

Approved in draft on September 30, 2020 – A full audio recording of this virtual meeting can be found on the Town’s website under Wellfleet Town Media.

**Wellfleet Selectboard Meeting
Tuesday, September 11, 2020 at 7pm
Zoom Virtual Meeting**

Selectboard Members Present: Chair Michael DeVasto; Janet Reinhart; Helen Miranda Wilson; Justina Carlson; Ryan Curley

Also Present: Town Administrator Maria Broadbent; Assistant Town Administrator Mike Trovato; Executive Assistant Courtney Butler; Moderator Dan Silverman; Town Counsel Attorneys John Giorgio and Carolyn Murray

Chair DeVasto called the meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. This meeting was held via Zoom and the recording is available on the Town website.

ANNOUNCEMENTS, OPEN SESSION AND PUBLIC COMMENT

- Curley: metal lifeguard stands were removed over the weekend and the wooden stands will be used at the top of the dunes for the remainder of the season (September 27); this provides better visibility for the busier shark season
- Butler: Annual Town Meeting Tomorrow, Saturday, September 12, 2020 at 10 AM
- Wilson: arrive at Town Meeting early to check in, it starts at 9:15

COVID-19 UPDATES AND RECOMMENDATIONS

- Butler: Emergency Management Update Call is on Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 10 AM
- DeVasto: Masks are required at Town Meeting and social distancing protocols will be followed

2020 ANNUAL TOWN MEETING

Vote recommendations on Town Meeting warrant articles

Article 23: Commercial Single-Use Plastic Water Bottle Ban

Reinhart said she was hesitant about this article at first but now wants to get it passed, saying that it is important to start doing things for the environment. Christine Shreves, petitioner, said this is would ban the commercial sale of all still water under 1 gallon in size. Curley suggested amendments to the article which concerned the ban being at the discretion of the Board as well as using water for events, construction or the like job sites providing water for workers, and also heat emergencies. There was further discussion about the language of the article.

DeVasto questioned if businesses would adapt and start selling canned water, citing a behavioral change that will need to occur for many, especially during the time of the pandemic. He also noted the implementation date of September 1, 2021. DeVasto also cited that removing water as a drinking option only leaves sugary, less healthful drinks. He said he was hesitant to recommend this at the moment. Wilson said she did not feel it was her, or the Board’s, place to address people’s personal rehydration options. Carlson agreed with DeVasto and said that those who don’t want to buy plastic bottles shouldn’t and there is something else that can be done to reduce plastic. DeVasto said it was odd to ban only one beverage, saying that they all come in plastic bottles. Shreves said that a lot of companies, including Pepsi and Coke, are getting on board with canned and plastic-alternative bottling. She reminded everyone to not reuse their plastic water bottles, as they leech down and have chemicals.

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Moderator Silverman noted that petitioned articles, once on the Warrant, belong to the Meeting and anyone can make an amendment; saying the only requirement for these types of articles is that they be placed in the Warrant exactly as written. He also asked the Board for any amendments in writing by the start of the meeting.

- Wilson moved to recommend Article 23, Commercial Single-Use Plastic Water Bottle Ban.
- Reinhart seconded, and the motion failed 2-2-1, with Curley abstained.

Article 25: Proposal to Amend Town of Wellfleet General Bylaw

Reinhart said that it is time to do this, adopt a Climate Policy. Wilson noted that sections of the General Bylaws do not have labels anymore, nor is there a table of contents. Wilson also noted that she made some amendments to the motion. Curley said that the motion was amended to include new language and there was further discussion.

Carlson was curious if this applied to town vehicles and buildings; DeVasto said yes. She noted that this would mean in 30 years the Town would be at total net zero, she said this was problematic because there has been no study that has been done yet to confirm that this could be done. Reinhart said that the Town adopted the Green Communities Act and is already buying green vehicles and adjusting buildings. Reinhart and Carlson agreed that taking the time frame out would be good. In response to Reinhart, Wilson said the Town is way behind in reducing its green house gas emissions; she said she felt that 30 years was not conservative enough. DeVasto noted that the State has a bill to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050 also. Broadbent said it would be good to tie this directly to the State goal.

Reinhart asked Giorgio and Murray if they have seen this article in other Towns and how to approach it. Giorgio said there was no State goal right now, only proposed legislation, so tying it to the goal could be problematic. He also said the Town can be more stringent, as did Wilson; he recommended leaving the article as placed in the Warrant. Giorgio said that the Town may find that it wants to amend the bylaw in the future.

- Reinhart moved to recommend Article 25, Proposal to Amend Town of Wellfleet General Bylaw as written in the Warrant.
- Carlson seconded, and the motion carried 4-1, with Wilson opposed.

Article 27 was withdrawn, there was no discussion.

Discussion of Special Town Election Results and Corresponding Warrant Articles – Next Steps

Moderator Silverman shared that the 4 ballot questions that failed will be postponed indefinitely until the 2021 Annual Town Meeting. DeVasto asked if another election could be held, if these passed at the Town Meeting floor. Giorgio said that this Meeting could be considered a Special Town Meeting and an election could be held within 90 days to re-vote those 4 questions that failed. Silverman said that since all three department heads said they did not mind waiting until Spring, there is no need to hold another election; DeVasto agreed.

Reinhart asked to clarify which articles failed; Silverman said 2C, 2D, 2H, 2J. There was a question about Article 2B, Shellfish Department Pick Up Truck. The Board wishes to not recommend it and Shellfish Constable Civetta said she would be okay with it being indefinitely postponed.

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Additional Town Meeting Discussions

Butler said that she shared a motion “cheat sheet” with the Board for their use tomorrow. Butler asked the Board to confirm their attendance at the meeting for tomorrow; all members said that they would be in attendance. Silverman asked the Board to keep their remarks tight at the meeting tomorrow, saying that they have already made their recommendations. He said he would offer the same recommendation to all voters as well. Silverman thanked Town staff for all of their effort and for really stepping up to make this event happen. Wilson asked that people not be rushed or censored. Silverman said

Article 30: High Toss Road

Butler shared that because certain statutory steps were not followed, such as having the Plan of Land on file with the Town Clerk for 7 days before the Town Meeting Vote and not having the Selectboard approve the plan and notify abutters to a public hearing, that this article will need to be indefinitely postponed. She said that the Herring River Executive Council and Technical Team are aware and understand.

TOPICS FOR FUTURE DISCUSSION

- Reinhart: Letter to Seashore Superintendent, re: Cape Cod Rail Trail and Route 6/Main Street Projects
- Reinhart: Selectboard Goals
- DeVasto: local media policy

ADJOURNMENT

- Reinhart moved to adjourn.
- Curley seconded, and the motion carried 5-0.

The meeting adjourned at 6:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Courtney Butler,
Secretary

Public Records Documents available as of 9/11/2020:

1. 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant;
2. Memo from Ryan Curley, re: Article 27, Disposition of Town Land to Conservation Commission;
3. Unofficial Special Town Election Results, September 8, 2020;
4. Memo from the Moderator, dated September 8, 2020, re: Contingent articles and ballot questions;
5. Motion “Cheat Sheet” as drafted by Courtney Butler and Dan Silverman
6. Email from Carolyn Murray, KP Law, dated September 8, 2020, re: Wellfleet ATM Motions revised;
7. Plan of Land, High Toss Road, dated April 6, 2020;