

**MINUTES OF THE SALISBURY BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING
MONDAY, MARCH 22, 2021 – 7:00 PM
SALISBURY TOWN HALL, 5 BEACH ROAD
COLCHESTER ROOM**

PRESENT: Selectmen, Donna Abdulla, Chairman; Wilma McDonald, Chuck Takesian, and Freeman J. Condon
ABSENT: Selectman Ronalee Ray-Parrott
ALSO PRESENT: Neil J. Harrington, Town Manager, and Janet Flannery, Secretary

I. Call to Order/Salute to the Flag

Chairman Abdulla called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM in the Colchester Room, Salisbury Town Hall. She then announced, per the Open Meeting Law, that this meeting is being recorded and broadcast live.

II. Acceptance of Minutes: Feb. 22, 2021 and Mar. 8, 2021

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman McDonald; unanimously voted to approve the Minutes of February 22, 2021 and March 8, 2021 as written.

III. Public Comment - none

IV. Old Business

Vote to Approve 1st Amendment to the Host Community Agreement between the Town and Coastal Infusions, LLC

Motion by Selectman McDonald, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to remove this item from the table.

Mr. Harrington reported that due to concerns expressed by abutters at the Planning Board Special Permit public hearing regarding the potential negative effects of marijuana cultivation on site, Coastal Infusions had decided to propose an amendment to its Host Community Agreement with the Town deleting all references to cultivation. On the recommendation of Town Counsel, the proposed amendment should be approved by the Board before the Planning Board votes on the Special Permit.

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to approve the 1st Amendment to the Host Community Agreement between the Town and Coastal Infusions, LLC as presented.

V. New Business

a. License Renewals:

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman McDonald; unanimously voted to renew a **General** license, with the same conditions/restrictions that may have been on the original license and all subsequent renewals, for: Guinea Pig Sanctuary – 129 Bridge Rd. #2, Rangeway Golf – 167 Elm St., Sand Dollar Annex – 16 Broadway, Kathy's Dog Grooming – 10 Ferry Lots Land, and Richard Surette – 218 Lafayette Rd. (Rte. 286 & 1)

b. New Licenses

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman McDonald; unanimously voted to approve a **Common Victualer** license for Cristy's Pizza, Inc. – 11B Broadway (new ownership)

c. License Amendments - none

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d. Liquor License Renewals - Seasonal

Motion by Selectman McDonald, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to approve the 2021 Seasonal Liquor Licenses for The Deck – 179 Bridge Road, Gracie's Bar & Grille – 5 Broadway, and Surfside – 25 Broadway.

e. New Liquor Licenses - none

f. Committee Appointments - none

g. Update/Presentations: DPW Director

Ms. DeMeo reported on the following:

Street Maintenance: A Chapter 90 paving advertisement will be sent out shortly for Cushing Street, Bartlett Street, and Baker Road and a project request has been sent to DOT for the re-paving of Caroline Drive and High Street. Filling of potholes is ongoing. The Liberty Street project has been completed; there may be some additional drainage investigations. Street Opening Permits will be available starting in April.

Parks: Two employees have mowed and maintained the 4 cemeteries, 5 fields, and 7 town buildings. A part time employee is doing landscaping at the town buildings, cemeteries and parks. Some dugout work is to be scheduled for Lions Park. In-kind services will be provided to complete the concession stand project at Partridge Brook.

Beach: Parking kiosks are installed in most locations and some will be installed after construction of the new visitors' center and public restrooms. The DOT permit is in hand for work in State roads related to this project and the sewer, water, and drain work is to begin in 2 weeks. The DPW is preparing to hire seasonal beach staff.

Water: Hydrant flushing will begin in April and a notification will be advertised in the paper and on social media. Construction has started up again on the Bridge Road water main replacement project. Leak detection was performed last month and several leaks were identified.

Wastewater: EPA is working with the Town's engineering consultant, Weston & Sampson, on the second phase of the upgrade to the sewer treatment plant. Plant upgrades to SCADA, ultra-violet treatment and lagoons are complete. The Lafayette Road sewer construction project has resumed at Bayberry then Jak-Len and will move back out onto Route 1 after April 15th.

Stormwater: MS4 and NPDES permits are up to date and Weston & Sampson is very busy with all of this. Telemetry components have been investigated at the tide gates at Town Creek; replacement parts have been received and troubleshooting is underway.

Project Reviews: She has participated in several ongoing reviews of proposed projects with Planning, Conservation and the ZBA regarding multiple single family and other small projects.

Construction Oversight: She attended the pre-construction meeting for Driftway and will be attending an upcoming meeting re: the Borde-to-Boston Rail Trail and will get the contractor's schedule for the year; this project will be finished in 2021.

Other: The Municipal Vulnerability Program project design is underway for resiliency improvements on Ferry Road, March Road and First Street. A design alternative has been selected and permitting is next. She regularly attends meetings of the Cemetery Commission and DPW is working on several upgrades at Long Hill. She is coordinating with MassDOT for an upcoming paving project on Rte. 1A (Beach Road) and a small portion of No. End Boulevard.

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h. Vote to Amend Minutes of June 1, 2020

Mr. Harrington explained that an error was recently discovered in the Minutes of June 1, 2021 Board meeting on item IV (a), in which it was indicated that the vote was unanimous, but it should reflect four votes in favor and one abstention (Selectman Takesian).

Motion by Selectman Condon, Second by Selectman McDonald; unanimously voted to approve this correction to the Board of Selectmen Minutes of June 1, 2020.

i. Vote to Lay Out Jak-Len Drive as a Town Way

Mr. Harrington reminded Board members that they had previously voted their intention to lay out Jak-Len Drive as a public way and had referred the matter to the Planning Board, which has since voted to approve the layout. Now the Board has to take a vote to formally lay out the street.

Motion by Selectman McDonald, Second by Selectman Takesian:

Whereas the Board of Selectmen of the Town of Salisbury, acting pursuant to G.L. c. 82, §§21-24, having deemed that common convenience and necessity require the lay out as a public way of Jak-Len Drive, hereby lays out the foregoing road as a town way as shown on the plan referenced below, and

Whereas the boundaries of said way as laid out are shown on the plan entitled “Plan of Land in Salisbury, MA showing Jak-Len Drive, Salisbury, MA Street Acceptance Plan,” dated February 3, 2021, prepared by Millennium Engineering, Inc. (3 sheets), which plan was referred to the Planning Board and which plan is hereby adopted as part of this order, and all land lying within the above described boundaries of Jak-Len Drive is hereby laid out as a town way.

The aforementioned plan is hereby forwarded to the Town Clerk for filing and the foregoing layouts are hereby reported to the Town for acceptance.

Vote: 3 in favor, 1 abstention (Chairman Abdulla abstained). Motion carried.

j. Vote to Amend and Update Parking Policies at Salisbury Beach

Mr. Harrington explained that over the past few years there has been an ongoing study committee to examine and update the parking policies at Salisbury Beach. He noted, among other things, that the kiosk system is working well and it has allowed the Town to move forward from the old meter system. Over the past winter the committee met again to review the results from the summer of 2020 and to draft recommendations to the Selectmen for some changes to existing rates and the addition of a few new parking passes that should be offered when the 2021 season begins on May 1st. These recommendations are as follows:

Beach Road Parking Lot: currently \$2.00/hour and \$15.00 after 3 hours: increase all-day rate after 3 hours to \$20.00.

Ocean Front South: Increase to \$5.00/hour from \$4.00/hour.

Resident Seasonal Pass: Increase to \$15 per year from \$10 per year.

Non-resident homeowner seasonal pass: Currently \$10 per year for first pass then \$50 for second pass; increase first pass to \$15 per year.

Non-Resident Seasonal Pass – currently \$50/year; raise to \$75/year.

Overnight Beach Road Lot Resident Pass (designated area) – currently \$50/year; no change.

Seasonal Employee Pass – currently \$20/year; no change.

Weekly Pass (Beach Road lot) NEW - \$50/week and can be renewed.

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All passes for parking in the Beach Road lot are used on a space available basis.

All passes will be issued by the Town Clerk's office and will be license plate specific; there will be no stickers or placards hanging from rear view mirrors.

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman McDonald; unanimously voted to adopt the new Beach Parking Policy as presented.

VI. Sewer/Water

VII. Correspondence - none

VIII. Hearings - none

IX. Town Manager's Report

Mr. Harrington gave a brief overview of his written report, a copy of which is available in the Selectmen's office.

X. Selectmen's Report

a. Ratification of Signing of Weekly Warrants:

Motion by Selectman McDonald, Second by Selectman Takesian; unanimously voted to ratify the signing of the following weekly warrants: W21-68 through W21-73.

Selectman Takesian mentioned that last year several restaurants at the beach requested outside seating and he announced that this year they need to come back to the Board with their requests and seating plans. Two establishments are eager to do it again and have come forward. However, because construction is going on in the Broadway Mall this summer, the Board has to hear from staff as to whether the project is expected to affect the outdoor seating area.

XI. Executive Session - none

XII. Adjournment

Motion by Selectman Takesian, Second by Selectman McDonald; unanimously voted to adjourn at 8:15 PM.

Documents provided at the meeting and on file in the Selectmen's Office:

Minutes of Feb. 22, 2021 and Mar. 8, 2021

Copies of licenses as listed

Info re: Jak-Len Drive

Info re: Parking Policies at Salisbury Beach

Town Manager's Report


Respectfully submitted:

Janet E. Flannery, Secretary

Approved: 
Chuck Takesian, Clerk

MEMORANDUM

To: Members of the Board of Selectmen

From: Neil J. Harrington, Town Manager 

Date: March 22, 2021

Re: March 22nd Report to the Board

Outlined below is a summary of activities over the past two weeks. Let me know if you have questions about any of these items.

1) Covid-19 Vaccination Update

The first vaccination clinic conducted by the recently-approved Lower Merrimack Valley Regional Collaborative was held on Saturday and Sunday, March 13 and 14. About 2400 doses were administered at Amesbury High School. Also, on this past Saturday, March 20, and next Saturday, March 27, clinic time and a certain number of doses were reserved for teachers, child care workers, and school staff. When links to clinics being sponsored by the Collaborative become available, we immediately put them on the Town's website and social media pages. People who have pre-registered through the Council on Aging generally have a very good chance of being first in line when appointment times open up, but as I mentioned earlier, the State requires that anyone be eligible to make an appointment – not just residents of the 9 cities and towns in the Collaborative. Depending on the quantity of vaccine that the Collaborative receives from the State, future clinics may be 2nd dose clinics only, on weekends starting Saturday, April 3, through Sunday, April 18.

2) Regional Sand Agreement

Over the past few weeks, I have been a party to discussions held among local municipal officials from Newburyport and Newbury, along with our elected Senators and Representatives, relative to reaching a regional agreement about the sharing of sand from the upcoming dredges of the Merrimack and Piscataqua Rivers. As you may recall, the Army Corps of Engineers announced recently that both of these projects will be moving ahead this year, with bidding anticipated in the late spring/early summer and construction to begin in the Fall of 2021. As members of the Merrimack River Beach Alliance (MRBA), all three communities pledge to work together to enhance and protect Salisbury Beach and Plum Island.

Now that the projects are a "go," it is important that funding be put in place for the 35% non-federal match that is required. This has led our legislators and local officials to discuss the importance of partnering with the State to share the non-federal cost of disposing of the dredged material, whether onshore or offshore, and reaching a cost-sharing agreement as soon as possible, as the funding must be in place before the Army Corps bids the two projects.

To this end, we have reached an agreement along the following lines, which was announced at the most recent MRBA meeting on Friday, March 19: The Merrimack River dredge project is expected to yield materials of about 220,000 cubic yards for potential onshore placement on the Newburyport end of Plum Island. The Piscataqua River dredge project is expected to yield materials in excess of 300,000 cubic yards for potential near-shore placement in existing and permitted disposal sites in Salisbury and Newbury. It is proposed that these two towns split the quantities and the cost of this material evenly. This will mean that, if the funding can be put in place before the project is bid, Salisbury will receive in excess of 150,000 cubic yards of dredged materials, to be placed near shore. By comparison, when the Merrimack River was last dredged in 2010, Salisbury received about 36,000 cubic yards of sand, placed on the south end of the beach. This new dredged material should be a huge boon to the resiliency of the beach, as it accretes onto the shore over time.

Without the leadership of Sen. Tarr, Rep. Kelcourse, Sen. DiZoglio and Rep. Mirra, the 3 communities would not be where we are today in terms of enhancement of our respective beach areas. The MRBA model has shown that regional cooperation can work for everyone.

3) Driftway Project

I am pleased to report that the Town received much more competitive bids for the Driftway reconstruction project over the winter and we are getting prepared to award the contract and begin the construction soon. The total projected cost will be about \$660,000, with the vast majority to be paid from a Complete Streets grant (about \$362,000), a Shared Streets grant (\$180,000) and Chapter 90 funds (about \$95,000). The project will be done in two phases, with the first phase ending before Memoria Day weekend and the second phase beginning after Labor Day. The project is being timed to coincide with a major electrical upgrade that is being done by National Grid to provide more reliable services to businesses and homes in the area. When the project is finished, it will include new paving, new drainage, new curbing, additional parking, improved pedestrian safety measures, and new period lighting, enhancing the beach experience for residents and visitors alike.