

**Town of Nahant
Joint Meeting
Board of Selectmen and Board of Health
Meeting Minutes
Thursday May 27, 2021 at 6:30pm via Zoom
Mark P. Cullinan, Chairman
Joshua A. Antrim, Vice Chairman
Eugene Canty, Recording Secretary
Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator**

1. Meeting Opening 6:30pm:

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

JA-Opened the Joint Meeting of the Nahant Board of Selectmen and Board of Health at 6:31pm.

a. Coronavirus Update with Health Nurse Deborah Murphy and Health Officer John Coulon.

TA- I don't believe we have any active cases right now. 67% of the community is *fully* vaccinated. For age groups 65-74 and 75+, these populations are in the 95th percentile for being fully vaccinated. The current gap is mostly people who are not eligible yet as well as those who just became eligible. Grateful for the help from Lynn Tech, and the Town of Nahant is ahead of many communities in terms of vaccinations. On June 1, 2021, the Town Hall will provide a clinic for the second dose of Moderna. About 50 people came on 4/29/21. Town Hall will also take anyone who has not had their first dose—no preregistration required.

b. Re-opening and Governors Orders and Vote to Rescind Local Orders and Declaration of Emergency.

John Coulon- As of Saturday, all mandates become advisories—with some exceptions. There have been lots of questions regarding how to conduct events and gatherings. I remind folks to use common sense despite advisories, and if someone is ill they are encouraged to go home. I ask that the Board go on record as stating that all groups and individuals are thanked for their efforts to comply. Without people's concerted and collective efforts, we would not have ourselves in such an enviable position. Gathering limits are being lifted and mask mandates are lifted. Distancing mandates are lifted; however, exceptions include ridesharing, taxis, ferry, MBTA, commuter rail, healthcare facilities, congregate care settings, and other environments hosting vulnerable populations. Organizations still have control over creating their own guidelines. As of Saturday, all previous plans need not be enforced.

JA- I will go on record thanking the residents of town for complying with regulations.

TA- I will add that there are no rules against businesses or sponsors of events to put forward any type of required protections. John Coulon is still an available resource even though you may not need approval from him anymore.

JA- We encourage people to get vaccinated as soon as they can. There are still hundreds that aren't.

MC- I go on record supporting John Coulon's request and thank you to members of the community.

TA- Nahant has stayed consistent with the state, and because of our low positivity rates and high vaccination rates, my recommendation is that the BOH vote to lift our local restrictions and our local Declaration of Emergency on the same date that the Governor is lifting his.

Motion:

MC- I so move [To release the restrictions as of May 29, 2021 but for public transportation, the school, the care facilities, and also to match the rescission date of the State of Emergency with the Commonwealth's.]

GC-Second

Discussion:

Daniel Skrip (Town Counsel)- The Governor filed a bill with the Senate asking the legislature to extend the time period for remote participation in open meeting to at least September 1, 2021. As of now it would expire on the same day the Governor rescinds the State of Emergency which is likely June 15 or 16, 2021. The full release on restrictions was a surprise, so this would deter a sudden change. Since March, there has been two bills pending: one in the Senate and one in the House about keeping remote options. The bill also asked the legislature to extend the bill for outdoor table service for food, and food and beverage. Under the current situation for outdoor dining, it would expire 60 days after the rescission of the State of Emergency. The Governor is looking to extend this to November 29, 2021. The kids and staff at the Johnson School, as well as people at the Jesmond will still be required to wear masks after 05/29/21.

TA- We are keeping a close eye on liquor license changes and putting together an email to send out to businesses in town. The Board will be meeting with local businesses again soon to see if they want to make any of these temporary changes permanent if legislation passes.

Roll Call Vote:

GC- yes

MC- yes

JA- yes

2. Opening Comments:

JA- The compost area is open Wednesday and Saturday from 9am-3pm. You do need a 2021 Resident Parking Sticker, and if you visit the town website you will find a list of acceptable materials. Recycling for Metal/White Goods/Tvs/Computers is open on the last Saturday of each month 8am-12pm behind the DPW. Fees may apply. Checks only, no cash. Parking stickers now available at Nahant.org for \$10 each. They are available for resident's cars that are registered, garaged, and housed in Nahant. Registration and payment required for any outstanding bills/taxes due to the town. Water/Sewer bills are being sent out May 28, 2021 and are due June 28, 2021. The Board of Selectmen will be switching to summer meeting schedule starting June 9, 2021 at 6:00pm. That meeting plans to be via Zoom since the date is before 6/14/21. The nominal schedule will be once a month.

TA- With lifted restrictions, the Town Hall will return to normal public hours. Open M-F, starting June 7, 2021.

GC- Talking about better identification on the Nahant Harbormaster's boat and collaborating with **TA** on a fencing project at the dump.

TA- One of the CPC projects approved was beautifying the recreation area in front of the dump. Trees are planned to be planted behind the fence as a visual barrier.

3. New Business:

a. Approve Appointment of Officer Ethan Abramowitz as a Nahant Full-Time Police Officer

Motion:

GC- I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the appointment of Officer Ethan Abramowitz as a Nahant Full-Time Police Officer.

MC- Second

Roll Call Vote:

GC- yes

MC- yes

JA-yes

b. Vote to change the speed limit on Wilson Road from 25 MPH to 20 MPH

Motion:

MC- I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to change the speed limit on Wilson Road from 25 MPH to 20 MPH.

GC- Second

Discussion:

JA- This has been discussed with Chief Dwyer and he supports the change.

TA- We are changing the speed limit as posted but believe we are making a correction to an incorrect posting that may have been done by the state during construction on the causeway. A letter will be sent to mass DOT to notify them of the change.

MC: Can we put a sign audit on the agenda for next time?

Roll Call Vote:

GC- yes

MC- yes

JA-yes

c. Declare DPW John Deere 310 SJ Back hoe as surplus equipment

Motion:

GC- I move that the Board of Selectmen declare DPW John Deere 310 SJ Back hoe as surplus equipment.

MC- Second

Discussion:

TA- We are using the trade-in value of the old back hoe to help cover some of the cost of the new.

Roll Call Vote:

GC- yes

MC- yes

JA-yes

d. Vote of the Board of Selectmen to Request Passage of Special Legislation to validate September 26, 2020 Town Meeting.

Motion:

MC- I move that the Board of Selectmen vote that the Town of Nahant request the introduction and passage of special legislation and substantially the form attached here, to which special legislation will ratify, validate, and confirm the town's September 26, 2020 annual town meeting and all actions pursue it there to.

GC- Second

Discussion:

TA- September 26, 2020 was the postponed annual town meeting due to COVID-19. Bond Council asked for more information. The meeting was posted 10 days in advance of the meeting which complied with state and COVID-19 laws but not with the town bylaw of 14 days in advance. Bond Council is requiring a special act to validate the vote from this meeting.

JA- Hopefully this moves quickly through legislature to get things going with the sewer main replacement on the Lynnway.

Roll Call Vote:

GC- yes

MC- yes

JA-yes

e. Vote to accept Recycling Partnership Grant.

Motion:

MC- I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to accept the Recycling Partnership Grant.

GC- Second

Discussion:

TA- We applied for the grant to cover the costs of the recycling totes and about \$22,000 was awarded. The purchase price per tote is now \$35 instead of \$55.

Roll Call Vote:

GC- yes

MC- yes

JA-yes

4. Ongoing Business:

a. Town Meeting Recap

JA- Great to see a large amount of the population participate and it was well-organized.

MC- I would encourage any photo/video from that day be sent to Nahant Historical Society to be archived.

Daniel Skrip (Town Counsel)- Plastic Bag Article goes into effect 6 months after Attorney General approval.

TA- Accomplished two years' worth of articles/approvals at this meeting. Emphasis on public health/safety, creating a Public Health Department in our General Fund at \$117,000 vs. being separated in different accounts at about \$23,000. Made significant stabilization deposits bringing it to \$419,645. Post-Employment Benefits Fund at \$78,000. Paid down \$344,000 extra in our minimum required payment towards debt. 100% of free cash was used appropriately for one-time expenditures, funding capital projects, and replenishing other reserves. 26 Articles of CPC approved including Flash Road basketball/tennis courts, Spring Road basketball courts, Little Nahant playground, amongst others. Approved borrowing for a new municipal finance software. Approved borrowing for police radio communications.

5. Preserving East Point:

a. Eminent Domain Article-Town Meeting vote

JA- I sent Ralph Martin (Northeastern's General Counsel) a letter asking to get negotiations started. A reply was received by Martin with willingness to continue negotiations on the condition of confidentiality. The Executive Session will discuss this after. Hoping for an arrangement where the people of Nahant can still be properly informed. The letter can be found on the town website.

Motion:

MC- I move that we authorize Joshua A. Antrim to represent the town in these negotiations.

GC- Second

MC- I withdraw my motion and let's discuss in the Executive Session as things may change over time.

6. Town Administrators Report:

a. Memorial Day Ceremony Update:

TA- We were able to do a virtual ceremony that will air on the local channel. The ceremony will be at Greenlawn Cemetery. Swampscott Band will be present, and the selected member of the 6th Grade Class will still read the Gettysburg Address.

b. Summer Parking Issues:

TA- Issues with non-residents parking throughout town. There was a lot of congestion but the police department was prepared. Over 75 cars were ticketed and over 100 cars were moved and not ticketed. Discussed improving signage in areas that are hotspots for parking. Discussed the ability to tow cars. We have done our own in-house sign audit but looking to

bring a professional in. More tickets are getting appealed than in the past. \$60,000 worth of tickets in 6 months of last year, when typically its \$30,000 in a whole year.

JA- Hoping we will have the Horrible's Day Parade and 4th of July events at Flash Road.

TA- I am in favor of all of those events but unfortunately fireworks are still cancelled.

7. Citizens Forum:

Erica Pratt- Castle Road parking seems to be more than just a summer issue even though there is signage. I was wondering if that is a tow-zone or a ticketing zone?

TA- Parking on the sidewalk is the illegal and you should call the police department if you see that. If the signage in the area says "No Parking Either Side" then that is the rule that applies to everyone.

Erica Pratt- Additional problems occur when cars are parked here and then delivery trucks have to navigate the environment.

Alice Cort (7 Valley Road)- Does the town have to go through ConCom since the dump is in a wetlands area?

TA- The relationship has been improved and the town will lead by example with local permitting. We are consulting and taking care of that ahead of time.

Cora (Resident)- What is the plan for the refurbishment of the courts on Spring and Flash Road? Is it possible for one of the courts to be converted to a pickle ball court? What is the timeline for these projects?

TA- Flash Road court improvements is a complete rehab project where the courts will be completely removed and replaced. The new tennis courts will have pickle ball lines. The hope is to break ground on these improvements this summer and be done by fall. On Spring Road, the court will be new hoops, fencing, and a layering over the existing pavement.

Anne Hudson (Castle Road)- Asked question about people putting signs on their windshields saying that they are visiting guests, however these "guests" are there every day or very frequently. So how is it handled if this occurs consistently?

TA-If it is consistent you should call the police station.

Anne Hudson (Castle Road)- Has interest in sign audit.

TA- Sign audit will be publicly posted and we will look for community input when it happens.

Motion:

8. Adjourn and Enter into Executive Session:

JA- I move that the Board of Selectmen adjourn into Executive Session in accordance with MGL Chapter 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. And, also

in accordance with MGL Chapter 30 Section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions and preparation for contract negotiations with the Town Administrator.

MC- Second

Roll Call Vote:

GC- yes

MC-yes

JA-yes

Meeting Adjourned to Executive Session on May 27, 2021 at 8:00pm.

Meeting Minutes prepared by Olivia Cooke on June 10, 2021

Meeting Minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen on the ____14th____ day of ____July____ 2021.

****Meeting minutes approved via Zoom****