

# PLYMOUTH SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2022

REMOTE VIA ZOOM, PLYMOUTH, MA – 6:00 PM

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## 6:00PM - CALL TO ORDER

Richard Quintal, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked Vice Chairman Cavacco to read the opening statement.

In accordance with S2475, and pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote means and in-person. Members of the public who wish [to watch the meeting may do so](#) in the following manner: tune into PACtv government cable access channels Comcast Channel 15 or Verizon Channel 47 and watch the meeting as it is aired live, or watch the meeting live the PACtv website at <https://pactv.org>. Members of the public who wish to PARTICIPATE in the meeting may do so in the following manner:

**Remote Participation:** please go to the Town website under the Select Board page and click on the Zoom Webinar Registration box or simply click on the link below.

[https://pactv.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN\\_-cge\\_yk\\_Q9KtC8f1ydH61g](https://pactv.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-cge_yk_Q9KtC8f1ydH61g)

Present: Richard Quintal, Chairman  
Betty Cavacco, Vice Chairman  
Patrick Flaherty (*Absent*)  
Harry Helm  
Charlie Bletzer  
  
Lee Hartmann, Acting Town Manager  
Derek Brindisi, New Town Manager

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## 6:00PM – PUBLIC HEARING – 1620 Winery

Chairman Quintal read the Public Hearing notice into the records as follows:

In accordance with Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held remotely on Tuesday, March 1, 2022 at 6:00pm to consider the application for an Alteration of Premises from 1620 Wine Bar Corp d/b/a 1620 @ Cordage Park, 55 Cordage Park Circle, Raquel Mullaney, Manager, holder of an Annual All Alcohol General on Premises License.

Description of premises is as follows: Event venue with outdoor patio. First floor has the ballroom, bar area, ceremony room, 4 bathrooms. Second floor has three offices and storage. (The ceremony room, two bathrooms, and a bar were added)

Chairman Quintal then asked if there was anyone here from the 1620 Wine Bar to which Chris Badot said no, there was not.

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to approve an Alteration of Premises for 1620 Wine Bar Corp d/b/a 1620 @ Cordage Park, 55 Cordage Park Circle, Raquel Mullaney, Manager. *Voted 4/0*

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**6:03PM – TOWN MEETING ARTICLE 14 – Agricultural Committee**

Patrick Farah came on and thanked the Board for hearing this article tonight. He then said if the Board recalls Article 27 of the Fall Town Meeting it transitioned the Agricultural Committee to a Commission, and this is simply a housekeeping measure. He then read the Article 14 language into the records as follows: Article 14: To see if the Town will vote, consistent with the vote under Article 27 of the October 16, 2021 Fall Annual Town Meeting to adopt the provisions of G.L. c. 40, sec. 8L, to amend the Town's General Bylaws, Section 63, Right to Farm, by 1) deleting in Ch. 63, Section 2, Definitions, the language "containing at least 5 acres"; 2) defining the composition, responsibilities and duties of the Agricultural Commission; and 3) replacing reference to the Agricultural Committee with reference to an Agricultural Commission, a copy of which amended Bylaw is on file in the Office of the Town Clerk, or take any other action relative thereto. AGRICULTURAL COMMISSION

Patrick Farah said that Article 14 is basically asking to amend the Right to Farm Bylaw to incorporate the Agricultural Commission's duties and responsibilities. He said last week at the Advisory and Finance Committee meeting they voted unanimously to support this Article. He then asked for the Board's support and said he would answer any questions.

Selectman Helm said under section two it looks like you are removing the language that says, "containing at least five acres" and then asked why that was, to which Patrick Farah said yes, as part of the Commissions Mission and Vision Statement we want to promote Civic Agriculture which is more innovative and includes rooftop farming, micro farming, and indoor farming so we wanted to change that language.

Selectman Helm then asked if someone owns a small lot something like .14 acres will they be able to farm on that land, to which Patrick Farah said yes, absolutely. He said we are trying to get people away from the four-hundred-acre farms and trying to get people to think smaller and more innovative.

Selectman Helm said he understands that, but his concern is raising livestock on such a small piece of land, to which Patrick Farah said the Board of Health and the Town Bylaws have all types of restrictions on animals and livestock. He said that they are not only promoting farming animals, but this is more directed at growing food.

Lee Hartmann, Acting Town Manager, said he wanted to make sure that the Board knew that the Agricultural Commission is an advisory group and all of the farming and animal bylaws, and regulations fall under the Town Bylaws, the Board of Health, and DMEA.

Selectman Bletzer came on and said he understands Selectman Helms concerns because he has seen people move onto a quarter acre of land and bring their goats and chickens. He said he has seen these cases end up in court, so he just wants to be careful with this language and abuse this. He said it can really hurt someone's lifestyle, to which Patrick Farah said they are protected by the Town's bylaws and in order to change those they would have to go to Town Meeting to have those changes voted on.

Vice Chairman Cavacco asked if we could put reference to the bylaws and the Board of Health into this Article language so that people know there are rules and regulations, to which Lee Hartmann said it is already there and he read it into the records.

Ginny Davis came on and said she would like to see an approval process for anyone that wants to put anything in their yards or on their roofs.

Everett Malaguti came on and said he is in full support of this but asked if this would affect any of the Chapter 61 property regarding farming and create new tax codes or will everything just stay the same, to which Rich Vacca said the tax codes would stay the same. He said Chapter 61 requires a minimum of five acres and is a state regulation.

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to recommend Article 14 (Agricultural Commission Language) to the April 2, 2022 Annual Spring Town Meeting. *Voted 4/0*

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## **6:21PM – TOWN MEETING ARTICLE 16A – Community Preservation Committee**

Bill Keohan, Community Preservation Committee Chairman, came up and thanked the Board for having him in tonight. He said that Article 16A is in regard to the Stephen's Field Restoration Project. He then gave a brief history of this project saying it began back in 2014 when they came to Town Meeting asking for the funding to begin this restoration. He said there was a group called the Friends of Stephen's Field that worked very hard on this project and got the ball rolling. He then said as the years transpired, they came up with the initial plan in 2016 which was the plan we brought to Town Meeting and got the funding for \$2,000,000 to start the project. He said in 2017 they began the permitting process which brought them to some issues with elevation changes at Stephen's Field. He said these are not uncommon problems when dealing with a waterfront park. He said during this time there were some flooding issues and recent NOAA maps directed the Stephen's Field Design Committee and the Conservation Commission to revisit the plan. He said they needed to look ahead at anticipated sea level rises where Stephen's Field is a low-lying coastal park so they thought it would be wise to start pulling back the infrastructure and take a look at the design. He said all of these groups involved met at various times since then to come up with a revised plan. He said that plan was worked on by the Town Engineering Department and currently being worked on by Beals + Thomas who is an outside engineering firm who has been working with the Committee and Staff. He then shared his screen and showed to current plan which is focused on moving structures away from the water and opening up area closer to the water for recreational purposes. He said they looked at a lot of other coastal parks and they all have absorption areas where water can come in and easily move out without causing major damage. He then said the new design also has pickleball courts added to it. He said they had several meetings and there is a growing interest in Plymouth. He said the CPC has already built six pickleball courts out at Forges Field, but they still want to make it available at Stephen's Field. He then talked about the parcels of land that the Town acquired next the Fire Station and said those parcels will be incorporated into the design. He said these parcels allowed them to move some of the structures back and add some recreational activities. He said this property would also allow them to add a scenic overlook that will look out over the Stephen's Field Park and the water as well. He then talked about the actual design of the park such as leaving open space for people to enjoy playing sports and playing catch as well as an area on the water that would allow people to launch boats such as canoes and kayaks. He said there would also be an area where people can park their cars or trucks that also have trailers. He said the water is very shallow and the tides limit this use, but they still wanted to have this available to people that wanted to launch their boats there. He said the existing building and concession stand will remain in the same location with some minor renovations. He said they did add some seating out behind the building with a pergola for shade so people could sit and enjoy the views.

Bill Keohan said the play area will be moved to a higher elevation away from the water and where the old play area is now will be mainly picnic tables and an open grassy area where people can set up their own chairs and enjoy the waterfront. He said that area is also known as Bangs Park which has a small pond. He then said Nick Faiella from the Parks Department has been working with different firms on the playground area. He said the design of the playground will be very sensitive to ADA Compliance and there will be equipment and swings for children that are confined to a wheelchair. He said the playground will have amenities that we do not have in any other areas of Plymouth, so they are excited about that. He then talked about the lighting saying that there are issues with digging in that area, so the plan is to use green, or solar lighting in and around the area. He said they want to make this a Town destination rather than just a neighborhood park, so they are adding some electrical functions. He said they want to make this a park that can be used as support for other events such as road races and parades. He also said it has been talked about using this area for a skating rink, so it was important to have electricity brought in. He then said before he goes into the cost estimates he asked if anyone had any questions as he would be happy to answer them.

Selectman Bletzer said the design looks great and he is very excited about it. He said he has been waiting a long time to see this happen. He said he likes the solar lighting because the PGDC has been using that for years and it really is functional. He said when Nelson Park was renovated it was such a huge hit and the kids really loved it. He said the only issue with that was the parking as there were only 49 parking spaces. He said they had to eventually put-up boulders to keep people from parking on the grass and the PGDC eventually started leasing the dirt parking lots. He then asked how many parking spots were planned for Stephen's Field, to which Bill Keohan said it was initially designed for 80 parking spaces but with the new design they were able to fit 86 parking spaces total. He said even though we feel that this park will generate many visitors we feel that these parking spaces will be able to accommodate everyone that visits. He said like he mentioned before we wanted this park to be supportive of other downtown events such as the fireworks and parades. He said there is also a gravel area that can also support additional parking.

Selectman Bletzer said he is also concerned about the boat launch area and having people park on the grassy areas, to which Bill Keohan said they have thought about that and will make sure that signage is clear in all locations that say once you launch your boat, you'll need to take your vehicle and park it in a designated area. He then said speaking of signs, there will be informational signs placed all around the park letting people know what they are looking out at such as the Gurnet and give a brief history of the area.

Selectman Bletzer then said this is going to be great for people that like to walk and bike because they can start here and ride down to Nelson Park and even along the bike path all the way to Cordage Park, to which Bill Keohan said there is limited waterfront property for residents and visitors to enjoy so he agrees that this will be very welcomed by all.

Selectman Helm came on and said currently there is a roadway that goes from Union Street all the way through to Sandwich Street and he sees that in the current plan you can no longer travers the entire park. He then asked if anyone thought it might get busy in the Union Street neighborhood if people come down to one side or the other and can't find parking, so they have to leave and go try the other side, to which Bill Keohan said the traffic flow issue became a big subject with the CPC and the neighborhood. He said this area was always gated and was only opened during holidays and special occasions. He said about fifteen years ago the Nathaniel Morton School started having issues with the lining up of school busses.

Bill Keohan said there came a time when the popular thing was for parents to drive to the school to pick their children up and the lines of cars became quite long. He said at that time there was also Town Hall across the street with all of their employees parking in the area, so they decided to open up Stephen's Field and let the buses start to line up along that roadway and then the gates were simply left open, and it became somewhat of a freeway. He said that the Stephen's Field Design Committee finally decided that it was too dangerous, so they said they wanted to see that closed off because now Town Hall has moved and there isn't the volume to support leaving Stephen's Field as a throughway.

Selectman Helm then said he is not complaining about the decision but rather is concerned about the possibility of there being a game at Stephen's Field and parking being congested. He is concerned about the neighborhood because people would be turning around and leaving to go check for parking on the other side of the park, to which Bill Keohan said this was all discussed with the neighborhood of Union Street and Fremont Street and in the end, they felt it was more important that people come in at different angles and be safer.

Bill Keohan then moved on to the financials and said that the Stephen's Field Committee worked with Beals + Thomas on the design and then sent them out for estimates. He said they also worked with DPW, David Gould, Lynne Barrett, and Lee Hartmann to make sure that the estimates would cover the expected costs of this project. He then said as you can see by the demolition and site preparation there is a lot to this project such as removing paved areas and adding erosion control. He then talked about the actual construction which includes paving, grassy areas, lighting and electrical services, plantings, drainage, and site amenities. He then said there is a cost to the site and environmental cleanup which the Director of Marine and Environmental Affairs has been working on closely. He said they also wanted to make sure they had a contingency that would absorb the condition that if we went to Town Meeting and they vote to do this, we want to be prepared to get this out on July and the DPW Director wanted to make sure that we were reflective of what we are seeing right now in real-time. He said it was great to have Jonathan Beder and David Gould working on this project because the designers are working in their offices designing this based on six months ago as these guys are dealing with the reality of price increases and possible issues. He said the contingency amount is \$1,021,500 which is 30% of the total project. He said the project total cost is \$4,926,500 but reminded the Board that they had an old article that has a little less than \$2,000,000 left in it that can be used towards this project which brings the amount down to \$2,937,500 which is what this article is seeking from Town Meeting. He said the Community Preservation Committee voted to send the amount of \$2,950,000 to Town Meeting just to build a little buffer into this element. He finished by saying he thinks this is going to be successful because even with the condition that Stephen's Field is at right now, many people still go there to enjoy the area. He said he hopes that the Board supports this.

Selectman Helm came on and said the materials that we received in the packet at the end of last week are not the same as the ones presented tonight. He said he can see the increase on the contingency but asked about where the other increases came from, to which Bill Keohan said after speaking with David Gould he wanted to make sure that Beals + Thomas included the \$350,000 for the cleanup and Jonathan Beder was concerned about the contingency. He said there was also concern about the specs to come to completion in order to move forward.

Selectman Helm said the changes he just explained came to about \$1,000,000 and asked why the price increased by \$2,000,000, to which Jonathan Beder, DPW Director, said they added some beefed-up fencing for courts as well.

Jonathan Beder then said we are looking for high-quality materials. He also asked Beals + Thomas to increase the thickness of the parking lot so those are some of the details that brought the price up. He also said it is a competitive market, so he also wanted to raise the contingency amount as well.

Ginny David came on and said she is on the Stephen's Field Design Committee and before that she was on the Friends of Stephen's Field Committee. She said she is 80 years old and as a child she took swimming lessons at Stephen's Field. She then said it resonates with her that this is going to be a wonderful project for future children to enjoy. She then talked about the flooding concerns and said that Brewster Garden also floods but it was built to be resilient, and Stephen's Field will be the same. She also mentioned the parking concerns and said at Forges Field people park along the road and walk to the park and she feels people will do the same thing at Stephen's Field. She said she feels people will enjoy walking along the paths and trails that will be created. She said she appreciates all of the wonderful questions and hopes that the Board supports this article.

Chairman Quintal said he wanted to thank Bill Keohan and his committee for all of their hard work on this project and the several other projects in the community. He then asked if there was going to be a flagpole placed in the park, to which Bill Keohan said yes, there is.

Chairman Quintal then said that the Plymouth Growth and Development Corporation may have some extra bike racks, to which Bill Keohan said he will reach out to them.

Chairman Quintal then asked once this project is approved at Town Meeting who would be in charge of the Stephen's Field project, to which Bill Keohan said that would be Jonathan Beder and Nick Faiella who is the Superintendent of Parks.

Chairman Quintal then said that the Fire Headquarters will probably move some day and asked if they could use that piece of property, to which Bill Keohan said absolutely, and said they have been keeping that in mind during the planning stages.

Vice Chairman Cavacco said she is the liaison to the Community Preservation Committee and this group has done an enormous amount of work with this project and she thinks it will be a great addition to the Town. She said it compliments the downtown area and will continue to during special events. She also said she is thrilled that the project will be under Jonathan Beder and Nick Faiella, and they do a great job with our parks.

Selectman Helm asked if any of the funding will need to be borrowed, to which Bill Keohan said yes, the Article does reference borrowing, so we will be borrowing some of these funds.

Lynne Barrett, Finance Director, came on and said this Article is structured as an amendment in order to increase the authorization to borrow for this project. She said we will also pay down this debt with CPC funds.

Vice Chairman Cavacco asked if there would be any available grants to apply for with this project, to which Bill Keohan said there are some parks grants but none were really a good fit. He said some of the requirements of the grants just weren't possible with this project but said they are always keeping an eye out for other grants and funding options.

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to recommend Article 16A (Stephen's Field Restoration) to the April 2, 2022 Annual Spring Town Meeting. *Voted 4/0*

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**7:12PM – TOWN MEETING ARTICLE 7A – Budget**

Lynne Barrett, Finance Director, came on and thanked the Board for having her in tonight. She then said she provided the Board with two things tonight. She said the first is the request for an amendment to Article 7A and said the budget was presented to the Board in December and then you passed your recommended budget to the Advisory and Finance Committee. She said that everyone was aware that we were going through contract negotiations and that we would be coming back asking for some changes to the budget based on the outcome of those negotiations. She said they are now asking for an increase of \$2,339,307 to the salary reserve account that we went over last week. She said this increase would mean Article 7A would have a new total of \$256,206,771 so she would need one vote for the increase and a second vote for the new total.

Chairman Quintal asked if all of the groups had settled already, to which Lynne Barrett said we have two small groups left to negotiate with and hopefully they can do that before Town Meeting. She said this amount includes and estimate that she came up with for the potential settlements with those two groups, so we won't have to come back again.

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to recommend Article 7A (Amended Budget) to the April 2, 2022 Annual Spring Town Meeting. Voted 4/0

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**7:16PM – TOWN MEETING ARTICLE 7B THROUGH 7F – Enterprise Operating Budget**

Lynne Barrett came on and said that Article 7B through Article 7F are the enterprise fund budgets and none of them have changed since you voted the budget in December. She then read each of the totals as follows:

7B	Water	\$5,142,557
7C	Sewer	\$8,124,779
7D	Solid Waste	\$815,009
7E	Airport	\$2,889,188
7F	Cable	\$1,495,000

Chairman Quintal asked if we should keep an eye on the Cable Enterprise Fund because there was a drop in revenue, to which Lynne Barrett said yes, that is something to be concerned about. She said they talked with PACtv, the Cable Advisory Committee, and the schools and she said it is mainly because cable customers are dropping.

Chairman Quintal then asked if we should set aside some other funding next year, to which Lynne Barrett said that they will work internally to come up with some ideas.

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to recommend Articles 7B through 7F (Enterprise Operating Budgets) to the April 2, 2022 Annual Spring Town Meeting. Voted 4/0

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**7:19PM – VIRTUAL TOWN MEETING**

Lee Hartmann, Acting Town Manager, came on and said a while back Steve Triffletti, Town Moderator, came to the Select Board and asked you to allow for the option of a virtual Town Meeting which also requires a vote of Town Meeting to support that. He said at that meeting, the Board voted to allow for that virtual option for Town Meeting.

Lee Hartmann said as we discussed this, we realized that if Town Meeting were to vote not to continue virtually then we would have to reschedule Town Meeting and repost the Warrant. He then said it was mentioned about having a hybrid version, but we had Town Counsel look at the legislation and even though it doesn't say that you can't have a hybrid, but it also doesn't say you are permitted to so therefore Town Counsel feels that we cannot do hybrid.

Steve Triffletti came on and thanked the Board for having him back in tonight. He said as you may recall he came to the Board in January and told you that holding the Spring Town Meeting virtually would be desirable. He said he met with the Board of Health, and they voted unanimously to support a virtual Town Meeting. He said after the Select Board's vote to support a virtual Town Meeting he reached out to PACtv, OTI and the School Department who support them at Town Meeting and asked them what date they could all support an in-person Town Meeting, and the date is April 16, 2022 at 8:00am to which everyone agreed. He said he attended two Committee of Precinct Chairs meetings and reviewed their survey which was interesting because it included a hybrid question. He said hybrid is popular with Town Meeting Members, but it is not available as an option yet but may be in the future. He said not all Town Meeting Members were surveyed. He then said a minority of Committee of Precinct Chairs members spoke on this subject, but they never took a vote either way. He said earlier today he contacted Dr. Potvin who is the Chairman of the Board of Health and asked him if he thought his Board would be reconsidering their vote and he did not think so. He also contacted the Town Clerk about the demographics, and he said that over 60% of all Town Meeting Members are over the age of 65 years old. He said he has had many Town Meeting Members have contacted him requesting a virtual Town Meeting and some told him that if the Town Meeting were to be in-person they would not be attending. Steve Triffletti then said if Town Meeting voted to not continue virtually then the Town Moderator has the authority to continue Town Meeting for up to 30 days at a time if the Moderator determines it is not healthy or safe. He said he wanted the Board to know that.

Selectman Bletzer came on and said that the Board of Health has rescinded their mask mandate and kids are also going to school without mask. He said all public buildings do not have to wear masks either so he doesn't understand why we can't have an in-person Town Meeting. He said as a former Town Meeting Member having in-person meetings is more effective. He said it is easier to communicate as well so he is for an in-person meeting.

Steve Triffletti said he was aware of the changes with the Board of Health which is why he contacted them this morning and they said they were not rescinding their vote taken to support a totally virtual Town Meeting. He said Town Meeting is a very large meeting with a large number of people sitting in one room and they will take a vote to decide what they want to do moving forward so at this point he is following the recommendation put forth by the Plymouth Board of Health.

Alan Costello came on and said there were 108 Town Meeting Members that took part in the survey adding that it was a majority. He then talked about the three questions and what they meant. He then said there is no language that mentions holding a hybrid Town Meeting and the Attorney General said they would leave that decision up to each Town and their Town Counsels. He then said he would like a second opinion on this matter because what Mr. Triffletti and Town Counsel are telling you is not exactly factual.

Wrestling Brewster came on and said he would like to echo what Alan Costello has said. He said his concern is we are getting away from what Town Meeting is really about. He said he is distressed that some Town Meeting Members are saying that it is so much easier meeting remotely.



Wrestling Brewster said it is a commitment to be a Town Meeting Member and that commitment includes going to a Town Meeting. He said Plymouth residents are looking for representation and they deserve that from Town Meeting Members.

Matt Tavares came on next and thanked the Board for letting him comment tonight. He said he agrees with the previous speaker wholeheartedly. He said a number of months ago we had hoped to explore the hybrid option and it was discovered at the Committee of Precinct Chairs meeting that the question sent to Town Counsel was a one-word question and only said "hybrid" to which Town Counsel replied, no. He said he feels that we should have done our due diligence and gone into more details with Town Counsel. He said we are in a green zone and things are open and safe and he supports an in-person Town Meeting. He said he will probably vote no to a virtual Town Meeting, but he would support a hybrid version.

Chairman Quintal said from what he understands there is no legislation for a hybrid Town Meeting and asked if that was correct, to which Lee Hartmann said yes, and he talked to Town Counsel clearly and they never said that we could not hold a hybrid Town Meeting, he said he wouldn't advise it because it is very risky with the lack of legislation.

Chairman Quintal asked how many Towns and Cities KP Law works with, to which Lee Hartmann said the last time he checked it was well over 150 different Towns and Cities. He said they are not aware of any other community looking at a hybrid version for their Town Meetings under the current language in the legislation.

Alan Costello came back on and said the Town of Burlington amended the legislation language and has in fact held a hybrid Town Meeting. He said that KP Law just spoke at the Select Board Association Meeting touting the fact that hybrid meetings are up and coming and they are the way to go these days. He said we have one individual attorney telling you his opinion so all he is asking is that we get a second opinion on hybrid meetings, to which Lee Hartmann said if we get a second opinion and it is contrary to this opinion then all we would have is two different opinions and you would have to decide which one to believe so he doesn't see the point of getting a second opinion. He then reiterated that Town Counsel did not say we couldn't hold a hybrid Town Meeting, he just said it is very risky. He then said Burlington may have had a virtual Town Meeting but not under this language because this just came out days ago so they must have held that a while back.

John Hammond came on next and said he has been thinking about all of this a great deal recently and he actually wrote an open letter to our Town Meeting Members. He said the letter said of course we all miss in-person Town Meetings, and the remote meetings are not a great substitute but being in his 80's he is very well aware that people as old as he is, are considered to be compromised just because of our age. He said he did sign up for Town Meeting and that commitment but when he did sign up, he didn't know that he would be risking his life. He then said he proposes postponing Town Meeting until we can have it outdoors when the weather is nicer.

Joseph Hutchinson came on next and said he would like to echo what John Hammond said. He said many Town Meeting Members are older and would prefer a virtual Town Meeting. He said it is obvious that Mr. Costello and Mr. Brewster are younger than most Town Meeting Members and not nearly as vulnerable so they would like an in-person meeting.

Steve Triffletti came back on and said we have about a month until Town Meeting and he feels it is not the time to shop around for the answer that people want to the question regarding a hybrid meeting. He said we have a determination from Town Counsel already and that is the one that we should be following.

Vice Chairman Cavacco came on and said that when covid came about herself and Selectman John Mahoney requested a hybrid version from the very beginning. She said she is disappointed that we haven't gotten to that point in two years. She said she feels this could be the last virtual Town Meeting that we will have. She said no matter which way we go there will be people that will not be happy but if we go against Town Counsel's recommendation then we could have a legal battle. She said that personally does not mind meeting in-person, but she also does not want to force anyone to if they don't feel safe. She said until we have legislation for hybrid meetings, we should keep this one virtual as she feels it will be the last one to be held fully virtual as hopefully hybrid will be an option soon.

Al DiNardo, Town Meeting Member, came on and said he agrees with Vice Chairman Cavacco. He said he wouldn't push something in another precinct that he wouldn't want to happen in his own precinct. He said even though he is on the younger side he helps care for his 88-year-old mother-in-law, so he needs to be very careful. He said the legislation is very vague and does not include a hybrid version even though it says the public can join in-person or virtually. He said he agrees with Town Counsel being conservative with the current legislation however he feels like a remote hybrid version will be the future and would allow younger people as well as older people participate in these meetings.

Alan Costello came back on and asked who the client that Town Counsel addressed their determination to meaning was it the Moderator, the taxpayers, or Town Management, to which Lee Hartmann said Town Counsel represents everyone that you mentioned, and their determination was for everyone involved with Town Meeting.

Vice Chairman Cavacco asked if there were specific questions that Alen Costello and Wrestling Brewster were looking to have answered by Town Counsel because she does not want people to think we aren't being transparent, to which Lee Hartmann said if it is the Board's wish to make Town Counsel available to the Committee of Precinct Chairs, we can certainly do that.

Vice Chairman Cavacco then said she would like to know if there is any legislation available for a hybrid version that we can move forward with because she agrees it is the future and there is more participation and interaction from Town Meeting Members to which Lee Hartmann said he would suggest voting to direct him to contact Representative Matt Muratore and file legislation on behalf of the Town.

Chairman Quintal said he agrees with Vice Chairman Cavacco on every point that she made. He also said he is not supportive of deciding to make people go to an in-person Town Meeting if they are not comfortable. He said his first job is to make sure all residents are safe when conducting town business. He then said he is in support of sending additional questions over to Town Counsel as well as filing legislation for a hybrid option.

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to direct the Acting Town Manager to reach out to our State Delegation to explore legislation for a hybrid version of Town Meeting. *Voted 4/0*

Lee Hartmann came on and said that the Board still should vote to allow for an in-person Town Meeting on April 16, 2022 in the event that Town Meeting Members vote to not continue with the virtual version of Town Meeting.

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to allow for an in-person Town Meeting on April 16, 2022 in the event that Town Meeting voted down a virtual option for Town Meeting on April 2, 2022.

*Voted 2/2 Cavacco-Yes, Bletzer-Yes, Quintal-No, Helm-No*

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### **8:28PM – IN-PERSON SELECT BOARD MEETING**

Lee Hartmann came on and said unlike Town Meeting the Select Board does have the option to hold their meetings virtually, in-person, or as a hybrid version.

Vice Chairman Cavacco asked when PACtv would be ready for a hybrid version and also what is the update with the Planning Board meeting on the same night as the Select Board, to which Lee Hartmann said he hasn't had the chance to coordinate with the Planning Board as to which night they would consider moving to, but he will do that as soon as he can.

Chris Badot, the Selectmen's Assistant, came on and said that PACtv said they would be ready to go live the week of March 14<sup>th</sup> for both the Great Hall and the 1820 Courtroom.

Chairman Quintal said if we can get an answer from the Planning Board by then it would be great so the Select Board can determine when and where we will proceed with our meetings.

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### **8:30PM – TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Lee Hartmann, Acting Town Manager, came on and said he only has one thing to report on and that is that we still have plenty of in-home covid test kits here at Town Hall and encouraged residents to reach out if they need any.

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### **8:32PM – PUBLIC COMMENT**

Vice Chairman Cavacco said she knows that there are members of the White Horse Beach Parking Committee that planned on speaking dur Public Comment and she had every intention of bringing this up under Old Business but felt now is a better time to take this up. She said after speaking with that Committee she would like to reinstate that Committee for one more season as some of them are concerned that there still may be work to do.

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to reinstate the White Horse Beach Parking Committee with the original members for another year to address any new issues that come up. *Voted 4/0*

Al DiNardo came back on and said that he believes on the freedom of speech and in any debate whether we agree with it or not, it is a courtesy that any motion gets a second for discussion. He said there was an instance last year where a motion never got a second and tonight there seemed to be a pause. He said where he comes from every single motion gets a second for discussion whether you agree with the motion or not.

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### **8:35PM – LICENSES AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES**

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to approve a One Day Wine and Malt License for **Second Wind Brewing Company**, 7 Howland Street for a Saint Patrick's Day Event being held on March 17, 2022 from 2:00pm to 10:30pm in the parking lot in front of the Brewery. *Voted 4/0*

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by Betty Cavacco, the Board voted to approve an Amplified Music Permit for **JHC Polar Plunge** for a Microphone at the Polar Plunge being held on March 5, 2022 from 10:00am to 12:00pm at Nelson Park. *Voted 4/0*

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by Betty Cavacco, the Board voted to approve a Pledge of License for **New Camp Corp d/b/a The Store at Sandy Pond**. *Voted 4/0*

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to approve One Pole Petition W/O 6814648 for **Eversource Energy** and **Verizon** covering one (1) New Pole #863/68-5 on Camelot Drive in Plymouth. This pole is necessary as part of the renovation project for the Plymouth Fire Station. *Voted 4/0*

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to approve One Pole Petition W/O 6915974 for **Eversource Energy** and **Verizon** covering one (1) New Pole #1442/15-5 on Samoset Street in Plymouth. This pole is necessary for the installation of electric service to the new Pumping Station. *Voted 4/0*

### ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to approve the Open Meeting Minutes from the January 25, 2022 Select Board Meeting. *Voted 4/0*

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to appoint Jason Rawlins to the Affordable Housing Trust as the Attorney for a term beginning immediately and terminating on June 30, 2024. *Voted 4/0*

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to appoint David Hood to the Senior Task Force for a term beginning immediately and terminating upon his resignation. *Voted 4/0*

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### **8:38PM - COMMITTEE LIAISON / DESIGNEE UPDATES**

None

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### **8:39PM - OLD BUSINESS / LETTERS / NEW BUSINESS**

None

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### **8:40PM - ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to adjourn the Open Session at 8:40pm.

*Voted 4/0 By Roll Call: Quintal-Yes, Cavacco-Yes, Helm-Yes, Bletzer-Yes, Flaherty-Absent*

**Recorded by:** Christopher Badot

*Administrative Assistant, Board of Selectmen*