

Select Board
EMERGENCY MEETING
Minutes
March 13 2020

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the Concord Select Board convened in a meeting at 141 Keyes Road on March 13, 2020 at 4:00pm.

Present were Michael Lawson, Chair; Linda Escobedo, Clerk; Terri Ackerman, Jane Hotchkiss, and Susan Bates. Also present was Stephen Crane, Town Manager; and Kate Hodges, Deputy Town Manager. Also present were members were members of the Senior Management Team.

Call to Order

Select Board Chair Michael Lawson called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Review Town Manager's Memorandum on COVID-19 Response

Town Manager Stephen Crane stated that the memo is in response to guidance the Town is getting from the state and federal government on the quickly developing COVID-19 situation. The memo specifically provides guidance for boards and committees. The Town is communicating with surrounding communities to see what they are doing, and working on an approach that works best for Concord.

The Governor put out an executive order on March 12 that loosened open meeting requirements to allow board and committees to meet remotely in response to the present need for social distancing.

The Town has divided boards and committees into the following three categories:

Executive: Select Board, School Committee, and Regional School Committee

Regulatory: Board of Health, Planning Board, Natural Resources Commission, and Zoning Board of Appeals

Non-regulatory: all other boards and committees. The Town has recommended suspending all non-regulatory board and committee meetings moving forward unless there is a pressing deadline or statutory mandate.

Executive and regulatory committees will need to continue to meet, but Mr. Crane recommends that they only continue to take on essential items.

Supporting materials for agenda items are available online at www.concordma.gov/sbmtgdocs. Materials are uploaded on the Friday before a Select Board meeting.

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Non-essential Town operations and services are now temporarily suspended, and Town buildings will be closed. Mr. Crane notes that at this time, there is no timeline for when the situation will end and asks for the community's patience.

The Town is waiting from guidance from the state on Town Meeting and Town Election, as they are governed by state statute and there is not much local flexibility on this.

The Finance Committee Public Hearings are postponed.

All Recreation and Council on Aging programs have been suspended. Mr. Crane noted that the Town is going to continue to try to provide core services to the community. Mr. Crane noted that situation is developing rapidly behind the scenes.

Mr. Crane noted that there will be an economic impact to this health crisis. The federal government will likely be putting together a stimulus package in the coming weeks. There are currently no confirmed cases in Concord, but the Massachusetts Department of Public Health stated that they are seeing evidence of community-based transmission in the state.

The Governor issued an executive order preventing gatherings of larger than 250, which will likely impact upcoming events in Concord. Mr. Crane said he thinks the state will continue to roll out executive orders in the next week to give municipalities guidance on moving forward. The Town is continuing to prioritize getting information out to residents as fast as possible. Mr. Crane noted that residents should follow the Town on Facebook, Twitter, and continuing checking the website for updates.

Fire Chief Tom Judge noted that if residents are going to Emerson Hospital for COVID-related symptoms, please call ahead and let them know you are coming, as they may have an intake procedure that is different than normal emergency visits, as walking into the Emergency Department without advanced notice may be putting others at risk.

Adjourn

Motion made and seconded, with a unanimous vote to **adjourn**.

Minuteman Media Network Coverage:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97_0AsymRo8