

**MINUTES  
SELECT BOARD  
TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**

Tuesday, July 7, 2020 – 5:00 PM  
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

**Present:** Tyler Ward, Karen Hatcher, Bill Taylor

**Also Present:** Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay, Alison Kreutz

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Chair Ward opened the meeting, conducted remotely via Zoom web conference, at 5:00 PM. The meeting was broadcast live on USTREAM, Facebook Live, and Channel 22 (Comcast).

Chair Ward noted that the experience with virtual meetings have been positive, and there has been significant engagement with the public via Facebook Live.

*Update on 2020 Town Meeting Preparation*

Mr. Bartlett said in-person voting for Town Meeting will take place, as usual, at the Community Center. The entrance and exit have been reversed to allow more space for social distancing. There is a meeting scheduled tomorrow morning with stakeholders including Town Clerk Linda Guyette and Moderator Phil Runyon to ensure all critical details are established. Many absentee ballot requests have been received and the Town Clerk's Office has been responding to those daily.

The polls will be open 7:00 AM -7:00 PM. Chair Ward noted he can't attend, as he is on the ballot. Ms. Hatcher volunteered to take the first shift from 7:00 AM – 1:00 PM, and Mr. Taylor said he will cover 1:00 PM - 7:00 PM. There was a discussion about those who could serve as Select Board Pro Temp to help at the polls. It was established that any resident eligible to run as a Select Board member and registered to vote (who is not on the ballot) could serve as a Select Board Pro Temp.

Chair Ward asked how many requests for absentee ballots had been received by the Town Clerk, and Mr. Bartlett estimated 500-600, with more coming in every day.

There was a discussion about the best way to return absentee ballots to the Town Clerk. Ballots must be mailed to the Town Clerk, or given to the Town Clerk directly. Chair Ward asked for confirmation that ballots *cannot* be deposited through the Town House mail slot, and Mr. Bartlett confirmed that they cannot.

Via Facebook, Kate Coon asked if PPE would be available for the poll workers, and Ms. MacStay confirmed.

Via Facebook, Sunya Jay asked how to change an address from a recent move prior to voting. Ms. MacStay said the Supervisors of the Checklist are meeting tonight at 6:00 PM at the Town House, so that would be the last opportunity before going to the polls next Tuesday.

*2020 Town Meeting - Protest Petition*

Ms. MacStay said a Protest Petition regarding Zoning Amendment 1 (a petition warrant article calling for the repeal of TNOZ 1) was received. GIS Director Fash Farashahi and Ms. MacStay are working together to establish if validity of the protest petition. It appears to be valid, though Ms. MacStay said there were still a few signatures that required validation. The petition would require a 2/3<sup>rd</sup> majority for Zoning Amendment 1 to pass. Ms. MacStay read aloud the formal language related to the submission of the protest petition:

You are hereby notified that pursuant to RSA 675:5, a signed protest petition against Zoning Amendment 1 was submitted to the Select Board on June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2020. A favorable vote of 2/3rds of all members of the legislative body present and voting shall be required to adopt Zoning Amendment

She reminded the Select Board that, like last year, once a protest petition has been received and validated, it legally “has to go through” – it’s not up for debate or discussion - and the vote has to go to that 2/3<sup>rd</sup> standard.

Ms. Hatcher asked Ms. MacStay to explain the validation process. Ms. MacStay said “it’s a really complicated thing” but explained that if a zoning amendment affects less than 1/3<sup>rd</sup> of the town’s total land area, the amendment can be put to a protest petition, in which people who own property that would be affected can formally state they don’t believe the zoning amendment should be adopted and require that it’s held to the high 2/3<sup>rd</sup> standard for voting. The property owners must cumulatively own at least 20% of the property that would be affected by the proposed amendment. In this case, the properties affected are within the boundaries of TNOZ 1, which is essentially the downtown core of Peterborough. Analysis is required for accuracy, and much of that is done using the town’s Geographic Information Systems (GIS) database. All government-owned properties and right-of-ways are removed, and then an acreage calculation is done. It is then confirmed that the property owner of record is the person who signed the protest petition. Ms. MacStay said that, in this case, they were able to determine that owners of at least 20% of the property in that area signed the protest petition.

Mr. Taylor asked for confirmation that Zoning Amendment 1 was submitted by town citizens, as was the protest petition. Ms. MacStay confirmed that was the case.

*Report Out of Listening Session on Policing and Racial Justice*

Chair Ward said it was encouraging that Peterborough was taking action, and said Chief Guinard “has been great.”

Ms. Hatcher said about 70 people attended the Listening Session held two weeks ago. Chief Walker, Chief Guinard, Ms. MacStay and Ms. Hatcher have been meeting to discuss what they heard and the process for going forward. At the Report Out Session planned for this evening, they will cover “what was heard, what actions we plan to take, and ways the community can support those actions.” At the conclusion of the Report Out Session there will be an opportunity for people to ask questions. She said “Chief Guinard has been wonderful to work with” and continued that she is grateful for all the work that has been done the last two weeks to “bring us to a point where we can respond thoughtfully to the community.”

Mr. Taylor said, “it’s a huge amount of work.”

Via Facebook, Lisa Prince Stone asked for the Select Board’s opinion about the Protest Petition. Chair Ward and Mr. Taylor reiterated that the Board does not have a position about the matter. Ms. Hatcher commented that, considering all the work that had been done regarding the subject over the past year, it was frustrating and disappointing to be back in the same place we were before Town Meeting last year.

Chair Ward noted the Weekly Dispatch published earlier that day had lots of good information and “there’s lots of good stuff still happening” in town. Ms. Hatcher added, “it’s a wonderful tool” and hoped that more people would sign up to receive the Dispatch.

Ms. Hatcher said the Mask Up for Summer Event organized by the Grand Monadnock Rotary is scheduled for this Friday & Saturday at the South Meadow School. There are posters going up around town about using masks, and information will be distributed to businesses around town. She said “we still need to be really careful” and COVID-19 is surging in many states.

*Vote to Approve Select Board Minutes of June 16, 2020*

Ms. Hatcher noted that the name of the Board member who seconded the motion to adjourn the meeting on June 16<sup>th</sup> was missing.

*Motion:* Chair Ward made a motion to approve the Minutes of June 16, 2020, with the correction noted above.

Select Board Minutes

7/07/2020

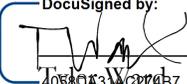
pg. 3 of 3

*Vote:* Mr. Taylor seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

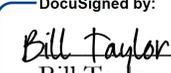
Mr. Taylor a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:24 PM. Ms. Hatcher seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Alison Kreutz, Department Assistant

PETERBOROUGH  
SELECT BOARD:

DocuSigned by:  
  
Karen Hatcher

Karen Hatcher

DocuSigned by:  
  
Bill Taylor

**ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST**

1.