

Tuesday, September 15, 2020
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Foxborough Town Hall
Andrew Gala, Jr. Meeting Room
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Elfman, Chair
Ed O’Leary, Vice Chair
Stephanie McGowan, Clerk
Leah Gibson

Also Present:
William Keegan Jr., Town Manager
Christina Metcalf, Community Info. Specialist

Absent: Chris Mitchell

1. 7:00pm - Citizen's Input – Joe Garrity input read by Leah Gibson: For the 20% capacity at Gillette stadium, can that happening the near future in the state’s reopening plan, is it in the current step of Phase 3, Phase 3 step 2, or can the 20% capacity not happen until Phase 4.

BK – As far as I understand it would be a Phase 4 discussion. It is anyone’s guess how it will happen. We have not had any further guidance from the state as to when that will happen. The Kraft Group has applied for September to have fans in the stands and that was denied and they will revisit that at the end of the month for October.

2. 7:05pm COVID-19 Informational update – We’ve had a total of 152 cases in Foxborough since Marc, 123 recover, 9 cases active in the town, and our numbers have been as low as 4. There has only been 1 death and 19 people have been lost in the follow up phase. We’ve had 3,053 people test negative, 1/5 of the population has been tested, and 63 people have tested positive for the antibodies. Massachusetts is still below 1% and with masks fewer people have had colds or been sick overall.

3. 7:10pm Veteran Services - Presentation of Certificates to World War II Veterans Charles Bridgham, Roger Dimarzio, and Kenneth Gay

VSO and Director Ally Rodriguez presented a certificate and token to the 3 World War II Veterans tonight. Each veteran spoke about their time and experience in the service. Town Manager Bill Keegan reminded everyone that there will be a ceremony at the corner of South and Mill Street or what will be known as WWII Corner.

4. 7:20pm Foxborough Commission on Disability Appointment - Appointment of David S. DelPizzo to the Foxborough Commission on Disability, Susan Collins – Chairperson

SC - He’s wanted to join the commission for a while but his schedule didn’t allow. He has served state wide on the Disability Policy Consortium, Massachusetts State Association of the Deaf, and has been employed at Springfield College and Northeastern University. He works for the Massachusetts Commission for the Deaf and Hard of Hearing. Sue needed sign language interpreter or CART (people who provide captioning for her classes online). Several times she would come home and comment how David DelPizzo always came through to provide services for all her classes. We want our town to be as accessible as possible to everyone. Now I will have David have a few words.

DD – Hello, thank you for inviting me here. Thank you Sue for everything I’ve been living in Foxborough 15 years. The goal is to see deaf people involved in the community and feel welcome. Not only deaf people but others with disabilities as well. With our aging population we have more hard of hearing. It would be horrible if they would be left out in the cold.

ME – Welcome, thank you for applying for the position.

LG – It sounds like a perfect addition to the group.

Motion to appoint David S. DelPizzo to the Foxborough Commission on Disability for a term to end 5/1/2021 by E. O’Leary 2nd by S. McGowan. Approved, 4-0.

5. 7:30pm Foxborough Cultural Council -New Appointments - POSTPONED until next meeting

6. 7:45pm Conservation Restriction

BK – I sent to you a Conservation restriction that was worked on with you by Town Counsel, Conservation Commission and a local developer which is known as River Ridge. It was determined during the review process of this property that there was a significant portion of land (25 acres) which was considered to be area that had endangered species and made that eligible for consideration by the Town to take it over and have access to it for conservation purposes and that there would be no further development on that site. This is the final stage of this process and the Conservation Commission has approved it and now it is awaiting your approval.

LG – Someone had reached out to me about this parcel and from what I understand that is connected to new construction. Is there anything in that area that needs to be cleaned up in terms of contamination?

BK – This is not part of this area that we are considering, there is no contamination on this land.

ME – It's unusual for me to hear that we don't own the land but Conservation Commission can control that.

BK – It is restricted so that there is not any further development on the site.

LG – Is there any costs to us?

BK – No cost to us.

Motion to Approve the Conservation Restriction for River Ridge Subdivision as proposed by the Conservation Commission by S. McGowan, 2nd by L. Gibson. Approved, 4-0.

9. 8:40pm - Selectmen's Update

Subject 9.1 New Business

Subject 9.2 Old Business – ME – We spoke about this last week that we would have the Town Manager approve any action item that was a donation for \$100.00 or less.

LG – We did this for WayFinding and it worked and this is more clerical and trying to be more efficient for our meetings.

Motion by the Board to delegate its authority to the Town Manager to accept gifts to the Town of \$100.00 or less by S. McGowan 2nd by L. Gibson. Approved, 4-0.

LG – I'd like to recognize the amazing amount of work from every teacher and admin to make this amazing.

ME – The amount of work that has been done 12-14 hour days, 6 days a week the school committee staff teacher did a heroic job.

8. 8:30pm Town Manager's Update

- Darkness to Light Training on Sept 22nd. The Town and Child Sexual Awareness Abuse Committee will be recognized tomorrow night for the Tony Calcia Child Protection Award from the YMCA

- Mike Johns will be back with us full time this Thursday. We are really happy to have him back.

- Health Fair details will be coming out soon – usually an all day event, health insurance, life insurance, healthy lifestyle, etc. We will still offer the flu shot and provide a virtual fair. If one becomes available for Covid-19 we will work with the Fire Department to get that distributed.

- The Fire Department was given a grant for a testing machine and we are waiting for the tests.

- There is a Zoom call with restaurant owners this Friday to determine for the winter time and be more accommodation for the restaurants. Some are 30-50% down in terms of revenue.

- Looking to start the work on the Common. The \$150,000 funds for these upgrades was provide to us by Schneider Electric to start the work around the common on October 15th and have it ready for the holiday season.

- There was \$35 donation for the COA for the lockbox program from an anonymous donation.

7. 8:00pm Department Head Update - Recreation Department update from Director Deb Giardino
Recreation is a different beast because of its revolving account. Director's salary is through tax base, everything else is the revenue and we lost all our spring programs and summer programs being cancelled. We felt we couldn't run summer camp with enough kids to make it profitable. We are in the fall program season, and they have been successful and it shows that people are looking for things to do and that they are looking to recreation with fair pricing. We usually run 100 programs. We have 3 properties we share with other departments. Which is a win-win situation. We have our own software and use online payment. We cover our maintenance through our funding, we take care of 2 buildings on Mill Street and a playground and pool, Booth playground, South street office, and Payson Road facilities which has several field and playground with help from maintenance and DPW. The coordinator position was eliminated and the assistant director position is working 5 hours for Recreation and working at Town Hall in the meantime. The fall looks great. The winter we will wait and see, the community seems to be interested.

ME – What programs do you have?

DG – We have pee wee soccer for little ones, theater class, play group of 8, tennis lessons, babysitting classes, how to stay safe at home, computer programming, done on online or in small groups. Looking into a new program

BK – Looking to provide a daycare level service for employees, we think we can do it at a reduced cost with the facilities. Maybe use the Mill Street recreation facility. The challenge is Wi-Fi, so we are working to see if we can get that to work.

DG – We are also running flag football that starts Friday night. We are doing all our programs under state and local guidance. We rent out our fields as a source of income that revenue goes back into field maintenance. The fields' part of the job is interesting and fun. We have a great Friends of Foxborough Recreation that does fundraising for us, that supports our programming including the Halloween Parade, Christmas Tree Lighting and Farmer's market. We weren't having these programs this year and we look forward to getting them back once we get back to normal.

10. Action Items

10.1 Motion to extend liquor license for Saga Steakhouse at Patriot Place for 9/27, 10/11, and 11/29 to begin service at 10:00am by S. McGowan 2nd by L. Gibson. Approved 4-0.

LG – I did reach out and they weren't mobbed and

ME – Chief Kelleher, Bill Keegan and I walked around to see what was going on. Sadly there weren't a lot of people.

BK – Underwhelmed instead of overwhelmed with people

ME – Patriot Place is also looking to what they will do in winter.

10.2 Motion to extend Liquor License Hours for Renaissance Hotel at Patriot Place on September 27, October 11, and November 29, 2020 by S. McGowan 2nd by L. Gibson. Approved 4-0.

10.3 Motion to extend Liquor License Hours for Wormtown Brewery for Sundays starting September 20, 2020 until December 27, 2020 to begin service at 10:00am by S. McGowan 2nd by L. Gibson. Approved 4-0.

10.4 Motion to extend Liquor License Hours for Scorpion Bar on September 27, October 11, October 25, November 15 and November 29, 2020 to begin serving at 10:00am by S. McGowan 2nd by L. Gibson. Approved 4-0.

10.5 Motion to extend Liquor License Hours for CBS Sporting Club on September 27, October 11, October 25, November 15 and November 29, 2020 to begin serving at 10:00am by S. McGowan 2nd by L. Gibson.

LG- If I was a restaurant I would want to have it every game.

BK – It doesn't seem to be bringing in the numbers on non-game days. Under Covid guidelines, you have to serve meals with the alcohol.

LG - Wormtown will have their menu and will be able to have meals come in from other restaurants.

EO – I had that question for Wormtown when they first opened, they only had beer and pretzels.

BK – It's different because it's a Farmers Pouring license.

EO – Had a comment to have the liquor service during the away games. We have staff on the property at 9 am in the morning. I don't know that they would want to have them on duty for the alcohol usage and problems that can come from it.

LG – We are in a different world now, SixStrings would have brunch, and I don't think it would require a detail.

BK – The shopping stores did really well and Patriot Place did well because of Jurassic Quest and the game at 1pm and the Bucs game at 4:30.

Approved 4-0.

10.6 Motion to Approve the Transfer of Ownership of Police K-9 Drax to Patrolman Kurt Pollister by S. McGowan 2nd by L. Gibson.

Discussion:

BK – Unfortunate circumstance, but we are grateful for Officer Polister. Drax has been on the job since he was 3 and was diagnosed with a brain tumor, being treated and showing positive signs. He has to be retired and Ofc Pollister will give him a good home. The same company will provide us with a new canine.

SG – There is a GoFundMe page for Drax's treatment and that can be expensive. We have a wonderful community that is supporting this dog.

Approved 4-0.

BK – MBTA train update. Will be put on hold for the remainder of this year and will be postponed until May 2021. They are committed to working with us and get a proper evaluation of the service. It's unfortunate, but the reality of reduced commuting due to Covid and more people working from home.

11. Adjourn – **Motion to adjourn by S. McGowan, 2nd by L. Gibson. Approved 4-0.**