

Approved by
the Select Board on:

6/21/2021

SELECT BOARD MEETING
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 2021

REMOTE MEETING

5:30 PM

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: July 6, 2021
TIME: 10:16 AM

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Adam Dash. Vice Chair Roy Epstein and Select Board member Mark Paolillo were present, along with Town Administrator Patrice Garvin, and Assistant Town Administrator Jon Marshall.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- The Belmont Pride Parade will be held Saturday at 1 pm on Town Green.
- DPW Cardboard Event at DPW Yard will be held on June 26th at 37 C Street from 8 am to 1 pm. Cost is \$10. Register at Belmont-MA.gov/recreation. Checks will be accepted at event.
- Economic Development Committee will hold a Zoom meeting on June 10th at 7 pm regarding the Trapelo Road Rapid Recovery meeting.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Discussion and possible vote on positions for articles and amendments for Annual Town Meeting, Segment B

[NONE.]

Discussion and possible vote on remote participation in meetings

- The next Select Board meeting after the June 15th remote participation deadline would be June 21st. Garvin said the Senate and House will vote tomorrow on extending remote participation. She said there is an indication that remote participation will continue to be allowed.
- The bill also includes outdoor service for restaurants, eviction moratorium and to-go cocktails. We would have to vote to allow these items by August 1st.
- Epstein said this change affects all public bodies.
- Dash said If legislation passes, we can continue to meet on Zoom, if it doesn't pass, then we will not be able to hold remote meetings anymore.
- Epstein suggested that maybe Zoom isn't the only platform. There is not much difference between Zoom and a conference call. Dash doesn't think we need to see video. He thinks Select Board members, the press and people presenting should plan to meet live at the June 21st Select Board meeting, but public could participate remotely. We should have a mechanism for the public to have call in on speaker phone.
- Garvin thinks we should vote on something now in case it doesn't pass.
- Epstein summarized his understanding of the options:

1) If Emergency Order expires, then we go back to live meeting with pre-COVID format.

2) If the state of emergency is extended, every public body could meet virtually during that extended period.

- Epstein feels that if the emergency declaration is extended, and the Select Board decides to meet live, then we can't force other public bodies to meet live.
- Dash read an excerpt from the KP Law memo stating the public can attend in person or remotely, but at the discretion of the Town because infrastructure may not be available.
- Dash commented that we have a grant from the State to outfit rooms for virtual meetings. Garvin said we could also be using some of the Federal Rescue Act funding for remote participation capability.
- Garvin will write up a guideline about participation options and present at the June 14th meeting at 6 pm.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Phil Thayer asked about the health risk issue. Some Committee members may not be able to meet in person due to the continued risk of the virus. If remote participation isn't extended, then the Select Board has to decide whether to adopt pre-pandemic rules or design a hybrid option.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. June 2, 2021 – Regular Meeting
- b. June 2, 2021 – Executive Session
- c. May 17, 2021 – Regular Session (tabled from 6/7/21)
- d. May 24, 2021 – Regular Session (tabled from 6/7/21)

Motion was made to approve the minutes of May 17, May 24, and June 2 meetings as amended, and the June 2 Executive Session.

SELECT BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

- The Community Path Committee met to discuss the revised rendering of the French and Mahoney property. They will invite the engineering consultants to the next meeting.
- The Structural Change Impact Group will meet tomorrow.
- The School Committee met jointly with the School Finance Subcommittee and Warrant Committee and there is convergence on the Special Education budget.
- Tonight's Town Meeting will focus on Article 16 and 19.

Motion was made to suspend the Select Board meeting until Town Meeting starts. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Respectfully Submitted,

PATRICE GARVIN, Town Administrator