

**Date:** January 24, 2022

**Date Minutes Approved:** 01/31/2022

TOWN CLERK

2022 FEB -1 AM 10:57

DUXBURY, MASS.

OPEN SESSION MINUTES

## **BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

**Present:** Amy M. MacNab, Chair; Cynthia Ladd Fiorini, Clerk; Theodore J. Flynn; and Michael McGee

**Absent:** Fernando Guitart, Vice Chair

**Staff:** René Read, Town Manager; and Michelle Seda-Stotts, Administrative Assistant to Town Manager/Board of Selectmen

**Others:** Alicia Palmieri Babcock, Seawall Committee-Chair; Stephen Callahan, Seawall Comm. Member; Candace Martin, Seawall Committee-Vice-Chair; Donald Norris, Seawall Comm. Member; Mary Shrieber, Seawall Comm. Member; Tim Spellman, Seawall Comm. Member; Cris Luttazi, Duxbury Beach Reservation (via Remote); Valarie Massard, Planning Board (via Remote); and Leslie Fields, Woods Hole Group.

## **CONVENED IN OPEN SESSION (*Via remote participation by Zoom*)**

**I. CALL TO ORDER** This meeting was called to order at approximately 7:00 pm. Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote means in accordance with applicable law. Please note that this meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless required by law. A transcript or other comprehensive record of proceedings will be available as soon as possible after the meeting. Members of the public who wish to watch the meeting may do so by viewing the Duxbury Government Access Channels – Verizon 39 or Comcast 15. Viewers can visit [www.pactv.org/duxbury](http://www.pactv.org/duxbury) for information about Duxbury programming including streaming on Duxbury You Tube, to watch replays and Video on Demand.

## **II PLEDGE OF ALLIGIANCE**

## **III OPEN FORUM PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No comments from the public.

## **IV NEW BUSINESS**

### ***Discussion with and presentation by the Seawall Committee – presented by Alicia Palmieri Babcock***

Ms. Palmieri Babcock began the presentation by discussing the Beach Nourishment and where they are at with the easements. Out of 66 residents they have 50 signed easements with the deadline being this Friday (1/28/22). There was a slight miscommunication regarding the deadline and they are working to get it done before the February 4<sup>th</sup> deadline. Ms. Palmieri Babcock was hopeful, with everyone on the Seawall Committee working to get it done. Ms. Palmieri Babcock gave a brief report on the current conditions of the walls stating that there needs to be a call to action. There is continued flooding on Gurnet Road and storm surges are battering the walls making them compromised. At that point she

introduced Mr. Steve Callahan, resident of 12 Bay Avenue, who discussed in detail the conditions at Bay Avenue. Mr. Callahan discussed the breach at Cable Hill and described it like a horseshoe. The good news is that the sectioned replaced is working.

Ms. Candace Martin, Seawall Committee – Vice Chair and resident of 59 Gurnet Road, discussed the various phases of the rebuilding plan, stating that the first phase had been completed in 2020 and phase 2 was their next priority. Ms. Martin discussed the two options for the Phasing plan, stating that option 1 would save them \$4,105,500. At that point Ms. Martin placed a Warrant Article request. Ms. Martin stated that the project was 100% Shovel ready and would like to see it put into the FY23 Budget along with seeking out Grant Funding requests. Ms. MacNab stated that the next step was the sand nourishments and getting the easements for such. Ms. Massard commented that the state is in the process of meeting the next steps. Ms. Palmieri Babcock recommended using the services of Mr. Chris Spillman, CSA Consulting Group, to acquire such grants like the BRIC Grant (Building Resilient Infrastructure and Communities), which is a FEMA product in the amount of \$50m reimbursing 75% requiring a 25% local match. He has already been instrumental in getting things started. It was suggested to consider another article for matching funds. Ms. Ladd Fiorini clarified that we would need a local match of \$12.5m for this grant proposal. Mr. Read suggested Mr. Spillman write a grant that would include payment of his services. Mr. Adams commented that a 30b exemption does not apply for federal grants. Ms. Massard mentioned that the deadline for this year's BRIC funding had passed and the next deadline would be coming in the Fall of 2022. Mr. Flynn recommended getting Leslie Fields and Valerie Massard to find out more to get Seawall to the next level. Ms. MacNab suggested creating articles that would put monies aside on a yearly basis for these issues. Mr. Flynn agreed. Mr. Adams stated they need to figure out what they want and need, and to develop a plan. Ms. Massard stated that there are lots of possibilities with government grants and we should utilize Ms. Fields' expertise is in developing something for both. We need to do the math and evaluate the value of the beach. The Board of Selectmen agreed to support the Seawall Committee and to meet to discuss possibilities and strategy possibly along with Mr. Spillman and Ms. Fields. Ms. MacNab requested Mr. Read to look at putting this topic back on the agenda in a couple of weeks. Mr. McGee thanked the Seawall Committee for everything and bringing this forward for discussion. Ms. Palmieri Babcock inquired about where they stood with their requests. Ms. MacNab replied yes, to the first request, and for the 2<sup>nd</sup> request, they should get a summary from Ms. Massard, Ms. Fields and Ms. Luttazi. Ms. Palmieri Babcock was happy that they were considering Mr. Spillman for the grant writing. Mr. Read mentioned that the articles needed to be closed tonight. Ms. Palmieri Babcock opened the discussion about the Seawall's Charge. Mr. Read still does not feel the charge needs to change and as he had mentioned in his Memo dated 7/20/18, nothing has changed. Mr. Flynn agreed. Mr. McGee wants to think about it. Ms. MacNab agreed as well. Mr. Read said he had placed the matching grant fund request in the Special Town Meeting Warrants. Mr. Read sent the draft Warrants and Articles to Board of Selectmen via email. Mr. McGee inquired about attending the FC and FAC meetings, in which Mr. Read said that would be fine we would just have to work out minutes of the meetings with Ms. Clancy.

## **V TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

### **Jim Dowd Retirement**

Last week I neglected to mention – and I sincerely apologize for not having mentioned this earlier – that one of our longest serving employees had retired - part-time building inspector Jim Dowd. In 1987, following his retirement as a voc-tech teacher, Jim was initially hired as a part-time Building



Inspector to work during the summer. However, he successfully continued on in this role and served the Town of Duxbury for 34 years. Jim is one of a handful of employees still working for the Town who worked under four Town Managers – my three predecessors Tom Groux, Rocco Longo and Richard MacDonald. He has my sincerest congratulations and deepest gratitude and we all wish him a long, healthy and happy retirement.

### **Gordon Cushing Retirement**

Another retirement is on the horizon – that of our long time Recreation Director Gordon Cushing who notified this morning of his retirement this coming August. Gordon has served the Town for 37 years has truly seen it all and done it all in his role. He essentially created the department, developed and grew new departmental programs, oversaw a terrific staff and will be leaving the department in wonderful shape which will continue to serve the Town well for many years to come. He has my sincerest congratulations and best wishes for a long, healthy and happy retirement.

### **Rapid COVID-19 Tests**

Next week the Town will be receiving approximately 11,000 rapid COVID tests through the Plymouth County CARES Program.

The Duxbury Fire Department is currently developing a distribution plan to make these tests available to Town residents. Additional information will be coming and made available through media and social media outlets.

Mr. McGee commented that he would like to prioritize recipients of test to the elderly.

Ms. MacNab commented that she is speechless and shocked to hear about Mr. Cushing retiring, it is a great loss to the Town of Duxbury. Ms. Ladd Fiorini would like to comment that she has not resigned her seat, as she had previously been informed.

### ***Discussion and Vote to close Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants (Date: March 12, 2022)***

Ms. Ladd Fiorini moved that the Board of Selectmen close the March 12, 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

*Seconded by Mr. Flynn Roll Call Vote: Ms. MacNab-Aye; Mr. McGee-Aye; Ms. Ladd Fiorini-Aye; and Mr. Flynn-Aye*

## **VI COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS**

Ms. Ladd Fiorini moved that the Board of Selectmen accept the resignation of Mr. Matt Cooney and Mr. Marc Peterman from the Alternative Energy Committee; and Ms. Sheila Lynch Benttinen of the Historical Commission. Ms. Ladd Fiorini thanked all the committee members for their service and wished them well.

*Seconded by Mr. Flynn Roll Call Vote: Ms. MacNab-Aye; Mr. McGee-Aye; Ms. Ladd Fiorini-Aye; and Mr. Flynn-Aye*

**The following boards/committees have available seats:**

Affordable Housing Trust	-	one seat
Alternative Energy Committee	-	two seats
Design Review Board	-	one Alternate seat
Duxbury Bay Mgmt Commission	-	two seats
Duxbury Seawall Committee	-	one seat
Local Historical Commission	-	one seat
Nuclear Advisory Committee	-	one seat

*Comments: If anyone is interested in volunteering on a board or committee, you are encouraged to fill out a Talent Bank form, which can be found on the Town's website under the Employment & Volunteering tab.*

**VII ONE-DAY LIQUOR LICENSE REQUESTS      None**

**VIII EVENT PERMITS      None**

**IX MINUTES**

Ms. Ladd Fiorini moved to approve the 01/10/2022 Selectmen's Open Session Minutes, as presented.

*Seconded by Mr. Flynn    Roll Call Vote: Ms. MacNab-Aye; Mr. McGee-Aye; Ms. Ladd Fiorini-Aye; and Mr. Flynn-Aye*

**X ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**1) Waiting Lists for Commercial Mussel & Razor Clam Licenses:**

The waiting lists for Commercial Mussel and Razor Clam Licenses are posted in the Selectmen's office for interested residents. A reminder for those individuals already on the Waiting Lists for Commercial Mussel and Razor Clam Licenses must renew their application annually within the month of January.

**2) The following offices will be on the ballot for the election on March 12, 2022:**

**one** Selectmen for a term of three years  
**one** Assessor for a term of three years  
**one** Moderator for a term of three years  
**one** Town Clerk for a term of three years  
**two** School Committee Member for a term of three years  
**one** Planning Board Member for a term of five years  
**one** Planning Board Member for an unexpired term of one year  
**two** Library Trustees for a term of three years  
**one** Housing Authority Member for a term of five years  
**one** Housing Authority Member for an unexpired term of three years

Please email Town Clerk, Susan Kelley, at [kelley@duxbury-ma.gov](mailto:kelley@duxbury-ma.gov) to request nomination papers. 50 signatures of registered voters that have been certified by the town clerk are required to appear on the ballot. Nomination papers are due back to the Town Clerk by Friday, February 4<sup>th</sup>.

**3) Voting by Mail for Annual Town Election:**

The State Legislature extended the Vote by Mail option for town elections scheduled prior to March 31. Anyone wishing to cast a ballot by mail may download an application from the Town Clerk's page on the website or pick up a form at the back door of Town Hall, sign and return. Ballots will be mailed to voters as soon as they are available – typically 3 weeks before the election.

**4) Next Scheduled Selectmen's Meeting will be on Monday, January 31, 2022 at 7:00pm.**

**XI ADJOURNMENT**

Ms. Ladd Fiorini moved that the Board of Selectmen adjourn at approximately 9:32pm.

*Seconded by Mr. Flynn Roll Call Vote: Ms. MacNab-Aye; Mr. McGee-Aye; Ms. Ladd Fiorini-Aye; and Mr. Flynn-Aye*

*Minutes submitted by Michelle Seda-Stotts*

*LIST OF DOCUMENTS*

- 1) BOS Agenda*
- 2) Seawall Committee presentation and information*
- 3) Motion to close Annual and Special Town Meeting Warrants*
- 4) Committee Resignation*
- 5) Minutes*
- 6) Announcements*