

**TOWN OF PROVINCETOWN - BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES - SPECIAL MEETING (ROUND TABLE)
FRIDAY – SEPTEMBER 16, 2016 – 10:00 a.m.
JUDGE WELSH ROOM - 260 COMMERCIAL STREET**

Chairman Richter convened the open meeting at 10:01 a.m. noting the following attendees:
Board of Selectmen members: Raphael Richter, Tom Donegan, Cheryl Andrews, and Robert Anthony.

Excused: Erik Yingling

Other attendees: Town Manager David Panagore, Asst. Town Manager David Gardner, Town Clerk Doug Johnstone, Town Planner Gloria McPherson, DPW Director Rich Waldo, John Golden, Rick Murray, Steve Katsurinis, John Goodrich, Gail Cohen, and Chris Snow.

Recorder: Loretta Dougherty

Consent Agenda – Approval without objection required for the following items:

A. *Letter to Governor Charles Baker to recommend the appointment of Francine Coco as the State Representative to the Provincetown Housing Authority.*

B. *Reconfirming vote of the Provincetown 400 – First Pilgrims' Landing Park Grant Agreement.*

MOTION: Move that the Board of Selectmen reconfirm the vote to approve the Agreement with the Pilgrims' First Landing Park, acting as fiduciary of Provincetown 400, in the amount of \$47,188.00, for the purpose of employing a part-time Executive Director for Provincetown 400.

C. *Reconfirming vote of the MassDEP Water Management Act Grant Program Application. (See Addendum 1-Handout).*

MOTION: Move that the Board of Selectmen reconfirm the vote to approve the Town's participation in the MassDEP Water Management Act Grant Program in the requested amount of \$94,500 for unaccounted for water reduction and water main assessment.

Without objection the Board approved the Consent Agenda unanimously.

1. Round Table Discussion on Civic Engagement and Town Meeting Attendance:

David P. gave a brief overview of the year-long civic engagement process that is designed to inform citizens early on concerning complex issues along with potential solutions that will be on the Warrant for Town Meetings. The hope is to address any problems that have been identified during the civic engagement meetings to better clarify and improve the issues being brought to the Town Meetings. He stated that Nantucket starts their planning early in the fall. The Board of Selectmen and voters determine what goes into that process. There was proposed a Town Forum to be held sometime in mid-November that will provide attendees with brief presentations and allow for small group discussions on the more controversial or complex items being considered for the upcoming Town Meeting. Public dialogue and feedback between now and Town Meeting will enhance the traditional pre-Town Meeting communications that already exist. There will also be new social media and online dialogue tools made available. We are trying to be creative in the context of known traditions and to distinguish between the discussion and solution by putting before the public as many facts, data and information.

John Goodrich stated that this first year-long civic engagement process will be a much shorter process as we have started later. This meeting will be one designed for feedback, engaging, informing and involving participants leading up to the Town Meeting. The Town Manager will form an Advisory Committee who will coordinate the Civic Engagement Forums. At the Town Forum presentations individual tables will be assigned so that each table will talk about different items. Controversial issues gets people engaged and any modifications that can be offered will help build a strong consensus so that more people can be informed at the Town Meeting. After the small group discussions there will be open mike discussions that may be recorded for replay throughout the winter. A month or so before Town Meeting you can hold other forums and perhaps live stream those forums. This would help those voters who are not in Town right before Town Meeting is held to be more informed. There will be people attending the Town Meeting who do not know about an article until they get there and the people who are informed can stand up and be supportive of the articles. We are modifying some of the old ways that outreach has been done in the past. If there is an interest we will provide remediation training for staff and anyone who would be giving presentations.

David P. pointed out that this is not a mini- town meeting. Questions will be directed to what is not understood about an issue or what pieces might be missing. If there is something missing, it would be determined what change could be made in order to make an informed decision.

The complete proposed plan brought before the Board tonight may be viewed in its entirety in the Board of Selectmen's agenda packet.

Robert wanted to know what issues would be discussed at the Town Forum and David P. directed the Board to page six which listed the town government categories, topic categories, possible town meeting articles and what would be discussed at the Town Forum.

Tom would like to see a better process around the CIP and budget. We have never had any conversations on the budgets and the CIP is discussed as a curiosity. What has engaged Town Meeting has been zoning and the housing crisis.

Cheryl wants to be clear on everything before we hold a Round Table on what items we are going to be discussing. She wants to talk about what is unsuccessful, how we can do a better job of informing the public and determine if we have enough of a consensus before any article is put on the warrant. The concept of having ambassadors appeals to her. She wants to have people come to the town meeting who support articles other than just the Board of Selectmen and Board Chairs. She wants to know how we get the people who are always talking at Town Meeting to meet with staff so that complicated questions are answered before Town Meeting.

David P. views his role as not imposing just one solution on anyone. When people ask questions it changes the way we move forward. He views this as a set of problems with a draft conception; what needs to be changed to make it more acceptable to people at Town Meeting.

Erik agreed with Cheryl. We need to focus to what we are not good at; zoning articles and real estate transactions. He wants to be more specific on what is coming to Town Meeting. We have to go to where people are to educate them well beforehand so people can digest what is being brought before them. Some people are good at persuading others. He wants to work on our tactics.

Steve K. believes that problems happen between the drafting of the warrant and the preparation period. He likes the idea of doing an earlier process. Between this and warrant being drafted there needs to be things written on paper and questions can then be answered.

Rick M. agreed with everyone who has spoken. He wanted to know if we have considered moving the Town Meeting to May. He thanked the Board for inviting the public to this meeting. He believes the earlier you start the process the better it is for everyone. Press releases and newsletters sent out at the first of the year, after the holidays would be a good way to get people's attention. The lay person does not understand a Bylaw. Tackle things more strategically and be as transparent as soon as possible. Maximize the back and forth at Town Meeting. There will always be those individuals who will try to sabotage an article.

Gloria stated they had a visionary forum that was successful. She did flyers and brochures and mailed them to licensing addresses obtained from our Licensing Agent. She suggested doing one big push. At their meeting on March 15th they had 150 people in attendance.

Gail knows many people who stay here in the summer but have their primary residence elsewhere. They care very deeply about Provincetown. She would like part-time, second homeowners sent notices and newsletters to at least keep them informed. This affects them as well even though they do not have their primary residence here. She thinks this is really a good idea and much needed. She believes it will produce results.

Raphael likes the idea of having ambassadors. The idea of a Town Forum is a way to draft the ambassadors to be invested from the beginning. He supports the idea of the Forum and having controversial issues focused on.

Tom would like to get a survey from people regarding their thoughts on our last Town Meeting. He would also like to see us look at getting comfortable chairs and recommended that we discuss it during the budget process. It is really something that needs to be addressed.

Cheryl believes that people will show up if they know what they are going to get for what is being presented. She notices that more and more people are going digital and if three of the most controversial items happen at 6 p.m. they would be more apt to come.

Doug J. noted that other towns get everything done in one night with over 100 articles. He has attended events at Town Hall and was so uncomfortable due to the chairs. He believes the more informed the public is the shorter will be our Town Meetings.

There was a discussion on ways to make the seating more comfortable such as bringing pillows from home or renting pillows from the Film Festival and even putting a notice in the BANNER letting everyone know that pads would be provided.

Doug J. spoke about the summary he included in the Board's agenda packet regarding electronic voting at Town Meeting. It is very expensive. It needs to be determined whether this would be cost effective. Eastham budgeted \$21,000 per year for electronic voting for their meeting held in April for one evening.

Cheryl would love to see this included in the survey. She believes this is not a good idea. She hopes it would not go forward until we see what the survey says.

Chris Snow joined the meeting at 11:24 a.m.

Gloria stated that Provincetown 365 had an idea that when someone is making a presentation the public can hold up either a green or red paddle to indicate what they are feeling about the issue. With a majority of one color being noted this would be a mechanism to help determine whether the conversation needs to continue moving forward or not.

Chris Snow is not in favor of electronic voting. He is not in favor of anonymity for a small town. There is far too great a cost for negative returns.

Erik agrees with Chris. People want to have their vote noticed publically.

Raphael believes this is not a high priority at this point.

There was a discussion held as to what days would be best to hold the Town Forums. Tom felt that Saturday would not be good for people who are employed in the community on Saturdays.

Raphael wants to do it at 5:30 or 6 p.m. on a week night. He believes that a week night evening will engage the people we want to engage. There will be a topic at the next Board of Selectmen meeting on this.

Chris believes an evening during the week would be best. He feels that more people are civically involved during the week than on a weekend. If there is fallout perhaps a Saturday could be set for one of the meetings.

Some of the topics that will be discussed are: Inclusionary Bylaw; Police Station; DPW Garage; VFW site; Planning Articles; Zoning Articles; and Town Meeting Attendance (chairs, electronic voting).

2. Minutes:

The Board reviewed the minutes and voted as follows:

MOTION: Move that the Board of Selectmen approve the minutes of August 8, 2016 (Regular), as printed.

Motion: Tom Donegan

Seconded: Robert Anthony

4/0/0 Motion passed.

3. Other: None.

Without objection Raphael adjourned the meeting at 11:52 a.m.

Minutes transcribed by: Loretta Dougherty