

~ PLYMOUTH BOARD OF SELECTMEN ~

TUESDAY, MAY 21, 2013

TOWN HALL, MAYFLOWER ROOM

Note: the May 21st meeting began at 6:00 p.m. at the Plimoth Plantation, 137 Warren Ave., for a ceremonial event. The Board then took a short recess and relocated to Town Hall, 11 Lincoln Street, for the remainder of the meeting.

Present: Mathew J. Muratore, Chairman
Belinda A. Brewster, Vice Chairman
John T. Mahoney Jr.
Kenneth A. Tavares
Anthony F. Provenzano Jr.

Melissa Arrighi, Town Manager

CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Muratore called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Fort Meeting House at Plimoth Plantation (137 Warren Avenue) for a ceremonial re-signing of the Twin Sister Agreement with Plymouth, United Kingdom. Following the ceremonial event, the Board of Selectmen took a brief recess to return to Town Hall for the remainder of the meeting.

RECOGNITION OF OFFICIAL VISIT FROM PLYMOUTH, UNITED KINGDOM

Chairman Muratore reconvened the meeting at Town Hall at approximately 7:00 p.m. and led the Pledge of Allegiance. Following the Pledge, Chairman Muratore welcomed and introduced the members of the official delegation from Plymouth, United Kingdom.

Denis Hanks, Executive Director for the Plymouth Area Chamber of Commerce, provided an introduction to a presentation that the delegation from Plymouth, UK provided.

Following the presentation, Chairman Muratore presented the Deputy Leader of Plymouth, UK with a formal gift from the Town of Plymouth—a picture of Plymouth Harbor from 1830's. Chairman Muratore thanked the delegation for the hospitality they showed to the Plymouth, USA delegation that traveled to Plymouth, UK in the fall of 2012, and he expressed his eagerness to work collaboratively on 2020 events for both countries.

Plymouth, UK's Deputy Leader offered his condolences regarding the recent Boston Marathon and Oklahoma tragedies, and he noted his appreciation for the opportunity to reaffirm the Twinning Agreement between both communities.

At the close of the presentation, Chairman Muratore read aloud the official Twinning Agreement. He called for a brief recess at approximately 7:55 p.m.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chairman Muratore reconvened the meeting at 7:55 p.m.

Wrestling Brewster of the Harbor Committee invited everyone to attend the Maritime Day festivities on the waterfront on June 22, 2013.

Linda Benezra inquired as to how citizens can express concerns for traffic and speed limits. Ms. Benezra was specifically concerned with the speed limits posted on Long Pond Road.

Everett Malaguti made a suggestion that the Town post additional signs at polling locations throughout town to help to improve turnout for the annual Town Election.

Jim Veneto of Wicked Awesome Productions informed the Board that his organization is working closely with the Police Department to ensure that the Independence Day 5k Race will operate safely and cause no interference with the July 4th parade event.

Ken Tavares and members of July 4 Plymouth, Inc. provided the Board with an update on the July 4th parade and fireworks festivities. Mr. Tavares noted that the parade will assemble and step-off in a new location, from the Lighthouse Fitness parking lot in North Plymouth. July 4 Plymouth, Inc. member Zelda MacGregor talked about the fundraising event that the organization will hold on Monday, June 24th at 6:30 p.m. at the New World Tavern.

PUBLIC HEARING: AQUACULTURE LICENSE (TABLED FROM MAY 7, 2013)

WILLIAM BENNETT, 11 WHITE STREET, DUXBURY (FOR AREA ON PRIVATELY OWNED TIDELANDS)

Chairman Muratore opened a hearing to consider the application from William Bennett, 11 White Street, Duxbury to conduct aquaculture operations on privately owned tidelands in Plymouth Harbor (off Saquish), as detailed by the coordinates listed, below. Prior to commencing the hearing, Chairman Muratore affirmed that notice of the hearing was given to the public in accordance with both Chapter 130 of the Massachusetts General Laws and the *Town of Plymouth Aquaculture Regulations*.

1. N42° 00.126, W070° 37.844
2. N42° 00.164, W070° 37.935
3. N42° 00.213, W070° 37.923
4. N42° 00.261, W070° 37.902
5. N42° 00.288, W070° 37.875
6. N42° 00.233, W070° 37.767

Harbormaster Chad Hunter provided a brief introduction to the hearing.

William “Skip” Bennett outlined his proposal to establish an aquaculture venture upon tidelands that he owns within Plymouth Harbor, off Saquish.

Following Mr. Bennett’s presentation, Chairman Muratore opened the hearing to public comment.

Alice Souza of Dighton, Mass. and owner of property in Saquish stated her concern with how this project might impact boating, fishing, recreation, and beach quality on Saquish. Ms. Souza questioned whether the Town’s Historic District Commission has commented on the proposed aquaculture operation.

Harbormaster Hunter responded that this particular area within the harbor is not frequently traveled by boats, as it is comprised of shallow tidal flats. All aquaculture projects must be financially bonded, he said, as a safeguard against any potential problems.

Michael Withington read a letter from his brother Sean Withington that stated opposition to Mr. Bennett’s license application. Though supportive of aquaculture, Mr. Withington said, he and his brother both object to the process by which Mr. Bennett was allowed to apply for a license, when there is a waiting list for license applications and a moratorium (alleged) on aquaculture licenses.

Mr. Hunter noted that the applicant has demonstrated private ownership of the specified area. The Town, he said, may consider applications for aquaculture operations on privately owned property on a case-by-case basis, separate from those on the waiting list who will apply to utilize public tidelands owned by the Commonwealth.

Mr. Withington asked the Board to table its decision on Mr. Bennett’s license application until the moratorium on the granting of aquaculture licenses (which Mr. Withington alleged was in effect) could be addressed.

Mr. Hunter responded to some brief questions from Selectman Mahoney regarding aquaculture operations. Selectman Mahoney stated his support for bringing Mr. Bennett’s success with Island Creek Oysters to Plymouth.

Mr. Hunter asked that the Board consider tabling its decision on Mr. Bennett’s license application until staff could address Mr. Withington’s claims that a moratorium on aquaculture licenses is in effect.

On a motion by Vice Chairman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Provenzano, the Board voted 5-0-0 to table the aquaculture license hearing to the meeting of June 11, 2013.

PUBLIC HEARING: FY2014 WATER & SEWER RATES

Chairman Muratore opened a public hearing to consider proposed changes to the Town’s Water and Sewer fees/rates for Fiscal Year 2014.

Jonathan Beder, Director of Public Works, and Lynne Barrett, Finance Director, provided the Board with a presentation on the proposed rate adjustments for Water and Sewer services.

Mr. Beder explained that he has been working with the Finance Department to evaluate costs, consumption, and retained earnings in order to set adequate rates for FY2014.

WATER RATES

Mr. Beder recommended a 4% increase for 0-3,000 cubic feet (CF) of use; a 4% increase for 3,001-9,000 CF of use; and a 4% increase for 9,000+ CF. The semi-annual base charge will remain the same, at \$25.00.

SEWER RATES

Mr. Beder noted that, following the discounts offered on sewer system connections in 2012, the DPW has made progress on new connections. Design work will soon begin upon the westward expansion of the Town's sewer infrastructure along Samoset Street, he noted, and the DPW will begin the relocation of the sewer interceptor on Water Street in the coming months.

In FY2013, he said, the Selectmen voted a 7.5% across-the-board rate increase for all three usage tiers. This year, Mr. Beder indicated, a 2.5% across-the-board increase is recommended.

Ms. Barrett reported that the Town's Sewer debt is gradually going down. Once the capital expense of the Waste Water Treatment Facility is paid, she said, the Town's Sewer-related debt will notably decrease. Ms. Barrett provided the Board with information on the Water Enterprise and Sewer Enterprise fund budgets versus actual revenue, noting that, with the newly proposed rates, the Town will likely meet revenue estimates.

Mr. Beder and Ms. Barrett responded to questions from the Board regarding the DPW's plans to expand the Town's sewer infrastructure and the various costs associated with the Water and Sewer Enterprise funds.

Chairman Muratore opened the hearing to public comment.

Steve Lydon informed the Board that the communities of Kingston and Weymouth each made it mandatory for property owners with failed septic systems to connect with the municipal sewer system.

Everett Malaguti inquired if the developer of the Cranberry Crescent retail development on Route 80 will be required to connect with the Town's sewer system. Mr. Malaguti offered his observation that the residents of North and Downtown Plymouth are the only residents paying for the costs associated with the Wastewater Treatment Facility.

At the close of public comment, Selectman Mahoney made a motion to approve new rates for Water and Sewer services, as proposed by the Director of Public Works and Finance Director. Selectman Provenzano seconded the motion, and the Board voted 2-3-0 (Muratore, Brewster, and Tavares in opposition). The motion failed, and, thus, no changes were made to the Town's Water and Sewer rates.

LICENSES

PEDI-CAB OPERATOR (NEW)

On a motion by Selectman Tavares, seconded by Vice Chairman Brewster, the Board voted to grant a Pedi-Cab Operator License to each of the following applicants. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

❖ For **Plymouth Pedicab** (4 Freedom Street, Michael Tubin, Owner):

- John Wilson (2 Jay Road, Norwell)
- David Jacobsen (152 Rivers Edge Drive, Middleboro)
- Andrew Stadnik (103 Pleasant Street, Whitman)
- Daniel Zopatti (15 Strawberry Hill Road, Plymouth)
- Christopher Holland (110 Old Washington Street, Pembroke)

Issuance of above licenses is subject to review of the CORI Background Check.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

Election Warrant for Senator in U.S. Congress – The Board approved and executed the warrant for the June 25, 2013 election of Senator in the United States Congress.

Lease Amendment with Plymouth Harbor Fuel / 10 Town Wharf – The Board approved and executed the *Third Lease Amendment by and Between the Town of Plymouth* (as Lessor) and *Plymouth Harbor Fuel LLC* (as Lessee) pertaining to the premises at 10 Town Wharf.

Voluntary Outdoor Watering Restriction – The Board implemented a voluntary Outdoor Watering Restriction, effective immediately, which shall limit outdoor watering to no more than 120 minutes per day, as recommended by the Department of Public Works. Under this restriction, odd numbered homes shall be permitted to use outdoor water for 120 minutes on odd days, and even numbered homes shall be allowed to use 120 minutes of water on even days. Watering is permitted between the hours of 5:00 a.m. to 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Removal of Committee Member – The Board removed Rosemary Taylor from the Designer Selection Board, for extended, unexplained absence. *[Note: Attempts by the*

Selectmen's Office to reach Ms. Taylor have been unsuccessful. It is the understanding of staff that Ms. Taylor has moved to another community.]

Appointment to Designer Selection Board / Citizen-At-Large Seat – The Board appointed Roger Monks of 800 Long Pond Road to the Designer Selection Board. Terms on the Designer Selection Board remain effective until the appointee resigns or is removed for due cause. Mr. Monks was the only applicant for the citizen-at-large seat on the DSB.

Appointment to Designer Selection Board / Construction Experience Seat – The Board appointed Les Plimpton 240 Halfway Pond Road to the contractor/construction experience seat on the Designer Selection Board. Terms on the Designer Selection Board remain effective until the appointee resigns or is removed for due cause. Mr. Plimpton was the only applicant for the contractor/construction experience seat on the DSB.

OLD BUSINESS / LETTERS / NEW BUSINESS

Solid Waste Program / Curbside Pickup – Selectman Mahoney requested a report on the number of transfer station passes sold, following the first week of availability (sales begin on May 22, 2013). Selectman Mahoney stated that he wanted to speak about the contract between the Town and ABC Disposal (the company that will provide curbside service for the Town), but Ms. Arrighi advised the Board to hold its discussion on the contract until a time when the conversation can be posted on the agenda in accordance with Open Meeting Law.

Plymouth Run-for-One 5k Walk/Run – Ms. Arrighi reminded the Board and the public that the Town and Plymouth Public School System will co-sponsor a 5k walk/run fundraiser to benefit the Boston One Fund at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, May 25, 2013. Those interested in participating or volunteering, she said, can visit www.runfor1.us for more information. Ms. Arrighi was pleased to note that over 600 runners have signed-up to participate.

ADJOURNMENT OF MEETING

On a motion by Vice Chairman Brewster, seconded by Selectman Mahoney, the Board voted to adjourn its meeting at approximately 9:30 p.m. Voted 5-0-0, approved.

Recorded by Elizabeth Sullivan, Special Assistant to the Town Manager

Formatted by Tiffany Park, Clerk to the Board of Selectmen

A copy of the May 21, 2013 meeting packet is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen's Office.