

**IPSWICH SELECT BOARD**  
**Meeting of Wednesday, June 10, 2020**

The Select Board participated in this meeting remotely utilizing Zoom in accordance with the Governor's March 12 Order suspending provisions of Open Meeting Law and to promote public health and social distancing.

Board Members present: William Whitmore, Chair; Linda Alexson, Vice Chair; Dr. Tammy Jones; Kerry Mackin;

Also present: Anthony Marino, Town Manager; Eileen Page, Recording Secretary

Not present: Nishan Mootafian

With a quorum present, Mr. Whitmore called the meeting to order at 7:04 PM.

**Welcome/Announcements**

None.

**Citizen Queries**

Ms. Alexson noted that the Select Board has received several comments from citizens regarding lawn watering being conducted at the Symes development on Linebrook Road during mandatory water restrictions. Mr. Marino stated that Jeff Rhuda (Business Development Manager, Symes Associates) has asked to come before the Select Board to request an exemption from the water restrictions. In the meantime, Symes is being fined daily for unauthorized watering. Dr. Jones asked if the Town could take other measures if fines seemed to be insufficient. Mr. Marino responded that the Town is not permitted to shut off water to the development. Police Chief Paul Nikas noted that under the bylaw, new developments are permitted to request waivers to be exempt from water restrictions or bans.

**Discuss and Vote Temporary Extension of Outdoor Seating Applications**

- a. Heart & Soul Café, 0 Central Street
- b. Fox Creek Tavern, 141 High Street
- c. 1640 Hart House, 51 Linebrook Road
- d. Ithaki, 25 Hammatt Street
- e. Zabaglione, 1 Market Street
- f. True North Ale Company, 116 County Road
- g. Ipswich Bay Yacht Club, 124 North Ridge Road
- h. Any other applications submitted

Heart & Soul Café has designated a custom tented seating area that will allow 4' of sidewalk to remain clear.

Ithaki plans to contract a 35'x40' tent in their parking lot for outdoor dining. Parking will be available on the street or in the Hammatt Street parking lot.

Zabaglione has designated a custom tented seating area that will allow 4' of sidewalk to remain clear.

The Brown Dog Food & Spirits (14 Central Street) will utilize outdoor seating in two parking spots in front of the establishment.

The Choate Bridge Pub (3 South Main Street) will designate outdoor seating on their sidewalk.

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to approve the temporary extension of outdoor seating for the establishments listed, and add the Choate Bridge Pub and Brown Dog to the list. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

**Discuss and Vote Outdoor Seating Policy**

Mr. Marino reported that at this time, there are no plans to block Market Street for outdoor dining events, but as retail stores open in the summer the Town may consider blocking the road and inviting food trucks for an evening.

Outdoor dining may become available at the EBSCO parking lot after their insurance policy is reviewed to identify any potential liabilities.

The outdoor seating extensions will be in effect through November 20 in conjunction with the Governor's executive order.

Ms. Alexson asked if the Town could be held liable if a customer is injured while using sidewalk dining. Mr. Marino responded that all establishments have insurance that extends to the street, exempting the Town from any liability.

### **New Business**

#### **WATER**

Ms. Alexson noted that the Water Subcommittee will meet on June 11. She requested that a recommendation be made regarding the upcoming water restriction waiver request for the Symes development on Linebrook Road.

#### **ANNUAL TOWN MEETING**

Mr. Marino reported that the Governor passed legislation allowing Towns to lower their quorum for Town Meeting if desired. He reported that Tom Murphy (Town Moderator) has said he would be comfortable with a 50% quorum. Mr. Marino noted that if the quorum is reduced, a 2/3 vote will be required for any article to pass, versus a simple majority.

Dr. Jones stated that she does not believe the Town will have trouble reaching a quorum of 200.

Ms. Alexson stated that she is not in favor of lowering the quorum, and believes 200 is adequate for Ipswich's size.

Ms. Mackin stated that she would consider lowering the quorum, as she believes residents will not attend the meeting due to health concerns, and concerns about whether or not they will be able to fully participate from their cars. She also noted that the Town should discourage idling in cars.

Mr. Whitmore stated that he would be open to lowering the quorum, citing concerns about not reaching 200 people after so much work was put into ensuring Town Meeting could take place.

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to schedule a Select Board meeting for June 24 to discuss and vote on lowering the 2020 Annual Town Meeting quorum. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

### **Old Business**

#### **HISTORICAL COMMISSION**

Ms. Mackin noted that the Historical Commission would like to discuss roadwork on High Street with the Board. Mr. Marino stated that Rick Clarke (Director of Public Works) is scheduled to provide an update on the work on an upcoming agenda, and suggested that the Historical Commission be invited as well.

#### **CLASS OF 2020**

A parade will take place on Saturday, June 13 for the Ipswich High School class of 2020. It will begin at the High School at 7:45 PM and make its way over the Choate Bridge and turning onto Argilla Road, ending at the Crane Beach parking lot for a graduation ceremony.

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved to adjourn. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

The Select Board adjourned at 7:41 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page  
06.10.2020*