

Date: June 3, 2013

Date Minutes Approved: July 29, 2013

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MINUTES

Present: David J. Madigan, Chair; Theodore J. Flynn, Vice Chair; and Shawn Dahlen, Clerk.

Absent: -----

Staff: René J. Read, Town Manager, John Madden, Finance Director and C. Anne Murray, Administrative Assistant

CONVENED IN OPEN SESSION

The meeting was called to order at 7:02 PM in the Mural Room.

OPEN FORUM

Mr. Bob Doyle, Old Cove Road: Mr. Doyle addressed the Selectmen and mentioned that at the last Selectmen's meeting Mr. Long went over the actuarial report he had prepared about the unfunded retiree benefits for health care. He suggested that now that the Town knows the increasing liability for the unfunded retiree benefits we should take steps to reduce these liabilities. He suggested that the Selectmen arrange for a meeting with a professional from the Massachusetts Taxpayers Foundation to advise the Town on the OPEB (Other Post Employee Benefits) Commission recommendations and their suggestions for any measures to reduce the increasing retiree benefits.

Mr. Madigan responded by mentioning that the Town has made an effort to deal with this issue by changing the programs to reduce the liabilities as much as possible and to save towards them. Since it was not on the agenda the Board could not discuss it further, but took it under advisement to put it on a future agenda for discussion.

7:01 P.M. AQUACULTURE HEARING

Mr. Dahlen moved to open the advertised public hearings regarding the renewals of the aquaculture leases of: Charles White, William McCormick, and Robert Knecht. Second by Mr. Flynn. VOTE: 3:0:0.

The Chair recognized Mr. Al Hoban, Chair of the Shellfish Advisory Committee (SAC). Mr. Hoban said that each of the applications was reviewed in accordance with the regulations. For each case the SAC considered their renewal application and the information the individual presented. The SAC voted to recommend that the Board of Selectmen approve the renewal applications of the following individuals for the ten (10) year maximum allowed by law: Charles White, William McCormick, and Robert Knecht.

The Board then heard briefly from each of the applicants. There were no comments from the public.

Mr. Dahlen moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the renewal the Shellfish Aquaculture License # NAE 2006-189 sites A and B issued to Mr. Charles White, for the aquaculture lease areas as advertised and publically posted as located north of Hunts Flat, for a period of ten (10) years, contingent upon all required State, Federal and local permits and approvals, and terms and conditions. Second by Mr. Flynn. Vote: 3:0:0.

Mr. Dahlen moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the renewal the Shellfish Aquaculture License # NAE 2008-1289 sites 1 and 2 issued to Mr. Will McCormick, for the aquaculture lease areas as advertised and publically posted as located on Goose Flat and Hunts Flat, for a period of ten (10) years, contingent upon all required State, Federal and local permits and approvals, and terms and conditions. Second by Mr. Flynn. Vote: 3:0:0.

Mr. Dahlen moved that the Board of Selectmen approve the renewal the Shellfish Aquaculture License # NAE 2006-3482 sites 1 and 2 issued to Mr. Robert Knecht, for the aquaculture lease areas as advertised and publically posted as located on Goose Flat and Hunts Flat, for a period of ten (10) years, contingent upon all required State, Federal and local permits and approvals, and terms and conditions. Second by Mr. Flynn. Vote: 3:0:0.

Mr. Dahlen moved to close the public hearings regarding the renewals of the aquaculture leases of: Charles White, William McCormick, and Robert Knecht. Second by Mr. Flynn. Vote: 3:0:0.

PLANNING BOARD APPOINTMENT (Vacancy due to resignation)

BACKGROUND:

- Josh Cutler tendered his resignation from the Planning Board effective March 25, 2013.
- Chapter 41 Section 81A of the Massachusetts General Laws states that, "If the members of a Planning Board are elected, any unexpired term shall be filled by appointment by the Board of Selectmen and the remainder of the members of the Planning Board until the next annual election, at which time, such office shall be filled, by election, for the remainder of the unexpired term."
- A public announcement regarding the open seat was published in the *Duxbury Clipper* and posted. As required in the announcement all the applicants submitted letters of interest and their résumé.
- Tonight's joint meeting with the Planning Board is to fill the vacancy until the March, 2014 Town Election.

There were 4 applicants for the vacant seat: Mr. Robb D'Ambruoso; Patrick J. Gagnon, MD; T. Richard Quigley; and David C. Uitti. Each applicant was asked to introduce himself and to briefly explain his interest and /or what in particular attracted him to apply for the position.

Mr. Robb D'Ambruoso: Mentioned that he was a new resident to Duxbury having moved here about a year ago, but his wife grew up in Duxbury. He mentioned that he is an attorney, who has been practicing law for about 10 years, and felt he would bring a strong skill set to the position. Some of his legal experience has been with respect to land use issues.

Patrick J. Gagnon, MD: Dr. Gagnon also indicated he had moved to Duxbury about a year ago. He is currently a physician with Southcoast Physicians' Group and is a board-certified radiation oncologist. He mentioned that he and his wife are Boston College graduates, and they moved back

to the East Coast after he completed his residency in Portland, Oregon. They chose Duxbury because of its coastal location and schools for their children. He mentioned Portland is recognized as a leading city for its planning and how his interest in planning has developed. Regarding Duxbury he spoke briefly about planning in maintaining the character of Duxbury and with respect to stormwater issues.

T. Richard Quigley: Mr. Quigley has been a resident of Duxbury for about 25 years split over two periods. After living in Duxbury for a period he and his wife moved because of a job offer, but then returned in 1997. He mentioned they had resided at 4 different locations in Duxbury, and spoke of the experience he had when they sought to open a B & B in Duxbury. He mentioned that he is semi-retired from a career as a CEO / COO in teaching hospitals. He said that he enjoyed doing strategic planning and working on a team, which set goals, and felt he would bring that experience to the Planning Board.

Mr. David C. Uitti: Mr. Uitti mentioned that he grew up in Princeton, NJ and his wife grew up in Connecticut and Maine. They did a year and a half search before settling on Duxbury as the place they wanted to reside and raise their children. He said he is a litigating attorney, but the firm he is with does specialize in real estate and land use matters. He spoke of his interest in getting involved in the community, and mentioned that he was appointed to fill a vacancy on the Historical Commission. When he saw the Planning Board vacancy advertised he felt it would be a good fit both personally and professionally.

Each of the candidates was asked if they would run for the seat in the next annual election in March, 2014 when this interim appointment would be up? All answered in the affirmative.

Mr. Wadsworth did ask several questions of the applicants, which each individual answered. It was mentioned that the Planning Board had met with the candidates at a previously-posted meeting, and therefore the Planning Board members had already had the opportunity to question the candidates.

Mr. Flynn asked the current Planning Board members "what is your greatest need?" Mr. Glennon said that in his opinion, the Planning Board needs someone who can "hit the ground running" and suggested that a background or experience in land use law would be helpful. Mr. Wadsworth mentioned that the Planning Board does have a couple of attorneys and having an engineer would be helpful (but there were no engineers in the applicant pool).

Mr. Madigan mentioned that a re-write of the zoning bylaws is something the Town will be doing in the next year or so and asked each candidate to speak to how he could assist with that. Each candidate spoke to that in general terms. Mr. Uitti and Mr. D'Ambruoso both mentioned that they have familiarity with land use terminology. Dr. Gagnon said that while he doesn't have that experience to offer that other do, he has spent 10-years in post-graduate studies and does learn quickly. Mr. Quigley said his orientation is more to look at the zoning bylaws in terms of context or in other words to consider what the plans of the Town are and then to work on drafting zoning bylaws that keep those goals in mind.

Mr. Bear felt that logical thinking is what is needed; more than specific knowledge.

Ms. Turcotte was encouraged to see the field of candidates and did not feel that there was a bad choice to be made.

Mr. Flynn mentioned that he hoped those that are not selected get involved in one of the other Town boards or committees.

Mr. Wadsworth said Dr. Gagnon and Mr. Uitti would be among his top choices, but didn't have a preference. He cited Dr. Gagnon's comments regarding stormwater issues and Mr. Uitti's land use knowledge as some of the reasons they are his top choices.

Mr. Dahlen suggested that one way to expedite a choice might be for each member of the Selectmen and Planning Board to indicate his/her top choice to see if one person surfaces as the majority's choice.

Mr. Madigan said that his preference was Mr. Uitti because he had already become involved on a Duxbury committee. Mr. Dahlen concurred with that choice. Mr. Flynn said he agreed citing Mr. Uitti's land use knowledge and because he had gotten involved on a Town committee. The Selectmen indicated, however, they wanted to hear the Planning Boards thoughts.

Mr. Bear mentioned his preference would be Mr. Uitti and based it in part on the fact that although Mr. Uitti has only been a resident for a short time he had already committed to becoming involved on a Town committee. Mr. Glennon agreed with that. Mr. Scott Casagrande and Ms. Jennifer Turcotte also indicated their agreement with the choice of Mr. Uitti. Mr. Wadsworth re-iterated his two choices would be either Dr. Gagnon or Mr. Uitti.

Mr. Dahlen moved to appoint Mr. David Uitti to fill the open Planning Board seat until the next Town election. Second by Mr. Flynn. The Board of Selectmen opted to wait to vote until after the Planning Board voted.

Ms. Turcotte moved to nominate Mr. David Uitti to fill the open Planning Board seat until the next Town election. Second by Mr. Glennon. Vote: 5:0:0.

The Selectmen then voted regarding their nomination of Mr. Uitti to fill the Planning Board seat. VOTE: 3:0:0.

SQUARE CORP., HALLS CORNER STORE – change of officers

Viktoria A. Patel is being added as an officer of Square Corp. The ABCC has advised the Town that this did not have to be an advertised hearing, but the Selectmen should vote to accept the amendment to the liquor license application by acknowledging the change in the corporate structure.

Mr. Dahlen moved that the Board of Selectmen accept the amendment to the liquor license application to change the corporate structure of Square Corp. by adding Ms. Viktoria A. Patel as a Director of the Corporation. Second by Mr. Flynn. VOTE: 3:0:0.

CALL TO ELECTION – State Senate, June 25, 2013

Mr. Dahlen moved that the Board of Selectmen directs either of the Constables of the Town of Duxbury to notify and warn the inhabitants of Duxbury who are qualified to vote in the Special State Election to vote at Precincts One through Six at the T. Waldo Herrick Gymnasium, Duxbury Middle School, 71 Alden Street, Duxbury, Massachusetts on Tuesday, the 25th day of June, 2013 from 7:00 AM to 8:00 PM. Second by Mr. Flynn. Vote: 3:0:0.

The Chair explained that a vote of the Board is required for the Warrant for the election to be posted so that the election can be held.

DISCUSSION PERTAINING TO DISPOSITION OF DUXBURY BEACH ACCESS

Mr. Madigan said that the Board would now have a discussion of the disposition of Duxbury Beach Access. He introduced the Town Manager to initiate the discussion as Mr. Read had a prepared statement he wanted to read.

Mr. Read read a prepared statement. (Mr. Read's statement is attached to these minutes.)

Mr. Mike Pforr, the Endangered Species Officer (ESO), then gave a PowerPoint presentation, which showed Duxbury Beach and illustrated the areas of closures due to the nesting of the endangered piping plover species. (*See 06-03-13 Duxbury Beach 2013 Temporary Area Closures for Piping Plovers.*)

Mr. Read read the following Press Release, which will be distributed to the media and posted on the Town's website:

**Press Release re: Duxbury Beach
Duxbury, MA 02332
June 3, 2013**

For Immediate Release

Contact: Duxbury Harbormaster Coastal Natural Resources Department
(781) 934-2866 Ext. 5 / <http://www.duxburyharbormaster.org>

Plovers Return and nest on Duxbury Beach in great numbers.

Beach access to be restricted and closed temporarily

As of 11:00 pm on Friday, June 7, 2013, public access to Duxbury Beach will be restricted until further notice in order to provide protection for the Piping Plover, a small shorebird that is listed as threatened on the Federal and State endangered species list. Restrictions and closures may be required in all areas of Duxbury Beach, Duxbury Beach Park ("Blakeman's") and all associated parking areas.

The closure will include all vehicles from accessing the areas of the 1st, 2nd, and 3rd vehicle crossovers (closing the front “drive on” beach, and ORV corridor) including the adjacent bayside beach and ORV back road side “cutout” parking areas. The resident pedestrian beach and parking lot will remain open to permitted resident vehicles.

Sections of Duxbury Beach off road vehicle corridor may be reopened on/about July 15th, if not sooner. The entire Duxbury Beach properties are monitored on a daily basis and will be re-opened, either in part or in whole, to recreational uses and off road “permitted” vehicular traffic as soon as possible.

As partial beach access is granted, restrictions may be in place that impact Off Road Vehicle limits. Please expect delays on all the Duxbury Beach properties and access routes, i.e.: (Powder Point Bridge) including the access road from the southern end of Gurnet Road to the 3rd crossover area in addition to a reduced speed limit of 5 mph that will be imposed in many areas on the access road. Please take notice of posted electronic informational boards throughout town and/or regulatory signage to ensure safe and appropriate access to Duxbury Beach.

Duxbury Beach closures and restrictions may change at a moment’s notice!

For the very latest information about what areas on Duxbury Beach are open or closed, please visit the Town of Duxbury Harbormaster’s website at: <http://www.duxburyharbormaster.org> or call (781) 934-2866 Ext. 5 for beach information. Callers phoning this number will be able to receive automated, conditional reports pertaining to beach restrictions and access, which will be updated twice a day at 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

Thank you in advance for your cooperation and patience,

Duxbury Harbormaster Department

Mr. Read added that there is a meeting scheduled tomorrow at the Duxbury Police Station with representatives of the Police and Fire Departments of Duxbury, Marshfield, and Plymouth to coordinate the placement and use of electronic notice boards so information about the beach closures is posted before people get to the beach.

Mr. Dahlen mentioned that ESO Mike Pforr has one of the toughest jobs during the piping plover season. The ability of Duxbury Beach to be open during piping plover season requires a delicate balance based on very distinct guidelines. What the ESO has presented is a worst case scenario as the regulations require specific footage is cordoned off in proximity to the nests. Once they hatch it is impossible to predict what the piping plovers will do, and the ESO has to modify the closures based on the activity of the piping plovers. He also mentioned that there are more nests this year, but the good news is that because none of the nests have been destroyed they will all hatch at approximately the same time.

Mr. Madigan asked if the arrival of the piping plovers is holding up the repair of the dunes that was started earlier this spring.

Ms. Maggie (Margaret) Kearney, President of the Duxbury Beach Reservation, Inc. (DBR), responded that they completed the dune work that was needed for the summer, but there are some plans for some additional work to be done in the fall.

She said that the reason we have more birds is that the winter storms created more favorable habitat for the piping plovers. She added that since the early 1990's, when the regulations went into place, the DBR has had to deal with the endangered species regulations. The DBR has done so by giving back to the Town \$200,000. of the lease amount, this goes for the hiring of the bird monitors. This has enabled Duxbury Beach to remain open to public access when other beaches have not. Ms. Kearney mentioned that the DBR and the Town have a very cooperative arrangement; the DBR (a private, non-profit organization) leases Duxbury Beach to the Town of Duxbury and the Town manages the Beach through its staff. She stressed the larger number of nests this year is an anomaly and the hope is that they all survive to hatch so that the closures will just effect the first few weeks of the summer and then the public can enjoy the Beach for the rest of the year. Ms. Kearney closed by asking for the public's understanding and patience, and support of the Harbormaster's staff.

Mr. Don Beers, Duxbury Harbormaster, mentioned that these programs started back in 1991 when the management of the Beach was placed under the Harbormaster's jurisdiction. The State and Federal government requested the development of a management program if public access for recreational purposes was going to continue. Mr. Beers introduced the executive staff of the Harbormaster's office: Jake Emerson, Executive Officer; Michael Pforr, Operations Officer/Endangered Species Officer; and Carl Gumpwright, Deputy Endangered Species Officer.

Mr. Beers stressed that it is because of the cooperation between the Duxbury Beach Reservation, the Harbormaster's staff, and the Town that recreational access to Duxbury Beach has been allowed to continue. He pointed out that most of the other barrier beaches have been closed.

Mr. Madigan said he appreciated the Harbormaster's staff taking the initiative to get the word out about the closures. Mr. Read added his thanks to the Harbormaster's staff for their assistance in providing updates.

It was again stressed by Mr. Dahlen and Mr. Beers that this is a very fluid situation and the piping plovers' activities will determine what areas are closed and what areas might be opened.

Mr. Don Reed, a member of the 4th of July Committee, asked if things change is it likely the Beach Party can be held on the Beach? The answer given was they don't know and likely won't know until closer to the 4th of July weekend so the suggestion was to be prepared to go with the contingency location.

Mr. Bob Doyle asked if the closures are to the water and the effect on shellfishing? The answer given was that the closures do extend to the tidal/ low watermark so you can't walk along the water in the closed areas. Mr. Beers added that shellfishing is usually among the first activities regulated in the beach area because that this where the piping plovers feed.

Mr. Frank Mangione asked given the limitations whether there would be restrictions on the types of vehicles being allowed, i.e., limiting larger vehicles? Mr. Beers said the Resident Parking Lot will be open to Resident stickered vehicles and Resident oversand permits will be allowed in the resident parking lot. The parking lot is used by a lot of groups (private groups, public groups, and DBMS, etc.) and the Harbormaster's staff will work to manage that without size limitations.

In response to an inquiry about bringing boats into the Beach, Mr. Beers said that again you have to be very careful because the regulations require no human interaction, and the staff is there to monitor that and move people along as needed.

BUSINESS

For Event Permits and One-Day Liquor Licenses, departmental reviews of the requests were done. There were no objections and departmental feedback was incorporated into the conditions listed on the permit or license.

One-Day Liquor Licenses - none

Event Permits

Sidewalk and Bike Path Committee – Green Mile Walk, June 30, 2013 (rescheduled)

This event was previously permitted by had to be re-scheduled due to inclement weather.

Mr. Dahlen moved that the Board of Selectmen grant to Ms. Sarah Weihman, as representatives of the Sidewalk and Bike Path Committee, permission to hold the Green Mile walk on Sunday, June 30, 2013, from 1:00 PM – 3:00 PM from the Duxbury Student Union, 147 Saint George Street, along Washington Street to Snug Harbor, contingent upon the conditions on the permit. Second by Mr. Flynn. Vote: 3:0:0.

Marsh Madness – July 28, 2013

It was mentioned that whether this event can go forward would be dependent upon the beach closure situation at the time. The Selectmen agreed to go forward with authorizing it subject to the beach closures and the organizers will be made aware of that.

Mr. Dahlen moved that the Board of Selectmen grant to Mr. Richard Berard and Mr. Chris Hebert, as representatives of Fast Forward Race Management and/or Mr. Bill Burnett, as a representative of Streamline Events, permission to hold a portion of “The Marsh Madness—Marshfield Sprint Triathlon” in Duxbury on Sunday, July 28, 2013, contingent upon the conditions on the permit. Second by Mr. Flynn. Vote: 3:0:0.

TOWN MANAGER’S BRIEF

Mr. Read mentioned the following:

1. NSTAR –Resident Meetings:

He indicated that Peter Buttkus and Joe Grady have been meeting with residents and representatives of NSTAR. There have been approximately 5 meetings last week and 8 scheduled for this week. Early indications are that in general the meetings have been productive. Whether all goals and objectives between the residents and NSTAR have been met remain to be seen, but early indications are the meetings are going well. Mr. Read indicated he would have a more complete report on this matter in the coming weeks.

2. Powder Point Bridge Work:

According to DPW Director Peter Buttkus the bridge piling work will commence tomorrow with the set-up of the offsite staging area. The work on the bridge may also begin tomorrow as well. The bridge will remain open during the course of this repair project.

In response to a question from Mr. Dahlen, Mr. Read said the offsite staging area will be by the sewer treatment plant.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Dahlen read announcements about:

1. State Election for US Senate –Last Day to Register:

Wednesday, June 10, 2013 is the last day to register to vote in the State Election for the US Senate. You can register at the Town Clerk's office during regular Town Hall hours or until 8:00 PM on June 10th.

2. Police Station Dedication:

On behalf of the Public Safety Building Committee, the public is cordially invited to attend the Dedication of the new Duxbury Police Headquarters at 155 Mayflower Street, Duxbury, MA on Saturday, June 8, 2013 at 10:30 a.m.

An Open House, including refreshments and tours of our new station, will begin immediately following the Dedication and continue until 2:00 p.m.

3. Transfer Station PAINT DAYS on Saturday, June 15TH from 9 AM to NOON.

4. Board and Committee Vacancies: Mr. Dahlen mentioned that the following Board and Committees have open seats and are seeking candidates. Interested individuals were asked to fill out a Talent Bank form available at Town Hall and on the town website (www.town.duxbury.ma.us):

Alternative Energy Committee:

2 seats with terms to 06-30-16

1 seat with a term to 06-30-14

Municipal Commission on Disability

1 seat with a term to 06-30-14

1 seat with a term to 06-30-15

Nuclear Advisory Committee

1 seat with a term to 06-30-14

Sidewalk & Bike Path Committee

4 seats with varying terms

Canine Committee

2 seats with unspecified terms

MINUTES - none

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS/RE-APPOINTMENTS

Mr. Madigan moved to re-appoint Ms. Linda Hayes as the Town of Duxbury delegate to the Old Colony Elderly Services (OCES) effective July 1, 2013 for a term to expire June 30, 2014. Second by Mr. Dahlen. Vote: 3:0:0.

Mr. Flynn mentioned the Board is asked to appoint Ms. Nancy Dean Nowak to the Duxbury Nuclear Advisory Committee. He noted that Ms. Nowak is a retired nurse whose background includes 30 years with the Public Health Service, and her experience with working with community organizations and the various levels of government to promote public health and safety would be a welcomed addition to the DNAC.

Mr. Flynn moved to appoint Ms. Nancy Dean Nowak to the Duxbury Nuclear Advisory Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2016. Second by Mr. Dahlen. Vote: 3:0:0.

ADJOURNMENT

At approximately 8:30 PM, Mr. Dahlen moved that the Board adjourn. Second by Mr. Flynn. VOTE: 3:0:0.

Minutes prepared by: C. Anne Murray

LIST OF DOCUMENTS FOR OPEN SESSION MEETING

1. *Agenda for 06-03-13 Selectmen's Meeting*
2. *Open Forum: Notes from Robert E. Doyle dated June 3, 2013*
3. *Public Hearings: Aquaculture Hearings: Suggested Motions, 05-22-13 Advertisement from 05-15-13 Memorandum from Alan P. Hoban, Chair of the Shellfish Advisory Committee and individual renewal application materials from Charles B. White, William B. McCormick, and Robert F. Knecht.*
4. *Planning Board Vacancy Packet: Coversheet- Explanation of vacancy due to resignation; MGL Chap. 41 Sect. 81A regarding Planning Board vacancies; published announcement regarding the open seat; suggested motion. Covering Memorandum from Diane Grant, Administrative Assistant to the Planning Board with letters of interest and résumés of 4 applicants: Robb D'Ambruso, Patrick J. Gagnon, M.D., T. Richard Quigley, and David C. Uitti.*
5. *Duxbury Beach Access Discussion: 06-03-13 René J. Read Prepared Statement, 06-03-13 Duxbury Beach 2013 Temporary Area Closures for Piping Plovers –Duxbury Harbormaster Dept., and 06-03-13 Press Release RE: Duxbury Beach*
6. *Event Permits: Sidewalk and Bike Path "Green Mile" packet 06-30-13 and The Marsh Madness -Marshfield Sprint Triathlon packet 07-28-13*
7. *Suggested Announcements: Police Headquarters Dedication flyer and Board and Committee Vacancies sheet*
8. *Appointment and Re-appointment Sheet 06-03-13*

June 3, 2013

**RE: Town Manager René J. Read's Statement at the Duxbury Selectmen's Meeting
Pertaining to Duxbury Beach Access**

For the past several weeks, members of the Harbormaster's office have been keeping our office apprised of the arrival of the Piping Plover on Duxbury Beach.

To date, 18 pairs of plover have been confirmed with 15 pair actually having constructed nests along the beach. These numbers are higher than in any year past, which is the result of several factors that I will kindly ask the Harbormaster's staff to comment on in just a few minutes.

The approximate locations of these nests range as far North as the area around Blakeman's and as far south as the 3rd crossover.

As a result of the locations of the nests, a large portion of Duxbury Beach will be restricted or closed beginning this Friday, June 7 at 11:00 p.m. At this time, the only portion of Duxbury Beach that will remain open is the resident pedestrian beach and associated parking lot to permitted resident vehicles. All other areas of the Beach will remain closed until July 15th.

It is important to note that the restrictions and closures being implemented could change on a daily basis and the July 15th date may be rendered moot. As a result, the Harbormaster's office will be providing a daily update which can be accessed by calling 781-934-2866 Ext. 5. Callers phoning into this number will be able to receive automated, conditional reports pertaining to beach restrictions and access which will be updated twice a day at 9:00 a.m. and 3:00 p.m.

The Town is acutely aware of the impact that these restrictions and closures will have on a number of events associated with the use of the Beach. One such event, the Beach Party, which is scheduled for Saturday, July 6th, has been relocated to Train Field located directly behind the Percy Walker Pool on St. George Street. Members of the Police, Fire, Harbormaster, Recreation, DPW and Town Manager's office have met with the parties organizing this event to discuss this location change and those details are in the process of being finalized. Unfortunately, the bonfire previously scheduled to coincide with the Beach Party celebration has been cancelled. Any other groups or organizations that had planned on using or accessing Duxbury Beach should first contact the Duxbury Harbormaster's office.

It is very important to note that these temporary measures, though perhaps not preferred, are quite necessary. The Town is very fortunate to have access to Duxbury Beach, one of this community's greatest natural resources, and part of the privilege of having that access is respecting the obligations that go along with it.

By temporarily restricting and/or closing the Beach for this period of time and ensuring that the Piping Plover, a state and federally protected migratory species, has the appropriate areas to nest and fledge (i.e., fly), the Town is complying with the state and Federal guidelines which if not adhered to, could have a much more far reaching and adverse implication that could ultimately result in a permanent closure.

We realize that these temporary restrictions and closures will most likely not be the most popular decision amongst the beach going community. Please know that I, along with many others, share in

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that sentiment however it is in our collective long-term best interests that we comply with the regulations for this relatively short period of time.

René J. Read
Town Manager
Town of Duxbury