

**TOWN OF CONCORD
SELECT BOARD
MINUTES
MARCH 26, 2020**

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the Concord Select Board convened in a video conference call on March 26, 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; Mina Makarious, Town Counsel; Christina Marshall, of Anderson & Kreiger LLP; and Kaari Tari, Town Clerk.

1. Call to Order

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

2. An update from the Town Manager

Town Manager Stephen Crane reported that the Town is monitoring the number of cases in Concord and statewide. In the last week, there have been new restrictions on construction and a closure of non-essential businesses statewide. Concord has its first confirmed case and testing in the community has increased. The town has tapped a resident who was a former physician at Emerson Hospital to serve as a liaison to the hospital to ensure collaboration. The Town is planning for a surge in the number of cases in the coming weeks. The Governor announced schools will be closed statewide until May 4. Mr. Crane commended Town for doing an excellent job while adapting to the changing conditions.

3. Postponement of the Town Election scheduled for March 31st

Mr. Lawson stated that a bill was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature giving the Select Board the authority to postpone Town Election due to COVID-19. Town Clerk Kaari Tari stated that she was hoping to set the new date for the Town Election on June 11, which hopefully would give enough time to ensure the safety of voters, as well as for her office to prepare for the election. Ms. Tari noted that the legislation allows the ballots to stay the same for the new election, and absentee ballots that have already been turned in will count. Ms. Tari stated that she has been in touch with the candidates about the changing timeline and how that will impact associated events, such as the League of Women Voters Candidates Forum.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: that the Select Board, pursuant to Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2020, Section 1 Paragraph A, signed by the governor on March 23, 2020, hereby postpones the Town of Concord Local Election scheduled for March 31, 2020 to June 11, 2020.

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Roll call vote

Susan Bates: Aye

Linda Escobedo: Aye

Mike Lawson: Aye

Terri Ackerman: Aye

Jane Hotchkiss: Aye

4. Decision Regarding the Use of Plastic Bags

Town Manager Crane stated that the Town was considering an order to prohibit the use of reusable bags in order to reduce the risk of COVID-19 transmission in grocery stores to both customers and employees. This would temporarily allow for the use of single-use plastic bags in stores. On March 25, 2020, Governor Charlie Baker issued an executive order that banned the use of reusable bags, and prohibited the fee for using single-use plastic bags in stores. Therefore, the Select Board did not vote on this issue. Ms. Hotchkiss noted that the CDC stated that the virus lasts longer on plastic than paper, and pointed out that retailers and individuals still have the option of using paper bags, even with the removal of the plastic bag ban.

Mr. Crane noted that the Town is going to be publishing a list of essential businesses to the website soon. Mr. Crane also stated that the Town is looking to direct the business community to resources of help during this time, but noted that the capacity for support from the Town is limited as the Town looks to encourage social distancing measures, per the Governor's Order. Mr. Crane pointed out that there will be dialogue between the Town and the business community on steps to take for a successful reopening when it is safe to do so.

5. Adjourn

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

Respectfully Submitted,

Linda Escobedo, Clerk

Minuteman Media Network Coverage:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bKBtCC3-m_0&list=PL1TTzrWEKOOKHKXNLQprEz0f0ofHYKj8-

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