

Town of Nahant
Joint Meeting
Board of Selectmen and Board of Health and the Planning Board
Meeting Minutes
Wednesday February 2, 2022 at 6:30pm via Zoom
Joshua A. Antrim, Chairman
Eugene Canty, Vice Chairman
Mark P. Cullinan, Recording Secretary
Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator



Attendance Board of Selectmen: Joshua A. Antrim (JA), Eugene Canty (GC), Mark P. Cullinan (MC), Antonio Barletta (TA)
Planning Board: Dan Berman, Cal Hastings, Rob Steinberg, Shannon Bianchi, Pat O'Reilly, Sheila Hambleton

Motion:

MC: Opened the joint meeting of the Board of Selectmen, Board of Health and Planning Board on Wednesday February 2, 2022 at 6:31pm.

GC: second

Roll call:

GC: yes

MC: yes

Motion:

DB: Opened the Planning Board Meeting on Wednesday February 2, 2022 at 6:32pm

Roll call:

Cal Hastings

Sheila Hambleton

Pat O'Reilly

Shannon Bianchi

Absent:

Steve Viviano

Robert Steinberg

1. Meeting Opening

Coronavirus update

Deb Murphy (Health Nurse): We had 157 positive COVID cases in January 2022. Testing data for the last two weeks: January 16-January 29, 2022 483 residents tested and 63 positive. The School has had 2 weeks of pool testing with no positive cases. The Jesmond has no positive cases.

TA: showed the updated vaccine data from the COVID page at nahant.org. We got our first shipment of at home test kits. We have enough to give 2 boxes to each resident.

Diane Dunfee (Town Clerk): Gave update about the annual town meeting which is on April 30, 2022. Nomination papers are available.

2. Opening Comments:

JA:

- Winter Parking Ban in effect until March 20, 2022. All vehicles must be parked off the street from 12am-6am
- Nahant DPW seeking Snow Plow Drivers: Contact Mary Lowe at mlowe@nahant.org or 781-581-0026 for more information
- Council on Aging Board Vacancy-Open seat on the Council on Aging Board. Visit nahant.org for full description of board mission and duties. Send letters of interest to ktaylor@nahant.org
- Part time Job Opening: Assistant to the Executive Director of the Council on Aging- If interested visit the employment opportunities page at nahant.org for job description. Send cover letter and resume to ktaylor@nahant.org or drop off/mail to Town Hall by February 18, 2022.

3. New Business

- Vote to Award RFP-Library/TH Envelope Bid- Not awarding at this time. Continued to future meeting*
- Approve BOS meeting minutes*

Motion:

MC: I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes from December 1, 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 December 15, 2021.

JA: yes

Roll call vote:

JA: yes

MC: yes

GC: abstained

4. Ongoing Business

- Discussion with the Planning Board: re letter to BOS about Army Corp study*

Dan Berman: This is to have the Army Corp of Engineers to perform a study for an aquatic ecosystem restoration project. Would not cost us anything. They would provide 100k for the study and make recommendations of what should be done.

JA: The control of flooding is a huge topic of the town, even though that is not the purpose of the study it would tie into it. We have 100k from last town meeting to look at options related to flood control at areas in town.

Kristin Kent (Chair of Conservation Commission): Spoke to program manager about project, need to decide if we are looking into fixing the flooding problem, or restoring an ecosystem that also fixes the flooding problem. The steps for program: We send them a letter, they decide if they are interested, they send someone to look at the area and then recommend it or not. Then send a larger group out of engineers, scientists etc. they take a look and they would decide to continue further and an environmental assessment is done, those assessments generally take 18-36 months. So it would be a 1-3 years before they produce a report we could use for our decision on what to do. The Army Corps. Does have other programs we could look into with shorter time frames that look more into flooding.

It would not cost anything to have the program manager come out and look at the area. Different program managers for different projects. The habitat restoration and the flood mitigation use the same ecosystem. We can't continue to make changes to it if we are studying so we would have to put flood mitigation on hold if they are studying it.

MC: I want to make sure we continue on with what the town meeting voted last year to hire an engineer to study the flooding issue since we appropriated 100k. All for applying for both of the projects but do not want to interrupt tm vote.

TA: since 2018 we spent a lot of money to improve storm drainage in the area, which prevents water from coming in and the dewatering focuses on sending water to bear pond. Wondering if this is different from previous efforts by the Planning Board, last years CPC Article wanted to change the flow of water by restoring an outfall to the Ocean, is that different than this?

Dan Berman: The goal of the previous proposal was an alternative method of flood control. The goal of this project is to look at the aquatic restoration.

JA: Let's ask the Army Corp to come out and evaluate the ponds but in now way will we stop or slow down the currently funded efforts from last year's Town Meeting vote for that area.

Kristen Kent: If we do that can we also submit a letter to the section 205 for the flood reduction because I think that is a more realistic route.

Discussion: Army Corp may be able to solve both issues of restoration and flooding.

TA: Shared his screen to show a power point on storm water drainage issues in town, flood prevention, flood recovery, ditch system work to improve water flow, mosquito control.

Shannon Bianchi (Planning Board): The flow of water currently goes to bear pond. There are records to show it used to go the other way. The estuary near doggie beach was filled in, then re opened, then filled in again. The drainage system currently ends at the road near short beach however I was told that the pipe used to go further and end near the old pharmacy. What has the town down physically from an engineering stand point to change that flow of water?

JA: The system is designed for everything to drain to bear pond. However when there is a lot of water or big storms the water will flow with gravity.

Cal Hastings: Made a motion to adjourn the Planning Board meeting at 8:00pm

Sheila Hambleton: Seconded the motion

All in favor:

Dan Berman

Cal Hastings

Pat O'Reilly

Sheila Hambleton

Shannon Bianchi

5. Preserving East Point

6. Town Administrators Report

Storm Recap: We got a lot of snow and wind but no flooding since the height of the storm was at low tide. DPW was ready, pre-set generators, pumps, barriers. EMD worked with the school in case we needed for shelter, national guard

and national grid stationed in town in case causeway flooded. FEMA/EMMA may declare this as an emergency and may get reimbursed for any hours, damage etc.

CPC Applications we submitted update:

9 Little Nahant Road: Old Howe Estate. It is in foreclosure with a reverse mortgage, controlled by HUD. We are actively engaging them to step in front of the auction process. This will be to purchase the property for open space, housing, historic restoration.

Funding for Housing Production Plan: Will fund hiring a consultant to figure out our housing needs, compose plan.

Audio/visual Improvements in Town Hall: Two consultants came in to evaluate audio and lighting in the main hall to improve the quality and install stage and window curtains, re-do lighting and install speakers.

Envelope Improvements for Town Hall, Library and Cemetery Wall This is the same as last year and will make up for the amount we do not have to complete the repairs and restoration

Playground Equipment: If approved would work with open space and rec committee to distribute the funding to the existing playgrounds we have.

Baileys Hill Restoration Project: Similar to the restoration work on Tri-Mountain. Remove invasive species, plant native species and improve landscape

Lodge Park: Co-sponsored with S.W.I.M – For maintenance and future use.

Restoration of Town Hall Flag Pole- re-paint the flag pole

Heritage Trail Improvements: Co-sponsored with Johnson School: To improve accessibility and signage.

7. Citizens Forum

8. Adjourn

GC: Made a motion to adjourn the meeting

MC: second

Roll call vote

GC: yes

MC: yes

JA: yes

Meeting Adjourned at 8:18pm on Wednesday February 2, 2022

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Administrative Assistant Kristin Taylor on March 31, 2022

Meeting Minutes approved by: the Board of Selectmen on the 20th day of April 2022.