A virtual Meeting of the Select Board was held on Thursday May 7, 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 6:03 pm

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

**Discussion w/ Town Clerk & Town Moderator Re: Town Election**

Paul Munchbach, Town Clerk and Dedham Town Moderator Dan Driscoll were present before the Board.

Mr. Munchbach stated that over the past few weeks he developed a Town Election COVID19 contingency plan for the upcoming election. Mr. Munchbach added that the objective of the plan is to provide multiple voting options for a fair, open, and safer election while incorporating the orders and advisories under Gov. Baker’s current State of Emergency and the provisions, under Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2020. Mr. Munchbach continued, saying that with this it incorporates a plan for when the Select Board decides on a date for the election and it gives the safety precautions that the Clerk’s Office would take to provide a safe and fair election. Mr. Munchbach

stated that once the plan is adopted by the Select Board it will be implemented by the Board of Registrars and the Town Clerk, then executed. Mr. Munchbach added that the plan addresses the 3 methods of voting:

* Absentee
* Early Voting
* Voting in person

Dan Driscoll, Town Moderator, stated that he feels like Mr. Munchbach covered everything thoroughly. Mr. Driscoll added that his main interest in the setting of the election date is that it would establish a period from which 4 plus weeks will be needed to have an annual Town Meeting.

Mr. MacDonald asked what the minimal amount of time is when the Board could have a special election.

Mr. Munchbach stated that it would be 20 days from the date that the Select Board makes the determination of what the date is and would have to be any time after 20 days. Mr. Munchbach added that some of the provisions implemented with that would be, registration to vote will be up until 10 days prior to that election date that has been chosen.

Mr. MacDonald asked Mr. Munchbach to explain the early voting option.

Mr. Munchbach stated that early voting is usually 1 or 2 weeks before the election. Mr. Munchbach added that this statute allows for early voting by mail only. Mr. Munchbach informed all that the voter would fill out an application, which is on the Town’s website and bring the ballot to the Clerk’s Office and once the election date is set, the Clerk’s Office would then send the ballot out. Mr. Munchbach informed all that the ballot would come in an early voting envelope but it will be an absentee ballot. Mr. Munchbach added that all ballots will say for the Annual Town Meeting, April 11th, even though the election will hopefully take place in June or July.

Ms. Rita Mae Cushman asked the following question through Selectman McDonald.

What will happen to the people who like to stand outside the polling places and hold signs?

Mr. Munchbach stated that people who wish to stand outside the polling stations holding signs will have to keep social distancing and wear a mask if Gov. Baker’s mandate is still in effect.

Ms. MacDonald stated that she has been asked about moving the entire process to mail only and asked Mr. Munchbach to share some of the State’s feelings on this.

Mr. Munchbach informed all that the Secretary of State is still requiring voters to fill out an application to receive either an early voting ballot or an absentee ballot. Munchbach stated that the outreach and communication he would use the Town e-mail list, social media, Dedham Times, Dedham Patch, Town Facebook page, highway signs and DPW electronic signage.

Ms. MacDonald stated that there is legislation at the State house related to quorum and the ability to change some of the factors that determine how we hold Town Meeting. Ms. MacDonald

asked if anybody could provide a summary of those potential State-wide measures and where it stands.

Mr. Driscoll stated that there is a bill in the Senate that has some provisions for both Open Town Meetings and Representative Town Meetings. Mr. Driscoll added that the Open Town Meeting provision addresses the quorum issue that Ms. MacDonald raised. Mr. Driscoll informed all that there is a bill being drafted on the House side in the Ways and Means Committee, that parallels some of the measures on the Senate side. Mr. Driscoll continued saying there is a provision in there that would allow for virtual Town Meetings.

Mr. MacDonald stated that Senate Bill 2680, was passed by the Senate and is now waiting to be passed by the House.

**Discussion w/ Police Chief & DPW Director Re: Reduction in Speed Limit & Slow Streets**

Ms. MacDonald stated that more people are taking walks as there are fewer cars on the road but the cars that are on the road are driving much faster. Ms. MacDonald informed all that traffic fatalities in the month of April doubled over the same period last year even though traffic has been cut in half. Ms. MacDonald stated that there have been discussions regarding potential policy changes, be they temporary or trial, to reduce speed and keep people safe.

Chief D’Entremont stated that they monitor the traffic situations all the time. Chief D’Entremont added that people will drive as fast as the road will allow.and probably a little faster. Chief D’Entremont continued, saying that he continues to have officers out on the street monitoring the traffic and making sure pedestrians have enough space to walk around Town safely.

Ms. MacDonald asked Chief D’Entremont what the process is for lowering a speed limit, even if only temporarily.

Chief D’Entremont stated that he would defer to Town Engineer, Jason Mammone.

Mr. Goodwin stated that as Street Commissioners, the Board could lower the speed limit, but it would have to be legally posted and go through the normal process. Mr. Goodwin stated that unless otherwise posted, Dedham already has a 25mph speed limit throughout Town.

Dr. Teehan stated that we must consider the Safety of Dedham’s first responders.

Mr. MacDonald stated that speeding in Dedham has always been an issue. Mr. MacDonald

added that he asked Chief D’Entremont to reach out to Brookline, Norwood and other communities that have closed some of their lanes.

Ms. Sullivan stated that she would like to see this as an agenda item. Ms. Sullivan asked what other communities lowered their speed limit from and to. Ms. Sullivan asked if there could be more of a police car presence around Town to help deter speeding.

Dr. Teehan stated that if we are going to lower the speed limit, we should have a plan in place that has specific streets that would be lowered.

Fred Civian, 24 Spruce Street, suggested broadening the discussion, not just talking about enforcement of speed limits but making temporary physical changes where residents are particularly affected by speeding vehicles.

**Continued Discussion Re: Essential/Non-Essential Meetings**

**Pushed to next SB meeting**

**Updates Re: COVID19 Operations & Relief Task Forces**

Mr. Goodwin stated that he has been holding a weekly Operations Task Force Meeting. These meetings involve key stake holders. Mr. Goodwin added that the Task Force met last Friday and talked about the mandate that was passed by the Board of Health for mandatory face coverings for the Town of Dedham enacted on April 28th. Mr. Goodwin informed all that Chief Spillane continues to acquire PPE for Town Departments. Mr. Goodwin continued, saying that the volume of call totals is lower now than they have been. Mr. Goodwin stated that the Police are reporting more scams and asked residents to be more careful. Mr. Goodwin added that Superintendent Welch continues to update Mr. Goodwin on a weekly basis. Mr. Goodwin continued, saying that one major change is the relaxing of some food guidelines from the State and Federal Governments that allow kids who are 21 and under to receive meals from the school program.

Mr. Goodwin stated that according to Joe Flanagan, trash is up around 15%. Mr. Goodwin Informed all that The Flag Day Parade has been cancelled, as have the Memorial Day events.

Ms. MacDonald asked Mr. Goodwin how the mask mandate will be enforced.

Mr. Goodwin answered, saying that have discussed this internally. Mr. Goodwin informed all that

the Town’s Interim Health Director was on the phone, to help answer questions.

Mr. Goodwin stated how a mandate works:

* Department of Public Health
* Local Boards of Health
* Designated Agents

Mr. Goodwin added that they would like to be educational with this. Mr. Goodwin stated that if you see a person out and about and they are not wearing a mask do not assume that they are breaking the law on purpose, as there could be medical reasons or other factors. Mr. Goodwin continued, saying that the first thing we should do is to educate the public and the last thing any of us want is to fine someone $300 for not wearing a mask.

Ms. MacDonald stated that Mr. Goodwin referenced several ways residents can access free fabric masks. Ms. Sullivan informed all that there are volunteers sewing these masks and they have agreed to take orders from anyone who needs one.

Bridgette Sweet – Interim Director of Health – was present via phone.

Ms. Sweet stated that because this is new to both the Police and the Health Office, the Health Office will be drafting a protocol to have available at the phone lines. Ms. Sweet added that there is no requirement for people that may have a medical condition to have a medical note.

**Relief Task Force**

Ms. MacDonald stated the task force continues to meet weekly. Ms. MacDonald informed all that the task force has been able to operationalize a help line for residents who might be experiencing issues related to economic or social impacts due to COVID19. Ms. MacDonald added that the help line will be answered by Town Hall staff to provide referrals and everything from Legal Services, help for financial needs, access to meals, housing support, etc. Ms. MacDonald informed all that this resource guide should be on the website by tomorrow and will be updated by the task force as we go along.

Ms. Sullivan asked Mr. Goodwin if we have continued to reach out to supermarkets regarding gloves being left everywhere, fast food restaurants, parking lots, etc.

Mr. Goodwin deferred to the interim Director of Health.

Ms. Sweet stated that they are in constant contact with the supermarkets and it does take some time for some of these changes to take effect. Ms. Sweet continued, saying that they received some complaints regarding Lowes. Ms. Sweet stated that they had a policy in place, but they were not enforcing it, so we gave them 24 hours to send us a comprehensive policy which the Health Department is re-enforcing. Ms. Sweet Informed the Board that they go to the all the supermarkets almost daily. Ms. Sweet pointed out that BJs could not keep up with the customer demands, so they hired a company to do their parking lots every hour. Ms. Sweet stated that they are in constant contact with all their big box stores that are open and essential. Ms. Sweet added that they are following up with the restaurant community to make sure they have the support they need.

**Town Manager’s Report**

* Still conducting business in these abnormal times
* Essential services will continue remotely
* Some staff working in rotation at Town Hall
* Town Hall closed for 1-day disinfectant cleaning.
* All Town Staff working remotely during cleaning
* Work continues on the Ames building

**Public Comment or Questions**

Danielle DeLuca – Member of Active Transportation Working Group and co-founder of the Dedham Cycle Club.

Ms. DeLuca spoke about safe spaces for residents, especially children and added that she has also seen an uptick regarding how fast people are driving. Ms. DeLuca stated that her recommendation is to reduce traffic, at least make it 1-way, if not closed temporarily: Mt. Vernon Street and maybe even Village Ave. Ms. DeLuca continued, saying that this is a safe way for kids to be on their bikes.

Joanne – Precinct 5

Asked if the sandwich Boards that were announcing the election, could be used to educate residents regarding facemasks, social distancing, etc.

Mr. Guilfoyle stated that this is something to think about and added that Paul Munchbach will have to be looped in to consider if this is viable. Mr. Guilfoyle asked Mr. Goodwin to talk with Mr. Munchbach

Mr. Goodwin stated that there are signs in many areas, such as the walking tracks on the field. Mr. Goodwin added that there is a fantastic Face Book campaign.

**Old/New Business\***

Mr. MacDonald informed all that today the Federal Court ruled that gun shops can open effective noon this Saturday and the federal judge gave the opponents until May 28th to have their arguments heard. Mr. MacDonald stated that at some point, restaurants will be able to open and thee will be guidelines that will be very restrictive for them. Mr. MacDonald asked what we can do to support restaurants once they can open. Mr. MacDonald informed all that the smaller restaurants can apply for an extended service area.

Dr. Teehan asked, what happens to the Reyes fund. The Reyes fund is critical to our financial future and it is entirely based on hotels and meals. Dr. Teehan asked for a presentation on where the fund stands. Dr. Teehan stressed that masks are no substitute for social distancing, and he urged residents to be careful and follow health care workers’ advice.

Ms. MacDonald asked if the Board intends to have public comment at the end of meetings and not at each agenda item.

Mr. Guilfoyle said that the Board has always had comments at the end of meetings but stated the Board can look into this.

Ms. Sullivan stated that she would like to see an agenda item to discuss protocol at a future. virtual meeting.

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.

Ms. Sullivan moved that the Select 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); Seconded by Dr.

Teehan.

**On the Vote**:

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Ms. MacDonald - yes

Dr. Teehan - yes

Ms. Sullivan - yes

Mr. Guilfoyle, yes

Mr. MacDonald – yes

The open meeting was adjourned at 7:19pm.

The next Meeting is scheduled for Thursday May 14, 2020. This is to certify that the above is a true and accurate record of the minutes of the Selectmen’s Meeting held on May 7, 2020 which minutes were approved on August 18, 2020.

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Dennis J. Guilfoyle. – Chairman