

**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# 98658051198
Saturday June 13, 2020
8:45 A.M.**

PARTICIPANTS: Jennifer Glass, Selectmen Chair
(Virtually) James Craig, Selectman
Jonathan Dwyer, Selectman
Sarah Cannon-Holden – Town Moderator
Tim Higgins – Town Administrator

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

- Ms. Glass opened the meeting and 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.

Ms. Glass explained that as per the notice posted on June 6, 2020, House Bill 4777, signed by the Governor on June 5, 2020 authorizes a Select Board to reduce the quorum for an Annual or Special Town Meeting, regardless of whether such quorum is set by bylaw or charter. In Lincoln, Article II, Section 5 of the Bylaws provides for a quorum of 100 voters.

As background, based upon the orders and guidance issued by the Governor and the Commonwealth Department of Public Health, among others, restricting large gatherings and various public functions, and the declaration of a State of Emergency in the Commonwealth, significant planning was undertaken to hold Town Meeting outdoors. The intent of such plan was to provide voters with a way to attend Town Meeting without having to choose between protecting their health and participating as a member of the legislative body of the Town.

A significant consideration in the Moderator’s decision to recess and continue the Annual Town Meeting from its scheduled date in March to June 13, 2020 was her obligation to ensure that all who wish to participate are able, particularly vulnerable members of our community. The phased reopening of the Commonwealth has recently begun; however, holding a large meeting during this time must nevertheless account for appropriate safety planning. Significant planning has been undertaken with respect to holding Town Meeting on June 13, 2020

Ms. Glass confirmed that the Board is on site in the Hartwell parking lot and is cautiously optimistic that at least 100 voters will be attending making the question of whether to lower the quorum moot. She added that the Board will reconvene closer to 9:30 A.M. (which is the posted start time of Annual Town Meeting) when we have a firm count and then consider whether additional action concerning the quorum is necessary.

Mr. Dwyer made a motion to continue the meeting until 9:30 A.M. 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 Board reconvened the meeting at approximately 9:30 A.M. at which time Ms. Glass reported that 228 voters had registered as of 9:30 A.M. Given that the quorum requirement had already been satisfied, the Board decided to take no further action.

Mr. Dwyer made a motion to adjourn the meeting. 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.

Submitted by Peggy Elder

Approved 06/22/20