

**MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
May 7, 2020**

Consistent with guidance issued by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law due to COVID-19, this meeting was held remotely using Zoom technology, Meeting ID 968 6213 8912.

At 6:30 PM Chair Robyn Hunter called the meeting to order with members John Jeffries and Robert Springett present. Also in attendance were Christopher Dwelley, Town Administrator; Katelyn O'Brien, Assistant Town Administrator, and Mona DiSciullo, Administrative Assistant.

ATTENDEES: State Representative Denise Garlick; Gerry Clarke, Dr. Steve Kruskall, Dr. Kay Petersen, Dover Board of Health; Town Clerk Felicia Hoffman; Town Moderator Jim Repetti; Ford Spalding, Community Center Building Committee; Barry Goldman, Capital Budget Committee

PRESS: None present.

Citizens' Comments

There are no citizens' comments.

I.1 Covid-19 Update

The Town's Preparedness Taskforce has been meeting frequently and working diligently to ensure that Dover is prepared to respond to the challenges of the Covid-19 situation and will continue to provide services to the residents. Following is an update of the current COVID-19 situation.

- Governor Baker issued an Order on Wednesday, May 6, 2020 requiring face masks or cloth face coverings in public places, indoor and outdoor, where social distancing is not possible. Exceptions include children under the age of two and those unable to wear a mask or face covering due to a medical condition.
- The Parks and Recreation Department has cancelled all its programs effective immediately through June 30, 2020.

- Town staff and officials are finalizing reopening plans and guidelines, following directives from the State, for Town services, Parks and Recreation summer programming, offerings by the Council on Aging and the Library and holding of public meetings. In addition to wearing masks, practicing social distancing, and limiting staff numbers, protective measures will include installing plexiglass safety shields on public-facing service counters and desktops, changing the entrance and exit flow of traffic in Town buildings, and possible requirement of temperature checks.
- The Board of Health (BOH) will be presenting a draft report to the Taskforce regarding the use of pulse oximeters to check an individual's oxygen level. Addressing concerns about funeral protocol, the BOH is upholding the State guideline of ten people only in attendance at funerals. Regarding camp openings, the BOH will wait for the May 18, 2020 guidance from Governor Baker before issuing any communication to the camps.
- The Taskforce will continue to assess the parking situation on Powissett Street and the flow of traffic at the Transfer Station to ensure the safety of users and staff.

I.2 Discussion of 2020 Annual Town Meeting Options and Alternatives Due to COVID-19

Town Moderator Jim Repetti relayed that it is unlikely, due to COVID-19, that Dover will hold the Annual Town Meeting on June 1, 2020 as scheduled. The State legislature is considering adoption of a protocol which would allow municipalities to reduce the voter quorum to 10 percent of the current quorum requirements. Dover's current quorum requirement is 175 registered voters, and based on the protocol, Dover's Town Meeting could take place with 18 registered voters attending. Town officials are hoping to reschedule the Meeting for late June following the new protocol, if approved by the State. Additionally, the Town would like to limit the discussion to only budget-related Warrant Articles that are essential to continue Town operations in the next fiscal year. The other Warrant Articles will be addressed at a Town Meeting which will possibly be held in the fall of 2020. Town staff and officials will be working closely with the Board of Health to make certain that all safety protocols will be in place to ensure the health and well-being of Dover's citizens. Representative Denise Garlick joined the discussion regarding alternative forms of Town Meeting and provided a brief overview of suggestions received by the State legislature from other municipalities.

I.3 Execute 2020 Annual Town Election Warrant

Dover's Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, June 15, 2020 in the Great Hall of the Town House. The Annual Town Election Warrant, which lists open positions for Dover's elected officials, will be mailed to Dover's residents in advance of the Election. To request an Absentee Ballot for this Election, please contact the Town Clerk's Office at <https://www.sec.state.ma.us/ele/elepdf/2020-Municipal-Early-Ballot-Application.pdf> or call 508-785-0032 x226 on or before Thursday, June 11, 2020.

Ms. Hunter moved to approve and execute the 2020 Annual Town Election Warrant, seconded by Mr. Springett; it was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

I.4 Vote Right of First Refusal of Chapter 61A Properties on Dedham Street

In February of 2020, the Selectmen's office received a Notice of Sale of Chapter 61A properties on Dedham Street. Under Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 61A, this notice triggers a Right of First Refusal to purchase this property by the Town. The Notice of Sale and related documents were sent to interested Dover boards and committees, the Dover Land Conservation Trust, The Trustees of Reservations, and abutters to the properties for their review and comment on whether the Town should exercise its right to purchase the properties. The Planning Board, the Conservation Commission, the Open Space Committee, and the Dover Land Conservation Trust have submitted their comments to the Selectmen's Office, and those groups recommend that Dover not exercise or assign its option to purchase the properties. The Selectmen complimented the respondents on the thoroughness of their responses and agreed with their recommendations.

Ms. Hunter moved to not exercise or assign the Town's statutory option to purchase, pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 61A, Section 14, Parcels 08-012E, and 08-012D and 08-012C on the Town's Assessor's Maps, seconded by Mr. Springett; it was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

I.5 Board of Selectmen Updates

There are no new updates to report.

I.6 Town Administrator Updates

The Town's new website manager is finalizing webpage edits received from Town departments and boards/committees and putting the finishing touches on the new webpages such as the COVID-19 page, the Town Meeting page, and the Community Center Building Project page. It is anticipated that the new website will be up and running in approximately two weeks.

Colliers International, the Owner's Project Manager (OPM) for the Community Center Building Project, will be meeting with the Building Committee early next week to finalize a Scope of Work for the design team and lay out a schedule for work to be completed over the next 12 months.

Adjournment

At 7:20 PM, Ms. Hunter moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Springett; it was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

DOVER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Robert Springett, Clerk