



# Town of Bellingham

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

Tel: 508-657-2800 \* 508-966-4425

April 13, 2020

The Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order remotely at 7:00 PM by Chairman Daniel Spencer using Zoom Technology. A roll call confirmed all members of the Board were participating. Also actively participating in the meeting was Town Administrator Denis Fraine and Administrative Assistant Hilarie Allie. The remote meeting was being monitored by Jim Kupfer, Town Planner and Zoning Officer. It was determined by Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place that no in-person attendance of Board members or any member of the public would be permitted at this meeting. This meeting was accessible to the public via the Zoom online option.

Mr. Spencer continued the Public Hearing on the application of ConnectED & Inspired for a Common Victualler License at 1048 South Main Street. The hearing was opened at the March 30<sup>th</sup> Board of Selectmen meeting. Ms. Nadine Clifford introduced herself as the owner of ConnectED & Inspired which is located at what used to be Wenger's Farm. She explained the country store is being used as a studio for yoga and enrichment classes and she would like to continue selling ice cream and apple cider donuts and other various baked goods. Mrs. McNulty thanked Ms. Clifford for her help in providing a space to be used as a temporary food bank during the pandemic. Mr. Martinis asked Mr. Kupfer if Ms. Clifford was in compliance with the Town's Bylaws operating different businesses at one location. Mr. Kupfer said he along with Mr. Aicardi have been working with Ms. Clifford for several months and she is complying. Mr. Biagi asked Ms. Clifford about the parking lot situation. Ms. Clifford and Mr. Kupfer stated they have been working with the Wenger's to free up the required 37 spaces needed to comply with the zoning bylaws.

Mr. Poirier, Deputy Fire Chief, advised Ms. Clifford that she would need an inspection from the Fire Department in order to use the kitchen and the portable donut fryer. She stated she has tried several times to reach out to the fire department so Mr. Poirier told her he would take care of it this week.

Mr. Spencer asked if there was anyone on the call who wished to speak on behalf of this hearing. Mr. Bruce Wilson, Board of Health Agent, stated the BOH would also need to conduct an inspection and he would set that up this week as well. With no further discussion, on a McNulty/Biagi motion, the Board unanimously voted to close the public hearing.

On a Martinis/Biagi motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Common Victualler license for ConnectED & Inspired at 1048 South Main Street pending inspections from both Fire and Board of Health.

Mrs. McNulty continued the public hearing that was opened at the March 30th Board of Selectmen meeting on the application of Amazing Bargains for a Second Hand Dealers license located at 133 Pulaski Blvd. Mr. Mina Michail and Mrs. Judy Glaude stated they were requesting a second hand dealers license in order to sell used and new items. The used items they will be selling will come from storage units and will range anywhere from small furniture to kitchen appliances - somewhat similar to what would be found and then sold on the show Storage Wars. New items will come from a valid wholesaler in Johnston RI. Mr. Michail and Mrs. Glaude met with Detective Provost and went over the rules and regulations of selling used items. However, they stated they would not be buying used items from individuals for resale. Mr. Biagi asked how big their retail space was and they stated it is 112 square feet not including the basement that they will use for storage. They will operate their business from 10AM to 6 or 7PM six days a week and hope to open as soon as the Governor lifts the ban on nonessential businesses. Mrs. Glaude asked if they could sell mealworms to locals who wish to fish in our lakes and Mr. Bruce Wilson, Health Agent for the Town of Bellingham, stated they could and they did not need a special permit. Mr. Mark Poirier, Deputy Fire Chief requested they submit a layout to the Fire Department and Building Department before opening the store of the setup of the store indicating the dedicated aisles and fire exits and a means of egress from the basement. He warned them of not storing too much in the basement.

Mr. Spencer asked if there was anyone else on the call who wished to speak on behalf of the public hearing to which there was none.

On a McNulty/Biagi motion, the Board unanimously voted to close the public hearing.

On a Martinis/Biagi motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Second Hand Dealers License for Amazing Bargains pending they submit a drawing of the layout of the store to the Fire Department and the Building Department.

#### Don DiMartino, DPW Director

Charles River Grove Easement Takings: Mr. DiMartino stated this is just a formality vote which is a step in the process needed to acquire these easements and parcels that were voted on at the Fall Town Meeting under Article 12. They are needed for the construction project in the Charles River Grove area. The project is shovel ready and looking for funding ready. The residents have been notified and now the Board just needs to vote on the taking and then it will be notarized and then recorded for the closing in order to take ownership to start construction.

On a McNulty/Biagi motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Order of the Takings for the Charles River Grove Easement. Under further discussion Mr. DiMartino stated the Town may be eligible to receive some MVP funding in connection with the 319 funding which is a Federal Stormwater program to pay for this project with no further investment from the Town.

Damon Road at Hixon Construction Easements:

Mr. DiMartino stated the developer of the first 2 parcels established 2 temporary construction easements with the thoughts that a subdivision would be owned by someone else and a road would be needed. These easements became Town property when the road was accepted and are now no longer needed. They are on a plan and still exist and therefore the residents have asked that the Town release them back to them. There is no problem in doing so as there is essentially no value to them. Mr. DiMartino is asking the Board motion to release tonight and then at Town Meeting there will be another vote to release and these easements will be dissolved and no longer on the plans and can stay with the rightful owner.

On a Martinis/McNulty motion, the Board voted to confirm the Town no longer has any need for the two construction easements shown on the attached plan on the lots located on the corners of Damon Road at Hixon Street and they are surplus to the Town's need.

Mary MacKinnon, CFO

Mrs. MacKinnon presented before the Board her recommendations on the adoption of the following four Tax Relief Provisions that were enabled under Mass General Law giving emergency recourse to communities with respect to property tax relief. They are as follows:

- Extend the due date of the FY20 fourth quarter real estate and personal property tax bills from May 1 to June 1, 2020
- Extend the due dates of FY20 motor excise, water, sewer and trash bills to June 1, 2020 for bills previously due between March 10 and May 1, 2020
- Extend the filing deadline for personal exemptions and tax deferrals from April 1 to June 1, 2020
- Waive interest and penalties on unpaid balances for bills\* due between March 10 and June 1 so long as payment is received by June 30, 2020 (\* *real estate, personal property, motor excise, water, sewer, and trash bills*)

Mrs. MacKinnon stated if taxpayers are able to make their payments on time, she would encourage them to do so. These recommendations are being proposed to assist, in the short term, any Bellingham taxpayers who are currently facing financial difficulties. If payments cannot be made at this time, penalties and interest will be waived through June 30, 2020. These provisions are for 4th quarter payments of FY20 only. They do not apply to any bills that were due prior to March 10, 2020.

On a McNulty/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to adopt the tax relief provisions outlined in the Town of Bellingham Notice to Taxpayers dated April 13, 2020.

On a McNulty/Biagi motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the March 2<sup>nd</sup>, March 16<sup>th</sup> and March 30<sup>th</sup> minutes as submitted.

On a Biagi/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to abate the capital improvement, sewer, trash and water charges in the amount of \$3,841.41.

Town Administrator Report

Mr. Fraine reported that the LEPC continues to meet twice each morning. The Town's positive cases is at 34 and he thanked Mark Poirier the Deputy Fire Chief, Bruce Wilson the Health Agent as well as Ester Matone the Town's public health nurse for doing a phenomenal job and keeping the Town up to date on all things COVID-19. Most of the Town's cases have come from people working in the public, whether it be retail, first responders, nurses and others on the front lines. He commended the residents for doing their part in social distancing.

He stated the Memorial Day committee has canceled the parade and will do something on Memorial Day but on a much smaller scale and the Town will be looking into what to do with regards to other activities, for example the 4th of July.

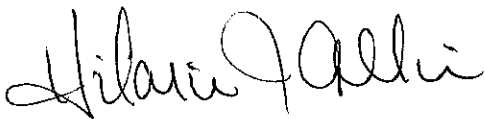
Mr. Fraine stated it has been a group effort to keep things up and running and everyone has been doing their part.

Mr. Wilson stated the number of positive cases is slowly climbing and the Town is averaging a few more a day then before so he encourages all residents to stay home when possible and to follow the social distancing guidelines.

Mrs. McNulty announced that Mr. Ambler had passed away and asked if there was something that the Board would like to do for his family by acknowledging all he did for the Town. Mr. Spencer stated Mr. Ambler was an integral part of the Town and served as Town Counselor for many years and was a vibrant participant at Town Meetings. The Board shared a moment of silence in honor of Mr. Ambler.

On a Biagi/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:53PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hilarie J. Allie".

Hilarie J. Allie  
Administrative Assistant