

MINUTES OF MEETING OF THE WAREHAM SELECT BOARD

Date of Meeting: February 7, 2023
Date of Transcription: February 14, 2023
Transcribed by: Cassandra Slaney

REMOTE MEETING DUE TO COVID-19

1. CALL MEETING TO ORDER BY CHAIR

2. ROLL CALL

Selectmen Present: Judith Whiteside, Chair
Patricia A. Wurts, Clerk
Alan H. Slavin
Ronald S. Besse
Jared S. Chadwick

Also Present: Derek Sullivan, Town Administrator
Richard P. Bowen, Town Counsel

3. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

4. ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Chadwick thanked Fire Captain Ryan Quinn for his service. Mr. Quinn is a member of the National Guard and has been deployed for duty overseas.

Mr. Slavin thanked Natural Resources Director Garry Buckminster for his work on the dredging project for the Army Corp.

Zoom meetings may continue until March 31st. This order could change depending on the decision of the new Governor.

There is a Municipal Meeting seminar available online. The seminar explains how to run a meeting and what to do as far as how it works with the public sector. Chairs and Clerks for the Boards and Committees are urged to watch this seminar.

The Wareham Historical Society has a program on Monday, February 20th at 7pm at the meeting house on Main Street celebrating the 200th anniversary of the Social Harmony Lodge. There will be an exhibition of documents, artifacts and photographs.

Damien's Pantry offers a pantry on Thursdays and Saturdays from 9-11:30 am. Registration is required once a year. Residents can also get groceries once a month.

The YMCA has a community market. The first two are February 10th and February 24th beginning at 11:00 am until the food runs out.

The Church of the Good Shepherd has a food pantry every Thursday from 2-4. The Church also provides take-out meals every Thursday at 4:30pm.

The Wesley United Methodist Church continues with its mobile ministry food deliveries on Fridays. On February 18th from 9am-11:30am, they will have a community breakfast. There is also a thrift shop.

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES-2/7/2023 (CONT'D)

The Onset Foursquare Church has a soup kitchen on Tuesdays from 4:30pm-6pm.
The First Congregational Church has meals on wheels Wednesdays from 7am-8:30am.

Friends of the Wareham Free Library sponsors the Imagination Library program. This is a program started by Dolly Parton offering children a free book every month from birth to age five. This program is available to residents of Wareham.

Dog licenses are now available.

5. APPOINTMENTS/REAPPOINTMENTS/INTERVIEWS

a. Board of Health-Associate Member-term to expire June 30, 2023

i. Jillian Morton

Present before the Board: Jilian Morton

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to appoint Jilian Morton as an Associate Member to the Board of Health to a term to expire no later than June 30, 2023. Mr. Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

b. Cemetery Commissioners-term to expire June 30, 2025

i. Jack Silva

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to appoint Jack Silva as a member to the Cemetery Commissioners to a term to expire no later than June 30, 2025. Mr. Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

c. Conservation Commission-Associate Member-term to expire June 30, 2023

i. Autumn Wood

Present before the Board: Autumn Wood

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to appoint Autumn Wood as an Associate Member to the Conservation Commission to a term to expire no later than June 30, 2023. Mr. Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

d. Minot Forest Committee-term to expire June 30, 2024

i. Autumn Wood

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to appoint Autumn Wood as a member to the Minot Forest Committee to a term to expire no later than June 30, 2024. Mr. Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

e. Certified Weigh Masters-term to expire December 31, 2023

i. Alexis Almeida

ii. Leonard Bessette

iii. Tobey Gonsalves

iv. Lauren Lefevre

v. Ricardo Morales

vi. David St. Germain

vii. Brett Walecka

viii. Daniel Walecka

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to appoint the above listed individuals as Certified Weigh Masters for the Town of Wareham to a term to expire no later than December 31, 2023. Mr. Besse seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

7. LICENSES AND PERMITS

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES-2/7/2023 (CONT'D)

- a. **HEARING AT APPROXIMATELY 7:15 PM-Application from Pankaj Corp. d/b/a PK Liquors, 3074 Cranberry Hwy, E. Wareham, for a Seasonal Package Goods Store All Alcoholic License, under the provisions of Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws for the year 2023.**

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to open the hearing. Mr. Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

Present before the Board: Rikin Patel, Owner/Manager; Patricia Farnsworth, Attorney with Lawson & Weitzen, LLP

Mr. Patel is seeking approval for a Seasonal Package Goods Store All Alcoholic Beverages License. Mr. Patel did not have all paperwork in order. Discussion ensued and it was determined that the hearing would be continued to a later date once all paperwork has been submitted.

MOTION: Mr. Slavin moved to continue the hearing until all of the appropriate paperwork has been submitted. Mr. Besse seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

- b. **INFORMATIONAL HEARING AT APPROXIMATELY 7:20 PM-Discussion regarding Common Victualler All Alcoholic Beverages license for Barnacle Bills Seafood LLC d/b/a Barnacle Bills, 3126 Cranberry Hwy, E. Wareham.**

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to open the informational hearing. Mr. Chadwick seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

Present before the Board: Andrew Mattos, Owner

The Board reminded Mr. Mattos that the liquor license cannot be renewed until all paperwork is turned in. Chair Whiteside went over the documents needed. Mr. Mattos stated that at this time liquor is not being served and he will provide the documents as soon as possible.

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to close the informational hearing. Mr. Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

8. TOWN BUSINESS

- a. **CONTINUED HEARING- To discuss a FY 2022/2023 grant application to the Massachusetts Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) Program, to report on the progress of current and recent grants and to discuss local community development and housing needs.**

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to reopen the continued hearing. Mr. Chadwick seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

Present before the Board: Christine Sullivan, Program Coordinator for Community Opportunities Group; Wayne Darragh, President of Community Opportunities Group; James Munise and Annie Hayes were also in attendance.

Mr. Darragh explained that the FY22-23 funding round the Town of Wareham can apply for is 1.65 million dollars which is double the annual amount granted in past years. The funds would be designated to public social services, housing rehab and the Redwood Park housing development project.

(See attachment)

Questions were raised concerning funds allocated for GATRA and if future funds would be granted for it. Mr. Munise stated that he supported funding for GATRA through the COA. Ms. Hayes questioned how the grant funds would be prioritized. Ms. Whiteside stated that the allocation of funds will be discussed and voted on at the next Select Board meeting.

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to close the hearing. Mr. Besse seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES-2/7/2023 (CONT'D)

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to proceed with preparation of an FY22-23 mini-entitlement application not to exceed 1.65 million dollars that includes social service activities, housing rehab program and the project with the housing authority. Mr. Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

b. Discussion and possible vote to submit the CDBG grant application.

Discussion and vote to take place at next meeting.

c. CONTINUED HEARING-To consider opting out of "vote by mail" for the Municipal Town Election on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 pursuant to the provisions of MGL C 54 Sec 25B (a)(1).

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to reopen the hearing. Mr. Besse seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

Present before the Board: James Munise

Mr. Munise stated that after researching the Town of Wareham votes, he discovered that approximately 40% of the Town votes by mail and he does not support opting out due to the large amount of registered voters that do participate in vote by mail.

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to close the hearing. Mr. Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

d. Discussion and possible vote to opt out of "vote by mail" for the Municipal Town Election on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 pursuant to the provisions of MGL C 54 Sec 25B (a)(1).

Because Ms. Whiteside and Ms. Wurts are running for re-election some citizens may feel that their vote on the issue of whether the Town should opt out of mail-in voting for the upcoming municipal election could affect the outcome of the election.

For that reason, they recused themselves from the discussion on this issue. They both muted their audio and turned off their video. In this way they will have no impact of the outcome of the vote.

Mr. Slavin lead the discussion.

Discussion ensued whether opting out of voting by mail would be best for the Town's voters and the impact it could potentially have.

MOTION: Mr. Chadwick moved to opt out of "vote by mail" for the Municipal Town Election on Tuesday, May 2, 2023 pursuant to the provision of MGL C 54 Sec 25B (a)(1). Mr. Besse seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-no, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-no.

VOTE: 1-2-0 (Mr. Chadwick and Mr. Slavin opposed)

e. Discussion and possible vote to authorize the Chair to send a letter of support for a grant application for the Parker Mill Dam.

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to authorize the Chair to send a letter of support for a grant application for the Parker Mills Dam. Mr. Besse seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

f. Presentation and discussion regarding a proposed Alternative Energy Committee. (Present by Sherry Quirk)

Presentation to take place at the next meeting.

g. Discussion and possible vote to authorize the 2023 Senior Tax Work-off program.

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to authorize the 2023 Senior Tax Work-off program. Mr. Sullivan further recommended that the total allowance for the program not to exceed \$40,000 for the year. Mr. Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 4-0-0 (Unanimous)

Mr. Chadwick was not present during this vote.

h. Discussion and possible vote to adopt new Server Training policy #2023-04.

This policy was suggested to require server training to employees serving alcohol in establishments with a liquor license, because this is not required by the ABCC.

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES-2/7/2023 (CONT'D)

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to adopt the new Server Training policy #2023-04. Mr. Besse seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

i. Discussion and possible vote to adopt a policy regarding naming of Town facilities.

This policy would give the Town Administrator guidance on how the Select Board would like to proceed with the naming of Town facilities, buildings, rooms, pathways, monuments or playgrounds.

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to adopt a policy regarding the naming of Town facilities. Mr. Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

j. Discussion and possible vote to approve abatements in the amount of \$182.50 for opt-out and reduction fee applications.

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to approve abatements in the amount of \$182.50 for opt-out and reduction fee applications. Mr. Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

k. Discussion and possible vote to hold 2023 Annual Spring Town Meeting and Town Election, and to post Notice of Intent.

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to hold the 2023 Annual Spring Town Meeting and Town Election and to post the Notice of Intent which includes the dates. Mr. Besse seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Chadwick-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Slavin-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

l. Any other Town business not reasonably anticipated 48 hours prior to the posting of this meeting.

9. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Mr. Sullivan thanked the Board for hearing the opinions of the residents regarding the opt out on mail in voting. There were many positive and negative responses and it was handled professionally.

Mr. Sullivan also thanked everyone involved that helped during the storm and providing shelter for the homeless.

Mr. Sullivan will be presenting information regarding the budget in the near future.

10. LIAISON REPORTS/INITIATIVE REPORTS/BOARD'S COMMENTS

There are issues with the 6 & 28 road project. Mr. Slavin will be meeting with engineers to resolve the issues.

Mr. Slavin stated that the Bike Path project may take up to ten years to finish. The path will go from Fall River to the Canal. Due to the high cost, research is being done to obtain grants and funding.

Ms. Whiteside thanked the Wareham Cultural Council who awarded a substantial amount of money to several different recipients.

The Community Events Committee is accepting applications for nonprofit events.

11. CONSENT AGENDA

a. Authorization to sign bills and documents, etc.

b. Approval of meeting minutes:

December 20, 2022; January 3, 2023; January 17, 2023.

SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES-2/7/2023 (CONT'D)

December 20, 2022; January 3, 2023; January 17, 2023.

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to approve the meeting minutes of December 20, 2022, January 3, 2023 and January 17, 2023. Mr. Besse seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Slavin-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Chadwick-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

c. Approval of amended executive session meeting minutes:

October 5, 2021; November 9, 2021; November 16, 2021.

MOTION: Ms. Wurts moved to approve the amended executive session meeting minutes for October 5, 2021, November 9, 2021 and November 16, 2021. Mr. Slavin seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Slavin-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Chadwick-yes, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0 (Unanimous)

12. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION: Mr. Slavin moved to adjourn at 8:57 pm. Selectman Besse seconded. Roll Call: Mr. Slavin-yes, Mr. Besse-yes, Mr. Chadwick-no, Ms. Wurts-yes, Ms. Whiteside-yes.

VOTE: 4-1-0 (Mr. Chadwick opposed)

13. SIGNING OF DOCUMENTS APPROVED BY THE BOARD

Respectfully submitted

Cassandra Slaney

Principal Department Assistant

The foregoing minutes were submitted to the Board of Selectmen on:

Attest:


Patricia A. Wurts, Clerk

Date Signed: *2/22/23*

Date sent to the Town Clerk:

DOCUMENTS REVIEWED AND/OR USED IN MEETING.

1. Appointment letters
2. Application from Pankaj Corp. for a liquor license.
3. Renewal application from Barnacle Bills.
4. CDBG grant documentation.
5. Letter of support for Parker Mill Dam.
6. 2023 Senior Tax Work off packet.
7. New Server Training policy.
8. Naming Town facilities policy.
9. Curbside abatement.
10. Notice of Intent.
11. Meeting minutes.
12. Amended executive session meeting minutes.