

JOE PATO

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD

ACTION SUMMARY

SELECTMEN'S MEETING NOTES – Mar 30, 2020

Notes by Joe Pato, not official minutes.

Full meeting packet materials are available here:

<https://lexington.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=573>

Meeting video available from LexMedia here:

<https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/c0gKv9ZUF0uiidDaffFESDZA5EkkJp7L/media/552333>

Next meeting scheduled for Apr 6, 2020.

Updated information on COVID-19 in Lexington is available from the Office of Public Health at:
<https://lexingtonma.gov/COVID19>

Required public meetings and hearing will be held virtually, using LexMedia and phone and/or online technology to allow public participation as necessary*. This was the Board's second regular meeting using the Zoom platform for virtual meetings. We will be using this platform until further notice.

***as per Executive Order regarding remote participation:**

<https://www.mass.gov/doc/open-meeting-law-order-march-12-2020/download>

ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

1. Covid-19 Update

Mr. Malloy presented information on the Town's strategies, implementation and community response actions related to Covid-19 guidelines and directives.

<https://lexington.novusagenda.com/boardweb/AttachmentViewer.ashx?AttachmentID=7379&ItemID=4997> is an updated version of the information in our packet.

Notable items in the memo include:

- Residents may use parks for individual activities, but there should be no group sports. To dissuade group sports, tennis courts will be closed, and basketball hoops have been blocked.
- Financial implications – Town staff will begin reviewing the impact the virus is having on the economy and related impact on the Town budget. For now, the impact will be to the FY20 budget; but if it continues into July, there will be impacts to the FY21 budget. The Town Manager’s current thought is to address any potential revenue shortfalls through budget adjustments at a Fall Town Meeting once the actual impact is better known.

2. Update on Police Station Building Design Schedule

The Board reviewed the latest designs for the Police Station replacement. This design includes a primary entrance facing Mass Ave that employs universal design principles and opens to the lobby and 2 accessible restrooms. The design also retains parking for 9 police cruisers in an enclosed garage.

At a previous meeting, the Board was informed that the Historic Districts Commission was amenable to a complete replacement of the existing building which allows this more efficient design which is expected to be several million dollars cheaper than the previous design that preserved two façade walls of the existing building.

Action: The Board achieved consensus to proceed with the plans as presented. There was no vote, but each member affirmed their support for the direction.

3. 2020 Annual Town Meeting

Board discussion with Town Moderator, Deborah Brown on next steps for Town Meeting 2020. The Town Meeting had previously been moved to 4/15 and as that date approaches, we need to determine whether we're prepared to go forward with a virtual Town Meeting and how that would be managed or if the Town Meeting will be postponed further.

Board members expressed support for developing a plan for a virtual town meeting. We expect that such a meeting could not be held before the second half of May. The first step in developing a remote meeting process is to send a survey to Town Meeting members to learn what technology each member can use – for example, do members have access to tools like zoom on a computer or smartphone? Do households with multiple Town Meeting members have access to enough devices to be able to vote independently? These and other questions will be circulated to Town Meeting members so that an inclusive proposal can be developed. Mechanisms for how residents attend the meeting will also be considered.

A small working group consisting of Ms. Brown - Town Moderator, Mr. Lucente – Select Board chair, Mr. Pato – Select Board member, and Mr. Moroze Town Meeting Member Association chair will continue to develop a recommendation for the virtual Town Meeting process.

To simplify a virtual Town Meeting, The Board supported reducing the number of articles and placing most on a “consent agenda”. Many sponsors of citizen’s articles have agreed to defer consideration until a special town meeting later in the year and Board members agreed to place those articles on the future warrant relieving these citizen’s from getting new petition signatures.

The Board asked the Town Manager to review some elements of the proposed budget to see if we could delay appropriations to certain stabilization funds until the special Town Meeting later in the year by when we should have a better sense of any financial impact to the Town from the current emergency.

Action: The Board achieved consensus to proceed as discussed but did not take a vote.

4. Discuss Parking Meter Discounts and Policy

Board members have heard concerns from seniors regarding parking in the center. The parking management group has had some initial discussions but has not met for some time and is looking for a sense of the Board.

1. A senior-oriented parking discount for the center. An annual sticker program that allows seniors to park at meters in the center without having to pay. This exists in some neighboring communities (e.g., Waltham, Medford).
2. A similar request, but with the motivation of avoiding having to interact with the meters. Some seniors say that they find accessing the meter challenging – especially in the winter when there are snowbanks. Even when the snow accumulation is not particularly obstructive, they have a greater concern with slipping on ice/snow. Current practice for the Police Department is to not enforce meters when they are obstructed but this is not widely known and the degree to which a senior perceives an obstruction may be different from the PD.

Action: Mr. Malloy stated that he would direct the Parking Management Group to develop a plan and financial analysis of its impacts based on the Board's discussion.

5. Update on Waste Disposal Discussion: Expansion of Partnership for Town-wide Curbside Compost Pick-up; Availability of Recycling Totes for Purchase

Ms Cindy Arens representing a collaboration between the LPS Green Teams and the Sustainable Lexington Waster Reduction Task Force led a discussion on issues around reducing the waste stream.

Compostable waste – organic and paper – is the largest category of waste delivered to the North Andover waste to energy plant that receives Lexington's solid waste. Reducing this category of waste could substantially reduce Lexington's tipping fees.

To reduce this waste several suggestions were made:

- Consider opportunities to create incentives to expand curbside compostable collection and diverting food waste from the solid waste stream.
- Education campaign to help residents reduce waste generation

The Board discussed this presentation and supported developing a plan and exploring what might be done in anticipation of our next solid-waste disposal contract negotiations.

In addition, Mr. Pato conveyed a request from residents to have wheeled recycling containers made available for purchase through the Town. These are the heavy-duty barrels that are intended for automated collection and aren't as easy to find for retail purchase.

The Board supported exploring what options could be provided to residents.

Action: Staff will explore how to work with the presenters and establish a working group to develop a plan before the next contract period.

6. Select Board Committee Reappointment

The Board was asked to reappoint Suzie Barry to the Policy Manual Committee. Her Ethics training is complete and up to date.

Action: Vote 4-0 (Barry abstaining) to appoint Suzie Barry to the Policy Manual Committee to a two-year term to expire March 31, 2022.

ADJOURN

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Select Board will be held on Monday, April 6, 2020 at 7:00pm. This meeting will be a virtual meeting that will be broadcast by LexMedia. Information for how the public may access the meeting will be included in the agenda posting on the Town web site.

Note

Join me for casual drop-in office hours on Wednesdays via "Zoom". Information on how to connect is at <https://joepato.org>

**Joe's Virtual Office Hours
Wednesdays 2-3PM via Zoom**



<https://zoom.us/j/623099257>