

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES
Open Session
Monday, January 25, 2021
Zoom Video Conferencing

The Open Session Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order by Chairman Mark Russo at 6:30 p.m. Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.

In Attendance:

Board of Selectmen (BOS): Selectwoman Christine Joy (CJ), Mark E. Russo (MR), John A. Traynor, Jr. (JT) and Town Administrator: Elizabeth Dennehy (TA).

Participants added to the call: Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth, Jim Middleton, Executive Director and Amy Belmore, Development Director.

Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth (HFHGP):

Jim and Amy introduced Habitat for Humanity of Greater Plymouth which is dedicated to eliminating substandard housing locally and worldwide through constructing, rehabilitating and preserving homes; by advocating for fair and just housing policies; and by providing training and access to resources to help families improve their shelter conditions. Habitat for Humanity was founded on the conviction that every man, woman and child should have a simple, durable place to live in dignity and safety, and that decent shelter in decent communities should be a matter of conscience and action for all.

The Board of Selectman shared that the town of Plympton has a number of town owned lots that would need to be investigated for potential sites. The Board asked about opportunities that would be able to be available for seniors. Jim said that while the HFHGP has not developed multiplex or duplex units, he would investigate other regional Habitats for their expertise in these areas.

Selectwoman Joy asked that Jim outline the “Brush with Kindness” which is the name of the program that helps with things such as minor repairs, handicap accessibility and exterior home preservation. Homeowners are selected for the “Brush with Kindness” program based on income, need and their ability to repay the cost of materials. Additionally, HFHGP has recently done three critical home repair projects that involved more extensive repairs - essentially rehabilitating the home.

The Board of Selectmen expressed their excitement for operating together with HFHGP if a viable project could be found within Plympton. All parties look forward to working together in the future.

Appointment:

MR made a motion to ratify the appointment of David Alberti as an Alternate to the Zoning Board of Appeals until 6/30/2021. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

Policies:

Town Administrator Elizabeth Dennehy presented the updated “Paid Leave Memo”:

On March 18, 2020, the Families First Coronavirus Response Act ("FFCRA") was signed into law by the President. The FFCRA required many employers, including the Town of Plympton, to provide their employees with emergency paid sick leave and expanded family and medical leave for specified reasons related to Covid-19. Under the FFCRA, those leave provisions expired December 31, 2020. To date, Congress has not authorized an extension of this part of the FFCRA. Accordingly, the Town of Plympton's leave provisions have been updated, effective February 1, 2021.

MR made a motion to accept the updated “Paid Leave Memo”. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

TA also presented the updated Town of Plympton “Social Media Policy”:

The purpose of this policy is to provide guidance and direction to employees of the Town of Plympton with respect to the use of the Internet, and specifically in terms of social media as a medium of communication that impacts the efficiency and morale of Town Departments. This guidance is intended to help clarify the boundaries between appropriate and inappropriate use of social media by Town personnel in a way that helps to protect employees’ careers and the Town’s reputation. Nothing in this policy is intended to unlawfully restrict an employee’s right to:

- Discuss as a private citizen, matters of public concern, nor
- Engage in concerted activity with co-workers.

MR made a motion to accept the updated “Paid Leave Memo” subject to legal review by our lawyers. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

Opening of town warrants for the May, 2021 town meeting:

TA requested that the BOS open the process of submitting town warrants for the May, 2021 town meeting. MR made a motion to open the town warrant process for the May, 2021 town meeting. Seconded, CJ. **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0.**

Minutes:

The Minutes of Monday, January 11, 2021 were approved as amended.

Motion made by (MR), Seconded (CJ). **Roll-Call Vote: 3/0**

The meeting concluded with a “Rave” by each member of the Select Board.

7:25 PM Motion to adjourn BOS meeting by (MR). Seconded (CJ). **Vote: 3/0**

Respectfully submitted,

John Traynor, Clerk