

**SPECIAL SELECTBOARD MEETING
January 19, 2021**

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| Present: | Julia Andrews Bill Cleary | Allison Hope Nanette Rogers |
| Guests: | Kim Guidry Michelle Gates | Ira Allen Lee McClenny |

The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m. The meeting was held via Zoom. All attendees attended remotely.

CHANGES TO AGENDA

Added request to host workshops on the town common.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

DISCUSSION TO MOVE TOWN MEETING DATE & POLLING LOCATION

Nanette was recently notified that school was in session on March 2, which is voting day for Town Meeting. The school advised that there may not be parking available during pick up and drop off times and that voters may not be able to access the building during these times either due to social distancing for COVID. In a sense this would be “closing” the polls, which is not allowed. Nanette and Allison worked on identifying a new location such as the Brick Meeting House, Westford Common Hall, town office, town garage and fire department. They met with the fire chief to look at the space and determined it would work. The town garage was also looked at but due to the smell of diesel, it was ruled out. The plan was to relocate the polling area to the fire department if the Selectboard and Board of Civil Authority agree to it.

After the visit to the town garage and fire department, Nanette received an email from Brian Donahue, Chief Operating Officer for the school district, advising that they were working on a plan to enable voting to occur at the school. He confirmed the plan earlier today. The school district is moving to remote learning on March 2nd so voting can occur at the school. Nanette and the Selectboard are extremely appreciative of the School District finding a solution and so quickly!

It was noted, that if the location had to be moved to the Fire Department, the Selectboard would discuss moving Town Meeting to April to coincide with the Annual School District Meeting. This would reduce the impact on the Fire Department from two times to one and would also allow the trucks to be kept outside. During colder weather, the trucks need to be kept inside so the water does not freeze.

REQUEST FROM VCGN TO HOST WORKSHOPS ON THE TOWN COMMON

Michelle Gates submitted a request on behalf of the Vermont Community Garden Network (VCGN) to host workshops on the town common. The workshops would focus on gardening, nutrition, food preparation and preservation. There would be no digging on the common. The workshops would be conducted out of a mobile unit and will occur only if a Placemaking grant is awarded to VCGN. Part of the grant application process is to have advance permission to

use a site that meets the criteria, which the town common does, and the support of the Selectboard.

It was noted that the town common is a public space so even if the Board approves the use, the use would be shared with the general public at any given time, and that they would need to clean up the space after a workshop. It was also noted that if there are COVID restrictions in place that those would need to be adhered to.

Michelle advised that the invitation for the workshops would be distributed on Front Porch Forum and maybe to neighboring communities.

Allison suggested that the workshops coincide with the summer concerns on the common and also contact Rec and the Library for collaboration.

Michelle added that the workshops could be offered in relation with the food shelf due to the nutrition and wellness components.

The Common Committee had no concerns with the request.

Allison Hope made a motion to approve the VGCN to use the town common for a variety of gardening classes as part of their mobile unit and as long as they comply with COVID regulations that are in place and Westford Common Policy, seconded by Bill Cleary. Motion passed: 3-0.

ADJOURN

The meeting adjourned at 7:24 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Julia Andrews, Chair
Selectboard

Nanette Rogers
Town Administrator