

# JOE PATO

## LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD

### ACTION SUMMARY

## SELECTMEN'S MEETING NOTES – Apr 13, 2020

Notes by Joe Pato, not official minutes.

Full meeting packet materials are available here:

<https://lexington.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=593>

Meeting video available from LexMedia here:

<https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/c0gKv9ZUF0uiidDaffFESDZA5EkkJp7L/media/553771>

Next meeting scheduled for Apr 27, 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>

Ms Barry was absent due to a long-standing personal commitment.

## ITEMS FOR INDIVIDUAL CONSIDERATION

### 1. Covid-19 Update

[Video at time signature 11:25]

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

Notable items discussed include:

- Additional signs have been installed to inform residents that group activities fields and playing areas are prohibited. The police department will be conducting more frequent visits to these areas and will inform groups to disperse.
- Grocery stores are now limited to 40% of capacity.
- Construction activity around town has declined as some contractors, businesses or individuals have opted to temporarily halt construction and some unions are recommending their members stay home.
- Preparations for a virtual Town Meeting continue (more details later). Staff are preparing presentations on those items that have been identified as appropriate, to be posted online and through LexMedia for review prior to Town Meeting.
- A training session for board and committee chairs on how to use Zoom meetings has been scheduled for this week.
- Not in the packet – a bill was introduced in the House to authorize remote participation for representative town meetings.

An updated memo was provided in the packet -

<https://lexington.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/AttachmentViewer.ashx?AttachmentID=7422&ItemID=5027>

## 2. 2020 Discuss Extension of Property Tax and Interest Due Dates Due to State of Emergency

[Video at time signature 28:25]

The recently enacted Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 provides the option for the Chief Executive Officers (in this case, the Select Board) to determine whether to provide extensions on property tax due date to June 1; to delay the exemption and deferral date to June 1 and to waive interest for late payments after 3/30 to 6/30 (includes property taxes due on June 1).

The Board noted that this recent legislation could be very helpful for some residents and unanimously supported adopting the provisions.

***Action: Vote 4-0 to approve Section 10(a)(i) and 10(a)(ii) of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 delaying the due date for property tax bills to be due from May 1 to June 1; and further to approve Section 10(a)(iv) of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 delaying the due date for tax exemption and deferral applications from April 1 to June 1; and further to approve Section 11 of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020 waiving interest and penalties for late payments of any excise, tax, betterment assessment, water or sewer use or other charges with a due date on, or after March 10, 2020, made after the respective due date but before June 30, 2020.***

## 3. 2020 Annual Town Meeting

[Video at time signature 40:30]

Continuing for our previous meeting, the Board continued to prepare for a virtual Town Meeting later in the Spring. The Town Moderator has distributed a notice declaring that she has further postponed the date for Town Meeting to May 13. She has done this under the power she has to postpone the meeting

for up to 30-days at a time. The expectation, however, is that the meeting will be further postponed to later in May or early June.

Mr. Pato reported on the state of the technology/operational plan for a virtual town meeting. In summary it is under development and is expected to have the following characteristics:

- A video meeting like the zoom sessions in use for the Select Board and other committees
- Simulcast facilities through LexMedia
- Support for participants with differing levels of comfort using technology
- Support for multiple town meeting members residing in the same household
- Support for different kinds of devices (computer, smartphone, etc.)
- Integration with the existing electronic voting system used at live town meetings
- A process for public comment during the meeting

Details are still being worked out, but the plan is to roll out the tools slowly over the next several weeks. First will be a small group including individuals with limited comfort with technology. Per-precinct sessions will follow to provide Town Meeting Members training on how to use the system. Finally, a practice full session – probably around the May 13<sup>th</sup> date – to provide the Moderator with an opportunity to see how the controls work with 200 members participating. It is likely that any kinks uncovered through this roll out will need until the end of May or early June to be resolved.

Presentation materials including any live presentations are planned to be recorded and made available by the beginning of May on the town's web site for review.

The Board also reviewed feedback on which articles remain on the consent agenda and chose to leave it as proposed in the packet but to closely monitor feedback from the community.

**Action: none.**

#### **4. Applications: Change of DBA - CFHP The Hangar, LLC d/b/a Revolution Hall**

- Common Victualler License
- Liquor License

[Video at time signature 1:21:10]

CFHP The Hangar, LLC has submitted all the necessary paperwork needed to request a change of their D/B/A name from Craft Food Hall Project to Revolution Hall on their 2020 All Alcohol Restaurant Liquor License and their Common Victualler License.

**Action: Vote 4-0 to approve the CFHP The Hangar, LLC applications for a change of D/B/A and to amend the 2020 All Alcohol Restaurant Liquor License and 2020 Common Victualler License to CFHP The Hangar, LLC d/b/a Revolution Hall, 3 Maguire Road.**

#### **5. Review Draft Letter in Support of the Application to the All-American Road Scenic Byway Designation**

[Video at time signature 1:23:10]

The Board reviewed a draft letter to be sent in support of the application for designation of the Battle Road Scenic Byway as an All-American Road Scenic Byway.

***Action: Members to send individual comments and edits to Ms. Katzenback for action at our next meeting.***

## **6. Select Board Committee Appointment**

[Video at time signature 1:27:45]

- Board of Registrars

Gordon Jones' term to the Registrar of Voters expired on March 31, 2020. A letter was sent to both the Republican and Democratic Town Committees requesting nominations for consideration for appointment. The following nominations were submitted and sent to the Select Board:

- Gordon Jones - Nominee from Democratic Town Committee
- Alan Seferian - Nominee from Republican Town Committee

The Select Board Office collected and tallied up the Select Board Members votes for appointment to the position. The tally resulted in favor of Gordon Jones being reappointed to the Registrar of Voters.

***Action: Vote 4-0 to reappoint Gordon Jones to the Registrar of Voters to a term to expire March 31, 2023.***

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

[Video at time signature 1:29:15]

### **1. Approve and Sign Proclamations**

- National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week
- National Library Week
- Arbor Day

The Board signed proclamations to commemorate the following:

- National Public Safety Telecommunicators Week Proclamation to be celebrated from April 12 to 18, 2020.
- National Library Week to be celebrated from April 19 to 25, 2020. The proclamation that encourage all citizens to recognize the staff of the Cary Memorial Library and encourage all citizens to Library to take advantage of the wonderful library resources available.
- Arbor Day is being recognized nationally on Friday, April 24, 2020. The proclamation urges all citizens to support efforts to protect trees and woodlands and to support our town's urban forestry program and also to urge all citizens to plant and protect trees to promote the well-being of present and future generations.

***Action: Vote 4-0 to approve the Consent Agenda***

## **ADJOURN**

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Select Board will be held on Monday, April 27, 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>