A virtual Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was held on Thursday April 23, 2020, at 6pm

Present were:

Dennis Guilfoyle - Chair

Dr. Dennis J. Teehan - Vice Chair

James A. MacDonald

Sarah E. MacDonald

Dimitria Sullivan

Meeting brought to order at 6:02 pm

**Pledge of Allegiance -** Led by Mr. Guilfoyle.

**Discussion & Vote Re: Request for Jack & Eric’s Pirate Lemonade Stand for 2020**

Pushed to the next meeting**.**

**Discussion & Vote Re: Approval of Drainlayers (Michael Marchand & Mento Corp.)**

Ms. Baker informed all that both applications are being recommended for approval by the Engineering Department

Mr. MacDonald moved approval; Seconded by Dr. Teehan.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - yes

Dr. Teehan - yes

Ms. Sullivan - yes

Mr. Guilfoyle - yes

Mr. MacDonald – yes

**Discussion w/ DPW Director Re: Rubbish & Recycling and Street Closures for Recreational Purposes**

Joe Flanagan – DPW Director – was virtually present.

Ms. MacDonald stated that with everyone being home much more than usual has led to more trash in households. Ms. MacDonald added that more people are having problems with recycling and full barrels. Ms. MacDonald asked Mr. Flanagan what he is seeing currently and are there opportunities for residents to get rid of more things.

Mr. Flanagan informed all that collection is up more than 20% and the recycling truck drivers are getting overwhelmed. Mr. Flanagan added that the trash trucks usually get filled around 12:30 or 1pm, they are now getting filled by 11 – 11:30am. Mr. Flanagan continued, saying that if we wanted to increase the recycling, it is almost a 2 million dollar investment per year.

Ms. MacDonald stated that last fall Dedham did launch the yellow trash bag program for sale in a few stores around Dedham. Ms. MacDonald stated that Mr. Goodwin and Ms. Baker were going to circle back to make sure that this is still happening.

Mr. Flanagan stated that as of last month, Stop & Shop had them, as well as Terri’s in the Manor and 7/11 in Oakdale. Mr. Flanagan added that the bags sell for 2 dollars a bag, with 5 in each bag.

Ms. MacDonald stated that this could be an opportunity to educate people about compost.

Mr. MacDonald stated that yard waste collection began today. Mr. MacDonald asked Mr. Flanagan to give the Board a yard waste update. Mr. Flanagan stated that the Town pays $345,000 a year for the weekly yard waste collection.

Ms. Sullivan asked Mr. Flanagan what outreach can be done for reuse education and resources.

Mr. Flanagan stated that he has worked with Janet Holmes from Civic Pride on this and he will get back to the Board.

Mr. Goodwin stated that they could partner with the sustainability Committee to put out some information about reduce, reuse and recycle.

Ms. MacDonald stated that she is seeing more and more pedestrians and fewer and fewer cars on the roads, therefore, drivers are driving faster due to the lack of traffic. Ms. MacDonald added that other communities are taking the opportunity to think about using the paved areas better. Ms. MacDonald continued, saying that there have been conversations around blocking off on street parking to create more room for pedestrians and cyclists.

Ms. MacDonald went on to inform the Board of measures some Towns are implementing.

Mr. Flanagan stated that the reduction in speed is something to investigate. Mr. Flanagan continued, saying that he can work with Chief D’Entremont to see what can be done.

Ms. MacDonald stated that the pandemic is going to be around a lot longer than any of us could have imagined. Ms. MacDonald added that if people are going to be outside walking around, we should look for ways to make it as safe as possible. We now have the chance to try some other options.

**Public Comment or Questions**

Susan Butler – 60 Clark Street

Ms. Butler stated that she walks in the morning and again in the evening and takes a route to avoid other pedestrians. Ms. Butler suggested that the Town update the website to let people know which trails are open and to give tips and suggestions as to how to ensure people are as safe as possible.

Mr. Goodwin stated that he will continue to work with staff to make sure residents are aware of existing resources. Mr. Goodwin informed all that there are 8 new signs at the walking track reminding the community about social distancing, masks, etc.

Jessica Porter stated that she is an avid walker and one thing that worries her is someone getting hit by a car. Ms. Porter added that there are fewer cars on the road but the speeds have gone up. Ms. Porter continued, saying that we should be coming up with ideas to help now and in the future.

Cindy Barich - 45 Norwell Road

Ms. Barich stated that the petition to close streets so that pedestrians can have access, has been circulating social media for a few weeks now. Ms. Barich added that it does not state anywhere that they have the endorsement of the CDC, or any of the State Public Health Officials. Ms. Barich continued, saying that in this dire time, we should err on the side of extreme caution. Ms. Barich stated that whatever the Town decides to do it should have the blessing of the CCD.

Ms. MacDonald stated that she is not proposing a solution but rather a discussion.

Ms. Sullivan stated that she attended a meeting with the Board of Health RE: residents congregating at the Endicott Estate. Ms. Sullivan added that more enforcement would help the Town as far as education of social distancing and masks, etc.

Dr. Teehan stated that if these discussions continue, we should invite the Town Engineer to be a part of the discussion.

Mary Ellard – Sanderson Ave.

Ms. Ellard stated that she would like to hear ideas on how to slow down traffic. Ms. Ellard added that it would be counter-productive to drive traffic to a certain spot or force crowds to a certain spot. Ms. Ellard continued, saying that she is worried about emergency vehicles being held up because of closed streets.

Mr. Flanagan stated that on the issue of automated Pedestrian Lights, he has a proposal from his contractor and is ready to move forward.

Mitzi Kane –63 Greensborough Road

Ms. Kane asked the Board if they have contacted other communities to see what they are doing RE: safety.

Mr. Goodwin stated that there was already a good existing network in place. Mr. Goodwin added that he and other Town Managers bounce ideas off each other.

Ms. Sullivan stated that Chief D’Entremont and Chief Spillane should have some input on this.

**Town Manager’s Report**

* Public Safety Complex
* BPCC - interviewed 5 Construction Management Companies
* BPCC – selected Commodore Builders from Waltham
* Hope construction will begin in June
* Task Force Meeting Update
* Meeting on Mondays and Fridays
* Talked about PPE
* Acquisition of PPE handled by Chief Spillane
* The Schools are continuing to provide meals to all children under 18
* Looking for ways to get children outside, in a safe way

Mr. MacDonald stated that the meals from the schools will continue through the School year and hopefully through the Summer. Mr. MacDonald informed all that the basketball nets and rims have been taken down.

Mr. MacDonald added that the parking lot entrances are locked.

Ms. Sullivan asked if other departmental staff who are going into people’s homes, have safety protocols.

Mr. Goodwin answered that all departments have created Safety Protocols.

Ms. MacDonald asked Mr. Goodwin how the transition to remote working has gone for those who decided to work from home.

Mr. Goodwin answered that they made the decision to allow remote working basically overnight. Mr. Goodwin informed all that the Town is using a VPN (Virtual Private Network) to allow users to see their desktop and access files as needed. Mr. Goodwin stated that some of the remote workers used a software called Log Me In. Mr. Goodwin added that the Town recently switched to a Cloud Based Voice over IP phone system, which gives us the ability to forward calls to people’s cell or home phone.

Susan Butler – 60 Clark Street

Ms. Butler asked the Board to take her comment under consideration.

Ms. Butler stated that we all need to be careful of the meetings that we have. Ms. Butler asked the Board to allow only essential meetings. Ms. Butler added that there are 2 meetings in Particular: one being the Master Plan. Ms. Butler asked the Board to consider putting a pause on this project for a few months or until thigs have settled down. Ms. Butler added that residents are more concerned with putting food on the table and if we continue having Master Plan Webinars, we are preventing a good amount of the population in Dedham to participate in the Democratic process. Ms. Butler continued, saying that some residents do not have access to the internet or even the equipment required to “attend” the Webinars. Ms. Butler again suggested that the Master plan be paused for 3 months and then revisit the issue. Ms. Butler stated that the other meeting is Livable Dedham, Community Conservations Interactive Meeting is non-essential. Ms. Butler stated that any meetings that do not require a vote by a major Board, should not be taking place.

**Old/New Business**\*

Dr. Teehan encouraged everyone to continue social distancing and to wear a mask as it is difficult to tell who has the virus and who does not.

Ms. MacDonald stated that the Dedham Relief Task Force met yesterday and will meet on Tuesdays going forward. Ms. MacDonald added that this Task Force, with this Board’s support includes Clergy, some of our Social Service agencies as well as the Council on Aging. Ms. MacDonald informed all that the Task Force is having discussions regarding how we can help residents who will face economic impacts of this pandemic for a long time to come.

Ms. Sullivan stated that the Town will be opening back up at some point and the Task Force might want to start thinking about procedures, guidelines and steps to do so.

Mr. MacDonald stated we need to think about what a gradual re-opening to what life will be like in the new normal.

Mr. MacDonald acknowledge the work that the Dedham Police, Fire, Dispatch and Fallon Ambulance have done under harsh conditions. Mr. MacDonald informed all that last weekend at 185 Bussey Street there was a fire and the first responders did a fantastic job rescuing residents and putting out the fire.

Mr. Guilfoyle asked for a motion to enter Executive Session and stated that the Board will exit Executive Session only to adjourn the open meeting.

Mr. MacDonald moved that the Board enter Executive Session pursuant to MGL c.30A Sec. 21(a) Exemption 3 (To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body

and the chair so declares) CTA Construction Company, Inc. v. Town of Dedham et

al., Middlesex Superior Court Civil Action No. 18-1465B; seconded by Ms. Sullivan.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - yes

Dr. Teehan - yes

Ms. Sullivan - yes

Mr. Guilfoyle - yes

Mr. MacDonald – yes

Mr. MacDonald moved to Exit Executive Session the Meeting; seconded by Ms. MacDonald.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - yes

Dr. Teehan - yes

Ms. Sullivan - yes

Mr. Guilfoyle, yes

Mr. MacDonald – yes

Mr. MacDonald moved to adjourn the Open Meeting; seconded by Ms. MacDonald.

**On the Vote**:

Ms. MacDonald - yes

Dr. Teehan - yes

Ms. Sullivan - yes

Mr. Guilfoyle, yes

Mr. MacDonald – yes

The open meeting was adjourned at 8:32pm

The next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday April 30, 2020. This is to certify that the above is a true and accurate record of the minutes of the Selectmen’s Meeting held on April 23, 2020 which minutes were approved on July 11, 2020.

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Dennis J. Guilfoyle. – Chairman