

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Steven P. Rose, Chairman
Robert F. Brady, Jr., Clerk
Eric S. Beckerman, Associate

Gregory S. Enos
TOWN ADMINISTRATOR

Town of Avon Massachusetts

Town Offices
Buckley Center 02322
(508) 588-0414
FAX (508) 559-0209



TOWN OF AVON
2020 JUN -8 A 10:12
TOWN CLERK

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
THURSDAY, MAY 21, 2020
6:30 P.M.

Members Present: Steven P. Rose, Chairman
Eric S. Beckerman, Associate (via videoconference)

Others Present: Gregory S. Enos, Town Administrator
Shanna M. Faro, Executive Assistant (via videoconference)
Joseph S. Lalli, Esq., Town Counsel (via videoconference)
Fire Chief Robert Spurr (via videoconference)
Kathleen Waldron, Health Agent (via videoconference)
Dale Kurtz, Veteran's Agent (via videoconference)
Lisa Sullivan, Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources (via videoconference)
William D'Arrigo, ICF (via videoconference)
Barbara Ayotte, Guardian Energy (via videoconference)
Joanne Zygmunt, Old Colony Planning Council (via videoconference)
Mary Waldron, Old Colony Planning Council (via videoconference)

Planning Board: Charles Comeau, Sr., Chairman (via videoconference)
Robert Pillarella, Vice Chairman (via videoconference)
Jason Suzor, Clerk (via videoconference)
Charles Marinelli, Member (via videoconference)
Charles Comeau, Jr., Member (via videoconference)

Chairman Rose announced that 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 limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Board of Selectmen is being conducted via remote participation. No in-person attendance of members of the public was permitted, but every effort was made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings as provided for in the Order. Chairman Rose reminded the viewing audience that persons who would like to view this meeting while in progress may do so by watching local cable on Channel 9 or joining the Zoom link for the videoconference in session. Links to watch the recorded meeting will be available on the Avon Cable Access website avontv.org.

Chairman Rose called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. with all members present. Chairman Rose was present in the Mary McDermott meeting room, while Mr. Beckerman was present through the videoconference Zoom. Each Board member acknowledged their presence at the meeting by responding in the affirmative during the roll call. In addition, all anticipated speakers acknowledge their presence by responding in the affirmative when Chairman Rose called their names.

Ms. Waldron led the meeting in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Moment of Silence

Chairman Rose called for a Moment of Silence for all persons suffering or who have lost their lives from COVID-19.

Public Participation

None

APPOINTMENTS

Joint Meeting with the Planning Board regarding Green Communities/Stretch Code (Presentation by the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources with support by Old Colony Planning Council and Guardian Energy)

Ms. Sullivan introduced herself to the Board as the Southeast Regional Coordinator from the Green Communities Division of the Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources. Ms. Sullivan stated that the Green Communities Program offers many resources for municipalities such as the LED streetlight program grant, electric vehicle incentives, energy tracking and analysis tools, and municipal energy technical assistance. Ms. Sullivan stated that Massachusetts has over 271 green community designations. She stated that Green Communities and Designation and Grant Program awards over \$20 million a year in funding to qualifying communities. The grants fund energy efficient initiatives and renewable energy, innovative projects. Ms. Sullivan stated that Designation Grant funding is determined by the following equation: \$125,000 plus the population plus per capita income formula, which would give Avon an estimated grant amount totaling \$135,000. Ms. Sullivan stated that competitive grants are available annually for Green Communities that have expended all prior grant funds.

Ms. Sullivan stated that if the Town of Avon is interested in becoming a Green Community, the following steps must be taken. The first step is to contact the Green Communities Regional Coordinator for information which has been completed. The second step is to discuss the Green Communities Designation with local government. Ms. Sullivan stated that the Green Communities Stretch Code must be approved at a Town Meeting. The next step is to ensure that the Town has met the criteria to be designated as a Green Community. Finally, the Green Community designation for the Town of Avon must be approved by the Department of Energy Resources before the Town can start applying for grants.

Mr. D'Arrigo informed the Board of the five criteria required before the Town can be designated as a Green Community. (1) The Town must be adopted as-of-right siting for RE/AE generation, R&D or manufacturing. (2) The Town must adopt an expedited permitting process. (3) The Town must create an Energy Reduction Plan to reduce energy by 20% in five years. (4) The Town must adopt a Fuel-Efficient Vehicle Purchase Policy. (5) The Town must minimize the life cycle cost in new construction and adopt the Stretch Code.

Mr. D'Arrigo stated that the Stretch Code only applies to new residential and commercial properties. Additions, renovations and repairs are exempt from the Stretch Code. Mr. D'Arrigo stated that for the Town to be designated as a Green Community, documentation would be needed to certify a Town Meeting vote adopting 780 CMR 115.AA, MA Board of Building Regulations and Standards (BBRS) Stretch Energy Code.

After the presentation concluded, Mr. Enos stated that since designating the Town of Avon as a Green Community would require a zoning change, the Planning Board will need to review and approve this designation prior to moving forward with this process. Mr. Comeau stated that the Planning Board will discuss this matter at their next scheduled meeting. Mr. Comeau made a motion to adjourn the Planning Board's joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen regarding Green Communities Designation. Mr. Suzor seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Comeau Jr. voted aye. Mr. Marinelli voted aye. Mr. Pillarella voted aye. Mr. Suzor voted aye. Mr. Comeau Sr. voted aye. The motion carried.

Proclamation to Designate Avon as a Purple Heart Community

Mr. Kurtz informed the Board that he was pleased to announce that the Town of Avon is now the 112th city or town in the Commonwealth to be designated as a Purple Heart Community. Mr. Kurtz stated that Purple Heart is the oldest American military decoration. The Purple Heart is awarded to citizens of our community who have been killed in action while serving in the Armed Forces and have been posthumously awarded the Purple Heart for their ultimate sacrifice or for citizens who have been wounded by the hand of the enemy while engaged in combat. Mr. Kurtz informed the Board that he will create a registry for all Purple Heart recipients of the Town of Avon, and they will be honored every August 7th, which is nationally recognized as Purple Heart Day. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to sign the Proclamation to designate Avon as a Purple Heart Community. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Meeting Minutes

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of May 7, 2020 (Regular Session) as written. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to accept the meeting minutes of May 11, 2020 (Regular Session) as written. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COVID-19 Updates

Ms. Waldron informed the Board that the Town of Avon now has 66 positive cases of COVID-19. Ms. Waldron stated that next week, Governor Baker will implement Phase One of the reopening process in which barber shops, hair salons and pet groomers will be able to open on Monday, May 25, 2020. Ms. Waldron requested permission from the Board to open DeMarco Park for walking only. She stated that the Summer Concert series at DeMarco Park was still questionable depending on what phase of reopening the state is in during the next few weeks. She informed the Board that she will make a recommendation regarding the Summer Concert series as soon as possible. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to reopen DeMarco Park for pedestrian use only. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Enos informed the Board that he is following the state guidelines regarding the reopening of Town Hall for the employees. He has installed plexi-glass on the windows of the offices for the Town Clerk, Tax Collector, Building Inspector and the Assessor. He has also installed automated hand sanitizing stations throughout the Town Hall. Mr. Enos is working on ordering disinfecting supplies and cleaning products as well. Chief Spurr stated that the Fire Department has an adequate amount of Personal Protective Equipment from MEMA at this time.

NEW BUSINESS

Memorial Day Program

Mr. Enos informed the Board that since the Memorial Day Parade was cancelled this year due to the COVID-19 pandemic, Veteran's Agent Dale Kurtz will be taping a segment on the Avon Community Access & Media channel in recognition and to honor the Town's veterans. Mr. Enos stated that the Town is also requesting residents to decorate their doors in honor of Memorial Day and to e-mail photos of their decorated doors to info@avon-ma.gov so that the displays can be a part of Mr. Kurtz's Memorial Day message. In addition, ACAM will also be rebroadcasting last year's Memorial Day parade.

Annual Town Election Warrant

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to sign the Annual Town Election Warrant to be held on June 16, 2020 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. in the Mary T. McDermott Meeting Room. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Surplus Equipment

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to declare five office chairs, one safe and one filing cabinet as surplus equipment. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Street Opening Permits

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Street Opening Permit from Columbia Gas for 490 West Main Street to repair a leak at the main at the intersection of West Main Street and West Spring Street. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Street Opening Permit from Columbia Gas for 287 West Main Street to locate and inspect the curb box located by the school steps. The permit application specified that the work would be completed on private property and that no street cut would be required. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the Street Opening Permit from Columbia Gas for 769 West Main Street to repair a leak at the main. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Gift Acceptance Request

Mr. Beckerman made a motion to approve the gift acceptance request from the DeMarco and Chute families for a donation of a lilac bush to be planted at DeMarco Park in memory of Lisa V. Chute. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. A roll call vote was taken. Mr. Beckerman voted aye. Chairman Rose voted aye. The motion carried.

Announcements

Chairman Rose announced that the June meetings of the Board will be June 4, 2020 and June 18, 2020.

Town Administrator's Report

None

Adjournment

At 8:00 p.m., Chairman Rose requested the Board make a motion to conclude the Regular Session and to convene in Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to Collective Bargaining with Union Bargaining Units (Police, Fire & AFSCME), and Employment Agreements with Non-Union Personnel as such discussion may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the governmental body, so declared by the Chair. The Board will reconvene in Open Session for the sole purpose of adjournment. Mr. Beckerman made a motion to adjourn the Regular Session. Chairman Rose seconded the motion. The motion carried.

A roll call vote was taken.

Mr. Beckerman voted aye.
Chairman Rose voted aye.

Respectfully submitted,



Shanna M. Faro
Executive Assistant to the Town Administrator

LIST OF DOCUMENTS

1. May 21, 2020 Board of Selectmen Meeting Agenda
2. May 7, 2020 Meeting Minutes (Regular Session)
3. May 11, 2020 Meeting Minutes (Regular Session)
4. Green Communities PowerPoint Presentation
5. Town of Avon Purple Heart Community Proclamation
6. Annual Town Election Warrant
7. Street Opening Permit Applications (490 West Main Street, 287 West Main Street, 769 West Main Street)
8. Gift Acceptance Request Form for DeMarco Park