



Town of Bellingham

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street
Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019
Tel: 508-657-2800 * 508-966-4425

March 16, 2020

The regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Daniel Spencer with all members in attendance.

LEPC - Update

Mark Poirier came before the Board representing the LEPC (Local Emergency Plan Committee) to provide an update on the Coronavirus. He stated the risk remained low and the Town was following the DPH and CDC guidelines that were being updated daily. He advised the best way to protect yourself from the virus was to wash your hands as often as possible and to follow social distancing. He reminded residents to stay home if experiencing symptoms of illness. He will continue to have weekly LEPC meetings.

Mr. Spencer reiterated that the Town will continue to follow the DPH and CDC guidelines and going forward the Town will be limiting the number of residents coming in and out of the Municipal Center and asked that residents use the drop box as much as possible.

Public Hearing – Application of Shree Hari, LLC d/b/a Gateway Liquors, Kartik Patel, Manager, for the transfer of the Package Store All Alcohol License from Gateway Liquor Center, Inc. d/b/a Gateway Liquors, Antoine Khoury, Manager and Pledge of License and Inventory. Premises located at 3 Mechanic Street.

Mr. Spencer read the public hearing notice.

Attorney John Mooradian along with his client Kartik Patel presented before the Board and stated they are applying for a transfer of the Package Store All Alcohol License, change of manager and pledge of license and inventory from Antoine Khoury of Gateway Liquors. They will be keeping the same hours and the premises will remain the same. All their employees will be TIP certified. Mr. Patel and his partner currently own another package store located on Route 146 in Millbury.

The entire Board thanked Mr. Khoury for being so generous to the community and encouraged Mr. Patel to do the same.

Mr. Spencer asked if there was anyone in the audience there to speak on behalf of the public hearing. Mr. Khoury thanked the Board for the 11+ years of being in business in the community and said that he had been waiting to sell the business until he found the right person. Mr. Khoury feels that he has found the right people to take over and feels they will be a good business for the community.

On a Connor/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to close the public hearing. On a Biagi/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the transfer of the Package Store All Alcohol License from Gateway Liquor Center, Inc. d/b/a Gateway Liquors, Antoine Khoury, Manager and Pledge of License and Inventory. Premises located at 3 Mechanic Street.

Mr. Fraine updated the Board with how the Town is currently dealing with the coronavirus. He stated the Library is currently closed but they are available by phone or email, the Senior Center is closed but will continue with transportation services on specified days to help seniors with grocery shopping and medical appointments only. The municipal center services are available by appointment only. However, all departments are available by email and phone. The parks and the playgrounds are all closed as the manpower to disinfect would be too much to keep up with. You can walk the track, but nothing organized on the turf and you can walk in the Town Common, but the playground is closed. Mr. Connor suggested the Parks Department put signs up and Mr. Fraine stated they would be doing that.

Public Hearing - Application of Regal Cinemas Inc, d/b/a Regal Cinemas, Joshua Ferreira, Mgr., for a Restaurant All Alcohol License. Premises located at 259 Hartford Ave.

Mr. Spencer read the Public Hearing.

Attorney Andrew Upton, representative for Regal Cinemas, along with Josh Ferreira, GM at Regal Cinemas Bellingham, presented before the Board on the application of a Restaurant All Alcohol license. Mr. Spencer reminded the Board and the audience that Regal had come before the Board in December to discuss the possibility of obtaining an All Alcohol License and tonight they are here for their formal request. Mr. Spencer pointed out that right now more than ever would be a time added revenue would be needed. Mr. Upton stated that this has become a national trend in the movie industry. He stated that only 10% of patrons will purchase a drink and under 2% of patrons will purchase a second drink. He stated the managers and staff will be fully trained in monitoring the sale of alcohol by way of TIP certification. Regal Cinemas in Bellingham is in the process of a \$6M renovation update and phase 1 is close to being complete. Mr. Ferreira stated that due to the coronavirus Regal will be closing Tuesday March 17th and not reopening until at least April 7th. Mr. Connor asked what hours they would be selling alcohol. Mr. Ferreira stated the last movie typically starts around 10:45 so they will operate from 10AM to 11PM.

Mr. Spencer asked if there were any members of the audience looking to speak on behalf of this hearing and Mr. Aicardi, building inspector, stated they are moving right along on their renovations and will have a lot less occupancy with the wider aisles and bigger chairs.

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

On a Martinis/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Application of Regal Cinemas Inc, d/b/a Regal Cinemas, Joshua Ferreira, Mgr., for a Restaurant All Alcohol License. Premises located at 259 Hartford Ave. Alcohol sales will be conducted between the hours of 10AM to 11PM.

Tim Aicardi - Building Inspector

Mr. Aicardi came before the Board for approval to update the Inspectional Services Fee Schedule. He stated he would be requesting that the Board adopt the latest International Code Council fee structure which is a basic square footage formula from 2015. Mr. Biagi asked why 2015 and Mr. Aicardi stated MA is way behind.

With regards to updating the Electrical Fees Mr. Aicardi stated these are flat fees and the newly presented fees will align the Town with the surrounding towns. Mr. Connor asked if the Board could vote to automatically adopt these fees as they are updated by the International Code Council and Mr. Fraine stated he doesn't see any reason this Board can't do that.

On a Connor/Martinis motion, the Board unanimously voted to accept and adopt the International Code Council fee structure as presented and allowed for the adjustment of future updates of these fees to be automatically adjusted by Inspectional Services.

Mrs. McNulty asked Mr. Aicardi to provide the Board with an update on Sunoco. Mr. Aicardi stated he has been establishing a record of working with Sunoco to try and reduce the number of vehicles on their lot but they have been uncooperative. The next step would be for Town Counsel to file a motion and let the courts decide. Sunoco does not have a used car license but continues to have 50+ unregistered vehicles and approximately 12-15 vehicles with expired plates. Mr. Aicardi has been trying to work with the owner to move a few vehicles off the lot every week but he has not been complying, so it is now time for the courts to decide.

Mary MacKinnon - Chief Financial Officer

Mrs. MacKinnon stated the Board would need to take an official vote to adopt the ballot language related to the override before transmitting it to Town Counsel. Mr. Biagi asked if there would be additional information on the ballot for the residents which explains the question they are voting on. Mrs. MacKinnon stated when it comes to an override no additional information can be provided at the time of the vote as the expectation is that all supporting documents have been provided prior to the election. Mr. Connor asked if the Board adopts the ballot language now and the numbers come back from the Charter School and the \$1.5M isn't enough could they change the amount after the fact. Mrs. MacKinnon stated it is her belief the school department is asking for \$1.5M and will adjust their budget accordingly no matter what the Charter School numbers look like.

On a Martinis/McNulty motion the Board voted 4 in favor with Mr. Connor abstaining to accept the wording for the ballot question as follows:

Shall the Town of Bellingham be allowed to assess an additional \$1,500,000 in real estate and personal property taxes for the purpose of funding the operating budget of the public schools for the fiscal year beginning July 1, 2020?

On a Connor/Martinis motion the Board unanimously voted to approve the Seasonal Restaurant All Alcohol, Common Victualler, and Weekday/Sunday Entertainment Licenses for New England Country Club, 180 Paine Street, as submitted.

On a McNulty/Martinis motion the Board unanimously voted to move forward the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as presented.

On a Biagi/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the February abatements for capital improvement charges, residential sewer, residential trash, and residential water in the amount of \$5,705.20.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Fraine advised given the current state of social distancing they are asking Boards and Committees that are not essential to not meet right now and anyone that needs to meet will be using the Zoom technology. Karen Dutil and Jim Kupfer have secured a license with Zoom and are able to conduct remote meetings with the suspension of certain provisions of the Open Meeting Laws by way of order from the Governor on March 12th. Residents will have access to these meetings by utilizing the Town Calendar on the Town's homepage. There will be a roll call of all members and the moderator will be able to take questions via a chat function. This software also allows for the meetings to be recorded and later viewed on YouTube.

Mr. Fraine stated that the Town Election and Annual Town Meeting will most likely be pushed back but the voting process will remain the same. As soon as legislation is passed the Board will vote to act on changing the dates. The goal will be to have the Annual Town Meeting no later than June 30 before the start of the new fiscal year.

Mr. Fraine stated there was an accident on Center Street this past week and a longtime resident was tragically killed while retrieving her mail. As a result, there have been concerns coming in with regards to the speed limit on Center Street and the location of the mailboxes. Unfortunately, this has been brought up before and the locations of the mailboxes are under the control of the United States Post Office. Mr. Soter who was in attendance at the Board meeting stated he will work with the Town's safety officer to contact Congressman Kennedy to see if there is something to be done about this. As far as the speed limit, a street study has already been done and the speed limit was deemed appropriate.

Mr. Martinis asked Mr. Fraine about the property on High Street adjacent to the softball field as a possible location for the dog park. Mr. Fraine stated that land was owned by Varney and the property would be granted to the Town if the Lobisser project is approved at which time they can discuss a possible dog park at that location.

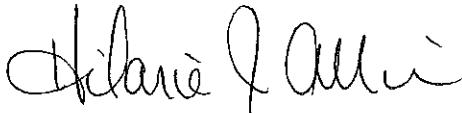
Mr. Soter gave a brief update on the Coronavirus and urged residents to use appropriate sites like 211.org, the CDC website and the DPH website to obtain up to date and accurate information.

Mr. Biagi asked if the signal on Center Street could be adjusted to be on some type of sensor and Mr. Fraine stated he would talk to Safety Officer Lee Rolls about it.

On a Biagi/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

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Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilarie J. Allie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hilarie" being more prominent than the last name "Allie".

Hilarie J. Allie
Administrative Assistant