

# Select Board

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June 15, 2021

Present:

- Board of Selectmen: Mr. Joseph Fisher (Chair) and Ms. Liz Klein (Mr. Bill Ramsey was not in attendance.)
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator

## **7:00 PM: Call to order**

Mr. Fisher called the meeting to order.

## **Approval of minutes**

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the minutes dated June 7, 2021. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the minutes dated June 8 2021. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the minutes dated June 10 2021. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**To approve the issuance of three (3) separate Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverages Licenses to Burke's Brewing Company, Inc. for Sunset Picnics at Weir River Farm to be held on July 1, July 8, and July 15, 2021 from 5 pm to 8:30 pm**

Brian Burke, 111 Fitzroy Dive, explained that he was asked by the Trustees to participate, as a provider of beer, in a series of sunset picnics at the Weir River Farm. The dates that he is requesting licenses for are July 1, July 8 and July 15. It was clarified that the set up for these events would be the same as the dates that had been approved by the Select Board at a previous meeting on May 25, 2021.

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the issuance of three (3) separate Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverages Licenses to Brian Burke on behalf of Burke's Brewing Company, Inc. for Sunset Picnics at Weir River Farm to be held on July 1, July 8, and July 15, 2021 from 5 pm to 8:30 pm. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**To sign the Concession Agreement for Lynch Field with Hingham Little League, Hingham Youth Hockey, and Hingham Youth Football effective from June 15, 2021 through June 15, 2022**

Kathy Reilly, Procurements and Contracts Director in the Town Administrator's Office said that the agreement is between the Town and the youth sports programs (hockey, baseball and hockey). Use of this field is also overseen by the National Parks, primarily for use of the field house and the use of the field during the season. Youth Sports are required to maintain the field house, pay the utility bills, and to provide insurance. The Town is responsible for the parking lot, snow plowing, mowing the field and the irrigation systems. This agreement is for a 1-year extension of the contract.

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to sign the Concession Agreement for Lynch Field with Hingham Little League, Hingham Youth Hockey, and Hingham Youth Football, effective from June 15, 2021 through June 14, 2022. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**To proclaim June 19, 2021 as Juneteenth Independence Day in the Town of Hingham**

Ms. Fisher made the following remarks regarding the Juneteenth holiday:

"This coming Saturday is June 19 and it will be the first time that Juneteenth is a legal holiday in Massachusetts. The holiday commemorates the day in 1865 that enslaved persons in Galveston, Texas learned of their freedom, two years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation. General Gordon Granger of the U.S. Army who, at the time, was in command of the District of Texas, issued a General Order stating that all slaves are free. Last July, in 2020, Governor Charlie Baker signed legislation making June 19<sup>th</sup> an official State holiday, thirteen years after the State's only black Governor, Deval Patrick, signed the proclamation, proclaiming Juneteenth in Massachusetts. Juneteenth is a moment of reflection for this country. Last year, the Harvard Professor and Historian, Annette Gordon-Reed published a piece in the New Yorker Magazine about her childhood in Texas and the meaning of the holiday for her family and community. "Juneteenth and the Fourth of July were inexorably linked during those years," she notes, in part because the Declaration of Independence carried a promise yet to be fulfilled for black Americans. "I did not know as a child," she writes, "how intensely how African Americans had fought to keep alive the memory of Juneteenth to commemorate our ancestors' struggles and their hopes and to link them to our own." It is in that spirit that we have a proclamation for the Town of Hingham.

Ms. Klein and Mr. Fisher read the following proclamation:

**Town of Hingham, Massachusetts**

**Proclamation**

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, two and a half years after President Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, landed at Galveston, Texas with news that the Civil War had ended and that enslaved people were now free; and

Whereas, Major General Granger announced to the residents of Texas: “The people of Texas are informed that, in accordance with a proclamation from the Executive of the United States, all slaves are free. This involves an absolute equality of personal rights and rights of property, between former masters and slaves and the connection heretofore existing between them, becomes that between employer and hired labor”; and,

Whereas, the first Juneteenth celebration was held in Texas in 1866. Since then, Juneteenth has been celebrated in communities across the United States, providing an opportunity to mark the emancipation of enslaved people; and,

Whereas, June 19<sup>th</sup> is now designated in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts as a state holiday; and,

Whereas, on this day, in hundreds of communities across the country, people of all races, nationalities and religions join hands to acknowledge the painful history and lasting, systemic impact of slavery and racial injustice in the United States. Juneteenth is an opportunity to recommit ourselves to the goal of creating a more equal and just society, an effort that continues today.

Now, therefore we, Joseph M. Fisher, William C. Ramsey, and Elizabeth F. Klein, Select Board of Hingham, do hereby proclaim June 19, 2021 to be

### **JUNETEENTH INDEPENDENCE DAY**

and we urge each citizen to take cognizance of this event and participate fittingly in its observance.

Signed this fifteenth day of June 2021.

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion proclaim June 19, 2021 as Juneteenth Independence Day in the Town of Hingham. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

#### **Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

#### **Discussion of Proposed World’s End Mooring Plan and Harbor Regulations**

Harbormaster Ken Corson presented. Mr. Fisher noted that the only action the Board would consider this evening would be limited to the rafting regulations in World’s End. Mr. Corson gave some background history on mooring regulations. They have been monitoring the regulations closely over the last 10 years, and more closely over the last 4 years. Their emphasis was on safety and the number of people on waiting lists. He noted that, after last year’s dredging, a revised mooring plan had been approved by the Select Board. He feels that new plan addresses today’s needs rather than needs present ten years ago. Harbormaster Corson also said that they have reviewed the World’s End area for

possible improvements. He reported that there is a wait list for that area of about 65 people. He also said that there are 4 transient moorings and 41 moorings in that area. The Office of the Harbormaster has looked at the needs of World's End and Mr. Corson reported that area sometimes welcomes 300-400+ visitors in a weekend. His goal was to find some solutions to better manage the area. To do this, he said that they worked with an engineering firm to create a new mooring plan, which would add 13 new moorings and would allow for some people to be taken off the waitlist and also offer more transient moorings. To put a plan like this in place, he said that they would need to adjust mooring regulations. Other changes they considered were:

- No anchoring in the mooring field
- Limiting the number of permits to one per entity
- A three-boat raft, which means that only three boats could be tied to one mooring.

Mr. Corson said that they used data provided by the engineering firm when coming to three-boat raft. They took into account the average size of boats, the amount of water in the area at low tide, allowing for a safe area for swimming and the fact that this area is of critical environmental concern and includes many wildlife habitats. With the new mooring plan in place, he did not feel that the area could accommodate rafting of more than three boats per mooring. He did not recommend instituting the new mooring plan or a three-boat raft at this time, mainly because it would take quite a while to move the existing moorings and this would be disruptive since the summer is already underway. At this time, Mr. Corson recommended a rafting restriction of five boats per mooring. He felt that it would allow for ample space for people to swim, kayak, and partake in other activities. He also did not recommend any anchoring restrictions. He noted that these restrictions would be in place for the current boating season. While the Harbormaster has the authority to make enact the regulations of the harbor, he felt that an important part of the public process to inform the Select Board of any new regulations and how they were decided upon. He welcomed the advice of the Board before he makes any changes to the regulations. If the Board were to support the proposed changes, and the Harbormaster decided to go ahead with them, there would be a period of time where they would be advertised to the public.

Mr. Fisher was in favor of increasing the number of moorings, in part because it would allow some people to get off the waitlist and to enjoy boating in the area. Mr. Fisher reported the following rafting regulations in other coastal towns:

- Oak Bluffs – 4 boats maximum
- Westport – 2 boats maximum
- Marion – 3 boats maximum
- Chilmark – no rafting allowed

He noted that there are a number of other communities with stricter rafting regulations than what the Harbormaster is proposing. He said that the Harbormaster is trying to strike a balance between safety concerns with environmental issues and freedom for the boaters.

Ms. Klein asked for further information on the environmental concerns in the World's End area and how the environment might be disrupted by additional boats and anchors. Mr. Corson reported that:

- The area has some of the most extensive salt marsh in the Greater Boston area.

- The area is part of a larger area that supports over 100 species of migratory and residential birds.
- There are small mammals that live in the area and a large shellfish bed.
- It is also a nursery and feeding area for fin fish, including alewives, smelt, flounder, bluefish and striped bass.

While Ms. Klein supported enlarging the mooring field and increasing accessibility to boaters, she was in favor of waiting until next season to do so. She felt that moving the mooring field now would be too disruptive to the boating season that is already underway.

Mr. Corson said that they will continue to monitor how the rafting and anchoring works during this season, before they institute any new restrictions. He also clarified that boaters do not need to notify the Harbormaster's Office if they decide to anchor in Town, and can do so for up to 48 hours. Mr. Fisher and Mr. Corson also clarified that a raft of less than five boats that is impeding navigation, due to location or a tender off the back of a vessel, may be asked to move, at the discretion of the Harbormaster.

There was some additional discussion regarding pump-out services. Mr. Corson said that they never want to deny anyone a pump-out because they do not want the water to enter the environment. He did say that, during busy times, they might not be able to get to every boater that requests a pump-out. The Town is reimbursed for 3/4 of what is spent on pump-out services, but the Harbormaster's Office spends far beyond their allotment for this service.

There were comments from a number of people including:

- David Giagrande, Weymouth, MA
- Marco Boer, 330 Main Street
- Milton Schull, Waltham, MA
- Brian Blair, 718 Forest Street
- Eric Dresser, Weymouth, MA

In general, those making comments were in favor of a five-boat raft, however there were some additional questions and comments regarding:

- How the five-boat raft was calculated
- Safety concerns in the area
- A possible fee for pump-out services
- A designated area for anchoring

Mr. Fisher read the following modifications to the Town of Hingham Mooring Regulations, as presented by the Harbormaster:

**"§ 15 World's End Mooring Area**

**A. Rafting**

Rafting is permitted in this mooring area only when safe conditions allow, provided that the

vessels:

- (i) Are properly secured and fended;
- (ii) Take appropriate measures to avoid contact with other moored vessels; and
- (iii) Do not impede or interfere with the navigation of other vessels through the mooring area.
- (iv) No more than five (5) vessels shall raft or tie to a mooring without prior Harbormaster written permission.
- (v) Swim at your own risk.”

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the proposed changes to Section 15 (World’s End Mooring Area) of the Town of Hingham Mooring Regulations, as presented. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**Reappointment of Eileen McCracken to the Hingham Contributory Retirement Board.**

Mr. Mayo said that Ms. McCracken has been a member for a number of years. Her position is appointed by the Select Board and her term has come to an end and the Select Board can decided to reappoint her to the Board another three-year term.

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to reappoint of Eileen McCracken to the Hingham Contributory Retirement Board for a three-year term ending June 30, 2024. Mr. Fisher seconded**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**COVID-19 Update**

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

COVID-19 Data

As of today, confirmed COVID-19 cases in Massachusetts totaled 662,855. The 7-day average of new COVID-19 cases in the state has been trending downward since early April. The statewide positivity rate is down to 0.42% and the 7-day average of confirmed deaths from COVID-19 has dropped to 4.1 from a peak of around 175. According to public health data from the MA Department of Public Health (DPH) released last week, the Town’s designation is now “grey”, indicating 10 or fewer new cases. There have been 5 new cases of COVID-19 in Hingham over the past 14 days, and a total of 1,966 cases in Hingham since the start of the pandemic. The average daily incidence rate for the Town of Hingham dropped to 1.5 per 100,000 residents, and our percent positivity rate was 0.44% for the previous 14 days.

Vaccine Rollout

According to DPH's daily COVID-19 vaccine report, over 4 million people in Massachusetts have been fully vaccinated as of today. Vermont and Massachusetts continue to lead the way nationwide in terms of percent of the population that is fully vaccinated, [according to Johns Hopkins University](#), with MA at almost 55%. As of last week, nearly 63% of Hingham residents have been fully vaccinated. We are continuing to get the word out to ensure that any Hingham residents who still wish to get the vaccine know they can access it locally through several pharmacies (such as CVS, Walgreens, and the Hingham Center Pharmacy) as well as through the state's mobile vaccine program. Residents looking for help accessing the COVID-19 vaccine should call the state's Vaccination Central Intake Line at 833-983-0485. They can also contact our Senior Center staff at 781-804-2292.

### Reopening & Public Meetings

Yesterday, Town Hall and Town Offices, the Senior Center, and the Recreation Department's Fitness Room reopened to the public for the first time in several months. Hingham Public Library also returned to a normal operating schedule with evening hours. It is wonderful to see more life and energy safely return to our facilities. In line with CDC and DPH guidance, unvaccinated people are advised to continue wearing face coverings and to practice social distancing when accessing municipal facilities to help protect themselves and others from COVID-19. We have installed plastic barriers at many service counters and hand sanitizing stations throughout our buildings. We ask that everyone abide by and be respectful of the health and safety protocols we have put in place. The safety of our residents and employees is our primary concern.

Ms. Monsegur noted that the State's Mobile Vaccine Program has expanded their program to include not just homebound individuals. She also said that there has been a trend of Hingham senior's vaccination rates lagging behind the State's rates. She said that they plan to include a pamphlet in the next HMLP bills that would let seniors know where they can access the vaccine locally and would include the contact information for the Senior Center.

### **Public Comment**

"The Hingham Select Board encourages community engagement and welcomes questions and comments as agenda items are discussed at the meeting. In addition, we have set aside up to fifteen minutes for public comment for items that fall under the purview of the Select Board and are not already on tonight's agenda. If any guests wish to speak, please seek to be recognized. Once recognized, state your name and address and address your comments to the Chair. Comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker and must relate to topics within the scope of the responsibilities of the Select Board. Speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner and not to indulge in personalities. The Public Comment period is not a time for debate by members of the Select Board. The Select Board is not adopting or endorsing any of the comments made during the Public Comment period."

There were no comments from the public.

### **Town Administrator/Select Board Reports**

Ms. Monsegur explained the impact of the Juneteenth holiday on municipal facilities. The Transfer Station and the Hingham Public Library will be closed on Saturday, June 19, 2021. In keeping with the Town's practice of observing Saturday holidays on a Friday, Town Hall offices, DPW offices, and the Senior Center will all be closed on Friday, June 18, 2021 in observance of the holiday.

Ms. Klein reported that, since their last meeting, she has met with Fire Chief Murphy and has toured all three fire stations. She has also met with Veterans Services. Ms. Klein announced that the Select Board has another round of Talent Bank Interviews on Wednesday, June 16, 2021. She also noted that today was the last day of school in Hingham and thanked their colleagues on the School Committee for all their work this year.

Mr. Fisher reported a number of promotions within the Hingham Fire Department, as follows:

- David Levinson promoted to Deputy Chief of Operations
- Colby Wolcox promoted to Captain
- James Sheard promoted to Lieutenant
- Owen McKenna promoted to Lieutenant
- Kyle Keegan promoted to Firefighter
- James McFarland promoted to Firefighter
- Ben Cronin promoted to Firefighter
- David Perez promoted to Firefighter
- Patrick Sheridan promoted to Firefighter
- Ben Yodzio promoted to Firefighter
- Jeffrey James promoted to Firefighter
- Kevin McMasters promoted to Firefighter
- John Giasulo promoted to Firefighter

He congratulated them all and wished them well. Mr. Fisher also reported that, this past Sunday, June 13, 2021 a Firefighter's Memorial Service was held at the Fire Station to remember and honor Firefighters who have passed away.

Mr. Fisher also reported that the Board is conducting Talent Bank interviews in the next several weeks. He encouraged residents to access the Talent back application at [www.hingham-ma.org](http://www.hingham-ma.org).

**Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fisher seconded.**

**Roll Call Vote:**

**Mr. Ramsey: yes**

**Ms. Klein: yes**

**Mr. Fisher: yes**

**The meeting adjourned at 8:05 PM.**

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