

BOARD OF SELECTMEN / SEWER COMMISSIONERS VIRTUAL MEETING

May 20, 2020 – 6:00 PM – via Zoom

PRESENT: Danielle Fillio, Town Administrator; Roger Manzolini, Chair; Neal Pilson, Selectman; Alan Hanson, Selectman;

GUEST: Connor O'Brien

Roger opened the meeting with a reading of the Governor's Directive concerning the revised Open Meeting Law requirements for the duration of the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency.

Request for Memorial Beach Donation: Connor O'Brien, son of a long-time resident of Richmond, came before the Board to request approval for his family to place a memorial bench in the Town Park at Richmond Pond Beach. Roger recommended that an alternate location be found that would be a better choice in terms of the likelihood of vandalism. He noted that he was in no way opposed to placing a memorial bench at the beach but thought it would be better utilized and respected elsewhere. Connor will discuss this with his family and the Richmond Pond Assn and return to the Board with a new plan.

Approval of May 6, 2020 Minutes: Neal moved to approve the minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed by unanimous vote.

Discussion of Logging Issue: Paul Greene was asked to investigate the logging activity that has generated two complaints from townspeople. Paul determined that he had no basis upon which to take any action and would not do so. The complainants could appeal his decision. Al quoted the definition of the Right to Farm law that indicted to him that the action being taken was a by-right permissible action. Alan will talk to the farmer to determine exactly what he is doing and then ask that a formal legal opinion be obtained from the Town's Council.

Discussion and Approval of Town Meeting Warrant: The members of the Board had not had an opportunity to read the final draft and were interested to see the exact wording of the Articles #5 through 22. Danielle posted the Warrant on the screen and read through each of the Articles. It was decided to wait for approval until the Board had 24 hours to read the Warrant and make any changes. Roger moved to approve the Warrant, pending any comments of a substantive nature by the end of the next day. The motion was seconded by Neal and adopted by unanimous consent.

Discussion and Vote on Town Annual Report Cover Photo: Technical difficulties kept Danielle from being able to bring up the photos that were submitted in last year's contest, so the Board gave Danielle the authority to choose one to use for this year's report cover.

Memorial Day Activities: Danielle reviewed the arrangements she had put together for a Memorial Day Celebration under COVID-19 restrictions. Joy Mullen, the school music teacher, was not prepared to provide any music as the children had had no opportunity to practice. The Town's veterans will join the "honk and wave" parade around Town in their own cars. Danielle will contact Rabbi Kane and ask if he will officiate at the Memorial Service as he has done for several years.

At 11:15 AM the cars for the honk and wave parade will meet at the West Stockbridge Fire Station. Fire Chief Steve Traver will start off the parade around town, winding up at the School at 12:15 or so, where Al will give

his speech. Danielle will locate a florist or nursery that can create a laurel wreath to be placed at the monument.

Update on Gov. Baker's Re-Opening Guidelines and Town Hall: Danielle reported that the Town Hall is being prepared to reopen according to those guidelines: offices were completely revamped, hand-sanitizer dispensers were located in appropriate places and the staff was consulted on their readiness to return to the office. The building will not, at first, be open to the public and a large sign will be posted on the door noting the requirement for masking for anyone entering the building. Staff is expected to return to the office on May 25th.

Vacation Time: Danielle advised the Board that staff will not be able to use their vacation time before the end of the year and requested that the Board approve their rolling over that time into the next year. The Board gave its approval and a memo will be sent to all staff members advising of that decision.

Selectmen's Matters: Neal raised the issue of how ongoing town committee and board meetings should be conducted in future. He suggested that continuing to hold meetings via Zoom seemed advisable. Danielle suggested that things continue in that way at least until the beginning of Phase Two. The Board agreed and she will send a memo to all committee and board chairs advising them of that decision. The issue will be revisited after Phase Two begins.

Neal reported that the Pond Assn. is asking for Boat Monitors to begin working as traffic on the pond is getting heavy. Danielle will check with Matt to see if work can begin this weekend.

A discussion of the incidence of altercations at the Pond resulted in a decision that any such situations would be handled by the State Police. Boat Monitors will be identified as such with I.D. Tags.

Warrants: The Board approved Danielle's signing the warrants on their behalf.

Next Meetings: Danielle advised the Board that she has set their meetings in June for June 10th and June 24th. There was no opposition to those dates. She further noted the following schedule: Baby Town Meeting – June 13th, Annual Town Meeting – June 17th, Town Elections – June 20th

A discussion of the way the Town Meeting would be held revealed that Danielle has arranged for 106 chairs to be set six feet apart in the School's gym. All other contact points have been arranged to ensure that six-foot social distancing will be observed. The public will be notified that masking will be mandatory. There will be a small supply of masks on hand for non-compliers.

There being no further business before the Board a motion was made to adjourn. The motion was seconded and passed with unanimous approval.

Signed:

Roger Manzolini, Chair