



OPEN SESSION MINUTES BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Monday, March 16, 2020

COPY

WILLIAM DOWLING, CHAIRMAN
CAROLE JULIUS, VICE CHAIRMAN
DAVID SHEEDY, CLERK

TOWN HALL, 1st FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
175 CENTRAL STREET
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

Members Present: William Dowling, Chairman; Carole Julius, Vice Chairman (remote participation) and David Sheedy, Clerk

Members Absent:

Others Present: Brian Noble, Town Administrator and Rebecca Johnson, Administrative Assistant

5:00 pm Chairman Dowling called the meeting to order. He stated this emergency meeting was to update the public on the COVID – 19 situation and the measures the Town has taken.

Mr. Dowling mentioned that Ms. Julius is participating remotely.

Chairman Dowling led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Dowling stated, Town Buildings including schools, fields, playgrounds, and town common are closed to the public effective Wednesday 3/18/2020. The recycling center will also be closed until further notice. Mr. Dowling read a statement. (attached to minutes)


Mr. Dowling stated the Board of Selectmen will be meeting regularly to make any changes needed going forward.

Mr. Sheedy made a motion to adopt the statement as written. Ms. Julius seconded. All were in favor. 3-0

ADJOURN

Motion by Sheedy, second by Julius to adjourn. All were in favor, 3-0

Meeting adjourned at 5:10 pm



Board of Selectmen Clerk



TOWN of EAST BRIDGEWATER

www.eastbridgewaterma.gov

175 Central Street, East Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02333
508-378-1600

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Monday, March 16, 2020

Contact: Brian S. Noble
Phone: 508-378-1601
Email: bnoble@eastbridgewaterma.gov

East Bridgewater Provides Update on Coronavirus Response

EAST BRIDGEWATER — The Board of Selectmen wishes to provide residents with the latest information regarding the novel coronavirus (COVID-19) situation and the following measures being taken by the Town:

All town buildings, including schools, fields, playgrounds, and town common are closed to the public effective Wednesday, March 18th. The Recycling Center is also closed until further notice.

- Buildings will be staffed, and phones will be answered.
- All Board and Committee meetings will be postponed for the next two weeks where and when possible. Remote participation will be encouraged and provided where necessary, proper and deemed appropriate for those Boards and Committees that must meet.
- Council on Aging Meals on Wheels, Tax Preparation Appointments, Medical Equipment Loaning program and Senior bus program will continue to run, and the Center will be staffed for the foreseeable future. (The building is still closed to the general public.)
- Fire Department visits are limited to the front foyer and no food can be accepted.
- Police Department- Emergency calls will continue to be investigated immediately.
- School Department essential personnel have access to the facilities and will be at work.
- Residents are asked to call the East Bridgewater Police dispatch center to file reports and for all non-emergencies. Dispatch can be reached at 508-378-7223. Written statements and photographs for minor incidents, property crimes and other similar reports will be accepted by email.



TOWN of EAST BRIDGEWATER

www.eastbridgewaterma.gov

175 Central Street, East Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02333

508-378-1600

Events not cancelled at this time

- Candidates' Night (4/1/2020)
- Town Election (4/11/2020)
- Town Meeting (5/11/2020)

Residents can conduct most town business online at www.eastbridgewaterma.gov.

Town officials will continue to assess the situation and determine alternative solutions to gatherings that require physical interaction.

Town officials will make every effort to handle as much business as possible via phone and electronic platforms.

Last evening, Gov. Charlie Baker announced new guidelines for all Massachusetts residents to promote social distancing and help to prevent the spread of COVID-19:

- No gatherings of any kind of more than 25 people at one time, in one place.
- All public and private schools in Massachusetts will close on Tuesday, March 17 until at least April 7.
- All restaurants will only be able to serve takeout (and delivery where available).

Residents, business owners and community members are asked to abide by these newest guidelines from the Governor's office.

The East Bridgewater Emergency Management Working Group, consisting of the Town Administrator, Fire Chief, Police Chief, Board of Health Chairman, DPW Director and a member of the Board of Selectmen, are meeting regularly to assess the situation and determine next steps.

More information can be found on the town website.

The COVID-19 situation is very fluid, and new information and guidelines are being posted by the CDC on a regular basis. The CDC offers the following guidance for how COVID-19 spreads.



TOWN of EAST BRIDGEWATER

www.eastbridgewaterma.gov

175 Central Street, East Bridgewater, Massachusetts 02333

508-378-1600

If anyone displays symptoms of COVID-19, including a fever, cough or shortness of breath, they should not go to work or school and are advised to contact their primary care physician. According to the CDC, symptoms of the virus appear within 2-14 days of exposure.

The Massachusetts Department of Public Health (DPH) recommends that residents continue with good hygiene practices including:

- Practice good hand hygiene! Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds including under your fingernails. Alcohol-based hand sanitizer (at least 60% alcohol content) can be used when soap and water are not available.
- Keep your hands away from your face.
- Cover your nose and mouth when sneezing and coughing with a tissue and discard it immediately. Cough into the sleeve over your elbow instead of your hand. Wash your hands often when coughing and sneezing.
- Stay away from people who are sick and stay home when you are sick.

For more information, visit the DPH website and the CDC's website. Information will be posted on the town's website as well: <http://www.eastbridgewaterma.gov/>.

###