

Board of Selectmen

May 26, 2020

Remote meeting via telephone conference call

Present:

- Board of Selectmen: Ms. Karen Johnson, Ms. Mary Power and Mr. Joseph Fisher
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator

Call to order: 7pm

Ms. Johnson called the meeting to order and read the following statement:

“This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.”

Transfer of License from Coggeshall Group, LLC to Locales Taco, LLC

Transfer of the Restaurant Common Victualler All Alcoholic Beverages License and Pledge of License from Coggeshall Group, LLC d/b/a Crow's Landing to Locales Taco, LLC d/b/a Locales Tacos y Tequila

Chairman Johnson explained that the Board had some questions with respect to the hours on the license. She said that it was the preference of the Board to approve the transfer of license with the hours as in place on the current license held by Crow's Landing. She added that, after Locals Tacos has had an opportunity to go before the Planning Board, the Board of Selectmen would entertain a change to the liquor license as presented. Scott Goulding, representing Coggeshall Group said that it is their intention to see a change in the hours from the Planning Board and the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Fisher commented that he approved the transfer of the license with the current hours held by Crow's Landing and said that Police Chief Olsson has also approved the transfer of the license. Ms. Power approved as well. Ms. Johnson asked Mr. Goulding if Locales Tacos had submitted proof of Liquor Liability Insurance. Mr. Goulding was not sure but said that it could be included in the vote as a condition. Ms. Perfetti of the Selectmen's Office commented that the license would not be issued until the Board receives the proof of insurance. There was some additional discussion concerning the hours of operation.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the transfer of an All Alcoholic Beverages Common Victualler License from Coggeshall Group, LLC. d/b/a Crows Landing to Locales Tacos, LLC d/b/a Locales Tacos y Tequila, 6 Crow Point Lane, Brian McLaughlin, Manager with the following operating hours: **Weekdays: 5:00 PM to Midnight, Saturday: 9:00 AM to Midnight, Sunday: 10:00 AM to Midnight.** This approval is subject to applicable to the approval of all applicable town boards and departments, submission of a valid certificate of insurance evidencing liquor legal liability insurance coverage in at

least the minimum statutory amounts, and the approval of the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. Ms. Power seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Ms. Johnson: yes

Pledge of License

Ms. Power made a motion to approve the request of Locales Tacos, LLC d/b/a Locales Tacos y Tequila for a Pledge of License to Six Crow Point Realty LLC.; subject to the approval of the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Ms. Johnson: yes

Harbormaster Update

Harbormaster Truck: Harbormaster Corson explained that they had to replace the Harbormaster's truck last winter. At that time, the Board approved spending \$65,000 for that purchase. Mr. Corson reported that they are able to return \$11,694 and that, after receiving insurance funds of \$29,000, the total cost to the Town was approximately \$24,000.

Dredging Update: Mr. Corson explained that there were several change orders to the dredging contract that he was required to sign and he is now asking the Board to ratify them. He explained that the changes to the contract were as follows:

- An increase in the value of the contract of \$123,000 due to a change in the projected amount of material to be dredged. Also included in this change order was the addition of an observer to view the dumping of material to ensure that no marine mammals were hurt.
- A change in the type of bucket to be used by the contractor so that they could dredge hard material at the boat ramp. Mr. Corson explained that savings offset the \$65,000 cost of this change elsewhere during the project so there was no additional cost to the Town.

Mr. Fisher asked Mr. Corson if he was satisfied with the completed work. Mr. Corson was very satisfied with the work done by the contractor and added that there was no damage to any of the wharves.

Ms. Power expressed her pleasure with the work that Mr. Corson has done on the dredging project, especially his ability to secure a \$2 million grant towards the dredging. Mr. Fisher agreed.

Mr. Kenney, Hingham resident and co-owner of Hingham Harbor Marina, asked several questions regarding dredging the areas around and under the private marinas in the inner harbor. Mr. Corson

noted that some areas around and under the private marinas in the harbor were not able to be dredged due to the fact that the Army Corps of Engineers did not issue a permit for the offshore disposal of the material under the private marinas. He noted that the contractor has completed the dredging project; however, the Town of Hingham has permits that are valid for a few more years. If they can get approval for the offshore disposal of the material underneath the private marinas, there is a possibility that these areas could be dredged under the current permits. With regard to a question of Mr. Kenney's regarding the Town's responsiveness to his inquiries, Mr. Mayo noted that Mr. Kenney's counsel has been contacted by the Town's counsel regarding this matter.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion that the Board of Selectmen acknowledges that it has reviewed and hereby approves the change orders authorized by the Harbormaster during the 2019 dredging project, resulting in an increase to the contract cost in the amount of \$123,416. Ms. Power seconded the motion as amended.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Ms. Johnson: yes

COVID-19 related Mooring, Anchoring, and Town Pier Regulations: Mr. Corson reported that the State has prohibited the tying and rafting of vessels and that Hingham will be adopting that locally. The Harbormaster expressed concerns over the large number of boats that visit World's End and the limited number of moorings in that area (40). He was especially concerned about vessels anchoring close together and not allowing for safe navigation in that area, as well as maintaining safe social distancing. He proposed not allowing anchoring in that area except for current holders of a 2020 Hingham Mooring Permit. Ms. Johnson asked how many people hold and Hingham Mooring Permit and Ms. Corson replied that there are currently approximately 1,500. Ms. Johnson asked how these new regulations would affect usage of the moorings in World's End. Mr. Corson advised that people using the moorings in World's End would not be required to hold a current Hingham Mooring Permit because private clubs own some of the moorings. In such a case, any members of such club could use that mooring. Mr. Corson also explained that Hingham has four transient moorings in World's End that anyone is able to sign up for online and use, irrespective of whether they hold a Hingham Mooring Permit. Ms. Johnson asked how many boats could safely anchor in the World's End area. Mr. Corson said that it is dependent on the tide but on a typical weekend, there can be 200-400 boats in the area. He acknowledged that, even while limiting the boats that anchor to current Hingham Mooring Permit- holders, there still could be more boats that anchor in that area than what is safe. The new regulations will serve as a base on which to begin. With respect to his enforcement plan, Mr. Corson explained they can monitor the area with a camera and that there will be 1-2 boats routinely checking on the area on the weekends to make sure that it is not over-populated. In the event that the area does become over-crowded, Harbormaster staff would ask boats just arriving to leave and would ask boats in congested areas to leave. He emphasized that the intent would be to educate the public on safely rather than issuing fines for non-compliance. Ms. Johnson asked Mr. Corson if other communities with similar gathering places are instituting new regulations. Mr. Corson had been in touch with a number of Harbormasters and was not

aware of any similar regulations surrounding anchoring. He also indicated that World's End is a unique area and none of our surrounding communities has a gathering spot quite like it.

Mr. Fisher asked if Hingham's temporary regulations would expire when the State's regulations expire. Mr. Corson advised that they are not set to expire at the same time as the State's, but will automatically expire a year later unless they are replaced with another regulation or rescinded. He wanted to have the ability to assess the situation when the State's regulations expire and to make the proper adjustments after consultation with the Police Chief. Mr. Fisher asked what sort of communication would be used to inform boaters if Hingham's regulations do align with State regulations for rafting boats. Mr. Corson was confident that they would have good communication with boaters through email, social media, their website and other forms of communication. Ms. Johnson expressed some concern with the fact that Hingham's proposed regulations would not end when the State's do since the implementation of Hingham's regulations are a direct result of the State's. Mr. Fisher felt that the State anticipated that there may be additional local regulations in addition to the State's regulations. Additionally, Mr. Fisher asked Mr. Corson if he was comfortable with the State's Covid-19-related rules for boat ramps. Mr. Corson felt comfortable with the many other State guidelines and did not feel a need to adopt any further rules locally.

Mr. Fisher preferred an approach to the ending of the local regulations, which would allow for a timeframe for Hingham to address whether or not they should continue their anchoring and rafting guidelines beyond the lifting of the State's guidelines, thus letting the public know that there would be a review expected. Mr. Corson was comfortable with that approach.

Ms. Power commented that had spoken with Harbormaster Corson prior to the meeting to ask questions about the proposed regulations. She stated there have been a couple of considerations that have led to the recommendation of the local regulations, including the limiting of large gatherings and the safety of the boaters and Town employees but she was comfortable moving forward with Mr. Fisher's suggestions.

Ms. Johnson continued to have concerns about the enforcement plan and subsequent interactions that may occur during the implementation of the enforcement plan. Mr. Corson was comfortable with the enforcement plan, but was open to considering any suggestions that she might have. There was some additional discussion, with an emphasis on the need for communication and education surrounding the proposed regulations.

Police Chief Olsson commented that the regulations limiting anchoring in World's End to current Hingham Mooring Permit holders were devised with the Hingham citizens in mind and would make the enforcement of those restrictions easier. He also anticipated that the 4th of July would not be as busy on the waterways due to the cancellation of the fireworks. He felt that the boaters would understand that this is a unique year and that they would be able to adapt.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion, Pursuant to Article 15 of the Town of Hingham General By-laws, the Board of Selectmen hereby acknowledge, review, and approve, to the extent necessary, the Harbormaster's approval of these Temporary Regulations with the understanding that the Harbormaster

may relax these Temporary Regulations as the Harbormaster deems appropriate after consultation with the Chief of Police and the Executive Health Officer of the Town, and that within two weeks of any changes to the State guidelines for boating and various other marine and inland waterway-related activities that the Harbormaster inform the Board of Selectmen of any proposed changes to these temporary regulations. Ms. Power seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Ms. Johnson: yes

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Mayo gave the following update regarding the COVID-19 crisis:

COVID-19 Cases

“In terms of the latest data, as of last Wednesday, DPH was reporting 237 laboratory-confirmed cases in Hingham. As of today, DPH is reporting 93,693 cases in Massachusetts, of which 7,632 are in Plymouth County. Please keep in mind that the numbers reported by the state are lower than the actual number of cases, because they only include those who have tested positive. About 2.2% of reported Massachusetts cases are currently hospitalized. The number of hospitalized COVID-19 patients has been slowly decreasing since April 21, according to DPH data. The percent of people testing positive for COVID-19 continues to decrease as well.

Fields and Courts

Per Governor Baker’s Phase 1 reopening plan, Hingham athletic fields and tennis courts are now open with restrictions. Basketball courts and street hockey courts remain closed at this time. Although the number of new COVID-19 cases reported each week has started to decrease, the threat of the virus has not yet passed. We have sent these guidelines out via email, our website, and on social media, but they are worth reiterating here. Please adhere to the following state guidelines when using athletic fields and tennis courts to help prevent a resurgence of COVID-19:

- Only non-contact sports/activities with no shared equipment are allowed
- No pick-up games or organized games/tournaments are allowed
- No groups larger than 10 are allowed to gather
- Wear a face covering when you cannot maintain a social distance of 6 ft. from others
- Sanitize hands before and after play
- Do not share equipment with others
- Clean and wipe down equipment after use
- Wait outside the field of play until previous users have vacated the facility to ensure proper social distancing

Thank you for keeping yourself and your neighbors safe by respecting these guidelines and responsibly enjoying Hingham’s outdoor athletic facilities.

Farmers Market Update

The Hingham Farmers’ Market reported a very successful pilot market this past Saturday at the Station Street parking lot. Over 100 vehicles arrived to collect pre-ordered items from the eight vendors who

participated in opening day. Hingham Police and volunteers from HinghamLink assisted with traffic flow and helped everything run smoothly.

Town Meeting Update

Last Friday, this Board, after consultation with the Town Moderator and public health and safety officials, voted to hold the 2020 Annual Town Meeting outdoors on the Hingham High School football field on Saturday, June 20th at 2:00pm, with a rain date of Sunday, June 21st at 2:00pm. We plan to start registration at 12:30pm and will require attendees to practice social distancing for the entire event, starting with waiting in line to check in. Chairs will be placed at least six feet apart, if not more, on the football field. We have a team of experts from Town staff working on a comprehensive Town Meeting plan that includes traffic and parking plans, social distancing guidelines, cleaning/sanitization protocols, emergency response preparedness, etc. We will share more details about Town Meeting in the coming weeks and will publish that information through multiple channels.

Town Reopening Plan Update

While municipal facilities are not yet open to the public, we continue to allow employees limited access to files and equipment necessary to improve their ability to serve the public. We are following all state guidance in developing our employee reopening plans, which include employing additional COVID-19-related safety measures related to PPE usage, enhanced cleaning protocols, signage, and training, among other things.”

Update on Town Services

Ms. Monsegur gave the following update regarding Town Services:

Building:

“Over the last two months since we have been working remotely, Mike Clancy and his Building Department team have issued 459 permits, conducted 780 inspections, responded to over 1,061 phone calls, and responded to 10 after-hours emergencies. Staff members have done a great job continuing to serve the homeowners, contractors, and town departments as usual.

Assessing:

During the last two months, Rick Nowlan and his Assessing team have completed 300-400 exterior property inspections and input approximately 700-900 properties into Vision, our assessment database. Right now, they are finishing up abatements from FY20, inputting properties for the FY21 preliminary bill, and preparing for the FY21 interim revaluation.

Recreation:

Many people have been reaching out to our Recreation Department with questions about summer camps. Rec is planning to move forward with their Summer Programs when given the green light by state and local officials. They are moving forward with scheduling and hiring processes in preparation. However, they have to wait for state and local government approvals and guidelines, and their programs may look different this year to ensure that they are run in compliance with these new guidelines. While no camps are allowed in the current Phase 1, we expect guidance from the state soon about possibly opening recreational day camps on a phased basis in Phase 2. Mark Thorell and his team will share more information as it becomes available.

Hingham Public Schools:

The School Department continues its work on three distinct priorities right now:

1. Remote learning 2.0, which is in place and is ongoing until year-end.
2. Planning and implementing year-end close out, which involves allowing teachers into classrooms to get personal belongings and organize materials that need to be returned to students, and allowing students to pick up personal belongings, drop off textbooks, technology, library books, etc. All of these things will be managed with social distancing and cleaning high-touch surfaces as the highest priority.
3. Staff are beginning to plan for summer school and a September return. Dr. Austin has created four working groups for the planning processes: a) a Recovery Advisory Committee consisting of school and municipal leadership, district staff, and parent and student representation; b) a Finance, Facilities, and Operations Committee; c) a District Instructional Planning/Student Health Committee; and d) a Special Education and Student Services Committee. The School expects more state guidance on protocols for the fall, but discussions are beginning now so they can contemplate and plan for school operations, education platforms, and service delivery.”

Ms. Johnson asked Mark Cullings to give his opinion on how the Farmer’s Market went this past weekend. Mark Cullings, 44 Spring Street, President of the Farmer’s Market, reported that it was a very successful opening of the market and felt that the plan was executed very well. He was impressed with how the customers arrived prepared and followed directions and felt that this was due to the customer education that had gone on prior to the opening. He thanked Lt. Jeffrey Kilroy who helped with the barricades and the planning process. He also recognized the efforts of Dan Power and HinghamLink and their cadre of volunteers who helped with the market. He advised the public to visit the website, www.hinghamfarmersmarket.org, to place orders.

Mr. Fisher added that he has hear from resident that the Farmer’s Market was very well run and quite a success.

Ms. Power added that she has received several questions and commented from residents asking why Hingham did not decide on a remote Town Meeting. She explained that, because Hingham has an open meeting form of Town government, a remote Town Meeting is not an option. A remote Town Meeting is only an option for towns with a Closed (Representative) Town Meeting.

Concession Agreement between the Town of Hingham and South Shore Model Railway

Vote: Ms. Power made a motion to sign the Concession Agreement between the Town of Hingham and the South Shore Model Railway Club, Inc. for a one-year term, ending May 31, 2021. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Power: yes
Ms. Johnson: yes

Concession Agreement between the Town of Hingham and the Bare Cove Fire Museum

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to sign the Concession Agreement between the Town of Hingham and the Bare Cove Fire Museum for a one-year term, ending May 31, 2021. Ms. Power seconded.

Roll Call Vote:
Mr. Fisher: yes
Ms. Power: yes
Ms. Johnson: yes

The temporary move of Precinct 5A from Linden Ponds to Hingham Middle School

Town Clerk, Eileen McCracken explained that Precinct 5A was originally part of Precinct A but it was changed so that the residents of Linden Ponds could vote at Linden Ponds. Because of the COVID-19 crisis, Linden Ponds have been on shut down, so Precinct 5A will be temporarily moved to Hingham Middle School in order to protect the health of Linden Ponds residents and Town Election employees. Ms. McCracken noted that Linden Ponds residents may also vote by absentee ballot and that a notice has been sent to the residents with information on how to obtain an absentee ballot.

Ms. Power thanked Mr. James Centola, Executive Director of Linden Ponds, who wrote a letter on behalf of Linden Ponds to the Board of Selectmen making this request. She appreciated the ongoing partnership with Linden Ponds. Ms. Johnson concurred.

Vote: Ms. Power made a motion pursuant to MGL Chapter 54, Section 24, the Board of Selectmen hereby temporarily move sub-precinct 5A from Linden Ponds, 201 Linden Ponds Way (Willard Square) to the Hingham Middle School, 1103 Main Street, where Precinct 5 and 6 now reside, on Election Day, June 27, 2020. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll call vote:
Mr. Fisher: yes
Ms. Power: yes
Ms. Johnson: yes

Selectmen/Town Administrator Reports

Ms. Monsegur: Nothing to report
Mr. Mayo: Nothing to report

Mr. Fisher thanked the Town employees who have been working extended hours and doing incredible work, much of it behind the scenes.

Ms. Johnson congratulated Joan Kilban from Plymouth River School who has been named the NHL Teacher of the Year. The NHL plans to make a \$30,000 donation towards classroom technology as a result of this honor.

Ms. Johnson acknowledged the retirement from the Library Board of Edna English. She read the following resolution that was read by David Mohegan at the latest Library Board meeting:

“Whereas Edna English was appointed in 1995 to the Board of Trustees of the Hingham Public Library and has served faithfully as an appointed Trustee and as an elected member of the Hingham Public Library Corporation, I would like to note that eight of those years she served as Chair of the Library Board. Whereas Edna English also served the people of the Town of Hingham for 16 years as a member of the School Committee and for 6 years for the Board of Selectmen and in several other volunteer capacities; and whereas Edna English, in 1997 was justly voted Citizen of the Year for her many services to the Town; and whereas Edna English has been a loyal, genial and extremely hardworking colleague to her fellow Trustees, a supported and advocate of the Director and staff members and volunteers of the Library, a highly intelligent and wise friend to countless citizens who love and depend on their Public Library; now, therefore, this Board of Trustees unanimously resolves to express its deepest gratitude to Edna English for her generosity, constancy, and unreserved service to her community, its people and their great Public library.”

Ms. Johnson commented that Ms. English is a true example of the Hingham volunteer tradition and will be missed by the Library Board of Trustees.

Ms. Johnson also made some comments about the Memorial Day virtual presentation that was put together by Veterans Services Officer Keith Jermyn, with the help of Harbor Media. She acknowledged the contributions of Moderator Michael Puzzo, student-athlete Nick Capadalupo who sang the *Star Spangled Banner*, and Chief Warrant Officer and former Navy Seal, Jack Chapin, who gave the address. She felt it was a very moving and well-deserved tribute to those who have given their lives for our freedoms.

She recognized three graduates of the military academies this spring. From the United States Military Academy at West Point, she congratulated Second Lieutenant Liam McCarthy, U.S. Army. His parents are Kevin and Nora McCarthy of 15 Lantern Lane. From the United States Naval Academy at Annapolis, she congratulated Second Lieutenant John McLaughlin, U.S. Marine Corps. His parents are Hugh and Mel McLoughlin of 4 Steamboat Lane. For the United States Coast Guard Academy at New London, she congratulated Ensign Joseph Mansale, U.S. Coast Guard. His parents are Mark and Maryanne of 13 Puritan Road.

Public Comment:

None

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Power seconded.

Roll call vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Ms. Johnson: yes

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 pm

Documents: A complete meeting packet of supporting documentation is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen's office.