

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MAY 26, 2021
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: Justin Sullivan, Chris Zorra, David Andrade,
Michael Healy

Adam Petronio was absent.

Town Administrator: Shawn E. Cadime

Asst. Town Administrator:
Director of Human Resources Carol-Ann Days

The meeting was held at the Seekonk Senior Center, 540 Arcade Avenue.

Chairman Sullivan opened the meeting at 6 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence.

He announced that, per Governor Baker's Order suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20, it is necessary to limit the number of attendees allowed to physically attend the Board of Selectmen meeting to 25. Those attending must wear a mask.

The public could submit comments and questions in advance of the meeting by completing the Google Form prior to the meeting by Tuesday, May 25, 2021, at 4:30 p.m. The meeting will be broadcast live via Seekonk Cable TV9 and streamed live on TV9's Facebook.

M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 20(F), requires any person recording must notify the chairman at the beginning of the meeting.

BOARD AND COMMITTEE OPENINGS

Mr. Healy announced that volunteers are needed on the Board of Health (1 Board of Selectmen appointment), Capital Improvement Committee (2 BOS), Commission on Disability (5-13 BOS), Economic Development Committee (5 BOS), Energy Committee (1 BOS), Historical Commission (3 BOS), Parks & Recreation (1 BOS), Recycling Committee (3 BOS), South End Fire Station Building Committee (1 Moderator), Veterans' Council (1 BOS), Zoning Board of Appeals (2 Alternates).

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

GENERAL DISCUSSION

Mr. Cadime advised that Mrs. Days and he met with the three applicants for the various boards and committees. Their qualifications fit well with each board. He recommended the appointments.

Consider the Appointment of Stephanie Souza to the Board of Health

A motion was made by Mr. Zorra, seconded by Mr. Healy, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Stephanie Souza to a three-year term on the Board of Health.

The vote: Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.

In response to Mr. Zorra's question, Ms. Souza said she was watching a meeting and heard Mr. Zorra say the Town was looking for more residents to get involved.

Mr. Zorra said they have been pushing social media to post the vacancies on boards and committees.

Consider the Appointment of Arthur Bonafiglia to the Parks and Recreation Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Zorra, seconded by Mr. Healy, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Arthur Bonafiglia to a three-year term on the Parks & Recreation Committee

The vote: Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.

Mr. Bonafiglia said he heard about the vacancy on social media.

Consider the Appointment of Nancy Braga to the Recycling Committee

A motion was made by Mr. Zorra, seconded by Mr. Healy, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Nancy Braga to a three-year term on the Recycling Committee.

The vote: Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.

Ms. Braga also heard about it on social media.

Mr. Zorra thanked Mrs. Days for getting the word out through social media.

Consider the Resignation of Nicole Avila as the Senior Secretary to the Seekonk Fire Chief

Mr. Cadime recommended the Board accept the resignation. Mrs. Avila has accepted a position in another community.

A motion was made by Mr. Zorra, seconded by Mr. Healy, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the resignation of Nicole Avila as Senior Secretary to the Fire Chief.

The vote: Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.

Consider the Appointment of Lori Trenteseux to the Position of Senior Secretary for the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals

Mr. Cadime advised that Mrs. Trenteseux has done an excellent job in the Assessor's office. Her background will be valuable in the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

Town Planner John Aubin III apologized to Town Assessor Lydia Cordeiro for taking an employee from that office.

A motion was made by Mr. Healy, seconded by Mr. Andrade, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Lori Trenteseux as Senior Secretary to the Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals.

The vote: Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.

Consider the Reappointment of Brittney Faria as the Greater/Attleboro Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA) Representative

Mr. Cadime recommended the reappointment.

A motion was made by Mr. Healy, seconded by Mr. Zorra, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint Brittney Faria as the Greater Attleboro/Taunton Regional Transit Authority (GATRA) representative.

The vote: Mr. Healy - Aye; Mr. Zorra - Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye..

Consider the Reappointment of David Cabral to Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) Joint Transportation Planning Group

Mr. Cadime recommended the reappointment.

A motion was made by Mr. Zorra, seconded by Mr. Healy, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To reappoint David Cabral to the Southeastern Regional Planning and Economic Development District (SRPEDD) Joint Transportation Planning Group.

The vote: Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.

Consider the Request from Ocean State Multisport to Conduct Three Separate Road Races in Town for October, November, and December 2021

Mr. Gary Nenissian, Race Director at Ocean State Multisport, stated that he came up with a plan to have a race during COVID-19. He presented the plan for the three upcoming races in Seekonk

A motion was made by Mr. Zorra, seconded by Mr. Healy, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the request from Ocean State Multisport to conduct three separate road races in Seekonk on October 10, 2021, November 25, 2021, and December 12, 2021.

The vote: Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.

Consider Accepting the Regular Session Minutes of May 12, 2021

A motion was made by Mr. Zorra, seconded by Mr. Andrade, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To accept the regular session minutes of May 12, 2021.

The vote: Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.

COMMUNITY SPEAKS – None.

OTHER BUSINESS – None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR’S REPORT – None.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Bristol County Advisory Board – None.

Aitken School Expansion Building Committee Report – None.

540 Arcade Avenue Building Committee Report – None.

Mr. Zorra advised the Memorial Day Ceremonies will take place at the Veterans' Memorial on Saturday, May 29, 2021, at 11:30 a.m. It will be broadcast on TV9.

Chairman Sullivan said the Governor will file legislation that outdoor seating will continue through November 29, 2021. The ABCC has recommended that local businesses currently serving outdoors and have a change of venue should begin to negotiate the process on the local level. The Board should take a proactive approach to reconsider the license of those businesses. It has to be evaluated on a case by case basis. State approval is also necessary.

Mr. Healy noted these businesses spent a lot of money to add the outdoor seating. We should try to keep these businesses in town. The alcohol to go is different.

Chairman Sullivan advised the alcohol to go ends on June 15, 2021.

He advised that the Board of Selectmen will return to town hall for meetings beginning with the next one on Wednesday, June 9, 2021.

Mr. Chris Gasbarro commended the Board on the handling of the pandemic. He was in attendance at the previous meeting and is pleased to hear the accomplishments of the Fire Department.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 6:28 p.m., Mr. Andrade motioned, seconded by Mr. Healy, to go into Executive Session to:

- A. Conduct strategy sessions with respect to Seekonk Public Library Employee Association, MLSA, AFT Massachusetts, AFL-CIO per M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town; and
- B. Discuss strategy with respect to litigation pursuant to M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(3) (United Steelworkers, Local 9517 v. Town of Seekonk, C.A. No. 2073CV00374) as having the discussion in open session would be detrimental to the litigation or bargaining position of the town; not to return to open session.

The vote: Mr. Healy – Aye; Mr. Zorra – Aye; Mr. Andrade – Aye; Chairman Sullivan – Aye.

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Respectfully submitted,

Adam Petronio, Clerk

Prepared by:

Patricia Gamer, Secretary

Items Distributed at the May 26, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting

Talent Bank Form for Stephanie Souza for the Board of Health

Talent Bank Form for Arthur Bonafiglia for Parks & Recreation

Talent Bank Form for Nancy Braga for Recycling Committee

Resignation from Nicole Avila as Senior Secretary to the Fire Chief

Resume of Lori Trenteseux for the position of Senior Secretary in Planning Board and ZBA

Documents from Ocean State Multisport for three road races