

Town of Brimfield
Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes – July 7, 2020
Town Hall - 21 Main Street
and virtual

Current State of Emergency:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Brimfield [Board of Selectmen] will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. Specific information and the general guidelines for remote participation by members of the public and/or parties with a right and/or requirement to attend this meeting can be found on the town's website, at www.brimfieldma.org. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to virtually attend the meeting may do so in the following manner: WEBINAR allowing computer and phone participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings in real time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Brimfield website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.

Join Microsoft Teams Meeting

+1 508-387-3549 United States, Worcester (Toll)
Conference ID: 872 231 423#

Members Present: Chair: Paul McCarthy, Vice Chair: Michele-Lee Shea (not present), Member: Mike Doyle, Member: Carolyn Haley (remote), Member: Ryan Olszta, Recording: Admin: Carol Camerota (remote). Others: Joined through Microsoft TEAMS

Call to order (McCarthy) @ 6:37 p.m.

Roll call: (Doyle) – Here (Haley) – Here (McCarthy) – Here (Olszta) - Here

Payroll & Warrants:

Board members will review ahead of meeting.

After approval will sign in office individually.

Minutes:

Review & approve minutes for June 29, 2020.

Motion: by (Doyle) move to approve minutes of June 29, 2020 as written, seconded by (Olszta), all in favor. Roll call as follows;

(Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes (Olszta)-Yes

Review & Action:

COVID-19 update: Phase III opening:

Health Agent: Jamie Terry was on the call and reported that there will be a lot of changes with Phase III and she is still reviewing them. Phase IV will come with more changes but not until therapeutics and a Vaccine are available. Gatherings have increased from 25 to 100 people outdoors.

(Shea) joined at 6:40 p.m.

Regarding sports, no games allowed yet only drills for soccer. Horse shows, swimming, tennis and gymnastics can begin. Baseball and football can only practice.

Live entertainment outside is allowed. Max is still 100 people or 8 people per 1,000 sq. ft. Town buildings have no restrictions of 25 or 50 % capacity. Libraries can have outside activities and bingo as well as long as equipment isn't shared.

J. Terry will be putting together a spread sheet for the State to comment on which will include a list of specific activities and links with details. Tag sales are allowed with social distancing. Any activity would still only allow for 100 people max.

(Shea) asked if hearings could be held when 25 or more people show up. They could stagger hearings and have each group wait outside until their time slot.

Audio/Visual with virtual meetings still need to be figured out. A computer microphone will be ordered and should help those joining on line.

EEE:

Plymouth County is a hot spot right now for EEE (Eastern Equine Encephalitis) and Orange has had a positive. No cases in Brimfield.

COA Director - exercise classes:

E. Pittsinger, COA Director would like to increase the size of her outdoor fitness classes. J. Terry will look into her having 15 people.

CARES Act funding due to COVID has awarded the town \$12,580 for the first round of expenses. J. Terry will send over details of what the funds can be used for.

7:00 p.m. Public Access

None

Treasurer-Collector position: Hiring update:

Interview went well with 3 of the applicants with great experience. Still waiting for an acceptance from the front runner.

Use of common:

E. Pittsinger, COA Director would like to move her outdoor fitness classes to the common if there are more than 10. The board was fine with the request. It would only be in the morning and be over by 10:15 a.m.

Motion: by (Doyle) move to allow the COA Director to hold fitness classes on the common during mornings, seconded by (Shea), all in favor. Roll call as follows:

(Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes (Olszta)-Yes (Shea) – Yes

Tag sale request:

A request to have a tag sale on the common has come in. The board never remembers ever allowing tag sales on the common and don't think it is wise to start.

Motion: by (Doyle) move to deny use of common for use of a tag sale, seconded by (Haley), all in favor. Roll call as follows:

(Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes (Olszta)-Yes (Shea) – Yes

Appointments:

Several appointments have come in after the agenda was posted. Can the board approve or should they wait. Board preferred names to be on the agenda. Will wait until July 20th meeting.

Fire Chief:

The posting will expire July 10th. Next agenda will add new hire for Fire Chief. Does not need to be executive session.

Old Business:

Discussion of a letter to the former custodian S. Swift. She was only notified verbally but not in letter form. She will temporarily be kept on until a Municipal Buildings Custodian is hired and will report to Highway. (Doyle) will draft the letter.

New Business:

September Flea Market:

S. Collins who is a member of the flea market advisory board would like the Selectmen to wait to make a decision until after they meet the end of the month. Board was concerned if BOH had a position on following governance guidance. The Big E has already been canceled. J. Terry felt that whether it was enclosed or not enclosed outdoors, that amount of people would not work. July 20th Agenda.

Inspections of Town Buildings:

B. Cantell; Building Commissioner inspected the Town Hall and Annex and had several items to be addressed. Fire extinguishers were inspected today. Town hall needs the railings on the front porch looked at and made more secure and the lighting of the flag pole will be taken care of by the Electrical Inspector.

(Olszta) discussed all the temporary fixes to town properties either addressing them or tearing them down. The Town Clerk should open the door to his inner office during meetings so the lift can be used. (Haley) would like the railings on the front porch to be kept with the style of the building. She also volunteered her time to put together a committee to address these fixes.

Selectmen will still meet in the town hall and keep meetings virtual. Suggestion was made that meetings could be held in the Elementary School cafeteria. Hopefully some items can be taken care of before the August 3rd meeting.

Town Common trees:

(Olszta) brought up that there are 4 or 5 dead trees on the common that need to be taken down before they drop. The big old pine tree by the well should also come down as it is impeding the growth of the newer pine tree next to it. Some of the trees at the east end are beginning to turn into a forest which takes away from some of the other trees on the common. Agree to wait until Cumberland Farms is completed to see what should be done and possibly call an Arborist.

Office Matters:

None

Mail

Adjourn

Motion: by (Doyle) move to adjourn at 7:57 p.m., seconded by (Shea), all in favor. Roll call as follows: (Doyle)-Yes (Haley)-Yes (Olszta)-Yes (McCarthy)-Yes (Shea)-Yes

Upcoming Meetings:

Tuesday, July 20, 2020

Respectfully Submitted:

Carol Camerota

Transcribed by: Carol Camerota

ACCEPTED: *Paul McCarthy* DATE: 7-

Documents Utilized for this meeting

MATERIALS FOR BACKGROUND AND REFERENCE

1. Minutes of June 29, 2020
2. Town hall and Annex inspection reports.
3. CARES award letter