

**TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN – SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING  
APRIL 27, 2020, 6:00 PM  
VIRTUAL MEETING**

Chair Abramson convened the open meeting at 6:00 pm noting the following:

Select Board attending: Chair David Abramson, Vice Chair Robert Anthony, Members John Golden, Lise King and Louise Venden

Excused:

Other attendees: Town Manager Robin L Craver, and Select Board Secretary Elizabeth Paine

Recorder: Elizabeth Paine

**NOTE: THIS IS A REMOTE PARTICIPATION MEETING**

The Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Provincetown Select Board will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the Provincetown website, at <https://www.provincetown-ma.gov/>. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch/listen and participate in the meeting may do so in the following manner:

1. Watch on PTV GOV Channel 18, as well as an online livestream of PTV GOV at <http://www.provincetowntv.org/watch.html>
2. To listen and participate in this meeting, dial **(833) 579-7589**. When prompted, enter the following Conference ID number: **126 129 516** When prompted, state your name, then press #.
  - Keep your phone muted at all times when not talking
  - Do not use speakerphone
  - Do not use Bluetooth devices
  - Mute all background noises
  - Mute PTV on the television or computer and use only the phone audio
  - Please do not speak until the chair or the meeting moderator asks for public comments or questions.

**No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted.** but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Provincetown website an audio or video recording or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

The April 27, 2020, meeting of the Provincetown Select Board is about to be convened. As a precautionary measure to reduce the spread of coronavirus, all Town buildings are closed to the public; therefore, this meeting will be held by remote participation. My name is Robin Craver, Town Manager I will begin by taking a roll call for quorum.

Chairman David Abramson: Present

Vice Chair Robert Anthony: here

John Golden: here

Lise King: here

Louise Venden: here

With no objection from the Board, the Chair moved forward 4A.

#### 4A: Cape Cod National Seashore Update – Brian Carlstrom, Superintendent

Superintendent Brian Carlstrom gave the Select Board an update on what the park has been doing during the COVID-19 Pandemic as well as park, beach and park access. The CCNS is currently working on town by town fact sheets as well as putting out safety messaging at the park. The public restrooms are closed during the pandemic, but access to the beach and parks remain open. The ORV Operations is currently closed until May 15<sup>th</sup>. Messaging will be updated as more information is forthcoming. Pets are allowed at paved areas and most of the beaches on 6ft leases. Pack it in and pack it out is the Seashore policy for trash removal. There has been an increase of household trash and construction debris dumping, as well as vandalizing and illegal vehicle use. The park has been working very closely with the towns within the seashore to maintain beach accesses, but they are watching social distancing. For emergency, please use the regular 911 and they will connect you through to the call center and a ranger will be there as soon as possible. Non-emergency contact is to directly call the superintendent office or email: [caco\\_superintendent@nps.gov](mailto:caco_superintendent@nps.gov). The park is looking at how they will be opening this summer as the social distance processes and how it will affect their operations.

The Board thanked the superintendent for speaking with the board and giving them an update. Board member Lise King asked for the messaging to include information about the bathrooms being closed at the park.

#### 1. Public Statements – Three (3) minutes maximum. Select Board Members do not respond during public statements

- **Dr. Susan Troyan** – Board of Health Vice Chair – we have good evidence of social distancing and handwashing. We are recommending the use of cloth masks when you are out in public and cannot be 6ft apart. The CDC and Department of Public Health does recommend using the cloth masks when you are out in the public and are unable to maintain the 6ft apart. We are out in the street, we do not want you to use the cloth masks to allow yourself to get within 6ft. as our town becomes busier, there may come a time when we might recommend increase use of masks.
- **Michaela Carew-Murphy** – I am in support of people wearing mask, I think it makes people feel safe and over welling it has shown that it has flatten the curve. But the board should stress that the shaming going online. We are all on the same page, and the devising happening in town is going to last a lot longer than the pandemic.
- **Jennifer Cabral** –I would like to see the Select Board order mask wearing in stores and on Commercial Street. We are already seeing an influx of visitors coming to town on weekends. Any plans to open our local economy will include masks, why not include it now. 12 towns in Massachusetts have already issued orders. Our own grocery store doesn't have a mask policy, so we need to mandate that. There is a public health issue and a simple solution; social distancing, handwashing and mask wearing.
- **Scott Addleman** – would like to add thought to Susan's point. One – everyone should be clear that the federal guidelines with a minimum of 6ft feet, I know people keep saying social distancing is 6ft feet. The other point is Provincetown has done well without mask, but the reality is a lot of people have been sheltering in place, but as people start coming out of their home, you might see more cases. The main reason to wear a mask is to assume you are a-systematic and are protecting others. My last point is to thank everyone for what you have been doing.

- **Bernice Steisel** – Agree with the last two speakers and hope you will mandate masks when you are inside.
- **Patricia Miller** – I want to say, I hope everyone is healthy. I would like to have a part-time member added to the recovery coalition. Part timers have been looking for an avenue to help, and here is an opportunity. Also, diversity. Part timer residents are vested in Provincetown but also have boots on the ground in these other cities. Also, stakeholders, part-time residents are major stakeholders. Also, part-timers are vacationers, and therefrom customers. There has always been tension between the part-timers and year rounder. I think here is a wonderful opportunity to bridge the gap, for Provincetown government to invite in a part timer.
- **Herb Hintze** – on the weekend, you can see all the wonderful citizens wearing mask and all the visitors not wearing masks. I think it is time the town take a stand and say that people need to wear masks in the stores and when you are walking down commercial street. It is for everyone's health.
- **Lord** – in terms of masks, no one wants to wear a mask. People do better with ambiguity. At this point we do not know who has the corona virus and who doesn't. if the town comes out that in public places and various venues a mask should be worn, I think it would be a good idea and would stop some of the divisiveness. In terms of the terrible situation this country and Provincetown will be in, I urge you to all work together with FINCOM and the town manager. There are many who have been here through the AIDS crisis and the depression. If the economy goes, the whole town goes. There are going to have to be very painful cut, but we need to support the town manager and you to keep the town viable.

## 2. Select Board Member's Opening Statements – (Votes may be taken)

- **Louise Venden** – I really appreciate the comments being made by people. There are a lot of people who would like to meet with the board of health. And I would like to explain the board of health will be the one who makes those decisions. So, I urge the board of health to meet and listen to them. I also hope other boards meet as there are clearly people who wish to contribute. I want to thank the staff and the Provincetown Recovery Coalition, they are under a great deal of stress, and doing their best to move this forward. The coalition was formed by the town manager. We need to collaborate and plan ahead. We do know some important changes have already been made. I am committed to reviewing the plans and the budget for Fy21, my hope is we can revisit it. I would hope that we could delay town meeting to the fall. There are going to be many businesses who are not going to make it and I am hoping there will be a more robust discussion along a broader group of people about the budget.
- **John Golden** – I want to thank everyone as there is a good group of people on the meeting. I am torn about mask wearing. I think we should do something about masks in stores, but I am concerned about commercial street. There was also comments about bicyclist, parking and joggers. So perhaps we should have a conversation about bicyclist being allowed to go only in one direction. I wear glasses so when I wear a mask, they fog up.
- **Robert Anthony** – I want to start off by just saying a few words in regards to mask. For 37 years, I have always believed in public safety. Its always been black and white. This is all together different. You do not see the enemy, you do not see the risks. We took a ride on Saturday and there was 6 individuals less than 2 feet apart. As we go further into the summer, it is going to get worse and worse. My take is I'd rather be preventative. I think it would behoove us to mandate everyone wearing a mask. I want to air on public safety and the community is safe. Especially in stop and shop and other stores.
- **Lise King** – Just wanted to follow up on things a couple things the other members have said. We do have authority to issue a mask order. We are in the beginning of week 6 of the shelter in place and in this time we have all come to understand the seriousness of the pandemic. We have all been affected emotionally and financially. If there is a silver lining, we recognize how deeply we are all connected. I want to remind everyone that human right are critical and individual rights are superseded to the public health. I don't

want people who are financial suffering that we do not hear you, we do. In this crisis, our recovery will be a balance act.

- **David Abramson** – You can find information about the coalition make up on the town website. It is not just made up by business community. The biggest portion of this group is around public health and public safety. this coalition is not a policy making group, it is just advisory. When the group was talking on Friday, is people first. We will be doing a survey's of the community members. If you go to the town's website under COVID-19, you can see they have a specific email, [coalition@provincetown-ma.gov](mailto:coalition@provincetown-ma.gov). the biggest thing about this coalition is when the town is allowed to opened up, it is in the best interest of the town.

**Move the Select Board to mandate wearing masks in any building. Up for discussion would be commercial street.**

**Motion: John Golden**

**Seconded: Lise King**

Select Board Member Louise Venden opposed taking a vote without proper notification, staff reports and input from the Board of Health. Members John Golden, Lise King and Robert Anthony support mandating masks for the safety of the community. Chair Abramson supports mandating masks for inside stores where it is difficult to maintain the 6ft but not outdoors. The Board discussed the areas of Town where the masks should be worn outdoors. The Board of Health Chair, Board of Health Vice Chair and the Health Director talked about the importance of social distancing, hand washing and making decisions based on science verse fear. The three supporting members stressed their decision was based on the protection of the towns people and concern about the number of increased visitors as the weather continues to improve.

**Move that the Select Board require mask be worn by persons not in a vehicle on Commercial Street from Bangs Street to Pleasant Street and in any business that is operating in enclosed spaces, and businesses must post and police their customers effective Friday, May 1, 2020**

**Motion: John Golden**

**Seconded: Lise King**

**Roll Call Vote**

**David Abramson: no**

**Robert Anthony: yes**

**John Golden: yes**

**Lise King: yes**

**Louise Venden: no**

**Motion passes**

### **3. 7 PM Public Hearings – (Votes may be taken on the following items)**

#### **A. Pole Hearing – 10 Freeman St**

Attorney Michael Dolan was on the call representing the applicant. AT&T is looking to install a small cell antenna on a utility pole in order to deal with increase demand on network. New pole has been put in to withstand the small cell facility. Targeting this located due to high data demand. The Board thanked the applicant for their report.

**Move that the Select Board vote to approve the application by David Ford on behalf of Brown Rudnick LLP requesting permission to install one (1) small cell facility on a replacement utility pole located in the public right of way near 10 Freeman Street. The application is pursuant to the federal Telecommunication Act of 1996 and Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 166, Sections 21, 222, and 25A for telecommunication wires, wireless attachments and appurtenances attached to utility poles.**

**Motion: David Abramson**

**Seconded: Lise King**

**Roll Call Vote**

**David Abramson: Yea**

**Robert Anthony: Yea**

**John Golden: Yes**

**Lise King: Yea**

**Louise Venden: Yea**

#### **4. Request**

**A. Cape Cod National Seashore Update – Superintendent Brian Carlstrom**

**B. Discuss CODID-19 Recovery Coalition**

**a. Chair and Vice Chair update**

**b. Select Board participation and expectations in recovery process**

**c. Weekly Updates**

Chair Abramson and Vice Chair Anthony gave a brief summary what the coalition has done so far in the first two meetings. This is an administrative advisory board to advise the Town Manager on reopening the Town and keeping the community safe. There will be surveys going out to various groups and soliciting information. Looking for input from the Select Board on policy and how they wish to move forward, as well as what information you were looking to get more information from. The Coalition will not be setting policy, it will be going back to the regulatory boards for them to decide. Chair Abramson asked the other board members; what type of participation and information are you looking for from this update? Select Member Lise King had questions about process for bringing this all together, is there were any issue having 2 board members sitting on the advisory board when policies would be coming back to the Select Board, asked for a memo or town council opinion to be given to the board. Town Manager Robin Craver gave a brief summary the reason behind having all the groups she previously was working with, all at the same table, as well as her commitment to a transparent process. As this is an advisory committee to her, there is no open meeting violations going on but is more than happy to speak to Member King. Member Venden discussed the need for transparency and information being shared with the Select Board in a timely manner and would like to see weekly scheduled meetings to allow for updates and Select Board input. Member Venden also spoke about the need to discuss reviewing the FY21 Budget and making recommendations

**Move to meet on a weekly basis to discuss the recovery coalition and anything related to the COVID crisis.**

**Motion: Lise King**

**Seconded: Louise Venden**

**DA – yes**

**RA – no**  
**JG – no**  
**Lk – yes**  
**LV - yes**

**Motion passes**

**After a brief discussion, the board amended their motion to:**

**Move that on weeks that we do not have regular meetings, we will schedule a meeting on the recovery coalition and give updates.**

**Motion: David Abramson**

**Seconded: Lise King**

**DA – Yes**  
**RA – Yes**  
**JG – Yes**  
**LK – Yes**  
**LV – Yes**

Member King asked that all the communication coming out from the group to be consistent as I saw a private post that did not match what was posted on the town site. Town Manager Craver explained that not all of the information coming out of the coalition may pertain to the Town.

**C. Discuss the assessment of the healthcare infrastructure in Provincetown**

Member Lise King brought this forward in the light of this crisis to see what the town would be interested in doing to investigate the vulnerability of the health care infrastructure and shore that up. Member Venden suggested tabling the discussion for a work session as the conversation needed to include health care professionals. Chair Abramson, Vice Chair Anthony and Member Golden supported tabling the conversation.

**D. 2020 Annual and Special Town Meeting**  
**a. Process**  
**b. Warrant**  
**c. Budget**

Town Manager Craver spoke to the Board about the current status of the Annual Town Meeting and asked the Board for input on where they would like to direct staff to make adjustments in the Budget. Chair Abramson has concerns about how the Town will conduct town meeting with the current guidance and guidelines from the Governor and CDC and felt it was too soon to say what needed to be cut from the budget. Vice Chair Anthony asked to the ability to forgo a spring Town Meeting and hold it in the fall. Members Golden and King wanted to hold off giving input until staff made recommendations. Member Venden proposed asking staff butting the budget by 10-15% and create a hiring freeze for FY21. The Board agreed to continue the conversation at their May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## 5. Town Manager's Administrative Update

Town Manager Craver gave the Select Board a brief update on the Town operations.

## 6. Minutes - (Votes May Be Taken)

### A. April 27, 2020 6 pm

Member Venden requested the minutes be held until the May 11<sup>th</sup> meeting.

## 7. Select Board Closing Matters - Topics to Include but not limited to: (Votes May be taken on the following items)

### A. Pending Items List

- **Louise Venden** – It is becoming more and more difficult for me to feel accomplished or satisfied or being able to make a contribution to the this process as it seems our meetings are dominated by lengthy reports and very little opportunities to provide feedback or we go off on a tangent. I ask questions, and I get four attachments back and information that doesn't answer the question. At some point, my vote as a select person should mean I make some contribution.
- **John Golden** – With all this stuff going on, I forgot to talk about the permits for gay pride, fourth of July fireworks and carnival on the books. City of Boston just announced they are not opening on May 4<sup>th</sup>. We still have these things permitted but I cannot see any of these groups gathering for pride. We need to address this with the PBG.
- **Robert Anthony** – It has been an very interested evening, the mask issue was not a fear issues, this was a community issue.
- **Lise King** – My feeling about everything is everyone is doing the best they can with what they have and what they know. I want to acknowledge the hard work of all the town staff and the select board member, this is really hard. I know folks are cycling from grief to hope and back again. I want to acknowledge every one of you. I respect every one of you and really appreciate your service. The communication issues have been ongoing, I was able to find the thing I thought was missing. We need to improve our communications strategies in the town.
- **David Abramson** – no statement tonight.

**Motion to adjourn – Robert Anthony**

**Seconded – John Golden**

**Roll Call Vote**

**David Abramson: Yea**

**Robert Anthony: Yea**

**John Golden: Yea**

**Lise King: Yea**

**Louise Venden: abstain**

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 10 pm

Minutes transcribed by: Elizabeth Paine