

Town of Oak Bluffs - Select Board Meeting Minutes
Oak Bluffs Town Hall – 56 School Street
Tuesday May 10, 2022, 4:30pm

Present: Chair Ryan Ruley, Select Persons Jason Balboni, Gail Barmakian, Emma Green-Beach, Brian Packish

Also Present: Town Administrator Deborah Potter, Office Administrator Debra Alley, Town Counsel Rappaport

Absent: Assistant Town Administrator Wendy Brough.

4:31 p.m. Call Meeting to order

Public Announcements – none

Department Head, Committees and Commission Updates – none

Old/New Business

Further discussion and possible vote of interim Oak Bluffs Flag Policy - Town Counsel

Counsel Rappaport discussed the decision which the Supreme Court has handed down in relation to the flag policy on Town/Government buildings in the Boston area.

Discussion around how this new decision will impact pre-existing decision or approvals in relation to flying third party flags on Town buildings and/or flagpoles.

Arthur Hardy-Doubleday asked the Progress Pride Flag which was approved at Select Board meeting May 10th stand and the inclusion of the Juneteenth Flag application, which was approved at the Parks Meeting May 9, 2022, also be included for approval.

Rita Brown from the NAACP asked about having a separate flagpole erected somewhere in the Town to have any third party/non-government approved flags flown.

Grace Robinson spoke to the equality that Juneteenth reflects, it was delayed in coming. Flying the Juneteenth flag shows equality.

Select Person Balboni made a motion to adopt the draft Town Flag Policy as an interim Flag Policy, seconded by Select Person Packish. (5 - Aye)

Discussion and possible vote to approve an “Arts District” Sign - Roads and Byways Committee /Renee Balter

Renee Balter noted there is an existing “Arts District” sign. All Art businesses are in the B1 zone. Select Person Barmakian spoke to the State regulations pertaining to a recognized “Art District.” Deborah Potter explained the States requirements and regulations in relation to having an area designated an “Arts District.”

Select Person Balboni noted the need to keep any signage the same as other signs in Town. Select Person Barmakian reminded Ms. Balter to keep any signage in business district.

No Decision was made. Ms. Balter is going to work on the possibility of having the “Art District” designated and recognized by the State/Town.

Discussion and possible vote on Beach Road Project – Lawrence Lynch E.J Sousa

Request made to extend the construction dates on the Beach Road Project.

Select Person Packish made a motion to approve the extension of construction through to June 24, 2022. seconded by Select Person Balboni. (3 - Aye, 2 - Nay). Chairperson Ruley and Select Person Barmakian opposed.

Discussion and possible vote to approve a Stop Sign and Painted Street Sign - Roads and Byways Committee

Select Person Packish made a motion to approve the painted sign “slow” in front of Oak Bluffs Inn on Circuit Avenue, seconded by Select Person Barmakian. (4 - Aye, 1 - Abstain)

Select Person Barmakian made a motion to approve a “stop sign” at Pocasset Avenue /Tuckernuck Avenue seconded by Select Person Green-Beach. (5 - Aye)

Discussion and possible vote on trash disposal on Oak Bluffs Harbor - Harbor Committee

Chair Ruley advised there are five dumpsters on the harbor which must be emptied sometime twice a day during the summer season. Possible locations are two by Nancy’s, one down by the bathrooms and one by the Harbor Master’s office.

Chair Ruley will do a site visit with Mr. Combra (Highway Superintendent), Todd Alexander (Harbor Master), Amy Billings (Parks Department). Discussion about the possibility of having the dumpster locked with a changing combination lock.

Discussion and possible vote to approve new business application Knock Knock Comedy Productions - Steven Capers

Most events will be held in the evening between 7:00p.m. - 11:00 p.m. Concession food. Comedy Festival held in August. Select Person Balboni asked about an Entertainment License

Select Person Packish made a motion to approve the new business application for Knock Knock Comedy Production, seconded by Select Person Barmakian. (5-Aye)

An Entertainment License to be applied for at a future Select Board meeting.

Discussion and possible vote to hold Ladyfest MV October 8, 2022, Rose Guerin / Kelly Feirtag

Questions and concerns about closing Circuit Ave at 8:00 am earlier than previous years. Lt Curelli spoke about adjusting the police detail to start earlier and advise people no parking on Circuit Ave.

Select Person Packish made a motion to close Circuit Avenue at 11:00 am, Festival starts at 3:00 pm and ends at 9:00 pm. seconded by Select Person Green-Beach.

(3- Aye, 2 - Nay) Select Person Barmakian, Select Person Balboni Opposed

Discussion and possible vote to approve the Vineyard Drive In at YMCA - Brian Ditchfield, Jill Robie, John Robichau

Discussion about the impact of the Drive In; does it compete or detract from other Oak Bluffs establishments and business owners. Deborah Potter asked Mr. Ditchfield to be aware August 19th, 2022, was the Oak Bluffs fire works evening. Mr. Ditchfield advised they would adjust the schedule.

Select Person Barmakian made a motion to approve the Vineyard Drive In at YMCA, seconded by Select Person Packish. (5-Aye)

Update on the High School Funding Formula - Select Person Brian Packish

Select Person Packish explained he and Town Administrator Deborah Potter were continuing to meet with other Towns Select Board representatives and Town Administrators to discuss various approaches to the formula.

Acceptance of Donations

Discussion and acceptance of donation to Niantic Park Fund - Antone Lima

Select Person Balboni made a motion to accept the donation of \$2300.00 donation, seconded by Select Person Barmakian (5 - Aye)

Discussion and acceptance of donation to Council on Aging for 20 AA meetings - Rose Cogliano

Select Person Balboni made a motion to accept the donation of \$900.00 donation, seconded by Select Person Barmakian (4 - Aye, 1 - Abstain)

Appointments – none

ATA/TA Report – attached

Select Board Update

Select Person Green-Beach commented she continues to meet with representative on the Fire Works committee, working on the organization of accepting donations, parking, and advertising.

Chair Ruley discussed working with Deborah Potter on Town Policies and By-Laws, current job positions and holding strategic planning meetings.

Select Person Packish commented he and Deborah Potter has met with representatives from Dellbrook, ICON and Atlantic, finalizing the punch list items in Town Hall.

Public Comment

Adjourn 7:34 pm

Select Person Green-Beach made a motion to adjourn the meeting, seconded by Select Person Balboni. (5 - Aye)

Respectfully Submitted



Debra Alley – Office Administrator

Documents Included

Draft copy of Town of Oak Bluffs interim flag policy.

ATA Report

TA Report

Highway/Parks Report

Approved – Select Board Meeting June 14, 2022