

**TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN – SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING
MAY 04, 2020, 5 PM
TOWN HALL – JUDGE WELSH ROOM**

Chair Abramson convened the open meeting at 5:00 pm noting the following:

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

Excused:

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

Recorder: Elizabeth Paine

- 1. Covid-19 Recovery Coalition – (Votes may be taken on the following items):**
 - a. Chair and Vice Chair Update**
 - b. Select Board – Vote of Confidence for Coalition**

Chair Statement on Recovery Coalition

Chair Abramson: Before I start my update on the Recovery Coalition, as Chair of the Select Board, I want to address both my colleagues and those who are listening to this meeting about the coalition and its purpose. I think it's important to remind everyone that the Recovery Coalition is a working group of volunteers from health, social services and business sectors of town. When those volunteers were asked to serve, every single one of them said yes without reservation. Like you, they care deeply about this town and want to help us find a path forward to better days. We are living with a global pandemic which has brought the world to a halt. This is one of the most terrifying public health crises we've all faced. We are in a state of emergency that impacts our health and safety. People are freighted and want answers, so our town manager proactively put this working group together. She did it well before the Governor's Reopening Task Force was created. Robin Craver and her staff have done an exceptional job protecting the public health of those who are living here and continue to be proactive during this crisis. The Recovery Coalition was established to help this town and all who call it home. That means if you are a fulltime resident, part-time resident, or work here, the coalition is trying to help address your concerns to better understand what is needed for a phased re-opening of our town. They are reaching out to engage the community, gather information from that engagement and then make recommendations to the Select Board. What is recommended will depend on what the data shows, and what the federal and state government's mandate. We will know more from Governor Baker on May 18th. All the recommendations to the Select Board from the coalition will be driven by data, much of it health and scientific, in order to ensure the safety of everyone who lives, works and owns a home here. And I want to make clear that the safety and health of the public is the top priority of the Select Board, town government and the Recovery Coalition. I believe it is paramount to point out that the health and safety of our community includes balancing the public safety and health of everyone with the health of our town's economy. Health, safety and the economy all play important roles - in varying degrees and at varying times - in the overall health of Provincetown. If we are not careful about safeguarding our economy, the Provincetown we know, and love, will disappear as a consequence of COVID-19. We need to support our local businesses. Business owners are our neighbors, they employ our neighbors, and their establishments are enjoyed by our neighbors. If we lose the small businesses in this town, we could very well end up with empty storefronts on Commercial Street and the only tenants who could occupy that space would be chain stores. That would be tragic. We cannot close the town down. We need to have a thoughtful, gradual re-opening of the town. It won't be business as usual – no one is pushing for that. We need everyone to come together. Let's find common ground on what our next few months looks like. I ask my fellow board members to vote to support the Recovery Coalition as a good vehicle to help the Select Board and the town government find a path forward. If you choose not to support the coalition, we will disband it. However, as town leaders we will then have an obligation to quickly create a process for

dealing with two catastrophes – our current public health crisis and the pending economic disaster that accompanies it. I will vote to support the Recovery Coalition.

Select Board Member Louise Venden thanked staff and the members of the coalition for their continued hard work and requested more frequent communications. Select Board Member Lise King has full confidence in the comprehensive reporting and transparency in the Coalition. Member King also requested more information on the Town's plan to handle a large outbreak.

Move that the Select Board issue a vote of Confidence for the Recovery Coalition.

Motion: David Abramson

Seconded: Louise Venden

Member King requested included these 7 points into the motion.

- 1. We are in the midst of an unprecedented public emergency that impacts our health and safety, as well as our economy.**
- 2. We are responding as a town and as a community as best we can, including being proactive with the best data available, and acting in the best interests of protecting lives as our number one priority.**
- 3. We as the Select Board are committed to taking steps to protect the health of the community, most recently evidenced by our mask requirement, and we will continue to act as necessary and called for by circumstances as they arise.**
- 4. While we will always exercise our authority appropriately and when necessary, we support the process in place to collect and disseminate data in balanced and consistent manner so that those with authority can make sound and safe decisions**
- 5. We recognize that in an emergency there is a need for a robust and inclusive process to engage the community broadly and to collect input and data.**
- 6. We support the Coalition the Town Manager's designated process for collecting information from the Community to provide input to her fact and feedback gathering process, and we are confident in the process as being robust and inclusive, as all are welcome and encouraged to participate and provide input**
- 7. We are all in this together - united in our hearts and our efforts to survive this crisis, and will get through this together.**

Amend the motion to include the 7 points Lise read.

Motion: Dave Abramson

Seconded: Robert Anthony

Roll Call Vote

David Abramson: Yes

Robert Anthony: Yes

John Golden: Yes

Lise King: Yes

Louise Venden: Yes

Motion passes.

- 2. Mask – Emergency Order (Clarify the order based on volume of questions) – (Votes may be taken on the following items):**
 - a. Questions Regarding**
 - i. Define Masks**

- ii. Times of day
- iii. Age and disability exemptions
- iv. Enforcement
- v. Area
- vi. End Date

Chair David Abramson brought this item forward due to the Governor's order and questions that arose after our last meeting on Monday, wondering if the board wishes to rescind our motion, or make further restrictions. Vice Chair Robert Anthony requested the Board of Health review the order and is concerned about congestion from Bangs Street to Pleasant Street on Commercial ST. Board Member Louise Venden expressed concerns about signage and mask distribution. The Select Board reviewed the Governor's order and staffs recommendations.

Move that the Select Board vote to rescind their April 27th vote to mandate masks on Wednesday, May 6, 2020.

Motion: David Abramson

Seconded Lise King

Roll Call vote

David Abramson: Yes

Robert Anthony: Yes

John Golden: Yes

Lise King: Yes

Louise Venden: Yes

5-0-0 motion passes

Move that the Select Board vote to adopt the Governor's Face Covering order and add "any member of the public utilizing Commercial Street from Bangs Street to Pleasant Street between 9 am and 9 pm must wear a face covering over their nose and mouth and must exercise social distancing in accordance with the CDC guidelines".

Motion: David Abramson

Seconded

Roll Call Vote

David Abramson: Yes

Robert Anthony: Yes

John Golden: Yes

Lise King: Yes

Louise Venden: Yes

5-0-0 motion passes

Member King and Member Venden requested further information be provided to the Select Board at their Monday, May 11, 2020 regular meeting for the Towns ability to purchase and distribute masks to the public.

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 6:53 pm.

Minutes transcribed by: Elizabeth Paine