

*BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES
Monday, June 1, 2020
Groveland Town Hall,
183 Main St, Groveland, MA 01834*

TOWN OF GROVELAND
2020 JUL -6 PM 12:48
TOWN CLERK
RECEIVED/POSTED

ATTENDANCE: Chair Mike Wood, and Selectmen Kathleen Kastrinelis, Bill O'Neil, and Ed Watson

ALSO PRESENT: Denise Dembkoski, Finance Director

Chair Wood opened the public meeting at 4:32 pm. The meeting was broadcast live on local government access and via Zoom.

COVID-19 DISCUSSION

Board of Health Public health nurse, Claire Walsh, and Police Chief Gillen were also in attendance.

Ms. Walsh informed the Board that there have been a total of 29 cases in Groveland and there are currently 5 houses under quarantine. She further stated that state-wide the numbers have been decreasing.

Selectman O'Neil asked Ms. Walsh if she has seen the State Advisory about opening up beaches, parks, recreation, public spaces, etc. Ms. Walsh stated she has not seen in. Selectman O'Neil stated he can send her a copy of it so Ms. Walsh may advise the Board accordingly.

Selectwoman Kastrinelis asked that they suggested on one report that the local health board must enforce the guidelines of construction. Ms. Walsh wasn't sure about that. Didn't know about the commercial side of things. Ms. Dembkoski informed the Board that ALL enforcement with regards to the COVID-19 guidelines falls strictly under the Board of Health. Whether it be by complaints or sight, the board of health must take action. Selectwoman Kastrinelis asked if we are just responding to complaints. Ms. Walsh stated that Yes, the Health Agent is only responding to complaints.

Selectman O'Neil asked if the BOS have the authority to levy fines for failure to follow regulations. Ms. Dembkoski stated that some towns have done that, but in her opinion, this would fall under the Board of Health. Chairman Wood asked Ms. Walsh about enforcement and if they are able to properly enforce these complaints. Ms. Dembkoski stated that there are resources at the state level that could be utilized for enforcement. Chairman Wood asked if that was something the Police could help enforce.

Chief Gillen stated that under the law the Board of Health is the enforcement authority and the Police Department can help the BOH, as backup, if need be. But the only way for the police to be the first line of enforcement would be for the BOH to appoint the entire police department as health agents and that would open up potential union issues. Chief Gillen further stated that in his reading of the law, there can be fines levied for multiple offenses. Ms. Dembkoski stated that the State has been clear to point out that the Phased Opening are not formal regulations, but guidelines.

Chairman Wood stated that he is hesitant to levy fines on people. People should just do what they are supposed to do. The longer people don't take the right actions the longer this is going to drag out.

Selectman O'Neil asked about outdoor dining. Ms. Dembkoski stated that outdoor dining is not yet permitted in Massachusetts until phase 2. She also wanted to inform the public that liquor licenses are not covered for outdoor consumption. Liquor licenses are very specific where the alcohol may be consumed and if the license

does not specifically identify outdoor consumption, it cannot be consumed. The ABCC has sent out numerous communications to all license holders informing them of this.

Selectman Watson asked about the boat ramp. He doesn't understand why the boat ramp cannot be opened. "If you look across the river, there are boats moored, if you drive up and down, you'll see boats in the water." Ms. Dembkoski reiterated that it is up to the BOS when the boat ramp will open. It sits in the Pines, and if we take those barricades down without reopening the Pines, it could be problematic and very difficult to enforce. Chief Gillen stated if the barricades come down and parts of the Pines are re-opened while others stay closed, it will create issues with enforcement.

Chairman Wood asked the Chief if he prefers to take the position of educational versus enforcement. The Chief answered affirmatively.

Selectwoman Kastrinelis stated that she would prefer not to have a negative connotation in this discussion, let's wait to see what the guidelines are so we can make informed decisions.

Selectman O'Neil asked about parks and if those fall under Phase 2. Ms. Dembkoski stated they are and once the Governor releases guidelines, it will be up to the BOS to decide if we can implement them and start to open parks, or if the restrictions/enforcement is too great to open. The Board can always be more restrictive than the guidelines.

Chairman Wood stated that he doesn't think we need an off-meeting COVID meeting any longer, provided everything tends to trend better. Selectman O'Neil agrees as does Selectman Watson. Selectwoman Kastrinelis wants to be sure that we are still able to get the information out clearly. She wants to see how smoothly things are going and if there is confusion, then we should have a short meeting to clarify things. We will keep COVID discussion at the beginning of each regular meeting and unless something new comes up that needs to be discussed the Board will discontinue the COVID meetings.

Selectman O'Neil thanked Claire, the Board of Health, the police and fire departments, essential workers, the grocery store workers, trash workers, and thanks to everyone from the bottom of his heart, from his and his family.

Selectman O'Neil made a motion to adjourn at 5:15pm, seconded by Selectwoman Kastrinelis. The motion was unanimously approved.

*Respectfully submitted,
Denise M. Dembkoski*

**** Approved on June 29, 2020 by a vote of 3-0-1, with Selectman Naves abstaining ****