

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN / SEWER COMMISSIONERS VIRTUAL MEETING**

**Wednesday, June 10, 2020 5:53 PM – Via Zoom**

**PRESENT:** Danielle Fillio, Richmond Town Administrator; Neal Pilson, Selectman; Alan Hanson, Selectman; Roger Manzolini, Chair, Board of Selectmen;

**GUESTS:** Peter Miller, Evelyn Loeb; Mary Spine; Leslie Breeding; Donna Hanson; Chris Hanson, Miles Garfinkel; Peter Miller, Allison Cole

Roger opened the meeting with a reading of the Executive Order of the Governor of Massachusetts, outlining the changes to the Open Meeting Law to be followed during the COVID-19 emergency.

**Approval of Minutes:** There being no further changes requested, Roger moved that the minutes of May 20, 2020 be approved as amended by Neal. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

**Vote of New Chairman:** Roger moved to appoint Alan Hanson as the new Chair for the Board of Selectmen. Before a vote was taken, Neal and Alan expressed their appreciation for the excellent leadership, commitment and dedication provided by Roger during this most difficult year as Chair of the Board.

The motion to appoint Al as Chair was seconded and adopted by unanimous consent. Al accepted the appointment.

**Permit Application for Virtual Bike Race:** The Board has been asked to approve a permit for a virtual bike race. The race will take place over the course of ten days with individual bikers completing the course that will begin at Bartlett's Orchard. The course will be clearly marked with signs, which will comply with the Town's signage bylaws. Neal asked that the residents be apprised of the signage, which will be up for the ten-days of the race. Signs will be removed immediately after the end of the race by the sponsoring organization.

**Metal Detection on Town-Owned Property (Rte. 41):** A new resident to Richmond has asked permission of the Board to use a metal detector at the proposed building site for the new library/town hall in order to search for possible historical artifacts, which he would donate to the Town. The Board had no objection and Roger will advise him to coordinate with Peter Beckwith.

**Residents' Concerns with the Re-Opening of Balderdash:** Neal reported that he has received several letters on the subject. It was the consensus of the Board that specific plans for reopening a business was a matter between that business and the State which sets the guidelines.

Chris Hanson, owner of Balderdash, noted that Balderdash has met all the State's guidelines and that they are operating under the Farm Function Permit they were awarded last year with

no plans for events not already covered under that permit. A member of the audience asked whether Balderdash has a retail food permit. Danielle offered to check with the Board of Health as to what Balderdash is permitted to do for the balance of the season under existing permits.

Complaints received from last year's events were discussed and steps taken to remedy the situation were outlined. The Board felt that the Hansons have been very responsive to the residents' concerns. Neal noted that if the Board must continue to monitor complaints within the next months, they will revisit the situation. In the meantime, the Board welcomes the Hansons to open Balderdash according to State requirements.

**Town Meeting Protocol:** Danielle reported on the arrangements being made to comply with COVID-19 requirements for the Town Meeting: Although there will be signage requiring the wearing of face masks, she has been advised that the rule cannot be enforced by refusing entry to anyone not wearing a mask. Therefore, there will be two separate seating sections provided; masked and unmasked – both sections will maintain six-foot distances between chairs.

Danielle and Pete Beckwith have been to the School gym where the meeting will take place to organize the space according to State Directives: There will be a wide aisle for access to the microphone. People will be requested to ask their questions in writing in advance if possible, to reduce the use of the microphone.

Some additional discussions included the placing of the Board of Selectmen, the number of people anticipated to attend and a request that the Moderator of the Baby Town Meeting run the Annual Town Meeting as well. It was also suggested that Dewey Wyatt, the School Board Chair, be asked to attend the Baby Town Meeting.

**Update on Governor Baker's Re-Opening Guidelines and Town Buildings:** Danielle reported that Town Hall is now open to the public. There are signs indicating the requirement for anyone entering the building to wear face masks. Records of who has visited Town Hall and when are being kept, per State requirement. The office space has been completely reorganized to guarantee that six-foot distancing can be maintained for each of the employees, and a sliding glass window has been installed in the door where the public can be served without entering the office space. Similar precautions are being taken in the upstairs offices as well and an intensive cleaning protocol has been put in place.

The Richmond pond Beach has been opened and signs put in place listing the Governor's orders for its use. The lifeguards have been advised of the rules they must follow for sanitizing, but they have been cautioned that they are not expected to enforce the rules with the public, but to call the State Police in the event of any potential problems. Alternatively, they have been advised that if they feel unsafe or threatened by unruly people, they have the backing of the Board of Selectmen to leave the beach and post "no lifeguard on duty" signs.

If the Board finds that the rules are being routinely ignored the beach may be closed. Neal will visit the beach on the weekend to support the lifeguards.

**Selectmen's Matters:** Alan asked what happened to set off the emergency siren at 4:00 AM. No one knows how or why it apparently turned itself on three times so the system will be checked to determine where the problem lies. Danielle will check with Steve Traver, Fire Chief.

Alan talked to farmer Grant about the firewood piles. Mr. Grant says he is in the firewood business and that the Right-to-Farm laws allow that operation. It was suggested that Town Counsel be asked for a legal opinion to respond to a complaint.

Roger and Al looked at the washout problem on the Rawson property on Upper Dublin which has occurred since the Town re-pitched the road, causing water to run onto their property. The berm next to the road will be raised higher than the road level, which will eliminate a situation that the Town caused. Peter Beckwith will be asked to look into that.

Neal suggested the possibility of making the next meeting in-person. Roger noted that he believes he has been exposed to the virus and will continue to self-isolate for some time. When Roger feels he is no longer a potential carrier, he will let the group know and they can discuss future plans at that time.

Danielle asked that one of the Board members join her at a Zoom virtual meeting with Paul Lisi to discuss his return to work. Al Hanson volunteered.

Danielle reported that the Annual Town Report has been posted on the Town website and will be available at Bartlett's, the Post Office and Town Hall when they arrive.

**Warrants:** Roger moved that the business-as-usual warrants be approved for execution by Danielle. The motion was seconded and carried by unanimous consent.

#### **Next Board of Selectmen Meeting – June 24, 2020**

There being no further business before the Board, Roger moved that the meeting be adjourned. The motion was seconded and approved by unanimous vote.

**Signed:**

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Alan Hanson, Chair