

**Town of Nahant
Joint Meeting
Board of Selectmen and Board of Health and Board of Assessors
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday, July 28, 2021 at 5:30pm via Zoom
Joshua A. Antrim, Chairman, Eugene Canty, Vice Chairman
Mark P. Cullinan, Recording Secretary, Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator**



Attendance: Joshua A. Antrim (JA), Eugene Canty (GC), Mark P. Cullinan (MC), Antonio Barletta (TA)

1. Meeting Opening:

JA: Opened the joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health and Board of Assessors at 5:32pm on 7/28/21

a. Coronavirus Update

Deb Murphy (Health Nurse): Current Vaccine rates. 82% of residents have had one shot of vaccine and 78% of residents are fully vaccinated

AGE GROUP	% OF TOWN POPULATION VACCINATED
12-15 YR OLDS	62% fully vaccinated
20-29 YR OLDS	78% fully vaccinated
65-74 YRS OLDS	97% fully vaccinated
75+	90% fully vaccinated

In the last few weeks we have had 5 new cases of COVID and 4 of them were fully vaccinated. Those are called break-through cases. It is harder to do contract tracing because of people not wearing masks and being able to gather. The only way to tell if it is a variant is if the lab does the sequencing on the test which they don't always do. The DPH feels that around 55% of the new cases are from the Delta Variant. I met with the Johnson School Summer program Nurse, they have one more week left. Some kids are wearing masks, some are not. No mask mandate right now. In the Fall when school re opens they will probably bring mask mandate back. No news on vaccine booster right now. Pfizer and Moderna are working on getting a vaccine for children under 12. The number came out today for the last 2 weeks and communities positive cases are going up.

TA: Has the State said anything about mask mandates?

Deb Murphy: No they have not said anything yet

2. Opening Comments

JA:

- a. Compost area open on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9am-3pm. 2021 resident sticker required. Leaves and yard waste must be in biodegradable bags. No plastic excepted.
- b. Recycling for TV/White Goods/Metal/Computers last Saturday of each month from 8am-12pm behind the DPW garage. Fees may apply. Checks only, no cash. Visit Nahant.org for a list of acceptable materials.
- c. Trash bills expected to be mailed out the first week of August
- d. The Friends of the Nahant Library will have a book sale on Saturday July 31 from 9am-4pm. It will be held outside on Pleasant St. and Central St. Streets partially blocked off.
- e. The town is seeking members to be part of a short term rental study committee. This was Article 28 of this year's Town Meeting warrant which allowed the town to create this committee. Read the Article and what the committee will do and who it should include.

GC: Will this committee include regulating Accessory Dwelling Units and Air BnB's?

Dan Skrip (Town Counsel): No it will not these are two separate things.

JA: There is a problem/concern about the coyotes in town. There is not much the town can do but we are looking into again. The state has approved problem animal control officers that are certified in dealing with coyotes. I called one of the offices today. The next step is to talk to the Dept. of Fisheries and Wildlife. The explosion in the rabbit population is adding to the number of coyotes and presence. Other towns having the same issue.

Dan Skrip: explained the MGL for coyotes and town laws.

Chief Dwyer: In 2010 the town had a similar issue with coyotes and at that time we brought in a woman from Mass wildlife to speak. She explained that even if we remove the coyotes they will be back within 6 months or a new pack will move in.

JA: Sailing program fundraiser on August 4th at the Wharf. Open Space Survey is closed.

GC: Brought up the loud music that many residents are hearing at night during late hours.

Chief Dwyer: The music they are hearing is not coming from Nahant. Sometimes it is from a boat in the harbor which we can't get to or across the water on the waterfront in Lynn. You need to call Lynn Police and they will send a unit over.

TA: The Planning Board is looking to add two associate members and they will be accepting letters of interest. We will post this on the website and Facebook tomorrow. On Friday it will be Chief Dwyer's last day and we will be swearing in the new Chief Furlong. Thanked the Chief for his service. His brother Michael Dwyer is also retiring as a reserve officer.

3. New Business

- a. **Approve Appointment of Nahant Police Officer**

Motion:

MC: I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the appointment of Heather Leary as a Nahant Full Time Police Officer effective July 29, 2021

GC: second

Discussion:

Chief Dwyer: I hired Officer Leary in 2019 as a Police Matron. She is a Nahant resident. She asked to become a Police reserve, she attended the academy and graduated. She is now interested in becoming a Full Time Police Officer and she will be the first Full Time Female Officer. She has 6 years experience as a dispatcher with Revere and Winthrop. She is ready to start the academy.

Heather Leary: Thanked everyone for the opportunity

Roll call vote:

GC: yes

MC: yes

JA: yes

b. Approve BOS meeting minutes

MC: I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes from June 9, 2021.

GC: second

Roll call vote

GC: yes

MC: yes

JA: yes

MC: I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes from June 30, 2021.

GC: second

Roll call vote

GC: yes

MC: yes

JA: yes

c. Vote to appoint Vice chair as chairman

MC: I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve Vice Chairman Eugene Canty as the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen effective July 29, 2021

GC: second

Discussion:

JA: I will be out of the country for a few weeks so we are voting Gene in as vice chairman during that time

Roll call vote

GC: yes

MC: yes

JA: yes

d. Approve Event Request

GC: I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to the approve the event request for the S.W.I.M Annual Autumn Beach Clean-up September 12, 2021 from 11am-2pm.

MC: second

Discussion:

JA: Volunteers will meet at lowlands to pick up gloves and bags and cross over to short and doggie beach.

GC: Does the town clean doggie beach?

TA: We don't rake it b/c we don't have equipment access but we pick up the barrels.

Roll call vote:

MC: yes

GC: yes

JA: yes

e. Vote to approve the FY22 trash rate

MC: I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the FY22 and abatements that are outlined in the document titled Town of Nahant Trash rates and abatements FY22

GC: second

Discussion:

TA: Our Assessor and Mary Lowe have been working to get this squared away. We had a number of residents respond the bill change last year. There is a slight increase in a residential single family unit home bill which will be 360\$. Increase is mostly due to the increase in cost of disposing of trash which is a national issue. We changed our abatement amounts from 68% to 80%.

Dan Skrip (Town Counsel): We added an abatement for people who have a compost site.

TA: if you enroll in a compost program with say Black Earth and provide us that contract you will get another abatement.

Roll call vote:

GC: yes

MC: yes

JA: yes

4. Ongoing Business

a. Comcast Contract Renewal Public Hearing

Jay Somers (Comcast Senior Manager for Government Affairs for the Town of Nahant):

Spoke about previous Comcast Contract/License and changes. Explained the Senior Abatement.

Explained what a digital starter package is and what it contains. The section for capital access support, I put in the same amount that was in the previous license which was 45,000\$ over a 10 year period. If you take that and it's paid out on an annual basis it would be 4500\$ and there would be a 48 cents past through to the subscriber on their bill. That number could go up or down depending upon the amount of subscribers.

Dan Skrip: Asked about the senior discount

Jay Somers; There is a senior discount for the digital starter package if they qualify. Digital starter is our intro package with 65-75 channels including local channels.

Explained what a franchise fee and how its calculated.

JA: Do we know how that fee compares to the last contract?

Jay Somers: It is the same amount

Dan Skrip: Verizon's contract is also up next year and they match that.

TA: So that's based on a formula or is that a negotiated amount?

Jay Somers; The perecentage is negotiated. The town has the right to either have no franchise fee or they can accept a franchise fee between 1%-5% and the limit is 5%.

Dan Skrip: Tony are you talking about the PEG capital funding or the franchise fee?

TA: The PEG

Dan Skrip: Mr. Somers is the PEG negotiable?

Jay Somers; yes negotiable. It is up to the Board to decide what they would like to have for the capital and if they come out with a figure higher then we can negotiate.

TA: Asked about customer service call center and the quality of service that provided in Nahant. Do you guys have any data on what you are hearing about that quality.

Jay Somers; It does come up and we spend a lot of time making it a seamless operation. If a resident has an issue please forward me the issue and the info so it can be resolved.

****Call opened up to public/residents to address any issues. No one spoke or wrote in****

Motion:

TA: I move that the Board of Selectmen approve Comcast Application for contract renewal pending final legal review and approval of Comcast Cable television license.

Dan Skrip: I will be reviewing the contract and the BOS will sign and approve at a later date.

GC: second

Roll call vote;

GC; yes

MC; yes

JA: yes

b. Joint Vote with the Board of Assessors to fill vacant seat

Motion:

MC: I move that the Board of Selectmen and Board of Assessors nominate Cameron Merrill to the open seat on the Board of Assessors

GC: second

Roll call vote:

GC: yes

MC: yes

JA:

David Hunt (BOA): yes

Kathryn Sherber (BOA): yes

Motion

David Hunt (BOA): I move that we appoint Cameron Merrill as a member of the Board of Assessors

Kathryn Sherber: yes

Roll call vote:

David Hunt: yes

Kathryn Sherber: yes

GC: yes

MC: yes

JA: yes

5. Preserving East Point

JA: We have not had any recent communication in the last few weeks.

6. Town Administrators Report

TA: Upcoming Projects:

-Meeting with Congressman Seth Moulton and his staff in August. We had submitted a grant application for federal funds to help with the Short Beach nourishment and resiliency project. When he comes out I will be speaking to him about the downtown area and replacing light poles and above ground wires.

-We secured a 75,000 ear mark from the states budget for a telecom project that will connect all town buildings with fiber cable. Right now police and fire are connected by fiber and this project would extend to all buildings being connected. It will help with police radio project we are working on and will let us distribute internet between buildings and saving us on that cost. It will improve cyber security and phone trees.

-Spring Road basketball court-we completed vegetation/tree removal, court being paved this week, hoops and the painting will be completed in August.

-Flash Road basketball court- currently in contract negotiation. Breaking ground in September.

- Sewer main project going out for bid in August and project starting in September

-Finished with Asst. Accountant Interviews- will be evaluating candidates and making an offer

-New Recycling barrels will be delievered end of August- residents can only use this barrel for recycling. Information about what you can and cant put in barrel will be distributed.

-New website is almost ready for launch

-Farmers Festival/market survey posted on nahant.org and facebook to get feedback from the public

7. Citizens Forum – No resident/public comment/questions

8. Adjourn to Executive Session

Motion:

JA: I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to enter in executive session Pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation – Northeastern University Marine Science Center, 430 Nahant Road, Nahant, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

GC: second

Roll call vote:

GC: yes

MC: yes

JA: yes

Meeting adjourned to executive session on July 28, 2021 at

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristin Taylor, Administrative Assistant on August 10, 2021.

Meeting Minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen on the _____ day of _____ 2021.