

**TOWN OF WINCHESTER  
SELECT BOARD MEETING  
Monday, June 1, 2020  
Record**

## **OPENING**

Chair Michael Bettencourt called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM via Zoom remote participation due to the State of Emergency COVID-19. Present were Select Board members Vice Chair Susan Verdicchio, Jacqueline A. Welch, Amy Shapiro and Mariano Goluboff. Also present was Town Manager Lisa Wong. (Note - due to the remote participation all Select Board votes are roll call votes.)

## **NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS AND HEARINGS**

1. Monday, June 8, 2020 - Regular Session before Spring Town Meeting
2. Monday, June 8, 2020 - Spring Town Meeting

## **ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS**

## **TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMENTS**

1. General Topics/Project Updates:

We are at a plateau with 108 cases; the Town Hall offices have started by appointment only for the public with most of the staff still working remotely; the library now has curbside pickup; we will be installing key card entry at the parking lot and pond side doors of the Town Hall for staff.

## **COMPTROLLER 'S REPORT**

Stacie Ward, Town Comptroller, gave an overview of her Comptroller's Report as of April 30, 2020. Ms. Ward stated that the Town was able to handle all the COVID expenses with our current budget. Whatever comes our way for the next month, the Town will be able to handle, and all monies spent for COVID will be reimbursed by the federal government.

## **HEARINGS**

## **BUSINESS**

1. **Climate Action Plan Final Presentation** - Ruth Trimarchi, Co-Chair of the Climate Action Committee, presented to the Board the final Climate Action Plan. She thanked all of the town leaders, staff and members of the Climate Action Committee, for their support and involvement of the Plan. The Climate Action Committee recommendations for immediate action are to hire a Sustainability Director; appoint a new Climate Action Committee to implement the 2020 Plan; develop a comprehensive climate communication strategy; and prioritize climate actions for the next fiscal year's budget. Ms. Trimarchi indicated that they are looking to everyone to implement the plan as it is a plan that the town needs. Chair Bettencourt thanked everyone, including the students that were part of the committee. All of the Board members spoke to the work that the committee has done to achieve the critical work in completing the plan and bringing it to the forefront. Chair Bettencourt also stated that, due to the budget constraints right now, the Town is unable to hire a Sustainability Director. Ms. Trimarchi felt that the

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committee can begin making inroads to the plan and as a volunteer group they can do all that they can to implement the plan.

\*Motion: That the Select Board adopt the Climate Action Plan as presented.

Verdicchio - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

**2. 2020 Spring Town Meeting Warrant Articles -**

**Article 2** - Amend Chapter 19, Section 2.6 of the Code of Bylaws

\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 2 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Goluboff - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

**Article 3** - Amend Section 7.3.10, 7.3.12.3 & 7.3.12.3 of Zoning Bylaws - Indefinitely Postponed

**Article 4** - Voting technology - Indefinitely Postponed

**Article 5** - Real Estate Transaction - MBTA Easement

\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 5 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Goluboff - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

**Article 6** - Amend water and sewer rates

\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 6 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Goluboff - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

**Article 7** - Transfer funds to supplement FY2020 budget

\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 7 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Goluboff - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

**Article 8** - Appropriate money from PEG Access and Cable Related Fund

\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 8 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Goluboff - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

**Article 9** - Appropriate money for Lynch School Feasibility Study

\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 9 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Goluboff - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

**Article 10** - Appropriate money for Muraco School repairs

\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 10 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Goluboff - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

**Article 11** - Appropriate money for firefighter PPE

\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 11 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Goluboff - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

**Article 12** - Appropriate money for community lead service water line replacement

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- \*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 12 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant  
Goluboff - Shapiro  
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED
- Article 13** - Appropriate monies from completed Capital/Building Stabilization Fund projects  
\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 13 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant  
Goluboff - Shapiro  
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED
- Article 15** - FY2021 Operating Budgets  
\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 15 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant  
Goluboff - Shapiro  
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED
- Article 16** - Appropriate funds for Water/Sewer Div./Transfer to Enterprise Fund  
\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 16 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant  
Goluboff - Shapiro  
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED
- Article 17** - Appropriate funds for Recreation Department  
\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 17 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant  
Goluboff - Shapiro  
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED
- Article 18** - Appropriate monies to Capital/Building Stabilization Fund  
\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 18 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant  
Goluboff - Shapiro  
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED
- Article 19** - Revolving Funds  
\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 19 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant  
Goluboff - Shapiro  
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED
- Article 20** - Authorize Treasurer to Borrow Money  
\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 20 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant  
Goluboff - Shapiro  
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED
- Article 21** - State Highway Fund  
\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 21 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant  
Goluboff - Shapiro  
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED
- Article 22** - Appropriate funds, OPEB Liability Trust Fund  
\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 22 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant  
Goluboff - Shapiro  
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED
- Article 24** - Authorize Assessors to reduce Tax Levy  
\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article 24 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

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Goluboff - Shapiro  
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED  
**Article 25** - Accept committee Reports/Dissolve Old Committees  
\*Motion: That the Select Board recommend favorable Town Meeting action on Article  
25 in the Spring 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant  
Goluboff - Shapiro  
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

The Select Board will vote on Articles 14 and 23 before Town Meeting on Monday, June 8<sup>th</sup>.

- 3. State of Emergency** - Ms. Wong is continuing to meet with the reopening subcommittees, one of the major recommendations from the group, was for outdoor dining & retail. Staff, Ms. Wong and members of the Chamber of Commerce walked around the center assessing what areas would work.

The Town bought 10 picnic tables, which will be delivered in three weeks. Two will be placed at Jenks, two at the park between Waterfield & Main, on Mystic Valley Pkwy and six on the Town Common along Laraway Road.

- 4. Town Meeting** - Mary Ellen Lannon, Town Clerk, gave an update of the mock Town Meeting that was held last Thursday. Many of the issues that the members had were caused by us having both Zoom and the VVoter program on the same computer. There will be a separate computer for each program at the Town Meeting on June 8<sup>th</sup>. Ms. Lannon has scheduled another training on Thursday, June 4<sup>th</sup> for those who had specific problems. Peter Haley, Town Moderator, will verbally inform the Town Meeting members when the voting is beginning and ending. Ms. Lannon is reserving the “chat” for technical questions and the “raise hand” will be for anyone who wants to debate an article. She also stated that basically there are still a lot of unknowns but we will move forward.
- 5. Town Manager’s Evaluation** - Ms. Wong opened up the discussion about developing a performance evaluation document that the Board can use for her evaluation. Ms. Wong will circulate the samples for the Board to review, who will then share their comments with Ms. Verdicchio. Ms. Verdicchio and Ms. Shapiro will then develop a draft performance evaluation for a future meeting after Town Meeting.
- 6. Eversource 345kV** - Wade Welch, Town Counsel, updated the Board regarding the Town’s court case against the State’s Siting Board. A decision from the appeal’s court is expected July 27<sup>th</sup> but if today’s Supreme Court emergency COVID order applies to our case, then we will have to add 105 days after July 27<sup>th</sup>. Beth Rudolph, Town Engineer, received a revised set of plans for the Eversource 345kV in February, the staff’s comments were sent to Eversource at the end of April, and we are waiting for their response.
- 7. Town Planner Updates** - Brian Szekely, Town Planner, informed the Board that the Town’s Housing Production Plan was certified by the state. Becoming certified by the state then qualifies the Town for the 2-year Safe Harbor, which began March 31, 2020. The Safe Harbor

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allows the Town to deny any developments that may not work for the Town and we can plan our own 40B housing that does.

The Waterfield RFP will open June 22<sup>nd</sup> and closes August 31<sup>st</sup>, the Select Board needs to meet prior to June 22<sup>nd</sup> to decide the evaluation process. Mr. Szekely indicated that there are very qualified and good candidates that are interested in applying.

Outdoor Dining - Mr. Szekely told the Board that there is a lot to coordinate outdoor dining due to social distancing, pedestrians, cars and construction. The main focus should be safety first, protecting the pedestrians and those dining. He also feels that there needs to be Staff conversation with the Police, Fire, Board of Health and the Design Review Committee. Ms. Wong told the Board that the Chamber of Commerce has sent out a survey to all of the businesses. The Board directed the staff to pursue and come back to the Board with their suggestions.

- 8. Non-Agenda Item** - Chair Bettencourt received a letter from the Network for Social Justice on Police Brutality and Systemic Racism. They are asking the Select Board to support the joint statement along with the School Committee and Dr. Evans, School Superintendent. The consensus of the Select Board is to support the letter and Ms. Wong will send the letter through DocuSign to have each member sign the letter.

**CONSENT AGE NDA**

**ADJOURNMENT : 10:15 PM**

\*Motion: That the Select Board adjourn for the evening.  
Verdicchio - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Wong, Town Manager