



Town of Bellingham

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

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

February 22, 2021

The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chairman Michael Connor. All Board member were in attendance and participating in the Arcand Meeting Room. Also actively participating in the meeting was Town Administrator Denis Fraine and Administrative Assistant Hilarie Allie. The remote portion of the 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 any member of the public would be permitted at this meeting. This meeting was accessible to the public via the Zoom online option.

Mr. Connor stated that the Board would be conducting a few interviews at this meeting for openings on the Town's various Boards and Committees.

Jeremy Brotman – Associate Member Planning Board

Mr. Brotman stated he has lived in Bellingham for 5 years since moving into a new subdivision off of 126 and there is open space behind his house. He stated he spoke to Jim Kupfer the Town Planner several times about what could be done with the land behind his home and from there became interested in the zoning requirements.

Mrs. McNulty asked Mr. Brotman if he has any experience with town government before now and he sated he has not.

Mr. Spencer asked him what he does for a profession and Mr. Brotman stated his experience is in sales and because of this stated he would know which kinds of questions to ask developers.

Mr. Martinis asked Mr. Kupfer if he had an opinion on this appointment and Mr. Kupfer stated the Associate Member to the Planning Board would be a joint appointment among the Planning Board and Selectboard and would like to give Mr. Brotman an opportunity to speak to his Board before making any decisions.

Mr. Connor thanked Mr. Brotman for his interest in becoming involved with the Town and stated we would be in touch.

Marjorie Hollman – Historical Commission

Mrs. Hollman stated she has lived in Bellingham for over 40 years. She has been involved in all things Bellingham including the Cultural Council and doing a piece on Chronicle about Bellingham. She is the author of the series Easy Walks which features local trails to explore including Bellingham and Franklin. She stated she thinks she would be a great fit and is excited about the new changes being made to the Historical Commission. Mr. Connor stated her background speaks for itself and thanked her for her interest in volunteering her time once again to Bellingham.

Robert Lussier – Conservation Commission

Mr. Lussier stated he was born and raised in Bellingham and is currently working as a civil engineer. He stated in his current profession he has had the privilege of working on peer reviews for multiple boards in the area including planning boards, conservation commissions and zoning boards. He would like to take his expertise and give back to his community.

Mr. Spencer asked if his experience presenting peer reviews could ease the mind of those presenting if he were to sit on the other side of the table. Mr. Lussier stated he could and would want to work with and help the applicants and would know what to look for and the right questions to ask.

Mr. Martinis asked if he thought there would be any conflict of interest and if he would have a problem if he had to step away if need be and Mr. Lussier said he would be up front and honest and would not have a problem with that.

Mrs. Matthews stated Mr. Lussier has been joining their meetings and is happy with his interest. She too had concerns about conflict of interest but was happy to hear that he can step aside if need be. She stated the commission has 3 openings and 3 incumbents who are interested in continuing to serve and Mr. Lussier is aware of this.

Mr. Connor thanked Mr. Lussier for his interest in becoming involved with the Town and stated we would be in touch.

Kevin St. Cyr – Board of Health

Mr. St. Cyr stated he has been a resident of Bellingham since 2017 and has been in the food industry since 1994 and is currently the Dairy Manager at Market Basket. He worked regularly with Boards of Health to ensure food safety whether it be prep or refrigeration.

Mr. Spencer asked him if he feels the Board of Health should be a Board that does only enforcing or guidance as well? Mr. St. Cyr stated he sees the Board of Health as both. They need to be passing along their knowledge but they also need to make sure the guidelines are being followed.

Mr. Martinis asked how he heard about the position and Mr. St. Cyr stated he heard about the Board when he moved into his home when dealing with his septic and had also heard about the position from Bruce.

Mrs. McNulty asked him after having dealt with COVID for an entire year now what he thought Bellingham's biggest challenge was? He stated there are many challenges but the most important thing is to make sure the residents continue to comply with the mandates.

Mrs. Tricia LeClair asked Mr. St. Cyr if he had his Serve Safe Certificate and if he had any knowledge of septic systems. Mr. St. Cyr stated he was not Serve Safe Certified but would have no problem obtaining the designation if that was a requirement and his stated his only knowledge of septic systems is being an owner of one.

Mr. Connor thanked the candidates for taking the time to meet with the Board and stated we would be in touch after the 15th of March when the appointments would be made.

Alternate Building Commissioner

Mr. Tim Aicardi Building Commissioner advised the Board that the State has mandated that all Towns have an alternate building commissioner in the absence of the appointed commissioner in order to sign certificate of occupancies. Mr. Aicardi stated Blackstone had reached out and asked if they wanted to have an affiliation.

On a Spencer/Martinis motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to ratify the Town Administrator's appointment of Mr. Robert Speroni to Alternate Building Inspector for the Town of Bellingham.

With the recent retirement of Rick Marcoux, Mr. Aicardi stated his department was in need of an assistant electrical inspector.

On a McNulty/Martinis motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to ratify the Town Administrator's appointment of Mr. William Clinton to Deputy Electrical Inspector.

On a Martinis/Spencer motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to accept the S.A.F.E. Grants in the amount of **\$5,281.00** for the Student Awareness of Fire Education and an additional **\$2,680.00** for the Senior Awareness of Fire Education.

On a McNulty/Grant motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the September 28th, January 25th and February 8th minutes as submitted.

On a Grant/Spencer motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the January Abatements in the amount of \$12,903.76. Under discussion Mrs. Grant stated that a larger water abatement was a result of a typo when calculating the October bill which was caught in January and was adjusted and a new bill was sent out.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Fraine stated they had breaking news that afternoon – the Town was notified they would be receiving 200 vaccines. He was unsure of the exact plans but he was certain these vaccines were going to be administered to the residents at Wrentham Manor and Depot Court and any extra would be given to seniors from a running list Josie Dutil had at the senior center.

Old Business

Mr. Spencer stated he would like to table the agenda request to discuss refunding local restaurants their license fee to another time after having had a brief conversation with the CFO.

Larry Sposato – Town Clerk

Mr. Sposato presented to the Board to answer any questions they had regarding his FY22 Budget. Mr. Sposato stated due to the pandemic each election has grown into a massive project with more and more mandates coming at them. He stated he doesn't see any of


Minutes of February 22, 2021

Page 4

these changes going away any time soon. The office was a little behind the times and he plans to improve a few things. He stated the work load is higher with the same amount of staffing. After a general discussion about the new mandates, Mr. Connor stated they realize this must be very frustrating and would be anxious to hear what Mr. Sposato has planned.

On a McNulty/Grant motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:55 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Hilarie J. Allie', written in a cursive style.

Hilarie J. Allie
Administrative Assistant