

**TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN – SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES – SPECIAL MEETING  
MAY 18, 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. Legislation Deligation Update**

Senator Julian Cyr and Representative Sarah Peake spoke about the Governor’s reopening plan. The 29 page document that can be found on at <https://www.mass.gov/doc/reopening-massachusetts-may-18-2020/download>. Every guideline that has been issued, is driven by the public health concerns. Looked at best practices from around the world. Next week Municipalities will be receiving guidelines for opening of Town Hall, Libraries and other town facilities to the public. Public bathrooms will be allowed to be opened on Monday, May 25<sup>th</sup>, with distancing protocols in place. Individuals need to be wearing a mask when they cannot be 6ft away, handwashing and staying home when you have symptoms. Businesses have to meet 3 criteria to open. The Senator also spoke about what the Cape Cod Task force, that is looking at providing business information on a county level. Region wide constancy is very critical. Phase 1 is very limited and based on health data and in order to get to Phase 2, it will be no less than 3 weeks and possibly longer. Given that restaurants and hospitality are such a large part of our economy, the Governor has appointed a work group to look at how to help these businesses reopen. Select Board Member Louise Venden would like some follow up information on testing. Doesn’t feel there is enough testing available at the moment. Feels testing should be more widely available. Vice Chair Anthony asked for me details on the Tourism Committee the Lt. Governor mentioned during the press conference. Member Lise King asked about the regional approach to reopening if another outbreak occurs or if it would be by town.

**2. Covid-19 Recovery Coalition – (Votes may be taken on the following items):**  
**a. Chair and Vice Chair Update**

Chair Abramson:

Earlier today many of us learned about Governor Baker’s plan to re-open the state of Massachusetts. Today marks the beginning of the first of four phases and its labelled “START.” With this announcement, and all that needs to be done, it is clear that the re-opening of the state and our town will be handled with a cautiously optimistic approach. The “START” phase will last a minimum of three weeks or longer depending on health trends. It’s the first step forward to emerging from the statewide “stay at home” advisory, which helped flatten the curve collectively here in the Commonwealth. With Memorial Day approaching, we will not go back to the life we used to know. Our summer season will not be full of theme weeks and big events. Many will miss those days, but for this summer, the health and safety of all who call Provincetown home is our priority, a priority that is as important as enjoying the sun and the beauty of our coastal beaches. This new phase has many of the same state health restrictions in place: gathering limits are still less than 10 people, a 14 day quarantine is urged for travelers to Massachusetts, all residents are required to cover their face when they cannot maintain six feet of social distancing in public, hotels and short-term rentals are restricted to essential workers only, and workers should stay home if they’re feeling sick. As you can see, this new phase is not back to business as usual as some feared. Here *is* what Governor Baker opened today: manufacturing and construction industries, and houses of worship. These three sectors must adhere to strict guidelines. Essential businesses that are open, will continue to stay

open, but must show that they can adhere to the stricter business standards introduced today. Hospitals and Community Health Centers are allowed to provide high priority preventive care, pediatric care and treatment for high-risk treatment and conditions. Then, on May 25<sup>th</sup>, the Governor will allow the following businesses to open: retail stores can execute remote fulfillment and curbside pick-up, hair salons and pet groomers can offer appointment-only services, boating, fishing and hunting activities are allowed, and outdoor recreational spaces such as beaches and parks are open with guidelines. Here is what this all means for Provincetown. Now that we know what the state is opening during the “START” phase, we can use this information to guide our decision-making for implementing our town’s phased re-opening. To do this, we will need to further analyze the Governor’s plan to see what we can implement quickly in town and what might be missing for our seasonal economy. This will not happen overnight, but we are mindful that time is of the essence. Staff and volunteers will continue to work hard to provide health and scientific based recommendations for re-opening. To further move this process along, the next Select Board meeting will be a joint meeting with the Board of Health. Our re-opening will be a joint decision-making venture between the two boards. Although the Select Board will make policy decisions about the town’s re-opening, during a pandemic, the Board of Health also makes decisions about our re-opening, as they work with the Department of Health to implement its public health mandates. Next week’s meeting is the beginning of the two boards working to put together a phased plan to open the town. I would like to close my remarks on a personal note. This is an overwhelming time in our lives, with so many wanting to know what’s the next step to take, yet worried about what that the next step is. We get it. No one has ever seen the likes of a pandemic like the coronavirus – and right now, it may have the upper hand, but I believe if we adapt our behavior to face the challenge at hand, we will be stronger for it. Let’s remember not to let our fear and anxiety divide us – and as we move forward, let’s work together for the common good of our town.

- b. Town Manager’s Update**
  - i. Community Wide Survey**
  - ii. Business Survey**
  - iii. Next Steps**

Town Manager Craver gave a brief overview of the Governor’s order.

Health Director Morgan Clark gave the preliminary results to the community survey that was conducted and an update on what the Health Department is doing to keep the community safe. Member Golden asked if the state tracks cases similar to the town with Active and Recovered. Member King asked about the turn around time for sanitizing ambulances and what the state is doing to help shore up the local medical facility. The final results of the community survey would be available by the end of May.

Tourism Director Anthony Fucillo, PBG Executive Director and Provincetown Chamber of Commerce President Patrick Patrick presented the summary from the Business Survey conducted to over 200 participants. Member Venden requested the messages be consistent by all parties, and hoped they would incorporate radio. Member Kings asked about clarity on the whos responsibility it would be to enforce the social distancing and mask wearing, the Town or businesses? Member Golden like the idea of the open market on commercial street and keeping vehicles off Commercial Street.

Town Manager discussed with the Select Board the reopening next steps, the latest Governor’s guidelines, workin with the Board of Health on new recommendations, creating coordinated consistent messageing, enforcement procedures, implementing new strategies to enhance Provincetown’s health, safety and economic viability, reviewing the comprehensive report and making recommendations and policy decisions for downtown improvements.

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 7:23 pm.

Minutes transcribed by: Elizabeth Paine