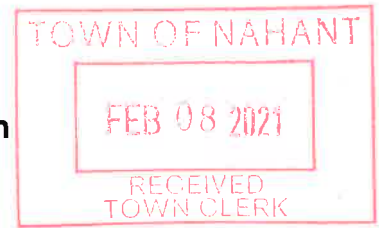


Town of Nahant
Joint Meeting
Board of Selectmen & Board of Health
Meeting Minutes



January 7, 2021 via Zoom

Mark P. Cullinan, Chairman

Joshua A. Antrim, Vice Chairman

Eugene Canty, Recording Secretary

Antonio Barletta, Town Administrator

Attendance: Mark P. Cullinan (MC), Joshua A. Antrim (JA), Eugene Canty (GC), Antonio Barletta (TA)

1. Meeting Opening: 6:30pm

Motion:

MC- Opened the Joint Meeting with the Board of Selectmen and Board of Health on 1/7/21 at 6:30pm.

a. Coronavirus update Health Nurse Deborah Murphy and Health Officer John Coulon

Deborah Murphy (Health Nurse) - In the two week report from 12/20/20-1/2/21 Nahant had 35 new cases. As of today 1/7/21 we have 161 total positive cases since the start of pandemic. The numbers are in a direct response to the infectious period around the holiday season. Ages range from 1yr old to 80yrs old. A lot of exposure coming from household clusters. We need to move forward and vaccinate as many people as possible. We are starting to vaccinate Lynn and Nahant first responders on Tuesday.

TA- Testing in Nahant currently suspended, trying to find ways for local free testing. We are advocating to state and federal delegation for funding. We had to stop because we were provided CARES Act funding like many other communities to use for things like COVID testing. And just like other communities we were acting under the guidance that the funding was a "use or lose" by December 30, 2020. We had to spend it by then or we lost it. It wasn't until December 29, 2020 just after the federal government passed the next COVID relief bill that we got notice from the state that the deadline to spend that money had been extended another year. However like many other communities we were trying to get the money spent so we didn't lose it. Even though they extended the CARES act deadline it did not provide us with any extra funds. We are hoping there will be additional funding. There is a hybrid type of testing where they pay to staff the testing site but the resident would have to pay for the test.

Deborah Murphy (Health Nurse) - Swampscott COVID testing is back up however each person will have to pay 70\$ per test and pre-register online.

MC- We were very fortunate that we got a donation from the Nahant Preservation Trust to continue testing in Nahant for a few days.

Emily Potts (Nahant Preservation Trust)- Luckily we had a donor who was making a donation and made part of the donation go to fund COVID testing. The money will fund two days of testing.

TA- Due to the donation we will be able to offer testing on Saturday 1/9/21 and 1/16/21. Cataldo Ambulance also offers in home testing. It is 150\$ per test. Go to cataldoambulance.com to schedule an in home visit.

TA- We had a Regional health discussion this week. There have been spikes with COVID cases all over and our regional hospitals are reaching critical capacity. When we are dealing with an issue like that it is no longer a COVID issue but a health issue. The local hospitals were reaching out to local officials in Essex County as we have been hit the hardest in the state with COVID. They are calling on us to roll back the re-opening phase to eliminate indoor dining, close down gyms, close down sports b/c of the critical capacity the hospitals are experiencing. After hours of conversation we ultimately decided that we would hold off on rolling back or stepping in front of the Governor as a county and rolling back beyond what he has decided to do and we put out a joint statement urging the areas we don't have control over such as household areas etc. We will re convene again if it gets worse or if the Governor does not roll back if the hospital situation worsens. We may need to roll back ourselves and step in front of the Governor.

2. Opening Comments

MC- Winter Parking Ban in effect until March 20th from 12am-6am. Nahant DPW seeking Snow Removal Equipment and Operators contact Mary Lowe at 781-581-0026 for more information. Christmas tree curbside pick-up ends January 15th. Town Hall will be close Monday January 18th in observance of Martin Luther King Day. Trash Bills are due by January 18th 2021.

3. New Business

- a. Approve Board of Selectmen meeting minutes from December 17, 2020

Motion:

JA- I move that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes from December 17, 2020.

GC- Seconded

Roll Call Vote:

JA-yes

GC-yes

MC- yes

4. Ongoing Business

- a. Tree City USA Application

Vi Patek (resident and organizer of Tree City Application USA)- Nahant recently sent in an application to become a Tree City USA. Explained what the Tree City USA program is. Started in 1976 Tree City USA has been a nationwide movement that provides the framework necessary for communities to manage and expand their public trees. Tree City USA is an Arbor Day Foundation Program in cooperation with the USDA Forest Service, The Urban and Community Forestry Program of the US Forest Service, and the National Association of Foresters. The Mass DCR administers the program. Neighboring communities are part of the program. With the DPW and a volunteer run Tree Task Force will help the program. The volunteers and the DPW will

inventory Public Shade Trees and create annual recommendations for them. The program helps to create an ordinance for the trees. In Nahant it will be in the form of a bylaw which will be voted on at the next town meeting. Read the bylaw.

Nancy Cantelmo (Nahant resident and organizer of Tree City USA application)- Read the four requirements to become a Tree City USA. 1. Establish an advisory tree board or other group to advise care of trees on town property. 2. Establish a public tree ordinance. 3. Document an annual budget of at least 2\$/capita. 4. An Arbor Day observance and proclamation. If anyone would like to view the proposed bylaw, the 2020 Arbor Day presentation, and the Tree City USA information they are available.

5. Preserving East Point

a. Independent Financial Assessment by RKG

MC- Last year the Board of Selectmen prepared their own Financial Assessment of the impact to the town if Northeastern were allowed to build there 55,000 sq. foot facility. I believe in that report that we had the amount was between 16.9million and 21.7million over a 4 year period. The finance committee asked the town if we would contract with an independent consultant who is experienced in these types of reviews. We contracted with RKG associates. They spent several months reviewing town data, Selectmen's reports, meeting with officials, town police/fire, looking at infrastructure and capital costs. The report will be made available to the public. The report concludes that the estimated potential operating cost associated with the Northeastern expansion by utilizing a per capita average cost approach. The methodology calculated the average cost of providing services across many of the towns various departments as laid out in the town's budget. They then divided that by the town's population resulting in an average cost of \$2,835 per person. This per capita cost was then multiplied by a reported number of new employees at the Northeastern facility which is a 114 new employees. That would result in an annual cost of \$323,000 dollars per year which was then added over a 40 year period which would total \$13 million dollars over a 40 year period. That same methodology was used to calculate annual impact using a higher employee estimates reported in Northeastern's initial ENF filing which was 147 employees and that resulted in \$17.2 million dollars. That's without any inflation over the 40 years. So RKG then added a 2.5% inflation rate over the 40 year period so it went from \$22.4 million to \$28.9 million. If this expansion happens it will cost the town a lot of money. RKG included general funds only, they did not include educational costs or capital expenditures.

JA- The RKG report only included the additional 114 people the expansion would add. It did not include the employees/students that already utilize the existing facility.

b. Conservation Commission meeting January 21, 2021 at 7:30pm via Zoom Re: NU's NOI's

TA-The Conservation Commission meeting on 1/21/21 will be available via Zoom and will be posted on our community calendar and have it broadcasted through Cable TV. We did not received a few resumes for the open seat on the Con Com and we will try to make the appointment before this meeting.

6. Town Administrators Report

TA- We are approaching budget season and working with the new town accountant Alison. CPC applications will start to be accepted soon. The bylaw states citizen's petitions must be in by the end of the month to the board of selectmen for warrant articles.

a. Lowlands Storm Water

TA- After the most recent storm we were contacted by residents down castle rd/fox hill and ward rd area to have this added to the agenda. We have DPW Zach Taylor and Dennis Ball on the meeting call tonight. TA went on to show slides and explain- At Annual Town Meeting in 2018 Article 32 authorized \$175,000 to fund drainage improvement to the Ward Rd. and Bear Pond areas, specifically resolving the gravity outfall at Bear Pond assessing/fixing the pipes that drain Ward/Fox Hill/Castle Rds., dredging the drainage ditch and providing a permanent/portable pump to the Ward Rd area. This was in April of 2018 and when I came in August 2018 none of this \$175,000 was spent yet. We began exploring the viability of the 18inch outfall pipe that is at the intersection of castle and fox hill road, goes through the easement and out to doggie beach. In September 2018 we started this by taking a camera down there, we hired a company to dig in the easement, and discovered the pipe did not make it through revetment. It's likely it has been that way for approx. 15 years. The next step was to take a look at the storm water drainage system in this area, we surveyed heights and depths and size of pipes, direction. We have storm drains that pitch from castle road and fox hill into the manhole that goes to that 18inch pipe. There is another pipe that is in a resident's backyard that goes to castle road as well. There is also another 30inch pipe that runs through resident's backyards on castle road and runs to the ditch system on ward rd which runs through the heritage trail and eventually to the golf course and bear pond. This survey was completed around Nov/Dec of 2018 and we realized we did not have enough funds and did not seem like the next valuable step to make that 18inch pipe operational. We used some of those funds plus FEMA funds to purchase 2 8 inch diesel force pumps to help with the dewatering after a flood event. They are able to pump 4500 gal/min or 540,000 gal/hr. In the spring of 2019 we focused on Bear Pond which needs repairing/dredging which is a short and long term goal for the town. Also upon inspecting Bear Pond we found the gravity outfall pipe was clogged and the pumps not working to highest capacity.

Dennis Ball (emergency management)-During the storm of 2018 we were working with a vintage 1975 Navy pump along with the gravity system that was in place. We also had a serious of high tides during the storm. The pumps were activated during the storm but were washed out. So mechanically and physically we were in a negative position to dewater.

TA- Utilizing added FEMA funds (not the 175,000 from 2018) we were able to get in and improve Bear Pond. Simultaneously in 2019 with the help of residents in town we were able to apply for an action grant on MVP. We are still in the process of applying for construction dollars from MAPC. The point of this project is to improve the resiliency of the Short Beach dune. (TA showed preliminary drawings of plans). This will give us the opportunity to fill in the access points in 3 or 4 locations. We have two different options/plans for this project. Most recently since our last conversation at the last Board of Selectmen's meeting, as I mentioned before looking at the storm water system in the lowlands area we engineered an alternative drainage basin that we could utilize in a flood, by taking those 8 inch pumps and being able to put the suction hose into a basin to help us dewater quickly without having to block traffic on castle or Nahant rd. We have a preliminary design that still needs to go to permit. During the storm of 2018 the water was so high we could not get equipment in. With the new engineered drainage system it would allow us to start from the outside of the flood water and work our way in.

Zach Taylor (DPW)-Depending on the storm, the flooding, etc it will determine our location. Some storms we may start pumping from the inside out, however other storms we may have to start from the outside in.

TA- The mosquito control has started dredging at the golf course. We hope to have this done every year.

Christine Liscio- Has an elevation study been done for the neighborhood of Ward Rd/Fox Hill/Castle Rd and lowlands to Bear Pond?

TA- We looked at the elevation study that was completed prior to the last time the ditch work was done which was 2011. The information we utilized were the low areas in that neighborhood. The depth of the ditch itself has changed but the other areas are still fairly accurate.

Residents/TA/Selectmen/Zach Taylor had further discussion about pumping options and strategy during storms/flooding.

Christine Liscio- Asked if the citizens petition regarding long term funding for a permanent drainage solution was put in as an article for last year's town meeting but was pulled due to the town having to shorten the meeting. Will that petition be going back on this year's town meeting?

TA- The Board of Selectmen commitment was to have us sponsor a borrowing article it will probably be in similar language.

7. Citizens Forum

Ken Carangelo- Asked if RKG report will be made public and are there concrete plans for the eminent domain public meeting? Will there be another BOS meeting before 1/21/21? Can you disclose the amount from the NPT gift for COVID testing.

MC- yes it will be public and we are trying to set a date for an eminent domain meeting. The next BOS meeting will be 1/21/21. If we do all 200 COVID tests the gift amount will be around 14,000\$

8. Adjourn and enter into Executive Session

Motion:

Dan Skrip (town counsel)- There needs to be a finding by the Chair that the discussions we are going to have in Executive Session if had in Open Session will be detrimental to the bargaining position of the town.

MC-yes

Dan Skrip (town counsel)- With that finding the Board of Selectmen can vote to move into Executive Session according to MGL chapter 30A section 21(a)(3) to discuss impending litigation regarding Play It As It Lies Inc.; in accordance with MGL chapter 30A, section 21(a)(2) to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for contract negotiations with the Town Administrator; in accordance with MGL chapter 30A, section 21(a)(6) to consider the lease of Kelly Green's golf course to R&B Management.

Josh-So moved

GC- seconded.

Roll call vote:

JA- yes

GC-yes

MC-yes

Adjourn to Executive Session at 9:25pm and will not reconvene in Open Session

Meeting Minutes prepared by: Kristin Taylor, Administrative Assistant on February 3, 2021

Meeting Minutes approved by the Board of Selectmen on the 4th day of February 2021

Board of Selectmen