**Town of Nahant**

**Joint Meeting**

**Board of Selectmen and Board of Health**

**Meeting Minutes**

**Wednesday, June 30, 2021 at 6:00pm via Zoom**

**Joshua A. Antrim, Chairman**

**Eugene Canty, Vice Chairman**

**Mark P. Cullinan, Recording Secretary**

**Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator**

1. **Meeting Opening 6:00pm**

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

**JA:** Opened the Joint Meeting of the Nahant Board of Selectmen and the Board of Health at 6:09pm.

* 1. *Coronavirus update with Health Nurse Deborah Murphy and Health Officer John Coulon*
     1. *Statistics ii. Re-Opening Phases iii. In Person/Zoom Meetings*

**Deborah Murphy (Health Nurse):** 82% of the population of Nahant has received one dose. 77% have received full series of the vaccine. Parental influence is the likely reason for such a high percentage of younger children in Nahant receiving the vaccine. If you are vaccinated, July 1st is the day that you will be able to register for the VaxMillions giveaway online. Adults are eligible for $1,000,000 and younger children are eligible for $300,000 scholarship. There is one active case in town.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Age Group | % of TOWN Population Vaccinated |
| 12-15 years | 67% 1st dose | 53% 2nd dose |
| 16-19 years | 90% 1st dose | 79% 2nd dose |

**John Coulon (Health Officer):** Public Health Director in Lynn and Peabody recognized in the Lynn Item. The Public Health Emergency Preparedness Coalition that Nahant belongs to has received a grant and hired a marketing firm to assist in spreading awareness and encouraging individuals to get vaccinated. Nahant is continuing to work with Lynn Public Health personnel.

**Daniel Skrip (Town Counsel):** The governor’s bill to extend open meeting through zoom has passed and will be able to occur until April 1, 2022. Hearings as well can happen via zoom.

1. **Opening Comments**

**JA:**

* 1. *Parking Stickers available for purchase at Nahant.org. All outstanding bills must be paid and a census completed before purchasing.*
  2. *Compost area open on Wednesday and Saturday from 9:00am-3:00pm.*
  3. *Metal/White Goods/TV/Computer recycling last Saturday of each month 8:00am-12:00pm behind DPW. Checks only, no cash.*
  4. *Water and Sewer Bills due June 28, 2021.*
  5. *Vacant seat on the Board of Assessors. Send resume and letter of interest to ktaylor@nahant.org.*
  6. *Board of Assessors office looking for 1-2 seasonal employee. See job posting on Nahant.org. Applications available at the Assessors’ Office.*
  7. *Assistant Town Accountant position open. Send resumes to* [*anieto@nahant.org*](mailto:anieto@nahant.org)*. Full job description and posting on Nahant.org*

**TA:** We will only announce the water testing of the beaches if there is a reading that would cause a shut down. If you don’t hear anything, it is safe.

1. **New Business**
   1. *Presentation from Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee on a Community Survey*

**JA:**In order to get certain grants, this survey is extremely important. Paula Devereaux is here to share a presentation.

**Paula Devereaux (Open Space & Recreation Committee Chairman):** Shared a word document infographic for the Open Space & Recreation Plan survey. Reiterated that plans are needed to obtain funding. The survey is a requirement of the state before the plan can be approved. The survey has questions about what residents like and dislike, how they use the land, and what they want to see in town. High participation in this survey is necessary to set goals. Paper copies will be available at the Public Library and Council on Aging. This flyer will be posted at multiple locations around town. The survey is open until July 27, 2021. After this, the committee will start working towards achieving what people want to see in town. The last approved plan was done in 2008.

**TA:** We may be able to talk to the printing company and get this sent out to residents in a postcard version.

**JA:** There is very limited open space but very unique open space. Spread the word and encourage neighbors to take the survey.

**Paula Devereaux (Open Space & Recreation Committee Chairman):** Thanked Ellen Antrim, Nancy Cantelmo, and Rebecca Durgin. There is an open spot on the committee, it’s a joint appointment between the moderator and the Board of Selectmen.

* 1. *Approve member appointment to the Logan Airport Advisory Committee*

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen approve the appointment of Robert D’amico to the Logan Airport Advisory Committee.

**GC:** Second

**Discussion:**

**MC, Daniel Skrip, JA, GC, TA:** All thankful for Bob stepping up to serve in this role and testify to his knowledge on the subject.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

**JA:** yes

* 1. *Approve Town Accountant/Finance Director Contract*

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Town Accountant/Finance Director Contract for Alison Nieto.

**GC:** Second

**Discussion:**

**TA:** Commended Alison Nieto. Alison will have a three year contract.

**JA:** I have read the contract and have no questions.

**Alison Nieto (Town Accountant/Finance Director):** Thanked the BOS and TA.

**GC:** Why is the position called Town Accountant/Finance Director?

**TA:** We are looking to expand the position to have oversight to all related financials. Alison’s background brings a wide range of expertise beyond “Town Accountant” duties. She will hold both titles, with each titles having its own set of responsibilities.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

**JA:** yes

* 1. *Approve Board of Selectmen Executive Session Meeting Minutes from 2/18/21, 3/18/21, 04/01/21, and 05/27/21.*

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from 02/18/21.

**GC:** Second

**Discussion:**

**JA:** All four of these executive session meeting minutes pertain to contract negotiations for the Town Administrator position. That was the subject of these executive session meetings.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

**JA:** yes

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from 03/18/21.

**GC:** Second

**Roll Call Vote:**

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

**JA:** yes

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from 04/01/21.

**GC:** Second

**Roll Call Vote:**

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

**JA:** yes

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes from 05/27/21.

**GC:** Second

**Roll Call Vote:**

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

**JA:** yes

* 1. *Approve One Day Liquor License to the Nahant American Legion for even at the Nahant Life Saving Station from 07/13/21-07/18/21 from 11:30 am – 9:30 pm.*

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen approve a one-day liquor license application for the American Legion for the dates of 07/13/21, 07/14/21, 07/15/21, 07/16/21, 07/17/21, 07/18/21 during the hours of 11:30am -9:30 pm. This is associated with the Wall That Heals event held at the Life Saving Station.

**GC:** Second

**Discussion:**

**Bob Fields (American Legion):** The purpose of the liquor license is in conjunction with utilizing the Life Saving Station as a hospitality and greeting center. Helping to service the volunteers and visitors to the wall.

**Daniel Skrip (Town Counsel):** Just clarifying that these are all separate licenses; one per day.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

**JA:** yes

* 1. *Approve Event Request for Friends of the Nahant Library book sale on Saturday July 31, 2021 from 9am-4pm*

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen approve the event request for the Friends of Nahant Library book sale on July 31, 2021 from 9am-4pm with a rain date of August 1, 2021 located outside on Pleasant and Central Street.

**GC:** Second

**Discussion:**

**TA:** This event will shut down Pleasant Street during these hours and there will be refreshments.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

**JA:** yes

* 1. *Vote to Approve New Schedule of Parking Violations*

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the new schedule of parking violations.

**GC:** Second

**Discussion:**

**Daniel Skrip (Town Counsel):** This is an ongoing event. This will modernize our schedule of violations. In the most recent town meeting, Section 20(a) ½ was accepted which gives us the highest amount of violations that we can issue without special legislation. Town meeting set up the Board of Selectmen to be able to vote on this tonight. There are three different categories of violations: Fifteen violations for a fine of $50 each, three for $100 each, and a handicapped parking violation for $300 which is the statutory limit.

**GC:** Where does towing play a role?

**Daniel Skrip (Town Counsel):** It allows us to identify certain parts of town where towing can occur. It does not include the citation portion of it.

**JA:** This addresses people’s concern of the parking ticket in some cases being lower than DCR parking.

**Daniel Skrip (Town Counsel):** Mentioned discussion with Chief Robert Dwyer about repeated ticketing. Coming back and getting ticketed again is perfectly legal. There is no set time interval between giving multiple tickets, but it is best that it would be within reason (2-3 hrs apart).

**Roll Call Vote:**

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

**JA:** yes

* 1. *Vote and Approve F22 Master Fee Schedule*

***Motion:***

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the FY22 Master Fee Schedule.

**MC:** Second

**Discussion:**

**JA:** No changes have been made to our fee schedule.

**TA:** Last year, mostly due to COVID-19, it was decided that increasing our fee schedule significantly would have been inappropriate timing. Other than water, sewer, and trash rates changing on a yearly basis. Some police detail amounts have been updated because of collective bargaining agreements. There is a new fee for marriage license filings which is set by the MTCA. I do think we could increase our violation numbers—for example, Board of Health offenses, building code offenses, wetland protection bylaw offenses…

**JA:** For example, building without a permit is a $50 fine and a second offense is $100 fine.

**GC:** This Board is going to take a deeper dive on this with TA.

**TA:** The Finance Committee is committed to helping the town with these fees as well. The discussion has already begun earlier this year.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

**JA:** yes

* 1. *Vote to Approve the FY22 Trash Rate and Elderly Exemption*

*\*\*\*POSTPONED*

* 1. *Vote on Water/Sewer debt shift for FY22*

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the water/sewer debt shift in the amount of $793,807 for FY22.

**GC:** Second

**Discussion:**

**MC:** This is simply taking the principal interest payments that we have on our bonds for water/sewer and shifting it to real estate taxes rather than on the water/sewer. This is something the legislation allows the Board of Selectmen to approve.

**TA/Alison Nieto:** Noted that we are able to decide what we want to shift but it has to be the debt service costs.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

**JA:** yes

* 1. *Comcast Public Hearing for Comcast Contract Renewal with Nahant, MA*

*\*\*\*POSTPONED*

**Daniel Skrip (Town Counsel):** Reminded everyone that this was a hearing and it did require notice in the Lynn Item. We do not need to repost it, but we need to set a specific date that we are going to have the continued hearing.

**TA:** The next Board of Selectmen Meeting is going to be 07/14/21. 07/28/21 would also work.

**Daniel Skrip (Town Counsel):** Will reach out to see if Comcast is available on these dates. Additionally, the current license expires on 07/09/21. We will have a letter agreement extending it 30 days.

**TA:** Let’s set the date as 07/14/21 and if we have to keep the hearing open after this, we can.

**Daniel Skrip (Town Counsel):** The Federal Cable Act does not require a hearing if you are just going to renew. Heard back from Jay Summers and 07/28/21 will be the date.

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that we continue the Comcast Public Hearing until 07/14/21 at 6pm via Zoom on the scheduled Board of Selectmen meeting call.

**MC:** Second

**Roll Call Vote:**

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

**JA:** yes

**TA:** We are also experiencing an interruption with Comcast Internet right now.

1. **Ongoing Business**

**GC:** I would like to discuss swimming pool discharge at the next meeting.

**Toby:** Everything with the Wall that Heals is in place. The convoy is going to come on 7/13/21 from Suffolk Downs escorted by motorcycles. Once the truck enters Nahant, the truck will pull into the Lowlands Parking Lot and the bikes will continue on a loop around Nahant. The trailer turns into a mobile education center. The wall will be lit 24 hours a day while it is there.

**TA:** The site is being prepared for the wall. Temporary electrical service has been installed. The new backstop and fence at Lowlands has been completed. We have been removing material from the compost site, where we will create an event parking lot. We have signs going up this week and digital message boards. A pamphlet will be delivered to residents of the surrounding neighborhood. We have confirmation that the governor will be attending the Saturday night speaking event. There will be a Code Red call to let people know more about the impact on the neighborhood. Residents are encouraged to enjoy the day, participate, and welcome others into the town.

**Toby:** The Wall That Heals opens to the public on 07/15/21. The focus is on the visitors coming to the wall. The Education Center will be in the parking lot by Lowlands. On 7/17/21, there will be an observance at Veteran’s Park. The wall will start to be dismantled around 2pm on Sunday, and a BBQ will be held at 6pm for volunteers and invited guests. All COVID safety requirements that are still in effect are covered.

**Bob Fields:** This is going to be a historic event for the town. We have over 200 residents who are veterans and many who are Vietnam Veterans. The Town of Nahant has 2 killed in action service members.

**TA:** Go to alpost215.org if you would like to get involved.

1. **Preserving East Point**

**JA:** At the last meeting we discussed that TA, Jeffery Blake (Town Counsel) and I met with Ralph Martin and their lawyer for a cordial discussion. Since then, we have been corresponding back and forth via email trying to find common ground that allows for the preservation of the 12.5 acres that were voted on during town meeting. The details are confidential.

**MC:** We need to respect the vote of the town to preserve the 12.5 acres.

1. **Town Administrator’s Report**
   1. *Wall That Heals Discussion and Update*

**TA:** We already discussed the Wall That Heals, but last week I spoke at the Greater Lynn Chamber of Commerce State of the Region Event with the Swampscott Town Administrator and Mayor McGee of Lynn. Had the opportunity to thank them for their assistance with COVID, vaccines, and testing. We got to discuss the state of Nahant and where we have been for the past couple years as well as looking into the future. We have been hyper focused on the Wall That Heals Event, and it is very weather dependent. We are working very closely with The American Legion, DPW, Police, Fire, and Emergency Management. We are working on paving schedule, putting together procurement for upcoming paving. We have been in contact with the MBTA to make ADA improvements at the bus stops in town. We are focusing on Little Nahant bus stop and the one at the Spring Road intersection of Nahant Road. We have been in contracting discussions with the engineer for the Flash Road basketball/tennis court improvements. The library secured a Mass Historical Grant of $50,000 to be combined with the borrowing article for envelope improvements to the Library, Town Hall, and Cemetery property. We have been working to update the new website and the launch is being delayed to around mid-July. We are going through the position for Assistant Town Accountant and Fire Chief. We have been sitting through multiple interview meetings and hopefully will make a recommendation to the Board for Fire Chief at the next meeting.

1. **Citizens Forum**

**TA:** Joseph Mellon let us know that the Sweet Sarah is a pleasure craft and is sailing under the flag of Marshall Island with a length of 25 meters and width of 6 meters. There was a question about how many surveys have been filled out so far regarding the open space survey but Paula is no longer on the call.

1. **Adjourn and enter in Executive Session**

**Motion:**

**JA:** I move that the Board of Selectmen adjourn to Executive Session pursuant to G.L. c. 30A, paragraph 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.

**MC:** Second

**Discussion:**

**Daniel Skrip (Town Counsel):** I’ll point out that the Comcast Hearing was postponed or continued until July 14, 2021 6pm on Zoom.

**TA:** And Mr. Chairman, do you so declare?

**JA:** I do declare that a discussion open meeting would have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

**Roll Call Vote:**

**GC:** yes

**MC:** yes

**JA:** yes

Meeting Adjourned to Executive Session on June 30, 2021 at 7:41pm.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Assistant, Olivia Cooke on July 7, 2021

Meeting Minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen on the \_\_\_28th\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_July\_\_\_\_2021.

**\*\*Approved by the Board of Selectmen via Zoom on 7/28/21\*\***