**Wellfleet Selectboard**

**Tuesday January 26, 2021; 6PM**

**Virtual Meeting Minutes**

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

**Others Present:** Maria Broadbent, Town Administrator; Rebekah Eldridge, Secretary; Michael Hurley, Police Chief; Rich Pauley, Fire Chief; Kevin Coakley, Nancy Najmi, Gordon Kahn, James McAuliffe, Dan Silverman, Town Moderator; David Mead-Fox, Lili Ann Green, Tom Conrad, Nauset School Superintendent; Chris Easley, Building committee for the new high school; Jennifer Congel, Town Clerk; Heather Michaud, Town Accountant

Chair DeVasto called the meeting to order at 6:01pm

1. **Announcements, Open Session and Public Comments**

**Note:** Public comments must be brief. The Board will not deliberate or vote on any matter raised solely during Announcements & Public Comments.

* Administrator Broadbent made an announcement that the public works department has issued a denial in curb cut at the property off of route 6 and Old Wharf Rd.
* David Mead-Fox made a few comments regarding the Assistant Town Administrator job that is currently posted. He explained that he feels very strongly that the person who fills this position needs to have strong capabilities in town planning, and grant coordination. He stated that the town seek to evolve towards two or three positions a town planner and an assistant town administrator. He continued stating this would be a critical impact on the town.
* Chief Rich Pauley addressed the Board and wished to recognize a few of his firefighter/paramedics that saved a member of the town when that person went into cardiac arrest.
* Lilian Green was called on by Chair DeVasto, she agreed with Mead-Fox about having someone who is highly trained in planning and grant coordination. She continued informing the Board that the Cape Cod Commission recently passed the revisions to the regional policy plan and are coming to the Assembly of Delegates. Green gave more information on where to find out what the Assembly of Delegates is working on.

1. **Licenses**
   1. Annual Renewal of Common Victualler Licenses

Board member Wilson asked to take an abutter (Moby Dick’s) out of the list as she doesn’t vote on financial impacts with her abutters. Chair DeVasto agreed and asked for a motion

**Board Member Reinhart moved, Board Member Curley seconded; and it was voted unanimously to approve all Common Victualler Licenses as listed except for Moby Dick’s; 5-0**

**Board Member Reinhart moved, Board member Curley seconded; and it was voted to approve Moby Dick’s Common Victualler License. 4-1 (Wilson Recused)**

* 1. Renewal of Weekday Entertainment Licenses

**Board Member Reinhart moved, Board Member Curley seconded; and it was voted unanimously to approve all weekday entertainment licenses as listed in the packet. 5-0**

* 1. Renewal of Sunday Entertainment

**Board Member Reinhart moved, Board Member Curley seconded; and it was voted unanimously to approve all Sunday Entertainment Licenses as listed in the packet 5-0**

* 1. Renewal of Class 2 License

**Board Member Reinhart moved, Board Member Carlson seconded; and it was voted unanimously to approve both Class 2 licenses as listed in the packets. 5-0**

1. **Board/Committee Appointments and Updates**
   1. Kevin Coakley – Marina Advisory Committee

Chair DeVasto asked Coakley to give some information about himself and why he would like to be a part of the Marina Advisory Committee. Coakley informed the Board that he has had a charter boat business for many years, and he is on the Dredging Task Force he feels he can make a difference and he wants to be supportive of the marina.

**Board Member Reinhart moved, Board Member Carlson seconded; and it was voted unanimously to approve Kevin Coakley to the Marina Advisory Committee. 5-0**

* 1. Nancy Najmi – Recycling Committee

Chair DeVasto asked Najmi to introduce herself and give the board some information on why she would like to serve on the recycling committee. She stated she bought a home in Wellfleet 12 years ago and this past year moved full time to Wellfleet. She has been a part of the Recycling Committee in the town she came from and was asked by the chair of the Recycling Committee to become a board member.

**Board Member Reinhart moved, Board Member Carlson seconded; and it was voted to approve Nancy Najmi to the Recycling Committee. 5-0**

* 1. Gordon Kahn – Historical Commission

Kahn introduced himself to the Board and stated he recently moved to Wellfleet year-round and is an architect. He continued stating that he loves the history of Wellfleet and its unique identity.

**Board Member Reinhart moved, Board Member Wilson seconded; and it was voted unanimously to approve Gordon Kahn to the Historical Commission. 5-0**

* 1. James McAuliffe – Commission on Disabilities, Personnel Board, Council on Aging, Historical Commission

McAuliffe stated he didn’t list the board/committees in order of which he would like to be on more. He explained that he would like to serve on the boards that need his services the most. He stated an important board to him is Commission on Disabilities which he feels he is most experienced in. His second board that he would like to serve on is the Historical Commission. He gave some background information on his experience in this area. Wilson expressed the need for Board members on the Personnel Board. McAuliffe expressed his desire to be on the Disabilities Commission and the Personnel Board.

**Board Member Wilson moved, Board Member Curley seconded; and it was voted unanimously to approve James McAuliffe to the Commission on Disabilities, The Personnel Board, and the Historical Commission for terms appropriate to those committees. 5-0**

1. **Business**
   1. License Agreement Eversource – Administrator Broadbent

Broadbent informed the board that the solar panels are in at the transfer station and have been. The connection to begin supplying electricity is being held up in land court. She explained it was a clerical error made back in the 1950’s. She stated that the lease with Eversource enables the project to move forward and get poles up. The lease has been reviewed by the town’s counsel. The easement is still waiting for the court’s decision, so they can get the panels online.

**Board Member Curley moved; Board Member Reinhart seconded; it was voted unanimously to approve the license agreement with Eversource as written. 5-0**

* 1. Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy – Curley

Curley gave information on the policy that hadn’t been updated in a while. He made changes to the policy and presented it to the Board. He went into detail about having the town’s police cars become electric and concerns that were raised about the cost. Wilson gave some feedback on the policy and discussed what some Department Heads comments were about moving towards fuel efficient vehicles. They agreed to make a few changes in the policy. Reinhart stated that the federal government will be releasing funds for municipalities to purchase fuel efficient vehicles. Chief Pauley stated some concerns that he has three vehicles that have four-wheel drive and doesn’t believe electric vehicles are practical in this circumstance. They continued to discuss the issue and give opinions.

**Board Member Wilson moved, Board Member Reinhart seconded; and it was voted unanimously to adopt the Selectboard’s Fuel Efficient Vehicle Policy as amended with the sentence added whenever such vehicles become commercially available** **and practicable at the end of the first paragraph.**

**5-0**

* 1. Special Town Election March 30, 2021, School Building project, and how Wellfleet will vote –Town Administrator /Clerk/School Building Members/Superintendent.

Broadbent gave a summary of what this entails and asked the school officials and the clerk to give more and detailed information on this subject. Chris Easley was introduced by Chair DeVasto and gave a lengthy statement about the building project vote and the extension that was given to them by the state regarding their funding. There was further discussion on the town election for voting the school project and the funding. All towns that are included in the Nauset School Systems will have the election on the same day. Wilson questioned who would be paying for the election, Easley informed Wilson and the Board that the building committee for the school is responsible for the all costs associated with the district wide election. Town Clerk Jennifer Congel explained to the Board that this isn’t just a special town election but a district wide election and the town has to decide if they want on the ballot for that day how the Town of Wellfleet will pay for the new school. Easley explained that without a town meeting they are guaranteed the money for the project. There was further discussion on this topic. The Town Moderator Dan Silverman was asked his opinion about this and he stated the March 30th vote is only to approve the building project, a separate vote will be taken on how the town will fund for the project. He believes this part of the vote can be on the town warrant for town meeting. The Board continued to discuss this project and how the voting would take place, what would happen if Wellfleet voted against this and other towns voted for it. It was discussed that they wait to decide on a special town election or add the vote to the March 30th election.

**No action was taken**

* 1. Town Meeting Date – Chair DeVasto/Dan Silverman

Chair DeVasto asked Moderator Dan Silverman to discuss his recommendation to the board delaying setting the date of the Annual Town Meeting. Silverman continued discussing with the Board not knowing how quickly the vaccine will roll out on Cape Cod and would like to try to do an outdoor meeting. He suggested to the Board June 5, 2021 it is the Saturday after Memorial Day and he explained there is enough time to have a town election before the end of the fiscal year. He continued stating that the sooner the Board sets the date the easier it will be to acquire the resources to have an outdoor meeting. The Board discussed this further. Chief Hurley Brought up the triathlon that usually takes place that weekend but stated he hasn’t received any paperwork for this event but wanted to make the board aware.

**Board Member Wilson Moved, Board Member Curley seconded; and it was voted unanimously to approve the town meeting date be June 5, 2021**

* 1. Open Space Committee’s Charge and Purview – Curley

Board Member Curley asked to post pone this discussion to a later meeting because the Open Space Committee Members would like to be a part of the discussion. The Board agreed and it will be placed on the February 9th meeting.

* 1. The Fleet Fund Update – Dan Silverman

Chair DeVasto asked Silverman to discuss this subject. Silverman introduced the members of the fleet fund that were on the call. Paula Erickson who is the president of the Fleet Fund and explained how it works and what they do within the community. She stated they provide a flexible, confidential source of funding to the community. She gave the website for the Fleet Fund and explained how to go about requesting support. The Board members expressed their gratitude.

**No Action was taken**

* 1. Harbor Dredging Update, lobbyist proposal review and request to fund the proposal. – Joe Aberdale

Chair DeVasto asked Aberdale to inform the Board what he is asking and to go into detail with his request. Aberdale informed the Board that the Harbor Dredging Project in Wellfleet is the largest Dredging project in the state of Massachusetts. He continued informing the Board that the expense with this project is high, and the need for more funds if great. He explained that the federal level is not allowing the committee to dredge area 2 because they believe this isn’t a necessary dredge it is an improvement not a need. He explained that several years back they committee used a lobbyist to secure funds for this part of the project. He continued explaining that there are certain restrictions for this committee to communicate with outside sources. He stated the Army Core of Engineers will not allow the Dredging Committee to communicate with The National Marine Fisheries. He explained that the Board has before them the contract with the lobbyist that that have worked with for the past five years and have a good relationship. He gave some background of how this lobbyist has helped the town with advice and securing funds for dredging. Once he finished his presentation the Board had some questions and they discussed the proposal. Town Administrator Broadbent questioned the Board about funding as there is no line item regarding a lobbyist. The Board discussed funding and asked Broadbent to see if she could locate the money for this proposal.

**Board Member Reinhart moved; Board Member Carlson seconded; it was voted unanimously to approve the request to fund the lobbyist to obtain funds for the harbor dredging project. 5-0**

* 1. Selectboard Investigation update from the state – Chair DeVasto/ Curley

Chair DeVasto explained to the Board that Board Member Curley received information from the Attorney General’s Office that only one Board member can be appointed to be the lead person on the investigation. Board Member Curley explained that a subcommittee could be subject to open meeting law violation. Chair DeVasto will be the lead Board member on the investigation and Board Member Curley will work with him on the investigation but not be a lead person. The Board discussed this further.

**Board Member Carlson moved; Reinhart Board Member seconded, and it was voted to amend the appointment of both members and appoint Chair Michael DeVasto as the main contact person for the investigation. 4-1 Wilson was against**

1. **COVID-19 Updates and Recommendations** 
   1. Chair DeVasto commented that there is community spread of the virus and the new strain of the Covid Virus is now in Massachusetts and he is asking residents to be vigilant. This is not going away and please continue to be cautious. Lili-Ann Green updated the Board that the county website is updated regularly and are giving information on the vaccine roll out. Chief Pauley notified the Board that all first responders are being vaccinated now.
2. **Selectboard Reports**
   1. Board Member Wilson announced that there will be another Massachusetts Shellfish Initiative Meeting January 29th.
   2. Board Member Wilson would also like Administrator Broadbent to reach out to DOT to have a meeting and find out the status of the bike trail project.
3. **Town Administrator’s Report**
   1. Town Administrator Broadbent informed the Board that her report mainly deals with town fiscal matters. She stated the she and Town Accountant Michaud are going through contracts and 1099’s. She also informed the Board that they are working on payroll and making it an easier format. She updated the Board on the new hiring that the town will be doing and that there will be a committee for it. A town contact was discussed for each town board or committee. Board Member Carlson complemented Broadbent for her hiring technique and stated how pleased she was to see there was a hiring committee.
4. **Topics for Future Discussion**
   1. Eldridge reported that she will continue to keep a running record of all the selectboard members topics, so they are able to discuss and handle them
   2. Board member Wilson spoke again about a meeting with DOR
5. **Correspondence and Vacancy Reports**
   1. Cardiac Arrest Save Letter – Chief Pauley
   2. Letter of appreciation – Suzanne Thomas
   3. Email from Arthur Parker regarding transfer of land
   4. Letter from Robert Kennedy – regarding real estate taxes
6. **Minutes** 
   1. January 12, 2021

**Board Member Reinhart moved; Board Member Carlson Seconded, and it was voted to approve the meeting minutes from January 12, 2021 4-0-1 (Board Member Wilson abstained)**

1. **Adjournment**
   1. **Board Member Reinhart moved, Board Member Wilson seconded, and it was voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting. 5-0**

**The meeting adjourned at 9:45pm**

***Public Records:***

*Applications for Marine Advisory Board, Recycling Committee; Historical Commission, Personnel Board, Disabilities Committee*

*License Agreement for Eversource*

*Fuel Efficiency Vehicle policy*

*Cardiac Arrest Save Letter*

*Letter of Appreciation*

*Letter from Robert Kennedy*

*Email from Arthur Parker*

*Town Administrators Report*

*Meeting Minutes*