

Date: November 22, 2021

Date Minutes Approved: December 6, 2021

TOWN CLERK

2021 DEC -7 AM 10:12

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

DUXBURY, MASS. **OPEN SESSION MINUTES**

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

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

Others: Paul Brogna, Co-Chair, Highway Safety Advisory Committee; Jeff Lewis, Co-Chair, HSAC; Peter Buttkus, DPW Director; Deputy Chief Rob Reardon, Fire Dept.; Ronit Goldstein, Community Relations, Eversource; Bill Richey, VP Field Ops (Incident Commander)Eversource; Maarten Hemsley, Duxbury for All.

CONVENED IN OPEN SESSION (*In-person in the Mural Room and via remote participation*)

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 in person and, as a courtesy, via remote means in accordance with applicable law. Please note that while an option for remote attendance and/or participation is being provided as a courtesy to the public and board members, the meeting/hearing will not be suspended or terminated if technological problems interrupt the virtual broadcast, unless required by law. 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 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 regarding October Storm Operations with Ronit Goldstein, Community Relations and Economic Development, Eversource

Ronit Goldstein and Bill Richey, VP Field Ops (Incident Commander) where there to address any questions. Mr. Read shared the Memo written by Chief Kevin Nord, EM regarding the events of the October storm. Mr. Buttkus mentioned the big lag and delay in response time from Eversource. Mr. Guitart commented that Town crews couldn't start to clear roads because they were blocked and there was insufficient communication as to when Eversource would be there to clear lines for access to roads.

Mr. Richey responded that they were trying to established the Town's Estimated Time of Restoration (ETR), because the storm lasted longer than expected it was difficult to get crews out. There was also a

lot of external help coming that took longer to reach us because of the storm and that impacted the ETR. Mr. McGee commented on the Eversource Rep not arriving until mid-afternoon on Wednesday, October 27th, and asked if this was the reason crews were not dispatched. Mr. Richey responded that communication could have been better but the distance crews were traveling was the issue. Ms. McNab stated that part of DPW's problem was that their crews couldn't start clearing because of downed lines that may have been still live. There needs to be a clearer process to address the roads that are more impactful to the Town. Mr. Guitart stated that the Rep needs to be brought in sooner. The discussion continued about line crews and including the DPW and FD to get things running collectively. Mr. Read stated that ground crews were not getting information to the Rep. Mr. McGee commented on future storms and what is being done to fix poles that are hazardous. Ms. Goldstein stated that after each storm they do patrol the area after the storm, however, Ms. Ladd Fiorini stated that there are still transformers that have not been picked up. Ms. Goldstein stated that communication is key to getting roads open so that we can restore power quickly. Better coordination and communication are what is needed and what Eversource is trying to achieve.

Resident, John Balboni, asked if they experienced power surges and if it affected other customers like himself. He lost several appliances due to the surges. Mr. Richey stated that precautions are taken to insure everything is working and there are procedures in place to deal with power re-distribution. He was not aware of any power surges.

Kim Panton, a local business owner, wanted to know how do they prioritize local businesses in the ETR. Many businesses in town lost thousands in products and need to be restored in a timely manner. Mr. Richey stated that customers are looked at as a whole and unfortunately storms have increased in frequency and in strength. Mr. Flynn and Mr. Guitart would like to see the report of when trucks actually made it into Town. Ms. MacNab asked if they would consider putting the lines underground. Ms. Goldstein responded that due to the costs the residents would have to bear; and the time and restoration of power, it would seem unlikely. Mr. Buttkus inquired about the damage around the lines and when will vegetation management be done. Ms. Goldstein said yes, they will be doing post storm work, along with DPW to clear up low hanging branches and trees. Ms. Goldstein also agreed to schedule an after-action meeting to discuss further the ways to improve the ETR for the next storm in the Town of Duxbury. Ms. MacNab thanked them for coming to discuss some of the recent storm issues.

Discussion pertaining to adding a Stop Sign at Myrtle Street

Mr. Brogna spoke on behalf of the Highway Safety Advisory Committee (HSAC), currently there is a STOP sign at this intersection for the traffic traveling on North Street. The Myrtle Street traffic currently does not stop. Residents of the area requested the addition of the STOP signs. After further review by the HSAC, it was deemed warranted due to speed of the traffic and the restricted sight lines for vehicles approaching the intersection along Myrtle Street.

Ms. Ladd Fiorini moved that the Board of Selectmen authorize, in accordance with the provisions of Chapter 89, Section 9 of the General Laws, the following street be designated as a stop street at the intersection and in the direction indicated:

Myrtle Street - two STOP Signs to be installed in the eastbound and westbound directions, at the intersection with North Street and that the Traffic Rules and Orders are hereby amended.

Seconded by Mr. Flynn Vote: 5:0:0

Discussion pertaining to Speed Limit reductions – Snug Harbor business district and Soule Avenue

Mr. Brogna, Co-Chair of the HSAC, had spoken with various residents in Snug Harbor and deemed the further reduction was warranted for traffic safety. Ms. Sheehan, a resident of Duxbury, commented that there is currently no Stop Sign for street traffic and asked if there would be one in the future. Mr. Brogna replied that it will be reviewed and the Stop lines re-painted.

Ms. Ladd Fiorini moved that the Board of Selectmen vote to accept the recommendation of the Highway Safety Advisory Committee to designate Washington Street in the Snug Harbor area, from the Windsor House as the southern limit to approximately 200 feet north of Mattakeesett Court as the northerly limit, as a “Safety Zone” and reduce the speed limit to 20 mph, as they find this road meets the criteria as allowed by Section 194 of Chapter 218 of the Acts of 2016 under Chapter 90, Section 18B, and further to authorize the Chair to sign and send notice of action to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT).

Seconded by Mr. Flynn Vote: 5:0:0

Mr. Brogna, Co-Chair of the HSAC, found that Soule Avenue meets the thickly settled criteria set forth in the section noted and recommends the speed limit should be implemented along the full length of this roadway. Ms. MacNab commented that it is a hazardous intersection. Mr. Brogna said they would look at again to see what else can be done.

Ms. Ladd Fiorini moved that the Board of Selectmen vote to accept the recommendation of the Highway Safety Advisory Committee to reduce the speed limit from 30mph to 25mph on Soule Avenue, as they find this road meets the criteria as allowed by Section 193 Chapter 218 of the acts of 2016, under Chapter 90 Section 17C, and further to authorize the Chair to sign and send notice of action to the Massachusetts Department of Transportation (MassDOT).

Seconded by Mr. Flynn Vote: 5:0:0

Update from Board member Cynthia Ladd Fiorini regarding D.A.R.I (Duxbury Afghan Resettlement Initiative)

Ms. Ladd Fiorini presented the “Welcome to Duxbury - The Afghan resettlement initiative Select Board Update” stating they should be arriving in the beginning of December. Much work went into getting ready for their arrival. Currently there are 19,000 families being placed in US communities. D.A.R.I decided to go with Catholic Charities since they are the official refugee settlement agency. D.A.R.I. created and launched Signup Genius to help furnish the house, including food and supplies. They also launched a Gofundme page and raised \$15,025 of \$30,000, long term goal. They have about 40 volunteers, organized into specific teams. They also launched a YouTube channel with training materials and are using the Slapp App for team communications and coordination. They provided education for team members on do’s and don’ts on Afghan culture and interacting with the Afghan

family. They reached out to local communities of faith through the Duxbury Interfaith Council. There are many things that go into settling the family in, such as: housing, health, education, employment, community connections, documentation and citizenship, transportation and so much more. The next steps are recruiting more volunteers, educating and training all team members, and complete the furnishing of the family's new home. They will likely not know the basic characteristics of the family, their language, sect, work history, and background until the day they arrive. They are all excited to meet the family and welcome them into our community.

VI TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Seawall Reimbursement Project

Chris Spillman has provided our office with his bill (\$13,200.00) for providing assistance to us with regard to the FEMA seawall reimbursement project which we will be submitting to FEMA under their Category Z Project Worksheet which is used to generate the reimbursement of the grant management costs.

McNeil Dump – Schedule - all estimated work periods are weather dependent

Last week, DPW Director Peter Buttkus met on-site with representatives from Weston and Sampson (W&S) (the engineering firm assisting the Town with the assessment of the former McNeil dump). As a result, the anticipated schedule for their assessment work is as follows (please note – all estimated work periods are weather dependent):

Between now and Mid December: Site clearing by Town, W&S review of documents, W&S additional recon following clearing and prep of site plans with proposed sampling locations.

Mid December: Test Pitting by Town, documentation and sampling by W&S.

End of December: Drilling

Early January: Groundwater sampling, soil gas screening, and groundwater flow survey.

End of January to early February: All data in from lab and evaluated

Mid to end of February: Draft report issued to Town

VII COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS/RESIGNATIONS - None

VIII ONE-DAY LIQUOR LICENSE REQUESTS - None

IX EVENT PERMITS - None

X MINUTES

Ms. Ladd Fiorini moved to approve the 11/15/21 Selectmen's Executive Session Minutes with the contents to remain sealed for medical confidentiality reasons.

Seconded by Mr. Flynn Vote: 5:0:0

XI ANNOUNCEMENTS

- 1) Next Scheduled Selectmen's Meeting will be on Monday, December 6, 2021 at 7:00pm in the Mural Room.
- 2) The Duxbury Town Hall will be closed on Thursday, November 25, 2021 (Thanksgiving) and will remain closed all day on Friday, November 26, 2021.
- 3) The Duxbury Council on Aging will be closed on Thursday, November 25, 2021 (Thanksgiving) and will remain closed all day on Friday, November 26, 2021.
- 4) The Duxbury Free Library will close at 5:00PM on Wednesday, will be closed on Thursday, November 25, 2021 (Thanksgiving) and will resume regular hours on Friday, November 26, 2021.
- 5) The Percy Walker Pool will be closed on Thursday, November 25, 2021 (Thanksgiving) and will remain closed all day on Friday, November 26, 2021.
- 6) The Transfer Station will be closed on Thursday, November 25, 2021 (Thanksgiving Day) and will be open for its regular business hours from Friday — Sunday: 8:00 am to 4:00 pm.

XII ADJOURNMENT

Ms. Ladd Fiorini moved that the Board of Selectmen adjourn at approximately 9:00 p.m.

Seconded by Mr. Flynn Vote: 5:0:0

Minutes submitted by Michelle Seda-Stotts

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

- 1) *Agenda*
- 2) *Documentation regarding HSAC requests*
- 3) *Power Point presentation by C.Ladd Fiorini*
- 4) *Board of Selectmen Liaison List*
- 5) *Executive Session Minutes*
- 6) *Announcements*

