

**TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN – SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES – REGULAR MEETING
JULY 12, 2021, 6:00 PM
TOWN HALL – JUDGE WELSH ROOM**

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

Excused:

Other attendees: Town Manager Alex Morse and Secretary to the Select Board Elizabeth Paine

Recorder: Elizabeth Paine

Chair Abramson convened the open meeting at 6:01 pm

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

- A. Per Town Manager Alex Morse’s contract, the Select Board acknowledges the parties have had discussions to ensure a successful transition after 90 days from the Town Manager’s start date.*
- B. Approval of eligibility certificate and Affordable Housing Deed Restriction for 36 Nelson Ave. #3.*
- C. Proclaim Sunday August 15th 2021 to Saturday, August 21, 2021 Somewhere Over the Rainbow Week in recognition of the 43rd Annual Carnival Week in all of Provincetown.*
- D. Approve parade permit application submitted by Jess Venable-Novak on behalf of Family Equality’s Annual Family Pride Parade to be held on Friday, July 30, 2021, starting at 2 pm.*
- E. Continued from June 28, 2021 Select Board Meeting: Amend Beach Seating License for Sal’s Restaurant at 99 Commercial Street.*
- F. Appoint Daniel Hammond to the Community Preservation Committee as a regular member with a term to expire on June 30, 2024.*
- G. Appoint Robert Sweetman to the Human Services Committee as a regular member with a term to expire on June 30, 2022.*

Select Board Member Louise Venden requested 00A and 00E to be pulled.

Except for 00A and 00E, Chair Abramson declared the consent agenda approved.

00A – Member Venden asked for the item to be pulled because she hoped that there would be further discussion and highlight some of the success he has accomplished, so to inform the public.

Move to approve 00A

Motion: John Golden Seconded: Robert Anthony

Voted

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 1

00E – Member Venden – issues remain the same. The judgement has not yet been rendered from the court has not been given yet and feels the Select Board should stay out of this and continue it until the judgement has been given.

KP Law Atty Amy Kwesell talked to the Select Board about the preliminary injunction. It could change but for the time being, there should be no tables and chairs licensed by the town to be placed in front of 101 Commercial.

Move that the Select Board vote to continue 00E until the decision of Land Court is reached or Nov 1, 2021.

Motion: Louise Venden

Seconded: John Golden

Voted

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

At the Chair's discretion, Chair Abramson has asked for Town Manager Alex Morse to address directly some of the facts and information on COVID 19 cases in Town. The Town is in direct communication with the department of health and outer cape health, as well as State Representatives. The Town continues to follow CDC Guidelines and staying up to date with the data. At this time, not recommending any policy changes. Individuals can still get tested at Outer Cape Health. The Select Board members thanked TM Morse for the update.

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

- **Sydney Cummings** – Requested the Select Board remove the Blue Economy signage that has been placed right in front of her mother's memorial bench which obstructs the view of the waterfront.
- **Speaker** – Speaking in support of having the Blue Economy signage removed.
- **Brian DeLaurentis** – 24-year resident – here to urge you to have a special meeting to consider the parade permit submitted by the PBG and myself to have a Carnival Parade.
- **Tom Thomas** – Understands that the Governor has opened up Town buildings to business as usual. For those of us who use Town Hall in a personal way, should be business as usual. You should be able to come and do business in Town Hall as usual. I think it represents a hardship for those who do not have internet.
- **Speaker** – Speaking in support of removing the Blue Economy signage in front of Ms. Cummings mother's bench. Requests that all of the Blue Economy signage removed from the Town.
- **Melissa Fallen** – Part-time resident – speaking in concerns about the increase of the resident tax exemption. Is listed under housing goals, but it doesn't generate more money, it simply is offset. Asking the Board not to increase the residential tax exemption and pursue a tax plan to those who need it.
- **Laura Rood** – Like to say how impressed she is with Town Manager's Morse's communications. Excellent presentation on COVID. Residential Tax Exemption is simply divisiveness; it just feels like one more slap.
- **Amanda Scheirer** – There are concerns among parents due to the lack of spaces at the WeeCare. Realizes that the this falls under the School Committee, but the Town just approved a huge increase but due to lack of hiring, there are not enough spaces for the working parents in town.
- **Speaker** – Concerned about increasing the residential tax rate exemption. I don't think giving larger tax breaks for full time residents are the right steps to address the housing issues. In Florida, there is a homestead exemption of a set amount. Would suggest a more direct way to deal with the housing shortage.
- **Steve P** – Provincetown resident, this emption does not add any more money to the town. Does not support increasing the residential tax exemption.
- **Scott Van Hove** – Part time resident and homeowner – despite the large financial contribution that part timers make to the town, certain officials continue to block part timer from serving on FINCOM. It perplexes me as to why there is a continue battle between part timers and full timers.

- **Bill Barry** – Full time Provincetown Resident – calling to give support to Ms. Cummings to have the structure in front of her mother’s bench removed.
- **Pat Miller** – Part time resident and homeowner – does not believe increasing the residential tax exemption benefit creation of housing. All that happened in the creation of the exemption is created divisiveness.
- **Scott** – Member of PRRTA – wanted to make the Select Board know that the entire PRRTA is onboard with the president’s view. Personally, in favor of the Select Board taking a look at it.

2. Select Board Member’s Opening Statements – Five (5) minutes maximum.

- **John Golden** – Wanted to say I hear Ms. Cummings issue with the bench loud and clear. There is also an issue on the pier that I find problematic. As far as COVID stuff that is going on, this is here, we are going to see a COVID season. Take care of yourself and how you want to present in the Town with what you do. If you have concerns, I would suggest wearing a mask. This is all about personal responsibility and taking care of oneself. Other comments to make later.
- **Louise Venden** – I want to thank Tom Donegan for serving on Boards and Committees on this Town. He served for 6 years on the Select Board, he also served on the Finance Committee as well as the first Select Board member to serve on the Year Round Market Rate Rental Housing Trust. He was my mentor. Tom was the kind of public servant we need. He improved this town. Support for the arts. One thing that Tom and I spoke about a lot was people of color and the issues they had to deal with. I think the Town is better for the dedicated service Tom gave this town.
- **Robert Anthony** – These signs all over Town have created a controversy in Town. I would like to have a meeting with the Harbor Committee and Rex. At this point these signs have become an obstruction.
- **Leslie Sandberg** – I want to express an apology to Ms. Cummings for the insensitive placement of the Blue Economy signage. It needs to be removed. We need to have more communication between committees and Town Staff. It is the unintended consequences that occur when we do not communicate more effectively. Also want everyone to be aware that we have COVID here, let’s be smart about things and if there is a large gathering, think about whether or not you should have a mask. As John said, personal responsibility.
- **David Abramson** – Will yield my time as we have a large agenda.

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

A. Harbor Committee: Elise Cozzi (Reappointment), David Flattery (Reappointment), Laura Ludwig Mayo (Reappointment) and Regina Binder (New)

The Select Board interviewed the applicants; Elise Cozzi, David Flattery, Laura Ludwig and Regina Binder, asking each of them to discuss why they have decided to reapply or apply to the Harbor Committee, thoughts on Jet Skis, how they feel the animosity between the Harbor Committee and the Provincetown Public Pier Corporation can be improved, and what each candidate feels they bring or could bring to the committee. Member of the Select Board expressed concerns with meeting not being recorded, certain members conduct towards employees down at the pier as well as the petitioned article signed and submitted by Harbor Committee Members to dissolve the PPPC. Vice Chair John Golden proposed delaying the vote of appointing anyone on the committee until the next Select Board meeting.

Move to postpone the appointments until our next meeting.

Motion: John Golden

Secondary: Robert Anthony

John Golden – I have listened to Harbor Committee meetings, and I am very concerned about the behavior happening at some of the Harbor Committee meetings.

Louise Venden – I agree with John. There has been a history of being nonproductive. I believe the Town Manager and this board want to work through the working relationship of these boards. I believe we need to bring on new people. But I would like to see appointments made this evening.

Robert Anthony – we have had a lot of controversy. I agree with John. If we are just going to roll the dice and not look through the hourglass and look at the individuals who want to be on the committee. We should be very careful with who we appoint. Some of the statements that were made tonight by Leslie about the Chair, it really boggles my mind.

Voted

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 1(lv)

Abstain: 0

4. 7 PM Public Hearings – (Votes may be taken on the following items):

A. Consideration of Building Department Fee changes, including a lower fee for Outdoor Display Permits- Assistant Town Manager for Community Development David Gardner.

Assistant Town Manager David Gardner presented for staff. This is a two-part request. First is the fee for an outdoor display and second the changes to the building department fees. Fee increases are based on staff analysis. Member Venden asked if other fees have been looked at. Building Commissioner Howard reviewed other town's fee schedule. The building department has been able to pay the part-time inspectors out of the building permit fees. Feels the Town needs to do an analyst of all the Building Permits fee schedule as most towns are moving towards a square footage fee. This will allow us to compensate our inspectors at a more comparable rate. This is the first of any change since 2005. Happy to return next year with an analyst of all the building permits fees. Member Venden requesting that this item be tabled until a look at the cost that the department will need to achieve hiring staff to function as a department.

Move that the Select Board continue the public hearing on the electrical permit until September 13, 2021, at 7 pm.

Motion: Louise Venden

Seconded: Robert Anthony

VOTED

In Favor: 5

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

NO public comment on outdoor display fee.

MOVE that the Select Board vote to approve the outdoor display fee of \$150,

Motion: Leslie Sandberg

Second: Louise Venden

VOTED

In Favor: 5
Opposed: 0
Abstain: 0

5. Town Manager's Report

Town Manager Alex Morse gave a brief presentation of the Town Manger's report.

6. Requests – (Votes may be taken on the following items):

A. Financial Management Review- State's Technical Assistance Bureau Representatives Jared Curtis and Zack Blake

Project Manager Jared Curtis and Chief of Technical Assistance Bureau Zack Black presented to the Select Board the analyst of the review of financial management review. They interviewed persons within the organization and evaluated financial management structures. They have new recommendations that the town should be implementing and highlighted changes that the town has made.

B. Update on Police Station Project- Jorge Cruz of Flansburgh Architects and Paul Millett of Environmental Partners

Town Manager Alex Morse introduced Jorge Cruz and Paul Milliett, who went through the design phase of the project. They presented a recap of 2018 to present. Mr. Cruz also presented the placement of the building on the property as well as the floor plan of the proposed police station. Mr. Cruz also presented different roof options as well as changes made to windows and chimneys. He also presented the Building Committees preferences for the exterior design. Mr. Millett reviewed the updated cost and schedule for the police station project. The Select Board thanked the building committee in their efforts in moving this project forward. Stressed the need to go out into the public and engage the public to see what they think of the view of the building. Building Committee Chair Sheila McGuinness and Paul Kelly were also present at the meeting, they discussed with the Select Board the process the committee went through to come to the current recommendation.

C. Marijuana update – Presented by Assistant Town Manager David Gardner

Assistant Town Manager David Gardner sought direction from the Select Board to see whether or not the Select Board wish continue to allow the Town Manager to enter into more Marijuana Host Agreements.

Move that the Select Board vote to continue to grant the Town Manager the authority to enter into marijuana host agreements and further direct the Town Manager to address compliance issues with zoning bylaws and further direct the tm to address traffic and public consumption

Motion: David Abramson

Second: john

Vote 4-0-1(ls)

D. Review of Town Goals/Select Board Goals and Town Manager Goals- Town Manager Alex Morse

The board decided scheduling a 5 pm special meeting prior to their next regular special meeting.

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

- **John Golden** – Over the weekend was in a conversation with a black man and while we were talking someone walked by and said “blah blah blah”. It was very racist.
- **Louise Venden** – Once again John Golden bring up something I did and I was saying this in jest to a man I know. And for you to call me racist, I am walking out.
- **Robert Anthony** – all set.
- **Leslie Sandberg** – thank you.
- **David Abramson** – all set.

Member Venden has left the meeting at 10:01 pm.

Motion to adjourn.

Motion: John Golden

Second: Robert Anthony

VOTED

In Favor: 4

Opposed: 0

Abstain: 0

Meeting ended at pm 10:02

Minutes transcribed by Elizabeth Paine