

**MINUTES**  
**SELECT BOARD**  
**TOWN OF PETERBOROUGH**  
Tuesday, June 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2020 – 5:00 PM  
1 Grove Street, Peterborough, New Hampshire

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

**Also Present:** Rodney Bartlett, Nicole MacStay, Chief Ed Walker, Alison Kreutz, Town Clerk Linda Guyette

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Chair Ward opened the meeting, conducted 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 there has been good engagement via Facebook Live during meetings.

*Chief Ed Walker – COVID-19 Update*

We are on Day 81 since original state and federal declarations. Chief Walker said the Town has done an “enormous amount of work” to keep residents safe. We have applied for disaster relief programs from the Federal Government but many of the programs don’t cover the expenses. GOFFER Fund was established by the State to provide towns with the opportunity to receive funds “above and beyond” what the typical FEMA relief offers. We have applied for reimbursement, and including the FEMA match, we’re looking at \$66,000 total funds for reimbursement.

The Weekly Dispatch went out earlier today. The Recycling Center is starting to lift restrictions. Cunningham Pond has opened, and the registration system is working very well. There have been discussions with Fish & Game about best way to sterilize boat rentals. Rec Director Lisa Betz and Rec staff are very grateful to people for their understanding and their patience.

Governor Sununu released Stay at Home 2.0, which has industry-specific guidance. There have been many questions about restaurants and retail establishments. Almost all restaurant venues in Town will be open to some capacity over the next few weeks. All staff in retail outlets are required to have a cloth mask. Restaurant staff who are interacting with the public (servers, bartenders, hosts/hostesses, etc.) are required to be wearing a mask.

Chief Walker said that hurricane season has started, but “all in all, things are going very well.”

Ms. Hatcher said there are 14 approved restaurants and 3 applications pending. There are just a few establishments in Town that haven’t applied. Ms. Hatcher thanked the Chief and his staff for their work.

Chair Ward said it was exciting “that restaurants are getting back to it.”

Mr. Taylor said everyone he’s talked to has said it was an “excellent process and everybody was great to deal with.” He recognized the efforts of Chief Walker and Code Enforcement Officer Tim Herlihy.

Via Facebook, Bill Kennedy gave “kudos” to those who put out the Weekly Dispatch.

Via Facebook. Chris DiLoreto asked the Chief what his “hurricane plan” is. Chief Walker said Peterborough is inland enough that it should only have to be a tropical storm plan, but it is a big concern in other areas of the county.

*Discussion of Holding 2020 Town Meeting via Alternative Process*

Ms. MacStay said that back in March, all the items typically discussed in Open Town Meeting were moved onto the ballot. As there were no bond issues this year, that simplified things. Both Deliberative and Ballot sessions had to be moved out. The Governor has indicated he will not be lifting the ban on gatherings of ten

or more people in the near future. Town Attorney John Rattigan has been working with the Attorney General's office and Secretary of State's office to try to get us a structure we can work with. We have come up with an amended version of SB2 style-vote, like the Bow school district did. Essentially, every article would be moved to the ballot with a single vote: There will be a question to ask voters if they are willing to vote without a debate. If that vote passed, it would move every other question at the same time to a vote. If it fails, we will then have to look at other models and options. Ballot vote would be July 14<sup>th</sup>. There would be a virtual Information Session held on June 16<sup>th</sup>, providing plenty of time for residents to ask questions and receive answers before the vote. Questions could be submitted via phone, email, or Facebook message, and answers would be published.

We are also looking at making absentee ballots widely available. Request form can be submitted to the Town Clerk, who would then issue an absentee ballot. Regular in-person voting would happen at the Community Center.

Ms. MacStay pulled up a floor plan of the Community Center and explained how flow of people would be controlled. She noted the entrance and exit will be separate.

Ms. Hatcher asked what deadline was for submitting absentee ballot. Ms. Guyette said the last day to apply in person is the day before the election, which would be July 13<sup>th</sup>, and they would need to fill it out and return it that day. Absentee ballots received via mail by 5:00 PM on election day are also valid.

Mr. Taylor said people who are interested should care take of that sooner rather than later.

Ms. Guyette said copies of the form have been given to local nursing and retirement homes who have requested them.

Via Facebook, Emma Torsey asked about the average attendance for Town Meeting. Ms. Guyette said for ballot voting it was 1,500 at most, and for Open Session it was usually not more than a few hundred.

Via Facebook, Carol Nelson asked if voting could be moved to the high school, which would have more space. Ms. MacStay said we are trying to avoid changes that may confuse voters, and the Community Center should offer adequate space. Ms. Hatcher emphasized that absentee voting is the easiest solution.

Ms. MacStay said the Supervisors of the Checklist will be there day-of to help people who need to register to vote. It would be helpful if people could register ahead of time.

Ms. Hatcher said masks should be worn by people who come to the Community Center to vote. Chief Walker said yes, all the guidelines that apply to retail businesses would apply to the voting procedure. He said he would look into having masks available.

Via Facebook, Carol Nelson asked what the plan was in the case of inclement weather. It was explained that rain would not be reason to cancel or delay the vote: "Come with an umbrella."

Via Facebook, Bill Kennedy asked for more details about the Info Session in June, and asked if amendments would be taken. Ms. MacStay explained that the voting plan would be explained, and amendments would not be taken, as that would require a Deliberative Session. All articles will be reviewed in detail, and there will be plenty of opportunities to ask questions. It will be posted on Facebook, Ustream, and the Town YouTube page.

Ms. Hatcher said it sounded like a good plan: "We just all have to our best, and I thank you all for doing that."

Via Facebook, Kate Coon asked if those absentee ballot application forms could be available at public places, as the League of Women voters wants to make sure they are widely available. It was explained that would be

challenging as many public buildings are closed. Chief Walker said people could access the forms at home online and print it.

Bill Kennedy asked about petition warrant articles. Ms. MacStay said the window for submitting petition warrant articles have passed, and petition articles can't be amended. She explained that virtual meeting platform was not conducive to the voter check-in needed for the amendment process, which "is one of the reasons we're doing it this way."

Ms. Hatcher said it was good there weren't any big ticket items on the ballot this year.

Mr. Taylor asked if people could register with Ms. Guyette leading up to voting. She said yes, and explained the process for voter registration.

Mr. Taylor said it was desperate times, and "we just gotta do what we can do."

Mr. Ward asked if candidates for office could be outside holding signage, as long as they maintained distance. Ms. MacStay confirmed.

Ms. Guyette said she was concerned that the walkway would be too narrow to accommodate what was needed. Ms. MacStay said Mr. Bartlett was working on a detailed sketch, and voter sign-in lines would be prior to the walkway to the door.

Mr. Taylor said the police might need to assist in directing traffic.

Ms. Guyette said she would collaborate with Town staff on the best way to organize the Community Center.

*Review and Approval of Minutes of April 21<sup>st</sup> & May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020*

*Motion:* Ms. Hatcher made a motion to approve the Minutes of April 21<sup>st</sup> & May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020.

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

Via Facebook, Tina Kriebel asked if a large outdoor tent could be used at Ballot Session. Ms. MacStay said the Town does have a large tent that could potentially be used to shelter people waiting in line. Chair Ward added that if July is very hot, it would be a good idea to have the tent available to supply shade.

Via Facebook, Bill Kennedy asked who would present the articles at the Information Session. Ms. MacStay said they're still working on presentations and the petition warrant articles need to be considered. There are 3 or 4 this year.

The Select Board congratulated the Library staff, the 1833 Society, and associated organizations on the Library groundbreaking, which took place earlier in the day. A virtual groundbreaking video will be released soon.

Ms. MacStay said you can see the work being done on the Main Street Bridge from the new pedestrian bridge. Ms. Hatcher added, "it's a great view."

Chair Ward asked about the installation of planter boxes on the pedestrian bridge. Mr. Bartlett said that was being worked on.

Chief Walker mentioned there will be a blood drive at the Hilltop Golf Course on Friday from noon-6:00 PM. 120 slots out of 135 have been filled, which is impressive.

Mr. Taylor made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:46 PM. Ms. Hatcher seconded. All in favor. Motion carried.

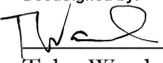
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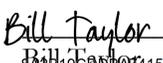
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Respectfully Submitted,  
Alison Kreutz, Department Assistant

PETERBOROUGH  
SELECT BOARD:

DocuSigned by:  
  
Tyler Ward

DocuSigned by:  
  
Karen Fletcher

DocuSigned by:  
  
Bill Taylor

ACTION ITEM PENDING LIST

- 1.