

**Hull Board of Selectmen
Final Minutes
March 31, 2021**

The meeting of the Hull Board of Selectmen was held at 6:00 p.m. on March 31, 2021 via the GoToMeeting platform as an alternate means of access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law.

Present: Jennifer Constable, Chairwoman; Greg Grey, Vice-Chair; Donna Pursel, Clerk; John Reilly, Member; Domenico Sestito, Member. Also present were Town Counsel James Lampke and Town Manager Philip Lemnios.

REQUESTS FOR APPROVAL

Review and Approve the Saturday, May 8, 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant (Original Date scheduled for Monday, May 3, 2021)

Lemnios briefly reviewed the Articles currently on the Warrant for the Town Meeting on May 8, 2021.

Motion	Grey	To approve the Saturday, May 8, 2021 Town Meeting Warrant
Second	Sestito	
Vote	Unanimous	Grey – Aye Sestito – Aye Pursel – Aye Reilly – Aye Constable – Aye
Motion	Grey	To refer Article 6 to the Planning Board as it involves an amendment to the Zoning Bylaw
Second	Sestito	
Vote	Unanimous	Grey – Aye Sestito – Aye Pursel – Aye Reilly – Aye Constable – Aye

Review and Approve the Saturday, May 22, 2021 Annual Town Election (Original Date scheduled for Monday, May 17, 2021)

Constable read a memo from Town Clerk, Lori West, regarding the reduction of polling hours for the Annual Town Election on May 22, 2021 due to COVID-19 concerns as well as the addition of options for early voting by mail. She then read a memo from West regarding the Town positions that will be on the official ballot.

Motion	Sestito	To approve the reduction in polling hours, expansion of options for voting by mail, and the official ballot for the May 22, 2021 Annual Town Election as presented by Town Clerk, Lori West
Second	Pursel	
Vote	4-0-1	Sestito – Aye Pursel – Aye Grey – Abstain* Reilly – Aye Constable – Aye

*Grey recused himself from the vote as he is on the ballot for this election.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

Motion	Constable	To move to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to litigation, and that the Chair declare that an Open Meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating position of the body; Move to go into Executive Session to discuss the deployment of security personnel or devices or strategies with respect thereto; Move to go into Executive Session to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property, and that the Chair declare that an Open Meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the body; Move to go into Executive Session to comply with, or act under the authority of the Attorney-Client privilege; Move to go into Executive Session to consult with legal counsel and obtain legal advice pursuant to the Attorney-Client privilege. The following subject matters will be discussed in Executive Session: Town-wide traffic, parking, Hull Redevelopment Authority and property.
Second Vote	Grey Unanimous	Constable – Aye Grey – Aye Pursel – Aye Sestito – Aye Reilly – Aye

Following the Executive Session the Open Meeting was reconvened by Constable.

Minutes for Approval

Motion	Grey	To approve the Minutes of the Board of Selectmen Meeting on March 3, 2021
Second Vote	Pursel Unanimous	Grey – Aye Pursel – Aye Sestito – Aye Reilly – Aye Constable – Aye

Continuation of Annual Town Meeting 2021 Warrant review

Lemnios said the Advisory Board is doing a great job on working through the Warrant Articles. The Planning Board has held the required Public Hearings but will need to hold an additional Hearing to approve gender-neutral language in the Zoning Bylaws. He said there are presently 18 Articles on the Warrant for Town Meeting and the intent is to hold an additional meeting in the fall for Articles that were able to be postponed.

Continuation of Discussion of Parking Rules and Regulations

Constable said that at a previous meeting concerns had been raised about parking and traffic issues in surrounding neighborhoods if the HRA lots were not licensed as well as the detrimental effects this might have on local businesses. However she said there were also concerns about traffic congestion that would come with licensing the lots as well as trash issues and congestion on the beach. She asked if any members of the Board had additional comments on this. Grey said he would like to hear from the HRA.

HRA Chair, Bartley Kelly, recognized that on warm weekend afternoons traffic is a problem as there is a bottleneck when everyone leaves the beach at the same time, but feels that this is a problem regardless of where people park.

He said that the HRA depends on the revenue from these lots and local businesses need customers to be able to park and pointed out that residents with stickers can park in the lots for free. If HRA parking is closed off it will create a bigger traffic problem throughout the day as people will be driving around looking for spots. He also said that closing the parking lot sends the wrong message to people visiting Hull and they will find other places to go. HRA member Spencer O'Loughlin said that taking away the revenue from parking would limit the HRA's work on Open Space as well as their ability to work with the State to develop a two-way road and would discourage developers who might be interested in the Town. He feels that the difficult traffic situation could be mitigated with better coordination with the police.

Constable then read a letter into the record from Adrian Muir, President of the Hull Chamber of Commerce, regarding the possibility of limiting or closing the HRA lot for the summer 2021 season. Muir stated that the consensus among business owners is that closing this lot will have a detrimental effect on nearby residents and on the businesses in the area as visitors to Town will choose to park illegally in residential areas and will also be less likely to frequent Town establishments. Since the Town is currently trying to recover from the pandemic they need to take advantage of the small window of time for seasonal tourism. He feels that last year's policy of limiting parking was a wise one but this year a lot has changed for the better and people are hoping for some return to normal and asked that the Board not place additional burdens on the Hull community at this time.

Sestito said he recognizes that parking is a source of revenue for the HRA but feels that protecting the quality of life for Hull residents is a greater responsibility of the Board. He stated that traffic has been progressively getting worse and they should not accept the status quo. He feels that if there is no parking in the HRA lot there will be a shift to the DCR lot on George Washington Boulevard which will allow people to cut through the Art Walk. He would support limiting or banning parking in the HRA lot.

HRA member Dennis Zaia said that the Chamber of Commerce has done a great deal of marketing to encourage people to come to Hull and that visitors have found it to be a welcoming community. He feels they have to balance the needs of residents with those of the businesses that are vital to the economic vitality of the Town. Constable said that she has heard repeatedly from businesses and a number of residents that limiting parking sends the message that the Town does not want outsiders, which would ultimately harm the Town. Lemnios said the Town needs to address the parking issue but suggested that they look at a longer-range solution that might reduce the number of cars allowed over a number of years and would allow for coordination with various Town departments.

Reilly said the Town should pay attention to the seasonal and year-round residents who are paying the taxes and the bills but they should do this in a reasonable way and need to come up with a plan to manage the flow of traffic in and out of the parking areas. He thinks the HRA should be paying for details to patrol the parking and that the Town should not be taking police personnel from other duties to direct traffic. He also feels they should look at the long-term goal for the parking area and start working toward that goal.

O'Loughlin said that limiting their parking revenue limits their ability to work with developers and engineers and to do all of things that cost money. He feels that as the open space is developed it will be a natural way for the community to adjust while still supporting businesses that have invested in the Town. Kelly said he feels it would be a disaster if the lots were shut down and that the HRA is willing to work with the Town in terms of providing necessary details on weekends and holidays.

Constable said she would be in favor of putting together a working group to address the issues that have been raised repeatedly in this discussion. Grey said he feels they need to reduce parking but need to keep some available and feels the Board should come up with a number tonight. Pursel agrees with a lot of the points that have been made but thinks they are a bit late for this season and does not think parking should be restricted.

Sestito said he has heard what everyone's comments are and would like to make a compromise motion. He asked the Board if they would be willing to come up with a two-year program so that whatever number they chose this year would be lessened the following year. Constable said she would like to see reduced parking but she would like to study the impacts a bit more before setting a specific timeline for reducing it. Reilly said that whatever number the Board comes up with he would like to add several stipulations: He would like to have signage in the HRA lot or

handouts from local businesses so that people know what is available; he would like to have some detail regarding how traffic flow would be improved and feels the Police Chief should decide the staffing required for the various locations; and he feels they should work with DCR on improving traffic patterns. Chris DiIorio said that signage is coming fairly soon and the Town has received a local Rapid Recovery Grant to look at marketing which should help.

Motion	Sestito	To license 250 cars in the HRA, 75 of which would be on the Triangle Lot and and the remaining 175 being on the northern Phipps Street lot with the stipulations that were presented earlier by John Reilly
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Second	Reilly	
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Grey said he would like to amend Sestito's motion.

Motion	Grey	To allow 75 cars in the Triangle Lot, 425 in the middle lot, and 100 in the Phipps Street lot with the stipulations that were presented earlier by John Reilly and with the added stipulation that an additional 100 spots be designated for Hull residents with municipal stickers in either the Triangle Lot or the Phipps Street lot
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Second Vote	Constable 3-2-0	Grey – Aye Constable – Aye Pursel – No Sestito – No Reilly - Aye
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Sestito noted that this would be an increase over last year and asked Grey if he would be willing to cut these numbers down by 50% in year two and down to zero in year three. Grey said he would like to see what happens this year before they decide what will happen going forward.

The amended motion passed by a vote of 3-2. Since this motion passed there was no action taken on the original motion.

Kelly then adjourned the meeting of the HRA.

Constable noted that they had a couple of requests from businesses in the Kenberma area and the marina area looking for parking passes for their employees and out of town customers but that Lemnios was getting more information as to what exactly they were seeking. She said they would address this further at the next meeting.

Discussion on status of No Place for Hate Committee including Mission and Structure

Rhoda Kanet, Chair of the Committee, was on the call. She said that one of the things they have been talking about for the last few years was whether they wanted to remain a Town committee or to be an independent committee and the unanimous feeling was that they would prefer to remain a Town committee. She said they have also had a great deal of discussion about reorganization as well as their mission and goals but she would prefer to appoint members and have a longer discussion with the Board on these issues at a later time. Given the Board's very full agenda Lemnios said that this discussion would have to happen after Town Meeting. Constable said they had received the draft statement on the composition of the committee and their mission statement and the Board would review it with the Committee after Town Meeting.

Fire Chief Chris Russo – Re: Request to declare 2002 Hull Engine 1 Surplus equipment

Constable said she had received a request from Fire Chief Russo dated March 22, 2021 that Hull Engine 1 be approved as surplus equipment.

Motion	Sestito	To approve Hull Engine 1, 2002 E-One, Title #: CC503723, VIN: 4ENGAAA8521004533, Value: \$4,500 - \$10,000, as Surplus Equipment
Second Vote	Grey Unanimous	Sestito – Aye Grey – Aye Pursel – Aye Reilly – Aye Constable – Aye

OLD BUSINESS/NEW BUSINESS

Pursel thanked the Parks and Recreation Department for supporting the installation of bike repair stations in the Town and the Highway Department for installing them. She said there are now three stations in town, one at Pemberton Point, one in front of the Boy Scout building and one at the Town Hall. She said that people will be able to download the app and find these repair stations when they travel on a bike.

Reilly said he had heard from a number of people that they had a steep increase in their electric bills and did not know why as the rates have not changed. Lemnios said they should call the Light Department and they will help them determine if there is something going on in the household that would be causing the increase. Lemnios said they are changing all of the meters to a system that will allow them to locate power outages more easily but he does not feel this change would have any impact on electric bills.

On a motion by Grey seconded by Sestito, the Board voted unanimously by roll call to adjourn.

Recorded by Kathleen Fanning

Approved by:

Documents

The following documents were included in the members' packets or were presented during the meeting and are available in the Board of Selectmen's office upon request:

- Agenda and Added Agenda for Board of Selectmen Meeting on March 31, 2021
- May 8, 2021 Annual Town Meeting Warrant
- Town Clerk Memo Request to Reduce Polling Hours for Saturday, May 22, 2021 Annual Town Election
- 2021 Annual Town Election Warrant
- March 22, 2021 request from Fire Chief Christopher Russo that Hull Engine 1 be approved as surplus equipment

