

MEETING MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
April 15, 2021

Consistent with guidance issued by Governor Baker on March 12, 2020 suspending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law due to Covid-19, this meeting was held remotely using Zoom technology, Meeting ID 929 8137 2177.

At 6:30 PM Chair Robert Springett called the meeting to order with members John Jeffries and Robyn Hunter present. Also in attendance were Christopher Dwelley, Town Administrator; Katelyn O' Brien, Assistant Town Administrator, and Mona DiSciullo, Administrative Assistant.

ATTENDEES: Nick LaChance, Colonial Water Company; Carol Lisbon, Water Resources Committee; Town Moderator Jim Repetti; Assistant Town Moderator Dave Haviland; Town Clerk Felicia Hoffman; Gerry Clark, Water Study Committee, Board of Health; Kay Petersen, Board of Health; Chris Boland, Parks and Recreation Commission; Capital Budget Committee Chair Barry Goldman

PRESS: None present.

Citizens' Comments

Representing the Water Study Committee, Carol Lisbon made known that the Committee is very involved in putting together a water conservation education and communication plan and would very much look forward to exploring ways in which the Town can work with Colonial Water to create a robust and consistent messaging campaign on water conservation issues.

I.1 Colonial Water Company Signage Plan Presentation and Potential Vote

Colonial Water Company has offered to display signage throughout their service area in Dover from Memorial Day through Labor Day to assist with the Town's water conservation and education efforts. Nick LaChance, President of New England Service Company (NESC) (Colonial Water Company is part of NESC's water system) outlined restrictions in place and presented the implementation plan to the Board. Mr. LaChance reminded residents that watering is permitted twice a week using the odd/even house numbering system and that heavy water usage is not allowed between 5:00 – 9:00 AM. Colonial will continue to post the restrictions on its website and utilize its Rave software notification messaging system to alert citizens that restrictions and guidelines are in place.

The signs which Colonial is proposing to place around Town will be on poles installed into the ground and are visual aids reminding residents of the restrictions and to conserve water. It is anticipated that the signs will go up before Memorial Day weekend in May and come down close to Labor Day in September. Mr. Clarke raised the issue of state regulations and guidance possibly differing from those of Colonial, and both Mr. Clarke and Ms. Hunter are in agreement with Ms. Lisbon that there needs to be a coordinated effort between the Water Study Committee (WSC) and Colonial. It was suggested that Colonial meet with the Committee to share ideas, and Colonial Water is looking forward to partnering with the Committee. Additionally, Colonial would be happy to insert WSC literature into Dover customer bills.

Mr. Springett moved to approve posting of Colonial Water signage, as discussed and agreed with the Water Study Committee, regarding water use and conservation efforts, seconded by Mr. Jeffries; it was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

I.2 Acquisition of Colonial Water Company (New England Service Company)

Aquarion Company and New England Service Company have entered into a definitive agreement whereby Aquarion will acquire New England Service Company, including Colonial Water, and Mr. LaChance provided background on the legal and regulatory processes and timeline. In response to questions from the Board about what effect this will have on Dover's CWC customers, Mr. LaChance stressed that services will be seamless, all staff will be retained, and because Aquarion has significantly more financial and technological resources, the quality of service may be enhanced. It is anticipated that the merger will be complete by the end of 2021.

I.3 June 12, 2021 Special Town Meeting Planning Discussion

In preparation for the June 12, 2021 Special Town Meeting (STM) related to the future of the Caryl Community Center, Community Center Building Committee Chair Ford Spalding has asked Mr. Springett for assistance in coordinating meetings between the Building Committee, the Capital Budget Committee, and the Warrant Committee to listen to presentations about the building project, including the budget, and ascertain comments and recommendations about the STM Warrant Articles. Subsequently, a Blue Book or an informational sheet detailing the building project, budget, and timeline and the Warrant Articles and recommendations will be disseminated to the public before the June 12, 2021 meeting. Mr. Spalding will be contacting each Committee directly to arrange meeting dates.

I.4 Review and Finalize May 1, 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article Motions

It is Dover's practice to hold a Moderator's Meeting prior to the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) for the purpose of reviewing and editing the motions related to each Warrant Article. In preparation for the April 22, 2021 Moderator's Meeting, Mr. Dwelley provided the Board with the printed Articles and Motions for review and discussion. In order to hold the ATM as efficiently and expeditiously as possible, it was recommended that certain Articles be combined, such as topic-related Articles or recurring Articles, or be included as part of a Consent Agenda. Once the Motions are finalized, the document will be distributed to the relevant parties before the May 1, 2021 Town Meeting.

I.5 Approve and Execute May 17, 2021 Town Election Warrant

The May 17, 2021 Town Election Warrant which lists the open positions of Dover’s elected officials will be mailed to residents on Friday, April 23, 2021. The Selectmen encouraged Dover’s registered voters to participate in the Election and voice their choice.

Mr. Springett moved to approve the May 17, 2021 Town Election Warrant, seconded by Mr. Jeffries; it was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

I.6 Pre-May 1, 2021 Annual Town Meeting Presentation

To inform and educate Dover’s residents about the May 1, 2021 Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant Articles, an informational session will be held on April 22, 2021 via Zoom. The session is designed as an opportunity for residents to preview and learn about the details of each Article and to engage in a question and answer session in preparation for the ATM. Mr. Dwelley prepared and presented a slideshow of the informational session presentation, and he reviewed and summarized in detail each of the Warrant Articles. The Selectmen were pleased with the presentation and urged residents to attend and learn about the Articles. All documents related to Town Meeting, including the Warrant, the Blue Book, and presentations are on the Town Meeting page on Dover’s website at www.doverma.gov.

I.7 Board of Selectmen Updates

The Selectmen reported on the following ongoing projects and initiatives.

Water Study Committee – Ms. Hunter attended the most recent Water Study Committee and she commented on the outstanding work the Committee is doing on water conservation education and communication.

Community Center Building Committee – Mr. Springett reported that the Building Committee continues to refine project cost estimates and will report on the updated numbers at the end of the month.

I.8 Town Administrator Updates

The Town Administrator reported on the following ongoing projects and initiatives.

Free Cash – Mr. Dwelley reported that Dover’s Free Cash has been certified by the state and the amount is close to \$12 million. The Finance Team is working on a one-page document which will break down the amounts and explain how the balance was derived. Going forward, it is the intent of the Finance Team to provide that document to policymakers, staff, and various boards and committees in the fall at the beginning of the budget season which will facilitate the budget and decision-making processes.

Showtime – The Showtime production company which produces the TV show Dexter, has informed the Town that it will be filming a series at a private Dover residence the second week of June, 2021 and that it has obtained all the necessary permits and permissions. The Showtime representative also mentioned that the company may be interested in renting Town-owned property for parking and for extras’ processing. If that is the case, a rental agreement between the Town and the company must be drawn up and approved by the Board of Selectmen.

C.1 Consent Agenda

The following items are included on the Consent Agenda.

- Approve Acceptance and Expenditure of two Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital grants to the Council on Aging--\$1,500 for two outside tents to be used as a gathering space, and \$4,000 for Grab and Go Meals for seniors.
- Approve Acceptance and Expenditure of a \$500 Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital grant to the Park and Recreation Commission to help offset the cost of the Healthy Roster computer application program.
- Approve Acceptance and Expenditure of a \$2,687 Dover Cultural Council grant to the Park and Recreation Commission for a traveling public art display.
- Approve Acceptance of art work from Number 5 Studios (Shany Porras) to the Parks and Recreation Department.
- Approve March 11, 2021 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Mr. Springett moved to approve the Consent Agenda, as presented, seconded by Mr. Jeffries; it was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

Adjournment

At 7:59 PM Mr. Springett moved to adjourn, seconded by Mr. Jeffries; it was unanimously approved by roll call vote.

DOVER BOARD OF SELECTMEN

John D. Jeffries, Clerk