th.
3. Mr. Haddad respectfully requested that the Board approve a request from the Groton Neighbors for a One Day Beer and Wine License for their Annual Pot Luck Dinner for Members on Friday, May 1, 2020 from 5:00 P.M. to 7:00 P.M. at the Groton Center.

*Ms. Pine moved to approve the one-day beer and wine license as requested. Mr. Reilly seconded. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Giger abstaining.*

4. Mr. Haddad asked if the Board wanted to have a discussion on the CPA even though they were not seeking an override or if they wanted to table the discussion for now. Ms. Pine said she wasn't sure why they were planning to talk about it again and thought they could take it off any future agendas. Ms. Manugian thought they could table it for a few months. She asked if they could vote on a possible reduction with a potential future date of execution. Mr. Haddad said he could check with Town Counsel. Mr. Degen said that he did not agree and thought they needed to continue the discussions. Mr. Degen said that they should hold a public hearing on this and that they should get the

numbers out there. Ms. Manugian thought it made sense to wait until after the Spring Town Meeting to have the discussion so as to not confuse people. Mr. Degen said he would like to see a firm date set maybe sometime the beginning of June after the election. Mr. Haddad said he would add that to the future schedule.

5. Mr. Haddad said that the Finance Committee would be discussing setting the budget at their meeting on March 24th. Mr. Degen asked how the Town Manager would potentially fund mosquito control. Mr. Degen asked Mr. Haddad to bring a proposal forward to their next meeting on how to fund that. Ms. Manugian asked if he could do that same thing for potentially funding Groton's share of GD using E&D to fund their budget. Mr. Haddad said that he would need to find \$120K plus \$90K adding he would provide the Board with that at their next meeting.
6. Mr. Haddad said that 34 articles were submitted before the warrant closed and wanted to go over the articles briefly. Ms. Pine asked if the draft could be added to the homepage of the website before the public hearing. Ms. Manugian said it made sense to keep it within the packet to avoid any confusion.

Mr. Haddad reviewed the articles contained in the Spring 2020 Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. Degen asked about the \$40K debt payment on the dump truck outlined in the Capital Plan. Mr. Haddad said it was the third payment on the 5-year state house note. Ms. Pine asked about the pickup truck request made by the Police Department. Mr. Haddad said that the Police Chief was taking the opportunity to add a request for a truck because they already replaced a cruiser early due to an accident. Ms. Manugian asked for additional information on Municipal Building repairs and Park Commission capital plans.

Mr. Haddad said that article 7 was requested by the Council on Aging. He said that the Sportsman's Club in West Groton was approved for taking at the Spring Town Meeting last year. He said that he had been waiting due to lead contamination concerns. He said that the Council on Aging would like to understand what the possible contamination was on that site. He said that he had a quote for \$18K for a company to come in and assess the site and tell them what was needed to clean up the site. He said that Town Counsel said they had no liability if they did this review. Mr. Reilly asked if this would tell them what it would cost to remediate potential issues. Mr. Haddad said that this review would provide them with the cost to remediate. Mr. Degen said that the Town didn't currently own the building adding it was owned by GEMS. Mr. Haddad said that GEMS was kind of defunct right now adding they had the right to take the property for \$1. Mr. Degen said that if there was an environmental issue what would happen. Mr. Haddad said he wasn't sure who would clean it up adding the Town wasn't liable because the Town didn't own the property.

Mr. Haddad said that articles 12-14 were being proposed by him. He said that Dan McElroy owned the old GELD storage building at the end of Station Ave. Mr. Haddad said that he would like to pave the road behind the building which abuts the rail trail. He said he would need authorization to acquire the property in order to pave it. He said that the estimate to pave this would be about \$40K adding he would like to use the Walker gift fund to pay for it. He said he would also like to engineer plans to put in a crossing over the wetlands behind Prescott School to connect future potential parking behind Prescott. Mr. Giger said he did not support article 14 adding they didn't have solid future plans for Prescott School yet. Ms. Pine said she was in favor of paving the road and was in favor of additional parking. Mr. Degen said that articles 13 and 14 were correlated but was concerned about the speed of traffic and use of it adding he wanted to think about this more. Mr. Degen said that the wetland crossing behind Prescott School was originally quoted at \$1M but was worth the discussion. Mr. Haddad said it would be his intent to apply for a Mass Works grant for that construction of a possible bridge. Ms. Manugian said she wasn't convinced they had a parking issue just yet and was opposed to additional traffic on Broadmeadow by doing this. Mr. Degen said that the owner could close off access to Broadmeadow at any time but could agree to holding off on paving and engineering potential parking behind Prescott.

Deb Busser, a resident of Broadmeadow Rd, spoke in favor of improving the road behind GELD. She noted that residents of the upper part of Broadmeadow Rd, have no route to leave their homes on a public way during times when lower Broadmeadow Rd is closed due to flooding, which is a frequent occurrence.

Ms. Manugian asked about the possibility of enacting a leash law in Groton amidst some reason issues. Mr. Haddad said that the draft revised Dog Bylaw forthcoming from Town Counsel would bring their regulations in compliance with state law on dogs but did not include a leash law. Mr. Degen said that they needed to bring their regulations up to state law first adding he thought a leash law was a broader discussion that needed time.

**ON-GOING ISSUES**

D: Ms. Pine said that the Board of Health was speaking with local business owners about the impact **that banning** polystyrene containers would have and would not be ready to bring this forward at the Spring Town Meeting.

**LIAISON REPORTS**

Ms. Manugian said that there was discussion at a recent Groton Dunstable School Committee meeting about repurposing money because they could reduce 4 general education teachers due to a decline in enrollment. Ms. Pine said that they were also looking at adding special ed teachers in its place.

**MINUTES**

*Ms. Pine moved to approve the meeting minutes of February 24, 2020 as amended. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. The motion carried 4-0-1 with Mr. Degen abstaining.*

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to enter into Executive Session at 8:15pm - Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) – “To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares.” – Purpose – Boynton Meadows and a Dog Complaint

*Mr. Giger made the motion. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Manugian-aye; Giger-aye; Degen-aye. Reilly-aye*

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Reilly, Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_ respectfully submitted:  
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 3/9/2020