

JOE PATO

LEXINGTON SELECT BOARD

ACTION SUMMARY

SELECTMEN'S MEETING NOTES – Jul 13, 2020

Notes by Joe Pato, not official minutes.

The video time signatures are based on my recording of the Zoom meeting and may be slightly off what LexMedia posts.

Full meeting packet materials are available here:

<https://lexington.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=619>

Meeting video available from LexMedia here:

<https://videoplayer.telvue.com/player/c0gKv9ZUF0uiidDaffFESDZA5EkkJp7L/playlists/7975/media/575797>

Next meeting scheduled for July 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 fifth 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

[Video at time signature 00:30:00]

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

Updated public Health Information (as of 7/9/20):

- 327 Confirmed (cumulative) Cases in Town of which 7 are active cases. Please note there are two days on the table in the meeting packet that show declines in the total number of cases in Lexington, these are likely due to individuals being reclassified in the MAVEN database.

Town/School/Community:

- All Town Departments have partially returned to work with staff working in the offices 25% of the time and 75% working remotely. The Town is waiting for the report from the Industrial Hygienist consultant to determine when a full return to working in offices might occur. This might be as early as mid-August. Our plan has been to have employees in the building for two weeks before re-opening to the public, which we will continue to pursue. We will continue to monitor how openings progress around the state.
- We continue to have a regular, conference call every Wednesday morning at 8 AM with the Senior Management Team and Health Officials to review the change in the number of local cases and discuss actions the Town is taking and to discuss any issues or concerns of various departments.
- The following establishments have been approved for outdoor dining with alcohol service:
 - Il Casale
 - Via Lago
 - Ixtapa
 - Marios
- The Recreation Department is monitoring the Phase III openings allowed by the state, which provides for some organized sports such as baseball, softball, and non-contact lacrosse. Golf tee times have gone to 9 minutes between tee times.
- The Library is providing curb-side services and reviewing next steps.
- The public restrooms at the new Visitors Center will be **not** be open to the public until guidelines the Health Director provided to Public Facilities and the Visitors Center staff are reviewed.
- The Health Director has been working with the Transportation Manager on protocols for Lexpress service to resume.
- The Health Director has also been working with the Town Clerk on the planning on holding elections.

More detailed information about cases in Lexington may be found in the packet:

<https://lexington.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/AttachmentViewer.ashx?AttachmentID=7852&ItemID=5226>

Mr. Michelson presented a letter from the Lexington Retailers Association and the Lexington Chamber of Commerce calling on the Town to provide greater access to public spaces for additional businesses. Those businesses that are not located on the ground floor cannot readily make use of “abutting public spaces as outdoor extensions of their premises.”

<https://joepato.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/07/RetailersJuly2020.pdf>

The unanimous sense of the Board was to support temporarily relaxing policies preventing business use of park areas as part of the emergency response to the pandemic.

2. Appointment of Election Officers

[Video at time signature 00:57:25]

Note: Mr. Pato and Ms Barry recused themselves from this item as they had a direct family member on the list of Election Officers.

The meeting packet includes a recommendation from the Town Clerk and Board of Registrars on appointment of election officers. After publication, Ms Sandeen requested her name be removed from consideration for this next year.

Action: Vote (3-0) to approve the amended list of election officers recommended by the Town Clerk and Registrars of Voters.

3. Discuss Polling Locations

[Video at time signature 01:02:55]

Ms Rice, Town Clerk, presented a proposal to relocate precinct 7 voting from the Estabrook School to Kiely Hall at St. Brigid's Church on Mass Ave. This would leave Bowman School (precinct 2) as the only voting location in a school.

Ms Rice will present safety protocols for election workers and voters at the Board's next meeting. In addition, there will be active encouragement for voters to vote by mail rather than in person at the polling places. The Secretary of State will be sending postcards to all registered voters who have not already requested a vote-by-mail ballot. These cards will come already filled in with the voter's data and just need to be signed and returned. (Mine arrived on Saturday 7/18).

Action: Vote (5-0) to designate Keilty Hall at St. Brigid's Church, 2001 Massachusetts Avenue as the Precinct 7 polling location on a permanent basis, in addition to Pct. 9.

4. Proposed Changes to Lexpress Routes - POSTPONED

This item will be postponed until July 27th meeting.

5. Review Proposed Special Town Meeting Dates

[Video at time signature 01:18:40]

The Board discussed potential dates for Fall Special Town Meeting(s). There are about 23 potential articles that may be included on the warrant. A draft proposal called for two special town meetings – the first in October for three consecutive nights and the second in November for four consecutive nights. The Board expressed concern about planning for sequential nights – we have successfully held meetings for two sequential nights, but more would be very draining. The Board discussed the potential for weekend days as a backup if necessary but viewed this as creating additional undesirable challenges.

The Board expressed preference for again holding this meeting as a virtual meeting.

Action: Town Staff will continue to review and revise the proposal for consideration at a future meeting of the Board.

6. Discuss Community Interest in Mass Clean Energy Center HeatSmart Program

[Video at time signature 02:07:45]

Some community members recently presented to the Sustainable Lexington Committee about applying for and participating in the 2021 Mass Clean Energy Center (CEC) HeatSmart Program. Modeled on the highly successful "Solarize Massachusetts" program, which Lexington participated in six years ago, the HeatSmart program started in 2018 and awards more than \$5,000 per participating municipality. Its main goals are to:

1. Increase community awareness of clean heating and cooling technologies;
2. Increase adoption of residential and small-scale commercial clean heating and cooling installations; and
3. Save residents money on installations through a group purchasing model.

According to our town's Sustainable Action Plan & Getting to Net Zero Plan approved by the then Board of Selectmen in August 2018, Lexington's buildings and homes in aggregate are to become Net Zero by 2040. We feel that the HeatSmart program is a great start to increase the number of Lexington homes that use clean heating and cooling technologies.

The Board was broadly supportive of this initiative but wanted clarity on any obligations incurred by the Town. Mr. Sandeen pointed out that while the name of the program is "HeatSmart" the heat pumps that would be installed also provide cooling. A previous program run in Lexington 5 to 8 years ago was more successful with residents who were replacing old inefficient air conditioning systems.

Mr. Malloy pointed out that programs like this have been very successful in providing clarity to residents on how to proceed and navigate through many options for updating their heating and cooling systems.

Action: Staff to review questions posed and bring the issue back to the Board for a vote at a future meeting.

7. Approve Grant of Location Policy

[Video at time signature 02:27:30]

At a previous meeting in June the Board came to consensus on a Grant of Location policy. Mr. Sandeen proposed to add 6(d) based on the discussion at the last Select Board meeting. The Board discussed this addition and rearranged the clauses in section 6 to clarify intent.

Action: Vote (5-0) to approve the Grant of Location policy as amended.

8. Approve Minutes

[Video at time signature 02:41:24]

The Board reviewed and approved minutes for the following meetings:

- September 9, 2019 BOS
- September 9, 2019 - Joint BOS/Historic Districts Commission
- September 23, 2019 BOS
- October 7, 2019 - Joint BOS/School Committee - Integrated Building Design
- October 16, 2019 - Fall Fiscal Summit
- October 21, 2019 BOS

The Board also reviewed a new format for meeting minutes reflected in draft minutes for the June 29, 2020 meeting.

Action: Vote (5-0) to approve the minutes not including the draft minutes for June 29, 2020.

Consent Agenda

1. Water and Sewer Adjustments

[Video at time signature 2:53:02]

Water & Sewer adjustments per WSAB meeting 6/25/20 (\$ 37,800.59)

Action: Vote (5-0) to approve the consent agenda.

ADJOURN

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