

Town of Nahant, MA
JOINT MEETING
Board of Selectmen, Board of Health & School Committee
Meeting Minutes
Thursday November 5, 2020
Mark Cullinan, Chairman
Josh Antrim, Vice Chairman
Gene Canty, Recording Secretary
Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator

Attendance:

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

1. Meeting Opening 6:30pm

Mr. Cullinan made a motion: I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to open the joint meeting with The Board of Selectmen, The Board of Health and the School Committee on November 5, 2020 at 6:30pm.

Roll Call vote

Mr. Antrim – I

Gene Canty- I

Unanimous vote in favor

2. Opening Comments

a. Update on Coronavirus

TA- Update on Coronavirus. Nahant entered the red during the week of October 25th. If we stay in the red for 3 consecutive weeks we will need to phase back. We currently have 11 active cases with 4 new cases since October 28th. The Johnson school is currently not affected.

Superintendent Tony Pierantozzi- Each time there is a new coronavirus case in the community the school conducts a contact study and works with the town health nurse. The new cases in Nahant currently are not connected to the school by a family member, student or staff. The school is progressing using the current plan.

MC- Expressed thanks to the superintendent and the school staff for keeping the kids safe and social distanced.

John Coulon- Gave update on new executive orders from Governor Baker. New orders 53, 54, and 55 are available at [mass.gov](https://www.mass.gov) for further review.

TA- Reiterated the importance of staying safe and following new guidelines. As far as event requests we will do our best to approve them while making sure we still keep the community safe.

GC- Asked if we are looking into doing covid testing in Nahant.

TA- We will need to look into contracts with local testing facilities, cost etc. Right now Swampscott and Lynn are still offering free covid testing to Nahant residents.

3. FY2021 Tax Classification Hearing (continued)

a. Set tax rate

Mr. Antrim made a motion to open the FY2021 tax classification hearing that was continued on October 22, 2020.

GC-seconded

Roll Call:

JA yes

GC yes

MC yes

Shelia- A discussion regarding the BOS meeting from October 22, 2020 stating the BOS did vote a residential factor of one. The BOS did not grant an open space discount. The BOS did not adopt a residential exemption or a small commercial exemption. I would like you to ratify that particular vote. Also noted the excess levy capacity is one of the smallest in the last 30yrs.

JA- I vote that the Board of Selectmen vote to ratify the vote of October 22, 2020 of approving a Residential Factor of "1" and not adopting an open space discount, or a residential exemption or a small commercial exemption for FY 2021.

GC- seconded

Roll call:

JA- yes

GC- yes

MC- yes

b. Vote to approve utility liens

JA- I move that the Board of Selectmen approve the FY20 Utility Liens (trash & water/sewer) as presented and in the amount of \$84,822.20.

GC- Seconded

Roll call:

JA- yes

GC-yes

MC- yes

TA- Residents were given ample time to pay and the treasurer/collector reached out multiple times and given notice to pay any outstanding bills.

MC- If any residents are being leined because of this please reach out to TA to make some sort of arrangement. Covid has made it difficult for people and the town is understanding of that.

JA- I move we close the FY2021 Tax classification hearing.

GC- Seconded

JA- yes

GC- yes

MC- yes

2. Opening comments continued:

b.Nahant Open Studios

JA- Due to covid Nahant will not be having the annual Holiday fair at the Town Hall. We will be having a Nahant Open Studios Fair on November 28th 2020 from 10am-2pm that has been organized by Heather Goodwin. Link is on Nahant homepage and provides details of artists and locations in Nahant. All participants/artists and public must wear face coverings even when outside and 6ft apart and in accordance with the Governors new public health orders. Asked Heather Goodwin to speak more on event.

Heather Goodwin- This would have been the 20th year of the Women's Club Holiday Fair which doubles as a fundraiser for the Women's Club. The Open Studios Fair will allow artists and small businesses to sell their work. The Women's Club will also have a set up on Nahant Rd where you can buy art and/or make a donation. The Nahant Historical Society will also be set up outside of the Valley Rd School, and the Garden Club will also have a location on Wharf St.

4. New Business

a. Approve appointment of Chief of The Nahant Fire Department

JC- I move to approve the appointment of Dean Palombo as Chief of the Nahant Fire Department.

GC- seconded

Discussion:

TA- Dean started as a call fireman and worked his way up the ranks. Worked for NFD for almost 36 yrs. Served as Captain for the last 15 yrs. He was the first Safe Officer for Nahant. He has stepped up and has been acting as the Chief for a number of years.

MC- Both Dean and Austin are very experienced and professional in what they do. Both are outstanding citizens.

JA- Both Dean and Austin are constant professionals and are assets to the community.

GC- Dean was very instrumental helping personally and received amazing care from the NFD

Dean Palombo- Thanked the town for putting faith in him and appointing him to this position. Proud to serve on the NFD.

Roll call vote:

JA- yes

GC- yes

MC- yes

b. Approve appointment of Captain of The Nahant Fire Department

MC- I move to approve Austin Antrim as Captain of The Nahant Fire Department.

GC- seconded

Discussion:

MC- Austin you have been on the department a long time and responsible for the new apparatus at the fire station and instrumental with your grant writing skills. Very involved with the Ocean Rescue efforts. Very happy to endorse you as captain.

TA- Beyond the NFD, Austin has also been involved in the rest of the community. Very happy with this appointment.

Austin Antrim- Thanked everyone for the appointment and looks forward to the new position

JA- Thank you for all you do for NFD and the community

GC- Very lucky to have you and an important part of the NFD

Roll call vote:

JA- yes

GC- yes

MC- yes

c. Declare Hiway E2020XT Hydraulic Spreader as surplus equipment.

JA- I move to declare the Hiway E2020XT Hydraulic Salt Spreader as surplus equipment and that the equipment be placed on Municibid for auction per MGL Chapter 30b procurement law.

GC- seconded

Roll call vote:

JA-yes

GC- yes

MC- yes

**d. Approve event request for Nahant Lions Club Annual Turkey Shoot on Saturday
November 21, 2020 10:00am-2:00pm**

JA- I move to approve the event request from The Lions Club for the Annual Turkey Shoot on November 21, 2020.

GC- seconded

Discussion:

TA- Working with BOH and John Coulon to make sure the event/participants will adhere to the new covid guidelines.

Roll call vote:

JA- yes

GC-yes

MC-yes

e. Veteran's Day Activities

MC- discussion of Veteran's Day Activities

Bob Fields-(commander of The American Legion Post) Announced the Veteran's Day activities. There will be a gathering and a ceremony at The Veteran's Park at the lowlands at 11:00am on Wednesday November 11, 2020. Activities are reduced due to covid but will still observe this important holiday. All public are welcome to attend while adhering to covid guidelines by wearing a face covering and social distancing. He also thanked the town, DPW, and cemetery crews for helping to maintain the flags on the veteran's graves.

f. Vacant Seat for Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee

MC- There is a vacant seat on the Open Space and Recreation Plan Committee vacated by Dana Sheehan when he joined the Advisory and Finance Committee. Applications are due by Wednesday November 18, 2020 at 4:00pm. Email to ktaylor@nahant.org. Joint appointment by the moderator and BOS.

TA- position is posted on the town's website and Facebook page with additional information.

5. Ongoing Business

a. Preserving East Point- continuing discussion

MC- no further discussion

JA- no further discussion

GC- no further discussion

b. Discussion of Logan Airport RNAV Study being conducted by MIT, The FAA, Massport, and the Massport CAC. RNAV study exploring alternative flight paths that could impact Nahant.

Dan Skrip- Spoke about the Logan Airport RNAV Study. The issue involving Nahant is the modified RNAV approach of runway 22 left. Currently planes travel down the Lynnway right into the runway. If the modification goes through the planes will cross over the causeway, intercept to final approach course over the Lynnway then to runway. Next step is to have the CAC (Community Action Committee) set up a meeting with the communities, Massport, elected officials, MIT and the FAA and will focus on the impact of runway 22 left modification. If modification does pass it will not be for up to or over a year and will need to go through multiple approvals before being modified.

TA- Website is being constructed now with further information regarding the project/modification.

Dan Skrip- There is a number you can call if you see/hear any planes coming over Nahant currently. Massport noise abatement: 617-561-3333 or Massport.com

c. Joint Vote of Board of Selectmen and School Committee to fill vacancy on the School Committee- Section 3-13 of Town Charter

TA- Discussed procedure for School Committee and Board of Selectmen vote for vacancy on the School Committee

Tom Tria- I make a motion to nominate Patty Karras for the open School Committee seat

Lori Ballantine- Seconded the motion to nominate Patty Karras for the open seat on the School Committee.

Attendance:

Lori Ballantine: yes

Tom Tria: yes

Mary West: yes

JA: yes

GC: yes

MC: yes

Tom Tria: I make a motion to nominate Regina Laine for the open School Committee seat.

Mary West: Seconded

All in favor – BOS and School Committee

Patty Karras- Gave statement to School Committee and BOS

Regina Laine- Gave statement to School Committee and BOS

Vote:

Mary West: Regina Laine

Lori Ballantine: Regina Laine

Tom Tria: Patty Karas

JA: Regina Laine

GC: abstained

MC: Regina Laine

****Ballot attached**

Discussion:

TA: congratulations to Regina and great job to both candidates.

Tom Tria: motioned to adjourn School Committee Meeting

Lori Ballantine: seconded motion

All in favor (again they all said I so how do I shorten this)

d. Coyote Activity Discussion

TA: Continuing to educate the public/residents on Coyote habitats and behaviors.

Dan Skrip- Coordinating with the state and Mass Wildlife to have an expert come in and give a presentation on coyotes. Reiterates to keep pets leashed and in own yard. Making loud noises helps to scare coyotes away.

TA- unable to remove/trap coyotes right now even due to recent circumstances. The best thing we can do is to understand the safest way to live with them and keep public educated.

6. Town Administrator Report

a. Street Light Conversion

TA- Street light conversion/install is 67% complete. Concerns being made by residents over brightness and direction of light. Shields being ordered to help diminish brightness and direct light. Residents can call town hall or DPW to put their name on a list to request a shield. Street light conversion project will be helpful environmentally and financially.

TA- Spoke to DEP amount most recent sewer main break. Multiple breaks over the last few years. Town needs to provide DEP with a timeline of repairs.

b. Discussion:

JA- Meteor showers will be occurring November 16th and 17th and December 13th and 14th. Will speak to NPD to have Lodge Park and Baileys Hill open for public viewing.

7. Citizens Forum

Residents from zoom chat:

Michelle Capano asked how many residents in Nahant have been tested for Covid, questions on the streetlight conversion and the current situation with DEP.

Ken Carangelo spoke about Northeastern expansion

Alice Cort inquired about coyote activity and covid testing. Also inquired about the maintenance and responsibility regarding town trees and trees on private property.

Jim Devereux- spoke about town trees and/or private property trees regarding cleanup and maintenance responsibilities

8. Adjourn

GC- made motion to adjourn meeting

JA- seconded

Roll call vote:

JA- yes

GC- yes

MC- yes

Unanimous in favor

Meeting Adjourned 9:15pm

Meeting Minutes prepared by Kristin Taylor, Administrative Assistant

Minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen on the _____ day of _____ 2020

Board of Selectmen

