

**TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN – SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
JUNE 8, 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: **182 431 288** 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 June 8, 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: Here

Vice Chair Robert Anthony: Here

John Golden: Here
Lise King: Here
Louise Venden: Here

Consent Agenda – Approval without objection required for the following items:

- A. *Approve the appointment of Terri Rutter as a regular member on the Recycling and renewable energy committee with a term to expire on December 31, 2022*

Without objection Chair Abramson waived the reading of the consent items and without further objection declared the consent agenda approved.

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

- **Michela Murphy** – Thank you all for including the public comment. I have been upset this week over the social media discourse that has been happening. It is really disheartening to see the animosity. Pleading with everyone to come together and work together.
- **Douglas Walker** – Supporting turning Commercial Street into walking only. I would like the board to consider and support this idea.
- **Karen Daniele** – Agree with previous caller, but would like to address concerns about people who have driveways in that area. Feels that would be a huge inconvenience to people with young children.
- **Jay Gur** – It is in my understanding there is conversations about restricting indoor entertainment beyond the governor’s guidelines. Indoor entertainment is a critical part of Provincetown’s economy. As long as the state feels it is safe, we should be allowing businesses every opportunity to entertain.
- **Bob Sanborn** – Agree with previous speaker in respects to entertainment. Recommend the town not go further than the state in its guidelines. For the agenda item speaking on Economic Stability, thank you for speaking on this. I recommend we leverage existing committees and encourage them to put forward recommendations. I don’t think creating another is useful at this point
- **Pat Miller** – In regards to the Economic Stability, the proposal suggests a member of the part-timer, we don’t see eye to eye with the member proposing this but we will participate. Once again want to speak to the appointment of the previous Town Manager but the moderator.
- **Shi-ra Kavon** – I wanted to speak to the fact, lately on social media, there is a discussion about the 14-day quarantine. None of the local inns or hotels can enforce but they must announce it when people arrive at the front desk. I think an expansion of mask order is warranted.
- **David Panagore** – Second meeting when I have been attacked for volunteering on a committee where I have finance background.
- **Tom Kalish** – I agree with the previous speaker, about not being stricter than the Governor’s order. For mask, I think the Governor is clear. For entertainment, I don’t understand why Motta field is off the table. If we are going to block off traffic, bicyclist need to walk their bike in the zone of pedestrians.
- **Melissa Fallen** – Part Time resident – has been coming for many years, purchased a few years ago and have begun participated in the town when possible. For someone who is trying to become a full time resident, it is disheartening to see what is happening with politics. It appears that there is no desire to have part-time homeowners not allowed to participate.
- **Tom** – The issues around the Finance Committee, is not about appointment of anyone, but rather the disregard for the rules.
- **Lord** – it is with great reluctant to notify the town of the possible complaint. His complaints are always negative, especially towards women. This is not free speech; it is hate speech. I was an applicant, but I

was insulant in email and via Facebook.

- **Dara Anopia** – We own a unit and part time resident, we try to come up all year and support the town. I was calling to make a statement on two topics. We are concerned about the changes in the Governors change in the short term rental regulations, if short term rentals are allowed, they will not be quarantine for 14 days. I think the mask order is quite ridiculous. The masks do work. It is a little inconvenience to make people safe.
- **Alan Roth** – I am not a scientist, I think the board has addresses this issue a couple of time and the action taken last week is sensible. In the context of lodging, I think the board has left itself amble room to address this need a needed. The self-quarantine is not a law; it is an advisory. I am deeply resentful that drivers from Boston, that is a hot spot, but others cannot come from others area, are being urged to quarantine.
- **David Burbank** – Speak on entertainment, I really believe that we should follow the governor guidelines and not put any additional guidelines on the local businesses.
- **Scott Van Hove** – I think everyone knows the importance of part-timers to the economy of Provincetown. The treatment of part-timers has not been fair. When I applied last September, I heard nothing from the moderator or FINCOM chair. Another part time applicant applied and did not received any comment. When Mr. Panagore applied, he was appointed that day. This treatment of the part-timers is not fair.

2. Select Board Member's Opening Statements

- **Lise King** – I want to thank every single person that has reached out with calls, emails and messages. Want to thank everyone who has come forward and decided to engage. Maybe this is the silver lining of the COVID-19, as the level of participation has ramped up. I want to say I am quite heartened by the level of participation to support the Black Lives Matter. The world is waking up to some of the injustices. Express condolences to Peg on the passing of her wife Gail. Hearts go out to everyone in the community who loved Gail.
- **Louise Venden** – Support and admirations for all the people who showed up at the Black Lives Matters rally. It is important for white people to take on this work as people of color have been carrying this burden for a long time. Business and the town have been ramping up to open and comply with the orders and guidelines. There is a sense of urgency towards marketing and welcoming people who are coming to the outer cape and Provincetown. I hope people are patience with some of these orders, such as commercial street and the way some of the businesses must open. We need to make sure we have signage and public access to this information. We have seen many more people contacting us because of the level of uncertainty. This town is full of resilient and resourceful people.
- **John Golden** – I agree with Louise's sentiments about Black Lives Matters and how businesses are reopening. I was very heartened that people are on the street and eating outside in restaurants. Seeing all the businesses that have outdoor space and making that happen. The street was busy but people were masking and social distancing. I think it is good that we continue to revisit this as we see what the summer brings. We closed Commercial Street, there was no one on the street, and hopefully that can change. I have a lot of hope for the summer and we shall see what will happen.
- **Robert Anthony** – A couple of speakers addressed the issue of not going stricter on entertainment than what the Governor's going to issues. I think that has to start with the Board of Health. I want to talk about George Floyd. As a police officer of 32 years, I have never seen that type of behavior. I am so glad people have lite the torch to stop this type of abuse on black people. I think it is outrages and we need a little revamping of our local system. I don't want this to be forgotten.
- **David Abramson** – I have no comments for this evening

3. Appointments – (Votes may be taken on the following items)

A. Water and Sewer Board – Terri Rutter

Applicant withdrew application

4. Request

A. Closure of Commercial Street to Vehicular Traffic – ** Public Comments will be taken **

Town Manager Robin Craver gave the board a brief summary on the Commercial Street closure on June 4th – June 7th. This was a trial to see if this would help pedestrian traffic. In feedback, people found the closure more of a hindrance. Staff does not believe this should continue for the month of June. Recommend, the Board votes to authorize the Police Chief to close Commercial Street, with consultation with the Town Manager, to close Commercial Street when deemed necessary.

Commercial Street has closures, per the traffic hearing, in July and August.

The Select Board talked their concerns of giving staff the authority to close down Commercial St when deemed necessary. There is no clarity to the businesses or residents who live in that stretch. The Board also expressed concerns with people not being able to pick-up take-out food from some of these restaurants along this stretch and the lack of express parking in this area, especially with the possibility of Ryder Street parking being closed off. Member Venden would prefer seeing date certain for when this closure would be imposed and the ability for residents who still live in this area to still access their homes. Member Golden expressed concerns for pedestrian safety and feels the biggest problem is the bicycles traveling in two directions. Vice Chair Anthony asked staff to look into a mechanism for people to park on Ryder Street for picking up take out food. Member King is hesitant to close the street with the number of restaurants in that area and agrees the non-set time is confusing.

Public Comments:

Michela Murphy – Believes the closure would be a hindrance on businesses.

Douglas Walker – In support of closure to allow for more space for the pedestrians and bikers.

David Burbank – there was no one on the west end entering Commercial Street to tell people that they need to walk. I am a big supporter of people walking their bikes in the closure.

Dave Abramson – The Chief is requesting we keep the dates the same but allow for the decision to close to be made by staff based on traffic.

Move the Select Board authorizes the Police Chief, in consultation of the Town Manager, the implementation of closure of Commercial Street from Ryder to Court Street between the hours of 6 pm – 10 pm on Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sundays in the month of June and include the conditions listed a-f.

Motion: Louise Venden

Seconded: Robert Anthony

Roll Call

David Abramson: Aye

Robert Anthony: Aye
John Golden: Aye
Lise King: Aye
Louise Venden: Aye

B. Update from Visitor Services Board Chair Jay Gurewitsch on Visitor Services Board's June 5, 2020 meeting

Chair Jay Gurewitsch and Tourism Director Anthony Fuccillo spoke to the Select Board about the month of June's marketing spend through the Tourism office and the way in which the Tourism office was marketing. The Tourism office will move to phase 2 for marketing, continuing to keep health and safety in the forefront.

C. Social Services funding requests from May 28th and June 1st, 2020 meetings.

- a. Task Health Department to create a public education campaign focused on the theme of: "It's OK to Ask for Help: Here's How."**
- b. Unfreeze any current spending restrictions on Health Dept. current budget, and as emergency funding becomes available to the Town, distribute funding to the Health Department in order to allow for direct emergency assistance funds to be distributed to Provincetown residents**
- c. Task the Health Department with creation of an Equity & Inclusion working group to outline an action agenda for outreach and engagement with the Jamaican, Latinx, and other marginalized communities that live or work in Provincetown, including members of these communities that own businesses serving Provincetown**

Health Director Morgan Clark, Helping Our Women Gwen Guzzeau and AIDS Support Group Dan Gates spoke to the Select Board about their asks. Looking for funds that can be considers for social service needs, particularly in the light of Budget's being frozen. Will also been looking at Grant funding to help with the social service needs that have been over taxing the current funds. A primary part of this work is to create an education campaign to inform residents of resources currently available. There has been an increase in the basic needs request; rent, food and utilities these last few months. Town Manager Craver is recommending this request of allowing the Health Department to spend funding in their budget on these items and is willing to review the needs and look at possible funding resources and asks the Select Board to support this.

Move that the Select Board support the Town Manager and the Health Department to carry out recommendations 1 -3.

Motion: David Abramson
Seconded: Louise Venden

Roll Call Vote

David Abramson: Aye
Robert Anthony: Aye
John Golden: Aye
Lise King: Aye
Louise Venden: Aye

Motion passes.

D. Discuss Select Board Member Lise King’s request to creating an “Economic Stabilization Advisory Committee” with the purpose of which is to advise the Select Board on actions that may be taken to provide support to individual small business owners and workers in town in recovering from the current economic.

Select Board Lise King gave a brief explanation of the Economic Stabilization Advisory Committee and the role she felt the committee could play and possible explains of how this committee would work. The Board stated their concerns of creating another committee when there are already committees with similar purposes. Member Venden did not believe this was the mechanism at this time. Member Golden was against the formation of this committee. Vice Chair Anthony asked whether any local businesses or banks had been spoken to yet about this. Chair Abramson agreed with Member Venden and Vice Chair Anthony. Member King stated should would continue working on this.

E. Discuss June 30th Town Elections

Town Manager Robin Craver, discussed with the Board the June 30th Election. KP Law provided an update on Saturday on the latest legislation regarding the Elections. Absentee Ballot and Early Mail in voting is currently allowed. The application for the mail in ballot must be requested through the clerk’s office. Under the current law, we are unable to mail everyone ballots. The Ryder Street parking ban will not go into effect until July 1, 2020.

F. Discuss and approve the 1/12th Budget Plan for Department of Revenue

Town Manager Robin Craver gave a brief summary of the CARES Act Funding. The state allocated \$260,976 to the Town of Provincetown as determined by population. The funds are to pay for COVID-19 response cost. The funds may not be used to substitute for lost revenue. Has to be for cost incurred between March 1, 2020 and December 30, 2020. Towns were asked to estimate their FY20 COVID-19 expenses and submit them to the State by June 5, 2020. While reviewing the 1/12th Budget Plan please remember not to multiply by 12. This is a font loaded budget which allows us to estimate more than 1/12th in any moth due to our seasonal nature, contractual obligations, debt service and recurrent payment discount.

Move that the Select Board approve the Town Manager’s FY21 1/12th Budget Plan to be submitted to the Department of Revenue per Section 5 of An Acts of Address Challenges Faced by Municipalities and State Authorities Resulting from COVID-19, Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020.

Motion: David Abramson

Seconded: Lise King

Roll Call

David Abramson: Aye

Robert Anthony: Aye

John Golden: Aye

Lise King: Aye

Louise Venden: Aye

5. Town Manager’s Administrative Update

- A. Review Town Meeting Timeline
- B. Staff Biweekly updates

Town Manager Craver reviewed the Town Meeting Timeline and gave the Board a brief update on the Town operations.

6. Minutes - (Votes May Be Taken)

- A. May 4, 2020 5 pm
- B. May 11, 2020 6 pm
- C. May 18, 2020 5 pm

Move that the Select Board approve the minutes of:

May 4, 2020 5pm (Special) [] as printed [x] with changes so noted
 May 11, 2020 6pm (Regular) [] as printed [x] with changes so noted
 May 18, 2020 5pm (Special) [] as printed [x] with changes so noted

Motion: David Abramson
Second: John Golden

Roll Call

David Abramson: Aye
Robert Anthony: Aye
John Golden: Aye
Lise King: Aye
Louise Venden: Aye

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

A. Pending Items List

- **Lise Kings** – I have been reached out to by local businesses who are concerned about COVID-19. We are all figuring this out as we go. Encourages everyone to keep up the dialog and apricates everyone contacting me and the other Board members. The more that are engaged in the conversation the better we can all be informed about what everyone is going through.
- **Louise Venden** – Want to thank Liz Paine, for her time and helping Robin out. Beyond that I want to mention the Cape Cod Times article on complicating plans for Cape Cod Hurricane Season. If we could have communication included about planning. I hope we can all be kinder to each other.
- **John Golden** – We need to keep working on keeping things going. We need to work together with people in the town so things keep going.
- **Robert Anthony** – I have nothing.
- **David Abramson** – I have nothing as well.

Motion to Adjourn
 Motion: John Golden
 Seconded: Robert Anthony

Roll Call

David Abramson: Aye

Robert Anthony: Aye

John Golden: Aye

Lise King: Aye

Louise Venden: Aye

Without objection the meeting was adjourned at 9:31 pm

Minutes transcribed by: Elizabeth Paine