

Board of Selectmen

April 27, 2021

Remote meeting via telephone conference call

Present:

- Board of Selectmen: Ms. Mary Power (Chair), Mr. Joseph Fisher and Mr. Bill Ramsey
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator

7:00 PM: Call to order

Ms. Power called the meeting to order and read the following statement:

“This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording. “

Ms. Power asked if any participants were recording the meeting. There were no responses.

Ms. Power also noted that the Board of Selectmen members who were participating remotely were herself, Mary Power, Chair, Joe Fisher, and Bill Ramsey.

The Chair Stated: The Board will enter Executive Session under M.G.L, c. 30A, Section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel and/or to conduct contract negotiations with nonunion personnel (Fire Chief Steve Murphy). The Board will reconvene in Open Session.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

7:02 PM: The Board of Selectmen entered Executive Session.

7:23 PM: The Board of Selectmen reconvened in Open Session.

Ms. Power asked if anyone, besides Harbor Media was planning to record the meeting (video or still photographs.) Mr. Rowe from WATD News announced that he was recording.

Approval of minutes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes dated March 25, 2021. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Request for Outside Table Service and modification of liquor license for Eat Well, Inc. d/b/a Tosca, 14 North Street

Ms. Emily Wentworth, other members of the Restaurant Reopening Group and Mr. Brian Barry and others from Tosca joined the Board. Ms. Wentworth advised that while the original application proposed 38 seats, the current proposal, as recommended by the Restaurant Reopening Group, would include an estimated 20 seats at 5-6 tables. She said that there would be enough room for ADA requirements as well as Covid protocols. She also noted that the proposed hours were slightly outside the weekday hours specified in the policy so there is an added condition to address that as well. Sgt. Jeffrey Kilroy reported that the Hingham Police Department is comfortable with the outside table service as proposed. Mr. Barry said that safety is very important to Tosca and was happy with the proposal as presented by Ms. Wentworth. Mr. Fisher asked if there was any need for barriers at this location. Ms. Wentworth said that the Restaurant Reopening Group had considered barriers, but due to the small amount of traffic at this location, the Hingham Police Department did not feel it would be necessary. There was some additional discussion regarding the location of the dumpsters and the entrance/exit for take-out service. It was noted that both were on a different side of the building. Mr. Barry also noted that they had not received any concerns from neighbors. Mr. Ramsey felt that many local restaurant might want to extend their outside table service beyond the 60 days past the lifting of the State of Emergency, as is now allowed. He encouraged Town Administrator Mayo to consider what relief restaurant owners may need to continue this going forward. Ms. Power concurred and encouraged close communication between the Town and restaurant owners.

FIRST VOTE: Mr. Ramsey made a motion that the Board of Selectmen approve the OTS Application of the Applicant in accordance with the plan attached hereto (the "Approved Plan") and subject to the following conditions:

A. Site Specific Conditions:

- 1. The OTS area shall be laid out in a manner that maintains 6' of separation between all tables. Tables within the OTS area shall additionally maintain 6' of distance from any walkway or heavily traveled path, inclusive of public sidewalks.**
- 2. The "service area" designated on the plan shall be relocated to the inside of the restaurant.**
- 3. No amplified sound nor other entertainment shall be permitted in the OTS Premises.**
- 4. In accordance with ABCC Guidelines for Extension of Premises to Patio and Outdoor Areas, the Applicant shall:**
 - a) Enclose the OTS Premises by a fence, rope, planters, or other means to prevent access from a public walkway. Such enclosure must be in place in a manner satisfactory to the Hingham public safety officials prior to opening of the OTS Premises; and,**
 - b) Commit to providing management personnel dedicated to the OTS Premises as there is no clear view from the inside business to the OTS area.**

5. In accordance with the OTS Policy, the OTS Premises shall close no later than the earlier of (i) 10:00 p.m. on Sundays - Thursdays and 11:00 p.m. on Fridays and Saturdays or (ii) one hour after the kitchen of the establishment closes for food service.

B. General Conditions:

1. Outside Table Service shall be permitted in compliance with the Approved Plan, as modified by this Approval.
2. The location, size, and layout of the OTS Premises approved herein may not be modified without further approval. Any request for modification must be submitted in writing, with detail as to the proposed modifications, to restaurantopening@hingham-ma.gov.
3. Addition of amenities, such as tents or outdoor heating units, is subject to further review and approval. Requests for such amenities shall be sent in writing to restaurantopening@hingham-ma.gov.
4. Approval holder shall be responsible for regular cleaning of trash and food in the OTS Premises and shall not allow trash, food, or other nutrients to accumulate or be deposited (intentionally or unintentionally) into storm drains.
5. Approval holder shall fully comply with all applicable state and local laws, regulations, and standards, including without limitation:
 - a) Town of Hingham Covid-19 Temporary Policy Regarding Restaurant Outdoor Table Service.
 - b) Massachusetts COVID-19 Mandatory Workplace Safety Standards
 - c) Massachusetts COVID-19 "Safety Standards and Checklist: Restaurants"
 - d) ABCC Advisory Regarding Guidelines for Extension of Premises to Patio and Outdoor Areas
6. This Approval may be subject to additional public safety conditions to ensure the safety of the diners, pedestrians, and vehicles, if determined by the Town that an unsafe condition exists once Outside Table Service is in operation.
7. The establishment may be subject to periodic inspection for compliance with this Approval. Failure to comply with this Approval may result in suspension or revocation of this Approval and in fines in accordance with Massachusetts law.

Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

SECOND VOTE: Mr. Fisher made a motion that the Board approve the request of Eat Well, Inc. d/b/a Tosca, pursuant to COVID-19 Order No. 35, to temporarily alter the Licensed Premises under Liquor License #00009-RS-0528 to expire on the date that is 60 days after the end of the State of Emergency, or the date COVID-19 Order No. 50 is modified or rescinded by State Action (as defined in the OTS Policy), whichever is earlier.

Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Renewal of Concession Agreement between the Town of Hingham and South Shore Model Railway Club, Inc. and Renewal of Concession Agreement between the Town of Hingham and the Bare Cove Fire Museum

Ms. Kathy Reilly, Procurement and Contracts Manager, explained that these agreements are 4-year extensions of their current lease. She said that their lease agreement is typically a 5-year lease, but had been renewed for one year last because of Covid. She said that these 4-year leases as presented to the Board would serve as the balance of their typical 5-year lease. All terms and conditions would be the same as their prior lease.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to sign the Concession Agreement between the Town of Hingham and South Shore Model Railway Club, Inc. for a period of four years effective from May 21, 2021 through May 21, 2025. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to sign the Concession Agreement between the Town of Hingham and the Bare Cove Fire Museum for a period of four years effective from May 21, 2021 through May 21, 2025. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Update on the South Shore Country Club Maintenance Facility project

Mr. Kevin Whalen, Director of the South Shore Country Club, Ms. Christine Smith and Mr. Bill Friend of the SSCC Management Committee were present. Mr. Whalen provided a status update on the Maintenance Facility project. He said that they were also joined by Taylor McDonald of Pomroy Associates, the Project Manager, Chris Rotti of Rotti McGroddy Design Collaborative and SSCC golf staff. He explained that the 2020 Annual Town Meeting had approved a \$2.2 million design and build project for a new Maintenance Facility and storage structure at the SSCC.

Mr. Taylor McDonald gave an update on the project. Highlights of his presentation are as follows:

- The new Maintenance Facility will be located behind the 9th green where grounds equipment and material is currently stored.
- They are also working on the pool project and a Master Plan.

- Pomroy Associates was hired in October 2020 as the Owner’s Project Manager. RMD was hired in December 2020 as the architect.
- They meet weekly with the architect and staff of the SSCC.
- They have hired a Geotechnical Engineer and have conducted geotechnical borings.
- They have held successful Conservation and Historical hearings.
- They have contacted abutters.
- They have coordinated with HMLP regarding electrical.

Mr. Chris Rotti of RM Design gave the following architectural update:

- The Maintenance Facility will be located at the Western edge of the SSCC property, adjacent to the MBTA train station.
- The location was preferable to maintain as much open space as possible
- The location would shield it from neighbors and the street
- They propose a complex of three buildings (a,b & c). Building A would be the Maintenance Facility and Equipment Storage. Buildings B & C would plan to be constructed in the future as part of the ongoing Master Plan.
- The buildings’ style would be reminiscent of agricultural buildings, with sloped roofs and barn doors.

Mr. Taylor McDonald also gave a brief budget update. He reported that they were initially over budget but have implemented several cost-cutting measures such as plantings, interior partitions, square footage reductions and pavement. They anticipate another cost estimate in two weeks. He reported that prices of materials and services have surged during the pandemic. Mr. McDonald highlighted the following dates:

- May 2021-final cost estimate, Town review and comment, and final documents for bidding
- June 2021-Construction bidding
- March-April 2022-final completion

Mr. Ramsey clarified that the \$2.2 million would cover the cost of the building, as well as soft costs. He asked for a cost estimate on the pool but Mr. McDonald said that the architect had not provided one yet. Mr. Ramsey also asked if the one building would cover all the needs of the club. Mr. Whalen explained that the club does have some other needs, including upgrading the existing staff building. He said that they hope to build to the club’s full needs in the future, with the help of the Master Plan.

Mr. Fisher asked about environmental impacts of the plan and what steps could be taken to make this a “green” project. Mr. Whalen said that they tried to integrate many green aspects, but found that some things, such as solar panels, were cost-prohibitive. He also noted that the building would have a minimal carbon footprint due to its simple design. He noted that one green initiative is a recycling station in the wash-down area. Mr. Fisher also asked about the proximity of wetlands to the proposed site. It was noted that the proposed site would be located outside of the 50-foot buffer zone. Mr. Whalen also said that they plan to remove all invasive plant species and would replace them with indigenous plants and trees.

Ms. Power was in favor of the building design. Ms. Christine Smith thanked the team for all their work on this difficult project and reminded the public that the Maintenance Facility project began as a safety

concern for employees. Mr. Bill Friends said he was very pleased with the Owner's Project Manager, the architects and Town Engineer J. R. Smith. Ms. Power thanked the team at the Country Club for all the work they do to make the course look so beautiful.

2021 Annual Town Meeting logistics and COVID-19 protocols

Ms. Power announced that the 2021 Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Saturday, May 8, 2021 at 2 PM on the Hingham High School multi-purpose field. Ms. Monsegur reported the following information regarding the meeting:

- There will be five sections of chairs, spaced 6'-8' apart.
- She encouraged people to dress appropriately and to bring blankets if it is cold.
- There will be a designated section for people with disabilities, closest to the entrance
- There will be three entrances, which correspond with the three parking areas.
- Shuttles will not be provided as in past Town Meetings due to Covid
- Two ADA accessible port-a-pottys will be available.
- Microphones will be cleaned and windscreens will be changed between speakers.
- Check-in will be contactless.
- Social distancing will be required.
- Water will be available.
- Hand sanitizing stations will be available.
- Assisted listening devices will be available.
- Large print Warrants are available upon request.

Ms. Power was very appreciative of the efforts put forth by Tom Mayo, Michelle Monsegur, Fire Chief Murphy, Police Chief Jones, and Executive Health Director Susan Sarni, among others, particularly given the circumstances the Town has faced due to Covid. Ms. Monsegur reported that information regarding Town Meeting would be made available to the public via the Town website, email blasts, harbor Media PSA's, The Hingham Anchor, and social media.

Update from the Hingham Commission on Disabilities

Ms. Power explained that, after a period of inactivity and at the urging of citizens, the Commission of Disabilities had recently been reactivated. Chair Diane DiNapoli called the Commission to order. Ms. Di Napoli presented a report of their mission and activities to date. Her presentation included a population overview and growth numbers for the HPS's children on IEP's. She also thanked Ms. Power for providing guidance as to how to proceed with their mission. Ms. Di Napoli reported that the Commission on Disabilities holds monthly meetings and is a five person Board made up largely of Hingham residents with disabilities. The Commission can receive private tax-deductible donations from interested residents and businesses. She mentioned this because most disability commissions are funded through handicap parking fines, of which Hingham does not have many, thus limiting their funding. Ms. Di Napoli said that the purpose of the Commission is to improve the lives of people with disabilities in Hingham. Goals of the Commission include:

- Promote full integration of persons with disabilities into the community
- Provide information and referrals to individuals, businesses, and organizations in all matters pertaining to disability issues

- Participate in a variety of forums and media events to develop public awareness of persons with disabilities and encourage compliance with the A.D.A.
- Coordinate and carry out programs designed to meet the problems of people with disabilities in coordination with programs of the MA Office of Disability

Ms. Di Napoli also said that the Commission is conducting a Town-wide survey designed to better gauge the needs of the disabled population in Hingham. She encouraged input from residents with disabilities. She also reported that the Commission is working closely with that Board of Selectmen to discuss increasing accessibility to all aspects of government, with a focus on Town Meeting. She said that people could contact the Board of Selectmen's Office to discuss and reserve an accommodation for Town Meeting at 781-741-1451 or at townadministrator@hingham-ma.gov. Resources and information about the Commission can be found on the Town of Hingham website at www.hingham-ma.gov.

Mr. Fisher commented that Covid-19 has presented a special set of challenges for people with disabilities and said that the Attorney General of Massachusetts has issued special guidance on disability rights during Covid-19, specifically workplace and healthcare rights. Mr. Ramsey encouraged the Commission to reach out to the Selectmen if they can help in any way. Ms. Power noted that Town Counsel is reviewing the Commission's by-laws. She also suggested that it might be appropriate to expand the membership of the Commission in accordance with the requirements as set forth by Massachusetts General Laws. She felt that the work of the Commission could be enhanced by the addition of one or two senior citizens.

Appointments

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to appoint Stephen Girardi as the Town of Cohasset's representative to the Weir River Water System Citizen Advisory Board.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Special Police Officers

Police Chief Jones explained that Special Police Officers supplement the HPD's full-time officers. They work as security at events, at traffic details and security details. They are trained by the same training council as the full-time officers and have full police authority once the Board appoints them. Ms. Power added that many are current or retired members of Hingham's public safety team.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to reappoint the following individuals as Special Police Officers for the Town of Hingham for a term ending April 30, 2022:

Raymond Abreau

Leslie Badger

Kenneth Corson

Joseph Driscoll

Michael Fahie

George Kelley

Dillon Leary

Robert Mansfield

Michael McCue

Michael Murray

John Norkaitis

John Norris

Mitchell Powers
Matthew Puleo
Michael Riley
James Tian

Darius Varmahmoodi
James Wells

Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

Inside Town Finances: Volume 14 – Assessments

Ms. Power presented the fourteenth in a series of presentations on Town Finances: Assessments. The entire presentation can be found online at www.hingham-ma.gov.

COVID-19 Update

Mr. Mayo gave the following update on the Covid-19 pandemic:

“COVID-19 Data

As of today, confirmed COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts totaled 642,036. According to public health data from the MA Department of Public Health (DPH) released last week, the Town’s designation remains “yellow,” indicating a “medium risk” of spread in the community. There have been 80 new cases of COVID-19 in Hingham over the past 14 days, and a total of 1,907 cases in Hingham since the start of the pandemic.

The average daily incidence rate for the Town of Hingham was 23.8 per 100,000 residents, and our percent positivity rate was 2.81% for the previous 14 days.

Vaccine Rollout

The general public ages 16+ became eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine in Massachusetts as of Monday, April 19th. According to DPH’s [daily COVID-19 vaccine report](#), nearly 2.4 million people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated as of today. As of April 22nd, approximately 36% of Hingham residents have been fully vaccinated, up from 27% two weeks ago. Last Friday, the CDC decided to resume use of the Johnson & Johnson COVID-19 vaccine. We were notified by DPH that all providers may resume administration of the J&J vaccine, effective immediately. The Town had received J&J vaccines to administer to 10 homebound residents in Hingham. Town staff are reaching back out to those residents and will move forward with administering J&J vaccines for those who are still interested.

State Reopening Guidance

Today, the Baker Administration announced that Massachusetts will take a number of additional steps to reopen over the next few months. Some of the key dates they identified are April 30th, May 10th, May 29th, and August 1st. On April 30th, the Governor will relax the Face Coverings Order for some outdoor settings:

- Face coverings will only be required outside in public when it is not possible to socially distance, and at other times required by sector-specific guidance.
- Face coverings will still be required at all times in indoor public places.
- Face coverings will also continue to be required at all times at events, whether held indoors or outdoors and whether held in a public space or private home, except for when eating or drinking.
- At smaller gatherings in private homes, face coverings are recommended but not required.

Changes going into effect on Monday, May 10th will impact large venues (stadiums, arenas), amusement and theme parks, road races, sports tournaments, and indoor singing. Changes potentially going into effect on Saturday, May 29th may increase the gathering limits to 200 people indoors and 250 people outdoors for event venues, public settings, and private settings. Subject to public health and vaccination data, the state may lift all industry restrictions as of August 1st. There are a lot of details to review and digest from today's announcement. We encourage everyone to read the [press release on the state's website](#)."

Public Comment

The Board of Selectmen sets aside up to 15 minutes for public comment for items not on the Board's agenda, but within the purview of the Board of Selectmen, during which time they follow the guidelines of the Open Meeting Law. They encourage speakers to present remarks in a respectful manner and not to indulge in personalities. The Public Comment time is not a period of debate for the Board of Selectmen and the Board is neither adopting nor endorsing any of the comments made during the Public Comment period.

There were no comments from the public.

Town Administrator/Selectmen Reports

Mr. Fisher reported that the MBTA Board met yesterday and announced that additional ferry service would be restored, effective May 22, 2021, including the direct Hingham service to Boston, weekend service, and the stop at Logan Airport. This is a reversal of the service cuts that were announced several months ago. Mr. Fisher said that there would be 14 inbound trips to Boston during the week and 11 outbound trips from Boston to Hingham. The Hingham/Hull ferry weekend service will return with airport stops both during the week and on the weekends. Mr. Fisher thanked Representative Joan Meschino, Senator Patrick O'Connor, the South Shore Chamber of Commerce and many members of the Hingham community who contributed to the restoration of service. He reported that there would be additional service restorations announced in the coming weeks with respect to the Greenbush Line and bus service.

Mr. Ramsey reported that he would be meeting with the Hingham Sports Partnership this week to talk about the funding initiative for the Field Maintenance Plan and centralized scheduling and the future of the fields in Hingham.

Mr. Fisher suggested that it would be appropriate for the Board of Selectmen to send a letter to the MBTA and to Jamie Tesler, MassDOT Acting Secretary, acknowledging their move to restore service and to make it clear that the Board is looking forward to growing public transportation. He requested the Board's permission to draft such a letter. Ms. Power agreed.

Ms. Power had the following announcements:

- MA State Senator Patrick O'Conner has been named to the State Commission on Disability and suggested that he would be a very helpful resource for the Town.
- The Beach House snack shack at the Bathing Beach is opening for the season on April 28, 2021.

- Work is continuing on the Plymouth River School windows project. She said that the School Department and the School Building Committee are working diligently to keep the project moving forward.
- The water company billing transition continues to go well. She also reminded the public that, in the event of a water emergency, please call the customer service line and press “1”. The phone line is open 24 hours.
- Saturday, May 1, 2021 is the opening of the Hingham Farmer’s Market and will be located in the Station Street parking lot. She thanked Mark Cullings for inviting her to ring the opening bell on Saturday.
- The next meeting of the Board of Selectmen will take place on Tuesday, May 4, 2021.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Power: yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:51 PM.

Documents: A complete meeting packet of supporting documentation is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen’s office