

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, JUNE 29, 2020
APPROVED**

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

Also Virtually Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant; Jason Kauppi, Town Moderator; Melisa Doig, HR Director; Patricia Dufresne, Town Accountant; Jonathan Greeno, Principal Assistant Assessor; Michael Hartnett, Tax Collector/Treasurer; Mike Luth, Police Chief; Bud Robertson, Finance Committee Chair; Tom Delaney, DPW Director; Takashi Tada, Land Use Director; Tom Orcutt, Water Superintendent; Fran Stanley, Housing Coordinator; Marlana Gilbert, School Committee Chair; Susan Hughes; Tony Hawgood; Nadia Madden; Cheney Harper, Sargisson Beach Committee

Ms. Manugian called the meeting to order at 7:01pm and reviewed the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Chief Luth said that their department had investigated and taken the recent graffiti incident very seriously. He said that 5 teenagers were apprehended but that the investigation was still on-going.

Mr. Haddad read a letter into the record from the Friends of Prescott regarding their visitor's center reopening.

Ms. Manugian said that the Peter Twomey Center was open for summer camps adding that registration was now open.

OTHER BUSINESS

1. Ms. Manugian said that she and Ms. Pine had had several conversations with a few folks and were in amidst of putting final details into a forum to be held on July 20th; a moderated event for questions and answers to talk about concerns within the community and how the police department was functioning. Ms. Pine said that the intention was to share information about how the department was working now. She said that their department was not the same as a large city department adding it was a starting place for proposing changes. Mr. Reilly said he was impressed with how this was starting and thought it was a great idea to start discussions. He said it was important to hear from their department. Ms. Manugian thanked the Chief and his department for their willingness to participate. Mr. Degen said he thought it was a great idea and applauded Ms. Pine and Ms. Manugian for taking the leadership roles on this.
2. Ms. Manugian said that she had a conversation with Nadia Madden and Susan Hughes who started having discussions in January relative to SEED training. Ms. Manugian said that they had diversity problems locally that they needed to address. Ms. Hughes said the group formed in the fall of 2019 after an incident at the Middle School. She said that the schools welcomed training around diversity. She said that this had grown since the George Floyd incident. She said that a teacher at LA was a certified SEED trainer and felt like this was a great place to start in conjunction with the forum. She said that they planned to run a SEED course in July adding it was limited to 15 people within their zoom forum. She said that they wanted to start with the school administration and then open it up to other town officials. She said it was a 30-hour commitment. Ms. Madden said it would include connections with some of their diverse leaders within Groton. Ms. Manugian asked if they were looking for people to express an interest. Ms. Hughes said that she thought they could facilitate a listening session to get everyone on the same page and then orchestrate a SEED training. Ms. Gilbert said that Ms. Susan Daly expressed her concerns with Ms. Gilbert relative to sharing of stories. She said that the amount of complaints they receive at the district relative to racial issues was concerning to her personally.
3. Mr. Degen said that this had been a year to forget. He said that between COVID and the national response to it, along with racial injustice and even hate crimes locally, it was something that could not be tolerated. He said that they needed a task force to deal with the diversity issues locally. Mr. Degen reviewed the proposed charge of the Diversity Task Force. Ms. Manugian said that this was a good direction to begin and asked Ms. Gilbert for her thoughts. Ms. Gilbert said that personally she thought there was great value in collaboration to solve a huge problem but thought it

needed to be dealt with properly. She said that the district needed to be involved because of the youth adding they had a diversity club already. She said that a task force should not be developed by the Select Board but rather discussed in conjunction with the School Committee and Dunstable too. She said that their students with disabilities groups, Dunstable PD and others needed to be included also. She suggested that they start this in September allowing them time to get their staff and students back to school safely. Ms. Gilbert said that they had been fighting this battle independently and would appreciate support from the Town. Mr. Degen said that he thought they should not wait until September. Ms. Gilbert said that she understood that time was of the essence adding she was just hearing about this tonight. Ms. Pine said that it was important to not have the appearance that they were demanding participation from entities but that they wanted to work together. Ms. Pine said she was in favor of the concept. Ms. Manugian said that they should take a week or two to work with the schools and Dunstable to see what the willingness was in participating together with this and bring it back.

4. Ms. Pine said that they received a statement from the West Tisbury BOS and thought they should discuss it at their workshop on goals. Ms. Pine also touched upon the money available to them from LA on diversity programs and asked people to contact them with ideas.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Haddad said that Town Hall was open to the public as of today. He said that people would have to enter through the back door, take their temperature and wear masks. He said that the Country Club pool opened last week and were trying to accommodate as many people as possible. He said that golf had taken off adding June was the biggest month since Mr. Campbell started as GM.
2. Mr. Haddad said that he had received calls about why the shed was taken down at the Country Club. He said that it was his decision to do this after the graffiti was found. He said that they did not need to shed anymore. Mr. Reilly said that it was not worth repainting adding it was not in good condition.
3. Mr. Haddad said that the Park Commission would be installing signs at their Parks within the next few days and thought it addressed any liability the Town may have relative to its reopening.
4. Mr. Haddad explained how he had reached out to Nashoba Tech who had asked for help from the Town with the 25% that FEMA was not reimbursing them. Ms. Pine asked if the District was eligible for Cares Act money. Mr. Haddad said that they weren't because they were not a town department but that they could receive help from the Town from it.
5. Mr. Haddad said that the Sargisson Beach Committee met last week and had 5 recommendations to the Select Board relative to the discussion on reopening of the beach and reviewed those. Cheney Harper of the Sargisson Beach Committee said that they were trying to address some of the access issues and were trying to open with public common sense in mind. Ms. Manugian said she thought they already decided to keep the beach closed. Ms. Harper said that the opening of the lot and the kayak racks were discussed. Ms. Manugian said she was struggling with this because of the at-risk use. Mr. Degen said he had the same concerns but that the Committee had a long meeting to discuss these concerns. Mr. Degen said that people were using Bertozzi and thought that the beach buoy's and swim markers could be put up for swim at your own risk. He said that people like to fish and thought they should be allowed to. Ms. Pine said it was a challenging situation. She said that to leave it as you swim at your own risk was in their best interest at this point. Mr. Giger said that it had always been open to swim at your own risk when lifeguards were not on duty adding it was open for many years without lifeguards. Mr. Giger said that the kayak rack was set up to accommodate for people who signed up for a spot on the rack with the Conservation Administrator. Ms. Harper said that they were requesting that the trails, kayak racks and fishing be allowed with the exception that the beach be closed. Ms. Pine said it was their decision previously to close everything except for the trails but thought they should enforce the votes taken by the Sargisson Beach Committee because it was in line with other Cons Com properties. She said she thought they should give this a try.

Ms. Pine moved to support the votes taken by the Sargisson Beach Committee at their meeting held on June 24th as printed in their report with the exception of the one typo. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. Roll Call: Manugian-nay; Pine-aye; Degen-aye; Reilly-aye; Giger-aye

Mr. Giger asked that the press release announcing the opening of the beach not go out until the area was cleaned up. Mr. Degen said that the beach had long ago been used even without signage. Mr. Giger asked that they hear from the Sargisson Beach Committee that they were ready to go. Mr. Haddad said he would not do anything until Mr. Gualco was back from vacation. Ms. Harper said that the Committee could put out the swim buoy's and floats this week.

6. Mr. Haddad said that the State was providing funding to the district to help with masks, cleaning supplies, etc. in anticipation of schools reopening in the fall. He said that they were providing a dollar amount per student but could not be used toward salaries. He said that the Superintendent told him that day that it was going to cost them \$1.2-1.3M to make it COVID complaint. He said she thought they would get about \$500k from the State to help with these costs. Mr. Haddad said he wanted to help the district but needed to hear from the Superintendent after she talked to the State further. Ms. Manugian asked if that was an entire FY21 issue or a September/October issue. Mr. Haddad said he took it as an entire FY21 issue but would get clarification. Mr. Haddad said that the District needed their help. Mr. Giger asked that the document the Superintendent was putting together include a timeline. He said that this would help with their planning. Ms. Gilbert said that she agreed with Mr. Giger. She said that the State had set a lot of rules, given them some money and told them how they could and could not spend it.
7. Mr. Haddad said that the Planning Board met last week to discuss the Housing Production Plan. Ms. Stanley reviewed the suggested changes to the plan from the Planning Board. Ms. Stanley said that one addition was to allow for a mechanism for the Trust to apply for CPA funds to accumulate funds in an account for future affordable housing as it comes up. Ms. Manugian said it was important to call out CPC funds for housing. Mr. Giger suggested that anytime Chapter 61 land became available, the Trust should have an opportunity to make a recommendation. Mr. Degen said he agreed with part of what Mr. Giger said. He said that they had a limited window to do this adding it required a town meeting vote. Ms. Manugian said she was not sure why they were thinking about mechanisms for buying more land when they had land available to them to put affordable housing on. Mr. Degen said he thought the MRPC had done a great job on this for them. Mr. Degen said that approving a plan had been way overdue and thought the sooner they approved it and sent it to DHCD for approval the better.

Mr. Degen moved that the Select Board approve the housing production plan as amended by the Planning Board and forward it to DHCD seeking their approval. Mr. Giger seconded the motion. Roll Call: Manugian-aye; Giger-aye; Reilly-aye; Pine-aye; Degen-aye

8. Mr. Haddad said that they reviewed FY20 receipts. He said that the Country Club would have a deficit of \$160K. He said that the Light Department was hit with over \$100K in expenses due to the microburst but would not be able to make their 4th quarter reimbursement to the Town adding they owed the Town \$180K. Mr. Haddad said that they were projecting a \$350K revenue deficit going into FY21. He said that they would be returning money due to the spending freeze which would allow them to cover their expenses but would affect their free cash.

Mr. Kauppi asked the Board if the Board was going to consider an inside Fall Town Meeting adding if so, they would need multiple rooms if they needed to maintain social distancing. He said that his powers as Moderator were limited if there was not a state of emergency in place. Ms. Manugian said she would be comfortable with going as late as October 17th outdoors also. Mr. Robertson said that as soon as they had free cash certified, they should hold the Town Meeting. Mr. Haddad said that they would be ready to go with a Town Meeting on October 3rd if that was what was decided. Mr. Giger said he was concerned that the Light Department just up and said they couldn't pay the Town. Mr. Haddad said that the Light Department would have to make up that payment in FY21 assuming they had the money next FY. Ms. Manugian said that they looked forward to getting these numbers in writing. Mr. Degen said he was really bothered by the Light Department's actions. He asked when they were going to get this money exactly. Mr. Haddad said that he would need to discuss this with Mr. Kelly. Mr. Degen suggested a joint meeting with the Light Commissioners.

The Board was okay with holding the Fall Town Meeting on October 3rd.

9. Mr. Haddad asked for potential dates for a workshop on their goals. The Board would decide offline when to do this.
10. Mr. Haddad said that the Water Department had been very busy with the manganese treatment work. Mr. Orcutt said that they had also been working on the concept plan. He said that piping water down route 40 was one option adding that the Whitney well numbers was going to be a less expensive option. He said that the Board was going to be looking at what was going to work for the rate payers. He said that as they refined things adding those costs would hopefully continue to come down. He said that the pilot study had been completed and would be submitted to the state in the next week or two. He said that the concept plan might be delayed like the pilot study because state workers were still working from home. He said that they were well on their way but wasn't sure if they were going to be ready for a Fall Town Meeting.
11. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to ratify his appointments of Special Police Officers.

Mr. Degen made a motion to ratify the Special Police Officers appointments of the Town Manager. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degen-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye; Giger-aye

12. Mr. Haddad asked the Board to ratify his appointments of Kenneth Kromer, Carolyn Orcutt and Michele Chu lifeguards and Jake Brown as Pro Shop Staff.

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

ON-GOING ISSUES

B: Mr. Haddad said that they would have a pre-construction meeting next week and was working on finding a clerk for the Prescott Sprinkler System Project. Mr. Degen suggested that Labor Counsel be asked if the Building Inspector could be paid a stipend to be the Clerk.

G: Mr. Haddad said that the MSBA Board approved the plans for Florence Roche meaning they were now onto the design phase. Mr. Haddad said that the Town could bond the project with an intermunicipal agreement. He said that they needed to talk about the ownership also. Ms. Pine said that given the fact that the Town was going to bond the project, the Town should own the building and the land. Mr. Degen said that there was a number of reasons the Town should own the building and the land. Mr. Giger said that if they were going to look at this financially, he needed something that showed all their debt. Mr. Haddad said that school binding was exempt from hitting the debt ceiling.

MINUTES

Mr. Degen moved to accept the meeting minutes of June 8, 2020 and June 15, 2020 as presented. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. Roll Call: Pine-aye; Degen-aye; Reilly-aye; Manugian-aye; Giger-aye

Ms. Manugian adjourned the meeting at 9:28pm.

Approved: _____
Rebecca H. Pine, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted:
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 7/13/2020