

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Remote Participation
May 24, 2021– 6:00 P.M.

Participating Remotely: Tristan J. Laliberte, Lionel R. Berthiaume, Scott C. Wrenn and Sara K. Rufli
Not Participating: Daniel S. Carpenter
Also: Town Manager Julie A. Jacobson and CFO/Asst. Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz

Town Manager Julie Jacobson called the meeting to order at 6:01 P.M.

Mrs. Jacobson stated that this Open Meeting of the Town of Auburn Board of Selectmen is being conducted remotely, consistent with Governor Baker’s Executive Order of March 12, 2020, which suspends the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible *physical* location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely as long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting.

Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. This meeting will allow for public comment under agenda item 2a) and there is a call in number for those who want to speak during that public hearing. For the public to join the meeting remotely by telephone, call 1-408-650-3123 and enter Access Code 235-235-861. Or, the public can join via computer at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/235235861>.

All supporting materials that have been provided to the members of this body are available on the Town’s website. The public is encouraged to follow along using the posted agenda.

As a preliminary matter, Town Manager Jacobson confirmed that all members and persons participating in the agenda were present and could hear her:

- Daniel Carpenter - Not present
- Lionel Berthiaume - Yes
- Tristan Laliberte - Yes
- Scott Wrenn - Yes
- Sara Rufli - Yes

Also,

- Town Manager Julie Jacobson - Yes
- CFO/Asst. Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz - Yes
- Administrative Assistant Sharon Kwiatkowski - Yes

Mrs. Jacobson stated that the Town Planner Adam Menard was also participating remotely.

She also stated that there is a public hearing under 3a) Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England for Joint or Identical Pole Locations – Oxford Street North.

The Town Manager noted that the meeting was being recorded by Auburn Cable Television and she stated that all votes to be taken in this meeting will be conducted by roll call vote.

The Town Manager congratulated Tristan Laliberte and Sara Rufli for their election to the Board of Selectmen last week.

Re-Organization

Town Manager Julie A. Jacobson opened nominations for Chair of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Wrenn also congratulated Tristan Laliberte and Sara Rufli for their election to the Board.

Mr. Wrenn then nominated Tristan Laliberte for Chair of the Board. Mr. Berthiaume seconded.

Mrs. Jacobson asked if there were any further nominations. There being none, she declared the nominations closed.

The Board voted by roll call on the selection of Tristan Laliberte as Chair – Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mrs. Rufli, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Mr. Laliberte assumed the Chair and opened nominations for Vice Chair of the Board of Selectmen.

Mr. Berthiaume nominated Scott Wrenn for Vice Chair. Mrs. Rufli seconded the nomination. Mr. Laliberte asked if there were any other nominations. There being none, he declared the nominations closed.

The Board voted by roll call on the selection of Scott Wrenn as Vice Chair – Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mrs. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Public Hearings/Presentations

Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England for Joint Pole or Identical Pole Locations – Oxford Street North.

At 6:06 P.M. the Board voted to open the public hearing on the petition (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mrs. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Mr. Steve Soucy representing National Grid was participating remotely and he explained the petition for pole locations to serve the Julia Bancroft School Apartment Complex on Oxford Street North.

Chair Laliberte noted that the Board members have been provided location maps of the area.

Mr. Wrenn asked if there would be any power disturbance to the area during the work. Mr. Soucy replied that any disruption was expected to be minimal and for a short time or National Grid would be providing the appropriate required notices to the residents.

Abutters had been notified about the public hearing. There were none that were participating to speak on the petition.

At 6:12 P.M. the Board voted to close the hearing (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mrs. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

The Board of Selectmen voted to approve the petition as put forth in the presentation (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mrs. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Communications

There were no items.

Board of Selectmen General Items

Transient Vendor License Application Fork ‘N Delicious.

The applicant was not present. Mr. Berthiaume said that he would like the applicant to be in attendance.

The Chair stated that this item was held at the last meeting by the administration, not because of the applicant, so that all the Development Coordinating Group (DCG) members including the Police Department could review it. The DCG has not raised any objections.

Mr. Wrenn agreed with Mr. Berthiaume and he said that he would like to hear from the applicant for more information about the operation.

The Town Manager then left the meeting to call the business owner.

The Board voted to move forward agenda item 5b) Board and Committee Re-Appointments (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Wrenn) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mrs. Rufli, Yes.

Board and Committee Re-Appointments

The Board of Selectmen voted to re-appoint Edward J. Coleman (Precinct 3) to the Finance Committee for a term that expires June 30, 2024 (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mr. Wrenn) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mrs. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

The Board of Selectmen voted to re-appoint Peter E. Jones, Richard G. Kusy and Robert J. Tatro to the Zoning Board of Appeals for terms that would expire June 30, 2024 (Motion made by Mr. Wrenn; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mrs. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Mrs. Jacobson then returned to the meeting and she advised that the applicant, James Winchester, told her that he wished to hold the application until the next board meeting to give him time to complete all the paperwork for the Police Department.

The Board of Selectmen then voted to hold the Transient Vendor License Application for Fork N' Delicious until the June 14th meeting (Motion made by Mr. Berthiaume; motion seconded by Mrs. Rufli) Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mrs. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Gift Acceptances in Accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 53A

There were no items.

Proclamations and Recognitions

There were no items.

Town Manager Items

Public Safety Facilities Update

The Town Manager gave an update on the status of the RFP process for property acquisition by the Town for the Police/Fire/Ambulance Public Safety Complex. Mrs. Jacobson discussed the timeline for RFP submittals, the review process and the potential debt exclusion vote. She also talked about the public outreach that the Town would be doing.

Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey Info

Town Planner Adam Menard gave an update on the Open Space and Recreation Plan Survey. He also submitted information on a virtual meeting on June 7th to discuss the update to the Open Space and Recreation Plan. The meeting will provide the opportunity to discuss town needs and goals for parks, recreation amenities, and natural resources.

Tabled Items

There were no items.

Board of Selectmen Member Items

Request the Board begin Discussions regarding Updating the commonly used Name Board of Selectmen to Select Board. Many towns have moved to using the gender neutral Select Board. This process would need to go to the State for approval.

Chair Tristan Laliberte discussed the item that was brought forward at the last meeting. Mr. Berthiaume said that he was agreeable to consider the change and would like to find out the steps to proceed with the action.

The Town Manager said that she would check into the matter and report back to the Board. She said that she might need to consult Town Counsel with respect to the Charter.

The Chair asked if there were any corrections or omissions to the minutes of April 12, 2021. There being none, Chair Laliberte accepted the minutes of April 12, 2021.

At 6:44 P.M. the Board of Selectmen voted to adjourn the meeting (Motion made by Mrs. Rufli; motion seconded by Mr. Berthiaume) roll call vote: Mr. Berthiaume, Yes; Mrs. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes; Mr. Laliberte, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Submitted: Sharon A. Kwiatkowski
Adm. Assistant to the Town Manager

The following documents were part of the Board of Selectmen's Meeting of May 24, 2021 and are retained in the Executive Office of the Town Manager:

- May 24, 2021 Agenda.
- Petition by National Grid and Verizon New England for Joint or Identical Pole Locations – Oxford Street North
- Application Documents – Transient Vendor License Application Fork N' Delicious; Development Coordinating Group (DCG) Letter with Recommendations dated May 5, 2021
- Update on Open Space and Recreation Plan
- Minutes of May 24, 2021