

May 13, 2020

3:00 PM Board of Selectmen - Electronic Meeting by teleconference

As Chairman of the Hampton Board of Selectmen, I have determined that due to the State of Emergency declared by the Governor as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and in accordance with the Governor's Emergency Order #12 pursuant to Executive Order 2020-04, that to properly ensure the safety of the public and that of several of the Board members who are within the CDC guidelines needing to take special precautions, this public body is authorized to meet electronically.

Please note there is no physical location to observe and listen contemporaneously to this meeting, which was authorized pursuant to the Governors Emergency Order. However, in accordance with the Emergency Order, I am confirming we are:

We are utilizing a teleconference service for this electronic Meeting. All members of the Board have the ability to communicate contemporaneously during this meeting through this platform, and the public may join this electronic meeting by calling toll free **1-857-444-0744** and use the code **156034**. If anybody has a problem, please call **603-929-5805**

Please note that all votes that are taken during this meeting shall be done by roll call vote.

Chairman Waddell opened the meeting with a roll call attendance.

When each member states their presence, please also state whether there is anyone in the room with you during this meeting, which is required under the Right-to-Know law.

Sel. Rage, office and alone

Sel. Bridle, office and alone

Sel. Woolsey, home with three cats

Sel. Barnes, home and alone

Chairman Waddell, office and by myself

Chairman Waddell went over the purpose of the meeting being the opportunity for the public to share their input regarding a traffic detour plan and its potential impact. He discussed the plan being authorized by the chamber of commerce advocating for businesses to open, noting a virtual meeting with the governor in attendance. He discussed the committee forming to form a plan to present. He discussed the requirements for approval for the plan to go forward. He highlighted the detour and traffic patterns of the plan, noting it is similar to what is done during the Seafood Fest, and discussed the walking mall on Ocean Blvd. He discussed parking restrictions and resident parking in the plan.

Chairman Jim Waddell, called for pledge of allegiance.

## I. SALUTE TO THE FLAG

Chief Sawyer discussed the detour portion of the plan. He reiterated it is similar to what is done for the Seafood Fest, but an expanded area, noting it is from H Street to O Street. He discussed barricades for the top ends of the lettered streets, and noted northbound traffic on Ocean Blvd would be diverted down O Street, and Ashworth Ave. becoming 2 way traffic, noting some traffic northbound on Ocean Blvd. to access the state parking lot and residents of Bradford and Haverhill Ave.

## II. Public Comment

Chairman Waddell noted this is a public statement, not a question, this is not a public hearing.

Monica Keefer, legislative aide to Tom Sherman, discussed she is there as Rep. Sherman can not be and will be listening and taking notes and he will provide any needed feedback.

Chairman Waddell noted the three minute limit on comments.

Melissa, (no last name distinguishable), representative of ReOpen NH, noting concern about the parking and when will this go into effect.

Chris Grippo, speaking on behalf of Surf Rider Foundation, NH Chapter, noted he is a 20 year resident of Hampton, and stated the Foundation is in full support of the plan. He thanked all who worked on the plan, and highlighted the phased approach to opening. He encouraged adoption of the plan for health safety and economic success.

Dave Hartnett, 339 Ocean Blvd., he commented he was a member of the group that crafted the plan. He discussed that while the plan is not perfect, it is a good plan, and if we don't move forward, the town could be in serious jeopardy going forward. He discussed possible deficits if businesses don't open for the summer and the impact it will have later in the year, noting collection of property taxes.

Shelley Walcott, 29 Emerald Ave., commented that she supports any plan that opens businesses, and gives access to the beach for Hampton residents first.

Lori Felter, Witch Island Way, she commended the town for creatively continuing town business, including outdoor seating permits, paving while there is less traffic, and keeping us informed. She noted reopening should be coordinated with MA. and ME., and stated her concern the current plan does not address North Beach, and certain accessible areas. She noted preferring residents and renters use only for this summer. She discussed long term and continued health concerns. She discussed an opinion on an elected official.

Erica Debrees, Esker Road, she commented she is opposed to the reopening and the plan until the state has reduced the number of Covid19 cases for 14 days. She discussed number of cases, would like to follow recommendations on the scientific level, and wants to know about wearing of masks in public.

Mike Edgar, 7 Ann's Terrace, he thanked all who have worked on the plan, noting it being a comprehensive plan that could work. He discussed people needing to be compliant, noting the difficulty of enforcement.

Ralph Fatello, 3 Marston Way, commented he represented the surf community, and discussed the annual Hit The Beach wounded warrior event, and Surfing With Smiles. He discussed the therapeutic aspects of surfing, the mental health aspects, and how it helped him after Vietnam. He noted understanding of safety and traffic issues, but the need for access to the beaches. He discussed the thousands of surfers who just want access to cross the beach and get in the water.

Ms. Whitman, High Street, discussed resident parking, it needing to be open at North Beach and the main beach, noting access to the beach very important for residents. She noted being an employee at Hampton beach, and discussed the parking issue needing to be resolved.

Charlie Preston, Glade Path, thanked everyone, discussed a letter Sel. Woolsey read at the last meeting, noting it was from him. He stated what he wrote was that the committee was having the best intentions, but this will be a mess. He discussed the bridge being up. He questioned who was paying for all of this.

Dan Lanio, 395 Lafayette Rd., noted he was speaking with restaurants in mind. He commented thinking the plan was perfect and if it doesn't happen, there will be problems this winter. He discussed the greatness of the town and being positive. He commented on the Police doing a great job with traffic.

Rep. Tom Loughlin, offered his prospective of public health concerns in the effort to reopen the beach. He discussed public health and economic priorities. He discussed the difficulty in creating a plan to reopen, but the team has done that, and should the plan not be approved, he would like a fallback plan created to open the beach for residents only. He discussed the issue of reopening without a plan and safeguards and the resurgence of the virus and a possible longer shutdown and stay at home. He encouraged all to work together and thanked all who have worked so hard.

Donna Northam, 1 Bradford Ave., she asked that the task force reconsider allowing the traffic to go down N Street, one way, noting no retail or restaurants. She highlighted the difficulty residents will have with traffic and getting out of the area. She also asked about keeping a right hand lane open on Ocean Blvd.

Bob Northam, 1 Bradford Ave., commented being in support of what Ms. Northam stated and noted residents getting off the beach would have an insurmountable task. He discussed the congestion of traffic that will be going north on 1A. He suggested resident's needs should be considered by the task force.

Rep. Renny Cushing, offered his thanks to all who contributed to the plan. He discussed his concern of price gouging at private parking areas.

Patrick Kennedy, O Street, he thanked the couple from Bradford Ave. for their comments and he noted the plan being a great one, but focuses on businesses, and is concerned for the quality of life for residents on O Street, and the fact that there are still many questions to be answered.

Matthew Siden, Hayden Circle, discussed an elected official and their position on certain issues. Chairman Waddell commented this public comment time is for the Rt. 1A Detour Plan.

Rep. Pat Bushway, she offered thanks to everyone and their hard work in this process. She reiterated the difficult task of reopening with keeping people safe. She commented the plan should be implemented with public health being paramount.

(name undistinguishable) echoed the sentiments regarding N Street, noting a disabled resident at the junction of O Street.

Ann Carnaby, 54 Tide Mill Rd., noted she applauds the effort of this plan, asking the entire plan to be available on the town website, and commented the plans of the bordering states in conjuncture with ours will be just as important.

Janelle, Newmarket NH resident, noted she wanted to support previous caller Ralph's comments on surfing. She noted access to the beach being important to some for mental health, highlighting surfing as a help to healing, noting mental health is just as important as physical. She noted there will be kinks to work out as the plan goes on, and encouraged the opening of the sand as soon as possible.

Jim Dearden, offered thanks to all who put the plan together and he reiterated excitement on moving forward to reopen the beach. He discussed the plan being a good compromise and balance.

Jason, wanted to agree with what previous caller Janelle stated. He discussed the surrounding towns and noted Maine will be opening York Beach, and other beaches are open, and commented the residents should be able use the space and businesses should be able to open before it is too late.

Bob McNeil, Winnacunnet Rd., noted he has been a town resident for over 55 years. He asked about the reduced parking at the main beach and what will happen to all on Winnacunnet and High and the numbered streets with people trying to park there. He asked something to be done with the overflow of parking.

Jim Kelly, offered thanks for the work, and agreed with previous comments about opening the beach for walking, running, surfing, etc., then seeing how that goes. He discussed other beaches being open and stressed the sand should be opened.

Nancy, North Beach, offered thanks for those putting together the plan in this difficult time, and emphasized the need for resident only parking for the side streets at both the main and north beaches. She reiterated the comments that opening the beach for walking and surfing is for mental health benefits. She also reiterated the need for residents to be heard in this process.

Erica Nardone, North Beach, offered thanks for the hard work. She commented on the plan being business centric, and her worry that there is not a soft opening for residents with transitory activity. She noted concern for residents and redirected traffic and traffic patterns and the impact to daily life.

Rose Gagliardi, Highland Ave., she wondered if due to reduced parking, that residential streets should be residential only.

### III. Questions of opening of Hampton Business / Rt. 1A Detour Plan

Sel. Woolsey commented that this will be a summer like no other. She stated her big concern is trash, and the state beach should be taking care of their own waste, noting DPW needs to stop aiding in all aspects of that waste disposal.

Sel. Bridle noted it was good to hear from the citizens. He noted the police chief is working on residential parking and thanked all for calling in.

Sel. Barnes had two comments from residents not able to call in.

First: Phil Bean, who said he was just in Jacksonville, FL., and they have started the soft opening of beaches and businesses.

She commented that she has stated parking should be for residents and renters. She discussed her concern of enforcement and responsible for calls. She discussed that it does seem the residents were not consulted in this plan, noting if reduced parking happens at the main beach, they will all head to North Beach, which does not have the resources.

Second: Eric Cannon, a Hampton resident. He emailed the board last week, and she read the email. The email discussed access to the beach, not receiving a plan from the state, and a proposal he sent on April 10<sup>th</sup>, regarding transitory access to the beach, state parking lot closure, and temporary bans of side street parking. The email continued with discussion on Massachusetts beaches, and Massachusetts residents coming here. The email discussed the public trust document. The email discussed allowing the beach access and it being compared to partial openings of salons and restaurants.

Sel. Barnes stated that she is an elected official, and she ran to sustain the town. She noted she cannot accept this plan as it has not been discussed with enough of her constituents. She discussed being an elected official and her job being the safety of the residents and all that includes. She discussed doing what is right in her heart. She discussed agreeing with Mr. Cannon that we should open the beaches to residents and renters first. She discussed people from other states being here the whole time. She discussed the need for a soft opening, and noted the differences in other parts of the state. She noted appreciation for the people calling in today.

Sel. Rage, thank Dep. Sullivan for handling all the incoming phone calls. He noted he was on the task force, and commented they were taking into account, town, and beach residents, and that this is a great start and is looking forward to moving forward.

Chairman Waddell commented he agreed with the surfers and believed that the task force did as well and noted what was written in the plan regarding that. He discussed the governor's stay at home Emergency Order #40. He thanked all that called in, and he clarified that he believed that every member of the task force is a resident. He noted a good job from the task force and agreed it has to be flexible and we need to listen to the professionals.

Chairman Waddell asked Town Manager Welch for his input. Town Manager Welch stated that in the Town of Salisbury the beach is not open, the parking is not open, with four businesses open that have been permitted by the governor. He commented that our priority is what is best for Hampton, the people and the businesses.

Chairman Waddell MOTIONED to APPROVE the ENDORSEMENT of the Plan of the Task Force to open Hampton Business & Rt. 1A Detour, SECONDED by Selectman Rage.

Sel. Woolsey commented she will discuss trash, trash, trash, on Monday night.

Sel. Barnes commented on hearing people have been surfing in Salisbury and the northern part of the state is more open than we are, and we have to think of all in town, not just the 2 miles of beach.

Sel. Bridle noted the motion does not deal with the governor's orders, but the Town of Hampton and he is in full support.

Sel. Rage stated he supports the plan 100%,

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: no, Sel. Barnes: no, Chairman Waddell: yes.

VOTE: 3-2-0

#### IV. Closing Comments

None

#### V. Adjournment

At 16:14 PM, Chairman Bridle MOTIONED to adjourn the Public Session, SECONDED by Selectman Rage.

Roll call vote: Sel. Rage: yes, Sel. Bridle: yes, Sel. Woolsey: yes, Sel. Barnes: yes, Chairman Waddell: yes.

VOTE: 5-0-0

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Jim Waddell, Chairman