

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES– Final
Public Health Emergency Response Update Virtual Meeting Pursuant
to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of
Open Meeting Law.
Zoom Meeting ID# 92321528245
Monday April 27, 2020
6:30 P.M.

PARTICIPANTS: Jennifer Glass, Selectmen Chair
(Virtually) James Craig, Selectman
Jonathan Dwyer, Selectman
Trish McGean – Public Health Nurse
Valerie Fox – Town Clerk
Peggy Elder – Administrative Assistant

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

- Ms. Glass opened the meeting at 6:40pm, noting that it was beginning a bit late in order to ensure connection to the live broadcast system. She noted that this meeting is being held remotely in a way that is consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020 in order to mitigate the transmission of COVID-19 virus. The order suspends the requirement to hold meetings in a publically accessible physical location and it allows bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as there is reasonable public access. Ms. Glass noted that this evening a public comment portion has been built into the meeting that will take place after they have gone through the discussion items on the agenda. She respectfully asked that the public participants keep their video and microphones off until that time. Ms. Glass reported that in addition to Zoom, this meeting is being broadcast on Comcast channel 8, Verizon channel 33, and is available through the Town website at www.lincolntown.org. She noted that this meeting is being recorded and that attendees are participating via video conference.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Ms. Glass noted that one important person is not with us in this meeting tonight. Tim Higgins learned last week that his father had been diagnosed with COVID-19 and just this past Saturday he passed away from complications of the virus. She said that she is sure the entire Lincoln Community joins the Board in offering our condolences, support, and friendship to Tim and his family as they navigate this difficult time for them. Ms. Glass said that they sent a note out to all Town boards and committees and that she knows that Tim has really appreciated the outpouring of support that he has received from his Lincoln family. Ms. Glass asked that we hold him, and every family that has been touched by this virus, in our hearts and thoughts tonight.
- Mr. Dwyer commented that this is a difficult situation to be in. It is difficult enough when you lose a parent adding that he cannot imagine how it would be being unable to visit with close family and to say goodbye to the people that you love. He said that for those going through this, we are thinking of you.

- Mr. Craig noted that Tim has been such an important part of our community for 25 years. He added that our thoughts and prayers go to him and his family as well as everyone who is going through this terrible pandemic right now, and who has lost a loved one because of it.

DISCUSSION:

- Public Health Emergency Response – Update

Ms. McGean reported that they are now updating the numbers on the Lincoln website after the new numbers are released from the State on Wednesdays. Last week we were at 25 and this week we are at 26. Of those, 17 have completed their isolation and have been discharged. Four residents, all who resided at The Commons, have died and there are five Lincoln residents currently in the hospital. Ms. McGean said that she does not have an updated report from The Commons, adding that Rey LeBlanc will be sending out a community wide letter reporting on what is going on there. They have begun testing. They have tested their entire Skilled Nursing facility. They are moving on to test the Assisted Living Facility as well as the entire staff due to the fact that we are seeing a lot of transference from staff working at multiple facilities. She thinks that people need to continue the social distancing rules. Even if you are outside you should be wearing a mask. She noted that if you need a mask, please reach out to either her or Carolyn Bottum at the Council on Aging as they have a good supply of homemade masks. Ms. Glass noted that the Governor had just talked about additional resources for assisted living facilities and that they need to adhere to a certain set of criteria to be eligible, one of which is testing, and it sounds like The Commons is trying to put that together. Ms. McGean confirmed that Mr. LeBlanc is “on it” having already tested the skilled care wing which houses a very vulnerable population. She added that before moving on to the other units he will be testing the staff. Mr. Craig asked for clarification as to whether Ms. McGean is notified when an employee of a Lincoln business/facility tests positive. Ms. McGean responded that if, for example, the person lives in Acton, the Acton Public Nurse would be notified and they would be contacting their close contacts. However, if the person reported that they worked in Lincoln the Acton Public Health Nurse would let her know as a courtesy.

- Liaison Reports

None

OPEN FORUM:

- Jeff Eaton thanked everyone for their efforts and noted that he was happy that he could listen along with the meeting.
- Alice Waugh of the Lincoln Squirrel asked Ms. McGean if the four reported deaths were all at The Commons. Ms. McGean confirmed that they were.
- Town Meeting:

Ms. Glass reported that originally there was going to be a discussion about Town Meeting. However, the Governor has not yet made any changes to the May 4th State of Emergency date. She added that they expect to hear this week one way or another about that date. Mr. Craig added that he had heard that the courts will be remaining closed until the beginning of June.

ACTION ITEMS:

- None

WARRANTS:

- None

MINUTES:

- April 20, 2020 - Mr. Craig moved to approve the minutes of the April 20, 2020 meeting. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Dwyer: Aye; Craig: Aye; Glass: Aye.

Mr. Dwyer made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Craig seconded the motion. With no further discussion, the motion was approved unanimously with a roll call vote: Dwyer: Aye; Craig: Aye; Glass: Aye. The meeting adjourned at approximately 6:55 P.M.

Submitted by Peggy Elder

Approved 05/04/20