

Joint Meeting of The Board of Selectmen and Board of Health

July 15,2020

6:00pm

Meeting held remotely via zoom due to the Covid-19 restrictions

Board of Health Members present: Tony Segal-Chair, Peter Cohen, Louise Maron, Fred Schubert, Andy Fischer

Board of Selectmen present: Alan Hanson-Chair, Neal Pilson, Roger Manzolini

Others Present: Claudia Ryan, Danielle Fillio-Town Administrator, Clarence Fanto-Berkshire Eagle, Miles Garfinkle

Alan Hanson opened the Selectmen's meeting at 6:00pm. He read the governors statement allowing for remotely held meetings concerning the state's open meeting law.

Tony Segal opened the Board of Health meeting.

Neal Pilson explained that the purpose of this meeting was to discuss an issue that had occurred over the 4th of July Holiday weekend of overcrowding and excessive garbage at the Richmond Town Beach.

Neal stated that he did go to the beach to see if there were any issues the following weekend and didn't see any. Alan Hanson, Peter Cohen and Tony Segal stated they also went to check on the beach that weekend and found no issues with over-crowding or garbage.

It was thought that the main reason for the overcrowding that weekend was that other towns had not yet opened their beaches. Now that others are open there does not seem to be as many users or overcrowding issues.

Tony Segal stated that Emillie Jarret the town's community nurse was not able to attend the meeting but that he has a statement she sent him. She went to the beach and noticed that there were several groups of more than 10 people grouped together around the grills and picnic tables which goes against the state guidelines. She feels that there should be a monitor there to help maintain the state guidelines.

Tony Segal said he agrees with Emillie Jarrett about having a monitor.

Alan Hanson asked who would be this monitor and what authority would they have to enforce the guidelines.

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Board of Health members thought that a monitor would be the best way to have the guideline maintained. Danielle Fillio noted that there was not money in the budget for this and that she was still struggling to find Boat Monitors.

Neal Pilson stated that the times he was there checking on the beach he saw no need for a monitor. He did state that possibly over the Labor Day weekend a monitor might be required.

There was a discussion between the board members as to how to figure the maximum number of people who should be at the beach at any one time. Some members thought it should be by a specific number of people others were thought a limit on cars would be best. There was no final agreement on that issue.

Board of Health members suggested that the lifeguards could be responsible for counting either cars or people on a regular basis, possibly every hour. Neal Pilson stated that the job of lifeguards is to watch the lake and the safety of swimmers is their job. They could once or twice a day keep track of the number of cars but not every hour.

Peter Cohen asked if the beach is as busy on the weekdays as it is on the weekends. Danielle Fillio stated that it really is weather dependent, hot days the beach is very busy midweek.

It was noted that the beach opens at 11a.m. when the lifeguards go on duty and it closes at dusk (between 7-8pm) it is the job of the DPW to open and close the gate to the beach. The lifeguards leave at 5p.m. The beach officially closes after the gate is locked on Labor Day.

It was decided that members of both boards will take turns checking on the beach and try to keep a record of the number of people and cars, the date, the time, weather that day and to note any guideline violations they saw.

Neal Pilson asked for a volunteer to coordinate the scheduling of the members. Tony Segal said he would do it.

The group decided that no formal action should be taken at this time, but that if they notice during their visits that violations or other issues are occurring then another

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combined meeting could be called. The group should consider whether they might want to find monitors for the Labor Day Holiday Weekend.

Danielle Fillio made a request that when they are checking the beach and looking around at the number of people and cars that they identify themselves as board members. There had been an issue with people feeling uneasy about being stared at.

The discussion then focused on the boat ramp. Danielle Fillio told the members that the town has been advertising for boat ramp monitors and as of this date they have only one but she did just receive an application from someone. There might be a better response to the job if the pay rate was raised to \$15 an hour from the current rate of \$12.75. The selectmen thought that Danielle Fillio should offer the increased rate. Peter Cohen stated that when he was at the boat ramp, he noticed that the monitor and residents were not wearing masks. Danielle Fillio stated that she did have a discussion with the monitor and he has to wear a mask when he is within 6 ft of people but not if he is socially distant from them. She told the members that his job is to monitor the boat ramp, inform users about the clean boat regulations but not to enforce covid guidelines. There are guideline handouts that he has to give out to people.

Neal Pilson stated that the boat ramp is actually the responsibility of the state and he doesn't feel that the town is responsible for it the way he feels that the town has a responsibility to the town beach.

Neal Pilson asked Danielle Fillio about the possibility of the Richmond Pond Association giving some money to offset the cost of paying more for monitors and she stated that they have given \$8,000 to the town.

Miles Garfinkle, lives at the shores, stated that someone burned one of the posts at the boat launch area. Danielle Fillio stated that she knew about it from the camera that is at the site and they already have identified who did it.

Fred Schubert moved to close the Board of Health meeting. It was seconded by Peter Cohen and passed unanimously.

Alan Hanson moved to close the Selectmen's meeting and it was second by Neal Pilson and passed unanimously.

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Alan Hanson-Chair Select Board

Date

Tony Segal-Chair Board of Health

Date