

Date: January 4, 2021

Date Minutes Approved: January 11, 2021

TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

2021 JAN 12 AM 9:10 **OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

DUXBURY, MASS.

Present: Theodore J. Flynn, Chair; David J. Madigan, Vice Chair; and Amy M. MacNab, Clerk

Staff: René Read, Town Manager; John Q. Adams, Finance Director; and Nancy O'Connor, Executive Assistant

Others:

CONVENED IN OPEN SESSION (*via remote participation of the Board members and staff*)

I. CALL TO ORDER This meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 pm.
This Open Meeting is being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Virus. In order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, we have been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible physical location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely. The Order, which you can find posted on our agenda, allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. For public access – please email at occonnor@town.duxbury.ma.us or call-in at 781-934-1100 x5400 for questions or comments. This meeting is convening via Zoom video conference produced and recorded by PACTV, and can be viewed live on the Duxbury Government Access Channels – Verizon 39 or Comcast 15; or for those without cable, on PACTV's Prime streaming channel at PACTV.org/LIVE. This meeting will then be available via video on-demand on PACTV's website.

II OPEN FORUM/PUBLIC COMMENTS: No official "open forum" as these are remote meetings. No public comments via phone calls or emails were received during this meeting.

III. NEW BUSINESS

7:05pm Water & Sewer Commissioners – Marshfield Commitment 2021-1

Ms. MacNab moved that the Board of Selectmen adjourn the meeting as Selectmen in order to meet as the Water & Sewer Commissioners, with the intent of re-convening as Selectmen afterward.

Seconded by Mr. Madigan. Mr. Flynn-Aye; Mr. Madigan-Aye; Ms. MacNab-Aye

This is the commitment to collect the amount billed to the Town of Marshfield for Marshfield Residents receiving Duxbury Water.

Ms. MacNab moved that the Board of Water & Sewer Commissioners instruct the Treasurer to collect the total amount of \$30,005.15 for water charges for Commitment M-2021-1.

Seconded by Mr. Madigan. Mr. Flynn-Aye; Mr. Madigan-Aye; Ms. MacNab-Aye

Ms. MacNab moved that the Board adjourn their meeting as Water & Sewer Commissioners and reconvene as Selectmen.

Seconded by Mr. Madigan. Mr. Flynn-Aye; Mr. Madigan-Aye; Ms. MacNab-Aye

IV. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Mr. Read provided the following update:

Duxbury Beach – Snowy Owls

Following both the Christmas weekend and New Year's Day holiday, we have observed a significant uptick in activity on Duxbury Beach due to snowy owl sightings. Pedestrians were observed multiple times walking through the dunes, people were parking along the roadside (not in the pullouts) and people were going far too close to the birds. Each of these actions are clear violations of the Duxbury Beach Rules and Regs.

We have notified the Environmental Police to assist with the harassment of wildlife issues at the beach and we anticipate that they will be able to help. In the meantime, we have also instructed the harbor master department to increase their patrols at the beach and to document any and all directed patrols as well as any interactions they have at the beach. The Police Department has posted beach rule reminders and safe bird watching recommendations out on our social media sites.

Stickers are required to visit the beach. Visitors may drive along the road and utilize a pull-out but they should not be blocking the road nor should people leave their cars to see the birds which can be seen from their vehicles. Visitors need to understand that any illegally parked cars or prohibited activities (such as crossing or walking into the dune) could constitute sufficient reason for citation from the enforcement officials assisting the town.

Mr. Read also included that he spoke with Cris Luttazi, Executive Director of the Duxbury Beach Reservation, regarding putting up informational signs regarding Snowy Owl facts and viewing. The signage encourages viewers to not approach owls resting, do not force owls to fly for a photo, to stay in your vehicle while photographing, leave the owls undisturbed, and to stay on the road, beach or fenced pathways (not the dunes). There is also a reminder that Snowy Owls are protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act.

Ms. MacNab mentioned the importance of strict compliance with our rules and regulations so the DBR can be granted their permit. Otherwise, being out of compliance jeopardizes that permit granted by the State. Ms. MacNab implores visitors to follow the rules. She continued to say that, if necessary, citations should be issued to cease non-compliant activity as we cannot risk losing our access to the beach.

COVID-19 Update

The acceleration rate in the number of cases we are seeing on a daily basis is alarming. We used to get 4, 5 or 6 cases a day. We've been seeing double digits for going on 2 weeks now. The ages range from under 1 year to people in their 80's.

The Town of Duxbury has been informed that as of today's date, there have been a total of 515 positive cases of COVID-19 in our community which is an increase of 146 cases from the previous update provided on Friday, December 18, 2020. That's a 40% percent increase. Of these cases, 429 of these individuals have fully recovered. Sadly, 13 individuals have died as a result of having Coronavirus (COVID-19).

Today we posted information on the Town's website:

[When can I get the COVID-19 vaccine? | Mass.gov](#)

It's happening everywhere. Parties, restaurants, sporting events, from family interactions, you name it. With COVID cases surging worse than ever, getting vaccinated is one of the most important things we can do. But until the vaccine is widely available, socially distancing and wearing masks will actually save even more lives, and alleviate the pressure on healthcare workers in our communities. The trick of getting the vaccine is actually living to the date you can receive it. Be smart and be safe - wear a mask, stay socially distant, wash your hands.

Mr. Flynn asked if there will be an announcement about vaccinations. Mr. Read responded that he has been in communication with Tracy Mayo, Health Agent, and that the State is still trying to figure out dispensing sites. He confirms that information will be pushed out once received.

Hiring Freeze/Frost

Mr. Read suggested that this topic be added to the next meeting's agenda, which will include staffing vacancies and anticipated openings in the hiring pipeline and to better understand the staffing process. Ms. MacNab thought this would be discussed this evening; however, Mr. Read responded that Ms. Jeannie Horne, HR Director, is currently in the process of compiling the information, which he will thoroughly review prior to presenting to the Selectmen.

V COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS None

VI ONE-DAY LIQUOR LICENSE REQUESTS - None

VII EVENT PERMITS - None

VIII MINUTES

Ms. MacNab mentioned that she had a few edits for the Executive Session minutes. The minutes will be revised and presented at the next Selectmen's meeting for approval.

Ms. MacNab moved that the Board of Selectmen approves the 12/21/20 Selectmen's Open Session Minutes, as presented.

Seconded by Mr. Madigan. Mr. Flynn-Aye; Mr. Madigan-Aye; Ms. MacNab-Aye

IX ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) 2021 Dog Licenses:

The 2021 Dog Licenses and walking permits are now available. Reminder: Massachusetts General Laws require that every dog over the age of 6 months be licensed. Dog Licenses can be obtained online or via US mail. Proof of a current rabies vaccination must be provided if it is not already on file with the Town Clerk. Any questions, please call the Town Clerk's office at 781-934-1100 x5450 or visit the Town Clerk's webpage on the Town's website.

2) Next Scheduled Selectmen's Meeting will be on Monday, January 11, 2021 at 7pm

X ADJOURNMENT

Ms. MacNab moved that at approximately 7:26PM, the Board of Selectmen adjourn.

Seconded by Ms. MacNab Roll Call Vote: Mr. Flynn-Aye; Mr. Madigan-Aye; and Ms. MacNab-Aye

Minutes submitted by Nancy O'Connor

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- 1) Agenda*
- 2) Water & Sewer Commissioners Agenda and Marshfield Water Commitment 2021-1*
- 3) Minutes*
- 4) Announcements*