

Board of Selectmen Meeting
Memorial Town Hall Conference room & Teams

Dec. 1, 2020, 5:30pm
Diana Szynal, Chair
Approved: Feb. 16, 2021

Present: Selectmen Brian Moriarty, Edmund Jaworski, Diana Szynal, Marlene Michonski, Town Administrator, Kerry Flaherty, Ms. Strzegowski, Hatfield Board of Health members, Bob Osley, Liz Kugler, Jeff Zgrodnik,

Selectman Szynal called the meeting to order @5:35pm.
She read the public participation policy and then announced that town hall is open regular hours.
Selectman Moriarty said safety protocols masks, social distancing and hand washing haven't changed.
Please respect barriers in the offices.

Minutes

Selectman Moriarty moved to approve the minutes of 11-21-20, 3-5-20, and -18-20. Selectman Jaworski seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

COVID Update – Kerry Flaherty

Ms. Strzegowski emailed a letter together with Ms. Flaherty to department heads to distribute to employees so everyone would be away of guidelines and process in the case of COVID. FMLA process for 14 days quarantine, so no one will feel they will have to use all their sick time.

COVID related issues need to be directed to Ms. Flaherty. Selectman Szynal explained the Selectmen are joined by the Board of Health on a proposal to have an assistant COVID coordinator. Have someone ready in case we experience a spike. She said that Chief Dekoschak had suggested Scott Pomeroy. He was a firefighter and EMT, knows confidentiality and he has availability. This will be through the CARES act.

Bob Osley, Board of Health Chair, thanked Ms. Flaherty for the great job she's done with the outbreak. Tracing has to be done timely and requires a certain degree of training. Selectman Szynal said realistically we need to be prepared. Certain things can be done by the Board of Health – mostly around enforcement. Mr. Zgrodnik noted that being in the holiday season tracings will be of larger groups. Ms. Flaherty said she is supposed to make contact within 72 hours of a positive diagnosis so while tracing could not be following up on complaints of people not wearing masks. Mr. Pomeroy will be able to help with this. Drawbacks of tests which take a long time to get results were discussed.

There was a discussion about using locals as tracers. Using a local person makes a difference. Selectman Moriarty said people with a vested interest can be more effective. Selectman Szynal said that Mr. Pomeroy is an excellent candidate. Ms. Flaherty said a positive diagnosis is not a matter of shame but not everybody needs to know. To have a business shut down because of rumors is not acceptable.

Responding to a question from Selectman Jaworski, Ms. Flaherty said CARES money ends Dec. 31st. Selectman Moriarty moved to create the Assistant COVID 19 Coordinator, temporary position to be paid through the CARES Act. Selectman Jaworski seconded. Works as needed but not to exceed 20 hours per week. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

Selectman Jaworski moved to appointment Scott Pomeroy as Assistant COVID Coordinator. Selectman Moriarty seconded. All voting in favor, the motion was approved.

Mr. Zgodnik moved to accept Scott Pomeroy as Assistant COVID Coordinator. Ms. Kugler seconded. The motion was approved.

Ms. Flaherty said the Board of Health needs an office to make sure that documents are secure and private. Former Council on Aging upstairs office could be good for the Board of Health. Ms. Michonski is to coordinate getting that office set up.

350th Anniversary Committee – Bobby Betsold

Mr. Betsold announced the 350th Time Capsule subcommittee will meet next Weds 5-6pm. Information is available on the 350th website or timecapsule@hatfield350.com. He also described a special commemorative cancellation stamp available 2 days prior and the day of Luminarium, 12-17 through 12-19. He thanked Kathy Olsen and postmaster Jason Clark.

Luminarium will be Saturday 12-19 with fireworks and pre-recorded music. There will be no gathering in front of Memorial Town Hall but residents are encouraged to get decorations and luminaries out. Information will go out about road closures as traffic will be stopped for the duration of the fireworks. KIX 100.9 will be involved. It is also the 40th anniversary of Luminarium. Information will be on Facebook, the website and robocalls. They want to discourage people sitting in fields and the Police Chief said car headlights should not be turned off as this is a safety concern.

Those interested can buy 350th gear at the hatfield350.com website. Regarding the radio on Luminarium, Mr. Betsold said there will be 29 minutes and 30 seconds of dedicated Hatfield programming – commercial free. He described some of the programming, they are trying to include, Paul Labbee, the voice of Hatfield, and music from the band and the bell ringers. Selectman Moriarty commended the committee for an incredible amount of work. Selectman Szynal commented they've made lemonade out of lemons.

There have been 11 events since COVID started. The 70 banners will be back out in the Spring and displayed throughout next year. Mr. Betsold was invited to come back to the next meeting, on Dec. 15th. Selectman Szynal reminded that headlights should stay on as per the Police Chief. Mr. Betsold will reach out to Scott Merzbak of the Gazette.

Ms. Michonski mentioned the Special Town Meeting. Easements and a 5-year lease for equipment were addressed. Selectman Szynal commented that it was nice to see how many people came out. Selectman Moriarty said he appreciated townspeople's support of the Special Town Meeting and thanked John Novak, the Fire Department, and Fire Chief Flaherty.

Town Hall Renovation-

Selectman Jaworski said this is pretty much complete except for items that will be taken care of in house. He thanked Geri Rodgers and Mr. Genovese because the downstairs is looking great. Council on Aging newsletter – will bring small groups in. Selectman Szynal thanked Selectman Jaworski for his oversight on this. Selectman Szynal thanked Mr. Genovese and Ms. Michonski. A ramp in the back was what people wanted. Selectman Moriarty said it's been a team effort.

Selectman Jaworski would like an update on CARES at the next meeting. Ms. Michonski said invoices were put through and an account set up but they may come back and tell us some of the items were not eligible. She described Hatfield's allocation as \$289,000 was what allocated and it is now pretty well spent. Selectman Moriarty hopes there will be a round 3. \$188,000 was the school's portion. An upgrade of the HVAC system at the schools. Selectman Szynal asked to put this on the agenda, possibly in January and ask the school administration to attend.

Selectman Jaworski moved to adjourn. Selectman Moriarty seconded. The motion was approved and the meeting ended at 6:55pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Ki J. Eno
Executive Assistant