

Approved: April 24, 2020

Board of Selectmen Meeting: April 6, 2020

Present: Freiman, Ulfelder, Olney, Sullivan Woods, Morgan

Also Present: Jop, Frigulietti

Warrants approved: none

Meeting Documents:

1. Agenda
2. BOS Calendar
3. Memorandum from Town Clerk
4. Draft BOS Minutes: 3/16/20
5. Draft BOS Minutes: 3/23/20
6. Draft 2020 Arbor Day Proclamation
7. Draft Essential Construction Policy – COVID-19
8. COVID-19 Building Dept. Inspection Protocol
9. MA Exhibit A MA Governor’s Executive Order – Essential Services COVID-19
10. City of Newton Inspectional Services Dept. COVID-19 Defining “Essential” Services
11. DLS Bulletin April 3, 2020
12. Correspondence: Frank Pinto

1. Call to Order

Ms. Freiman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:30 pm online.

Ms. Freiman stated that the public could review the online agenda for accessing the meeting via the YouTube link and for public comment. She noted that the Board would enter to Executive Session later in the meeting.

2. Citizen Speak

Mr. DeFazio was recognized by the Chair for public comment. Mr. DeFazio stated that he had a resolution normally read at Town Meeting, he read the prepared resolution regarding the Incorporation of the Town of Wellesley.

Ms. Jop confirmed no other callers were on the line for public comment.

3. Update from Board of Health on COVID-19

Mr. Cohen, Wellesley BOH Chair, Ms. Grape, of BOH and Mr. Izzo, Director of the Health Department joined the Board.

Ms. Freiman expressed the Board’s thanks to the Health Department for their work during the COVID-19 crisis.

Mr. Izzo stated that there were currently 29 registered cases in Wellesley, 1,382 cases in Norfolk County and 13,830+ cases in the State. Mr. Izzo thanked the residents for following the Health Department guidance and asked for continued cooperation. He noted that calls to the Department reporting non-compliance. He added that most of the businesses had been good partners following the Health Department and state directives on how to protect staff and the public. Ms. Grape stated that a help line

was available during weekdays to answer questions and assist residents during the outbreak. She encouraged residents to call with questions and concerns and for those who needed assistance.

Mr. Izzo stated that the CDC suggested wearing masks in public, he noted that masks did not replace social distancing. He added that average citizens should be using homemade masks rather than those needed by healthcare workers. He noted groups in Wellesley making homemade masks and hoping to be able to partner with those groups to provide masks to Town employees and residents. Ms. Freiman noted that groups were sewing masks but were not in a position to provide masks to all residents. She added that there were videos for residents how to create no-sew masks or sew their own masks. Mr. Cohen stated that residents would need to take responsibility for social distancing and wearing masks during the next few weeks which was considered to be the crucial time to stem the outbreak. Mr. Izzo stated that there were too many gatherings in parks and playgrounds and staying home was essential at this time as well as hand washing.

Ms. Olney stated that she had heard concerns from residents regarding landscaping and asked for Health Department guidance on those activities. Mr. Izzo stated that landscaping had not been limited in the Town and most of those businesses are not located in Wellesley which made working with them challenging. He noted that the homeowners should work directly with their companies to address any social distancing concerns. Mr. Morgan stated he believed the Town should be encouraging residents to act responsibly. Ms. Frigulietti stated that the Town had issued a “Do’s and Don’ts” guidance had been released publically and noted where it could be found on the website. Mr. Izzo added that he could work on additional guidance for homeowners who may have workers on their property. Mr. Cohen reviewed how and when best to wear masks in public. Ms. Grape stated that the staffed phone line for residents to call if they were in need of assistance was: 781-239-0256.

4. Election Update from the Town Clerk

Ms. Kato, Town Clerk, joined the meeting. She noted the postponement of the Town Election from March 17th. She reviewed the direction she had received from the state for rescheduling elections and the options the Town had for the rescheduling. She noted her recommendation would be to push it as far out as allowed given the current COVID-19 outbreak. She stated that absentee ballots already completed would be counted and those individuals would not need to complete another ballot. She stated that there was a minimum of 20-day notice when setting an election date, she noted the state does not allow for 100% mail in voting. Ms. Kato recommended consolidating precincts at new voting sites and working with some of the colleges to use large field houses. She asked that June 16th be considered as a potential election date and added she did not want to request an earlier date. She further recommended for the state minimum of 4 hours for an election and strongly recommended a vigorous mail-in voting campaign requiring less staff on site. She further reviewed requirements and costs associated with the rescheduling of the election. The Board discussed the postponement of the election and the recommendations of the Town Clerk. The Board briefly discussed the impacts of the COVID-19 outbreak on Annual Town Meeting and the changes to the budget book and Article 8 that would be necessary. The Board discussed encouraging mail-in voting for the postponed election and supported the Clerk’s Office mailing a reminder and encouragement for resident registered voters to vote absentee for the Town election.

5. Executive Director’s Update

Ms. Jop briefly reviewed the drafted minutes for the Board’s approval. She stated that the Board annually approves a proclamation declaring the Town’s recognition of Arbor Day and reviewed the request for the 2020 proclamation. Ms. Jop reviewed the information available on the Town website regarding resources and information related to COVID-19.

Upon a motion by Mr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted (4-0-1, Mr. Morgan abstained as he was not present) to approve the minutes of March 16, 2020.

Freiman – Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Morgan – Abstained

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney -Aye

Upon a motion by Mr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted to approve the minutes of March 23, 2020.

Morgan - Aye

Sullivan Woods - Aye

Olney - Aye

Ulfelder - Aye

Freiman - Aye

Upon a motion by Mr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to approve the 2020 Arbor Day Proclamation and declare April 24, 2020 Arbor Day.

Morgan - Aye

Sullivan Woods - Aye

Olney - Aye

Ulfelder - Aye

Freiman - Aye

6. Annual Town Meeting Preparation

Ms. Freiman noted that the Town Election would be held before Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Jop briefly reviewed the intention of consolidating ATM, and the anticipated additional postponement of Town Meeting. She added that considering the necessary extensions allowed by the Moderator, the new date set would likely be June 22nd. Ms. Jop noted the growing support by communities to the Governor to allow for remote Town Meetings. She stated that she was confident that if allowed, Wellesley could achieve remote participation for Town Meeting Members. Ms. Jop stated that there had been some internal discussion to limit or pre-record presentations for advanced viewing and adding to the consent agenda. The Board briefly discussed the anticipated changes to Annual Town Meeting.

7. Discuss and Vote Unforeseen Measures of COVID-19 Outbreak

Ms. Jop stated that she was awaiting additional guidance from the State regarding the tax bill extension and advised holding the discussion until that information was available. She added that the Town supported extending tax payments. Ms. Jop asked the Board to consider better defining “essential construction”. She noted that many communities were struggling with the Governor’s Executive Order, and noted the additional guidance provided from the Governor’s Office better defining essential versus non-essential construction. She added that Newton had clearly defined non-essential construction and she prepared a drafted order that would define non-essential construction. The Board discussed the drafted language and differences in essential and non-essential construction projects and potential revisions to the draft.

Upon a motion by Mr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to issue an Order to restrict municipal, residential, and commercial construction to those that are essential and to authorize the Executive Director, the Chair of the Board of Selectmen, and Town

Counsel to finalize language to that effect which the Order will run until May 4th, 2020 unless extended by vote of the Board of Selectmen.

Freiman – Aye

Morgan – Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney - Aye

Ms. Sullivan Woods stated that discussions with The Community Fund for Wellesley had taken place regarding the establishment of a fund for residents and businesses. She added that The Community Fund for Wellesley will act as the fiduciary for the fund. She noted that other communities were also working with fiduciaries including The United Way for similar partnership model fundraising platforms. Ms. Sullivan Woods stated that the fund would serve the community to help those in need. She noted that the details were still being finalized. She added that as part of the partnership, the Town would communicate the fund and donation opportunities as well as identify potential needs within the community. The Board discussed the establishment of the fund and the general concept. The Board expressed general support of partnering with The Community Fund for Wellesley in the establishment of a fund that will provide financial support in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

8. New Business and Correspondence

None.

9. Executive Session

Ms. Freiman requested a motion that the Board vote to convene in Executive Session for the purposes of discussing strategy with respect to collective bargaining with the Wellesley Patrolmen's Union, Wellesley Superior Officer's Union, and Wellesley Local 1795 International Association of Firefighters and declared that having such discussions in Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining position.

At 9:14pm Upon a motion by Mr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) enter Executive Session under M.G.L. c. 30A, §21(A), exemption #3 – to discuss negotiation strategy with respect to collective bargaining with Wellesley Patrolmen's Union, Wellesley Superior Officer's Union, and Wellesley Local 1795 International Association of Firefighters, as the Chair has declared that having such a discussion in Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the Town's bargaining position and to invite Meghan Jop and Amy Frigulietti to participate.

Freiman – Aye

Morgan – Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney - Aye

Upon a motion by Mr. Morgan and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder, the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to exit Executive Session and return to Open Session.

Freiman – Aye

Morgan – Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney - Aye

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for Monday, April 13, 2020 at 6:30 pm online.