

***Wellfleet Selectboard  
Virtual Meeting ~ Zoom  
Friday May 6, 2022; 7pm  
Meeting Minutes***

**Members Present:** Ryan Curley, Chair; Michael DeVasto, Vice Chair; Helen Miranda Wilson, John Wolf, Barbara Carboni, new elected member

**Others Present:** Charlie Sumner, Town Administrator; Rebekah Eldridge, Executive Assistant; Janet Reinhart, Previous Selectboard member; Sharon Rule-Agger, Housing Member

Chair Curley called the meeting to order at 7:02pm

***I. Announcement, Open Session, and Public Comments***

**NOTE:** *Public Comments must be brief. The board will not deliberate or vote on matters raised solely during announcements and public comments.*

Chair Curley Welcomed Carboni to her first meeting. She thanked him and the board. She stated she is looking forward to working with the board.

There were no other

***II. Response to Open Meeting Law Complaint filed on April 12, 2022.***

~ Judith Ahern

Sumner explained the response from Wellfleet's Town Counsel regarding the open meeting law complaint filed by Ahern. He stated that because the meeting is now available on the town's YouTube channel. Wolf questioned the letter and was informed that the board would be deciding the facts in the letter at this meeting. Wolf stated his concern for the chain of command during a meeting via zoom. The letter and complaint were discussed. Sumner stated that human mistakes happen and an error was made. He stated that he will deal with the employee in an office. He stated that this is rectified because the meeting is available. To the public and the complainant.

Wilson asked Eldridge to explain what happened during that meeting. Eldridge explained that she was asked to remove a picture that was offensive to the person asking. She explained to the board the steps she took to try and report the picture, once the report button was clicked Ahern was removed from the meeting.

Eldridge explained that zoom communicated with her asking if she would like to report Ahern officially? Eldridge stated she clicked no and assumed Ahern would be allowed back into the meeting. During the meeting it was stated by Wolf that she was still unable to get into the meeting. Eldridge then stated she was trying to fix the issue but heard she had rejoined by her phone so thought the matter was resolved.

Wilson continued explaining that she feels the executive assistant, anyone in that role has a unique position because she speaks to both the town administrator and the Selectboard where she will make copies and do secretarial things for the selectboard where they don't go through the town administrator for.

He continued that this is a zoom meeting the participants are not separated from the board members. It can become difficult to adjust the audience from the board. DeVasto spoke to the board and stated that he had nothing to do with the removal of Ahern and had no knowledge what was happening. He stated he felt that the picture helped gain support for him. Wolf noted that Ahern was unable to hear the meeting, Chair Curley stated the board had nothing to do with her abilities not to hear the meeting.

They discussed the letter and questioned if there were any issues with the way town counsel responded on their behalf.

They discussed the dates that need to be inserted into the letter tonight so that it can be sent to Ahern and the state on behalf of the board.

**Chair Curley Moved; Board Member Wilson Seconded; and it was voted to ratify all substantiated discussions that Ms. Ahern may have missed during the April 12, 2022, of the Wellfleet Selectboard meeting.**

**Roll Call Vote: 4-0-1 (Carboni Abstained)**

The board then discussed when she was removed from the meeting and the dates they would put into the letter. Chair Curley stated he believed Ahern was removed from the meeting around 8:30pm which was an hour and thirty minutes into the meeting.

**Chair Curley Moved; Board Member Wilson Seconded; and it was voted to insert that Ahern was removed from the meeting at approximately 8:30pm.**

**Chair Curley Moved; Board Member Wilson Seconded; and it was voted to amend the dates of tonight's meeting. May 6, 2022, at 7:00PM.**

**Roll Call Vote: 4-0-1 (Carboni Abstained)**

**Board Member DeVasto Moved; Board Member Wolf Seconded; and it was voted to approve the amendments made in the letter.**

**Roll Call Vote: 4-0-1 (Carboni Abstained)**

Wilson had a few amendments to make to the letter regarding grammar. Eldridge stated she would send her a word document.

She also questioned the board if they understood what the "report" button on zoom meant. The board all stated that they did.

**Board Member DeVasto Moved; Chair Curley Seconded; and it was voted to send the letter as amended from KP Law to be sent to Judith Ahern.**

**Roll Call Vote: 4-1-0 (Wolf Voted No)**

Ahern addressed the board regarding her complaint. She argued that she doesn't believe it was a mistake, she wanted to know why she wasn't allowed to participate. Chair Curley stated this was previously addressed in the meeting.

Ahern continued stating she was removed more than once from the meeting and argued that because of her sign she had up was because she was thrown out. She

continued arguing that she believed this was not an accidental and purposeful. Eldridge tried to explain what happened in the meeting. Ahern interrupted Eldridge and began yelling that it was a lie. They continued the discussion regarding the Open Meeting Law and explained to Ahern that her civil rights would not be addressed at this meeting. She continued interrupting and arguing with the board and Chair Hurley spoke to Ahern giving her a verbal warning that she was going out of the scope of the meeting. Finally Chair Curley asked Ahern to be muted at this point.

Ahern left the meeting.

### ***III. Press Release regarding Maurice's Campground Proposal***

**A.** Rule-Agger spoke to the board regarding the press release for the purchase of Maurice's Campground working groups. She gave details about the meeting that took place and the subcommittees that were formed to get this project moving. Rule-Agger spoke to the rumors that Kathleen Nagle is being compensated for the sale of the Campground and she stated that Nagle is not being paid and is doing this work voluntarily. Chair Curley agreed with that statement and announced it for the record. He also stated the Gauthiers do not have a seller's agent this is all done between the town and the owners.

Chair Curley asked if there were any questions or comments. Wilson spoke to a few amendments she had to the letter but otherwise spoke to how great the letter is. She asked if the names of the members of the work group could be listed.

Carboni stated the working subgroups might need to have their meetings posted. Chair Curley stated that they are treating their meetings as public meetings.

**Board Member Wilson Moved; Chair Curley Seconded; and it was voted to approve and send out the press release as amended at tonight's meeting.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0**

### ***IV. Adjourn***

**Board Member DeVasto Moved; Board Member Wilson Seconded; and it was voted to adjourn.**

**Roll Call Vote: 5-0**

**Meeting adjourned at 7:45pm**