



Office of the Board of Selectmen
Webster Town Hall
350 Main Street
Webster, MA 01570

Phone: (508) 949-3800 x 1005
Fax: (508) 949-3888
selectmen@webster-ma.gov

Randall V. Becker, Chairman
Andrew Jolda, Vice-Chairman
Earl Gabor, Secretary
Lisa Kontoes
Thomas Klebart

BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR SESSION MEETING MINUTES

Friday, June 26, 2020 8:10 A.M.

Selectmen's Meeting Room

Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA
via conference call in accordance with Governor Baker's
emergency "Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the
Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20
8:10 a.m.

MEETING OPENING: At 8:10 a.m., Chairman Becker called the meeting to order in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Webster Town Hall, 350 Main Street, Webster, MA. The following individuals were present: Chairman Becker, Selectman Andrew Jolda, Selectman Earl Gabor (via Zoom Meeting), Selectman Kontoes, Selectman Klebart (Via Zoom Meeting), Conservation Commission Chairman Joey Wigglesworth, Conservation Agent Mary Overhault, Michelle Sherillo, Town Administrator Doug Willardson, and Executive Assistant Courtney Friedland. The Board stood and took the Pledge of Allegiance.

Chairman Becker referred to the agenda which noted on March 12, 2020, Governor Baker issued an Executive Order modifying certain requirements of the Open Meeting Law, to enable public bodies to carry out their responsibilities while adhering to public health recommendations regarding social distancing as fully stated on the agenda. The Executive Order relieves public bodies from the requirement in the Open Meeting Law that meetings be conducted in a public place that is open and physically accessible to the public, provided that the public body makes provision to ensure public access to the deliberations of the public body through adequate, alternative means.

CONSERVATION COMMISSION APPOINTMENT: Michelle Sherillo came forward. She stated she has been on the Conservation Commission for three years. She said she has been truly dedicated. She stated she goes on almost every sight visit which averages eight hours a week. She said she reviews all of the documents before going to the meetings. She has taken classes to further her education. She said there are currently three members on the Commission that have been members less than a year. She said adding new members would slow down the process. She has worked closely with Ms. Overhault on the new fee schedule and on granting Ms. Overhault Administrative approval, which helps cut down and streamline the process. Selectman Kontoes asked why she was involved in the Conservation Commission. Ms. Sherillo stated she had a change at her job which allowed her to work from home. She stated she lives on the lake and knew she could have an impact in the community. Selectman Kontoes asked Ms. Sherillo what she believed were the top three challenges facing the Conservation Commission. Ms. Sherillo stated passing a Wetland By-law and Set-Back provisions will be one of the challenges.

She stated the proposed By-law is critical to protecting the wetlands. She said the Conservation Commission needs to educate the residents of what the By-law was protecting. She said the second challenge would be educating the tree companies. She said tree companies are coming into town and cutting trees without paying attention to conservation areas. Selectman Kontoes asked what lessons has she learned over the last three years on the Conservation Commission. Ms. Sherillo stated personally, she has learned that residents are allowed to say anything to the Conservation Commission and that Commissioners need to have self-control. She stated she only had one negative interaction with one contractor. She said anything that she said caused an argument. She stated she learned to take a step back and not engage in the argument. Selectman Kontoes asked what her goals for the Conservation Commission moving forward. Ms. Sherillo stated she hoped the Commission would become more outward and communicate with the residents more. She stated they need to be more ingrained in the community. She said the Commission has been through years of growth and now it is time for them to become part of the community. Selectman Kontoes asked how she relates with others. Mr. Wigglesworth stated the Conservation Commission is a team. He stated Ms. Sherillo has been a friend to many residents and has help guide them. She is a peacemaker and comes across fair, open and communicative. He said as the Conservation Commission they can't have favorites when they are protecting the community. Mr. Willardson stated there is a perception out there that Ms. Sherillo sometimes goes out of line and is not easy to work with. Ms. Sherillo stated the Conservation Commission follows the rules. She said they are holding residents and business to those rules which has not been done before. There is sometimes push back but they are simply asking them to follow the protection guidelines. She said if you tell someone they can't do something they become angry. She stated the Conservation Commission receives a lot of flack for following the rules. Selectman Klebart asked what approach she would take with the proposed By-law. Ms. Sherillo stated the Conservation Commission needed to educate the public. She would like the opportunity to get the resident's feedback. She said the proposed By-law is not as controversial as residents are making it out to be. Chairman Becker stated he had raised some concerns last meeting regarding some difficulties between residents/businesses and the Commission. Ms. Sherillo stated the relationships are getting better. She stated the Building Inspector and the Commission needs to be on the same page. She said this was explained to him and he understood. Selectman Jolda stated the Board of Selectman and the Conservation Commission should hold a joint meeting to talk about the proposed By-law. Mr. Willardson stated he received at least a dozen complaints about the Conservation Commission in the last couple of months.

The discussion concluded.

Motion made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes to re-appoint Michelle Sherillo to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term.

Motion made by Selectman Becker, seconded by Selectman Klebart to appoint Jason Piader to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term.

Under discussion, Selectman Kontoes stated she has had no interaction with Ms. Sherillo and was basing her decision on her background and interview. She said it is a very difficult decision. She said both candidates have different perspectives and strong backgrounds.

The Board acted on the Motion made by Selectman Jolda first, to re-appoint Michelle Sherillo to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term.

Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – no, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – no.

A vote on Mr. Piader was deemed not necessary by Chairman Becker.

SPECIAL ACT OF LEGISLATION – ADDITIONAL LIQUOR LICENSES: Mr. Willardson stated Town Meeting approved the article authorizing the Board of Selectmen to petition the State Legislature for two additional all-alcohol pouring licenses and two beer & wine pouring licenses.

Motion made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes to petition the State Legislature for a Special Act relative to granting two additional All-Alcohol Pouring Licenses and two Beer and Wine Pouring Licenses.

Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

SPECIAL ACT OF LEGISLATION – REMOVAL FROM CIVIL SERVICE: Mr. Willardson stated Town Meeting approved the article authorizing the Board of Selectmen to petition the State Legislature to remove the Police Department from Civil Service.

Motion made by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes to petition the State Legislature for a Special Act relative to the removal from Civil Service.

Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes - yes, Selectman Jolda – yes, and Selectman Becker – yes.

ADJOURN: At 9:13 a.m.,

Motion by Selectman Jolda, seconded by Selectman Kontoes, to adjourn.

Call Vote: Selectman Klebart – yes, Selectman Gabor – yes, Selectman Kontoes – yes, Selectman Jolda – yes and Chairman Becker – yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Courtney M. Friedland, Executive Secretary to the Board of Selectmen