**MINUTES
SELECT BOARD
SPECIAL SESSION
VIRTUAL ZOOM MEETING
Thursday, June 18th, 2020
7:00 P.M.**

**Members present:** Robert W. Bishop Jr., Chair
 Joseph A. Diver, Vice Chair
 John F. Boyle
 Edward P. Holub
 Marc E. Strout

**Also present:** Kenneth Walto, Dalton Town Manager
 Brittany Miller, Recording Secretary
 John Ostresh, Dalton Cable Television Cameraman
 Rebecca Slick, Town Planner
 Pat Petit, Town Building & Grounds Manager
 Dustin Belcher, CRA
 Jayne Smith, Interim Board of Health Agent
 Larry Parnass, Berkshire Eagle reporter
 Sandy Albano, Town Accountant
 John Roughley, Highway Superintendent

**Absent/ excused members:**

**Call to Order:** Chair Bishop called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance-** Led by J.Diver

**Intro.**  R.Bishop reads: “Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12th, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §20 and the Governor’s March 15th, 2020 Order imposing strict limitation on the number of people that may gather in one place, this meeting of the Select Board will be conducted via remote participation. For this meeting, members of the public who wish to watch the open session portion of the meeting may do so by viewing on Dalton Community Television on one of the three channels: 1301, 1302 or 1303. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the open session portion of the proceedings in real-time, via technological means. In the event that we are unable to do so, despite best efforts, we will post on the Town’s website an audio or video recording, transcript, or other comprehensive record of proceedings as soon as possible after the meeting.”

**Public Address to the Board:**

* None

 **Opened as Parks & Recreation Commission at 7:08 p.m.

 Consideration of Parks Reopening Plan Discussion:**

* Health Agent, Jayne Smith reiterates that it was voted to close all town parks in March. At the last Select Board meeting it was suggested to slowly reopen them. A subgroup of the Dalton Emergency Management Team had a Zoom meeting on 6/15/2020; this consisted of J.Smith, Dan Filiault, Rebecca Slick, Brian Duval, John Roughley and Pat Petit. The following represents the recommendations to reopen the parks and are based on guidance issued by the MA Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs. Equipment and grounds will reopen for public use, playground equipment, outdoor fitness areas, grassed sports fields (use and maintenance), tennis courts, green spaces, picnic tables, benches and pavilions, with precautions.
Social Distancing and Hygiene Signage shall be posted with the following information, in whatever format works best for each area:
-Persons using playgrounds and outdoor fitness areas must maintain 6 feet from all other persons.
-Face coverings should be encouraged in addition to social distancing.
-This equipment is not sanitized and cleaned only weekly. Use at your own risk.
-Supervising adults must supervise children at all times; to ensure children maintain proper distancing and adhere to requirements for face coverings.
-Users should seek alternative facilities if the playground is crowded to the point that social distancing cannot be maintained.
-Children and adults who feel sick or are recovering from an illness may not visit the playground or outdoor fitness area.
-Users should sanitize their hands and wash their hands with soap and water as soon as possible after use of equipment.
-No garbage facilities are available at this site. Please keep our parks clean.
General Sanitation: In accordance with CDC guidance, outdoor areas, like playgrounds and outdoor fitness areas, generally require normal routine cleaning but do not require disinfection. In accordance recommendation:
-Weekly cleaning of high touch surfaces made of plastic or metal (including grab bars and railings, tables and benches).
-Wooden surfaces (like picnic tables) or ground coverings will not be cleaned or sanitized regularly, however the Town may opt to cover with a cleanable top in which case it may be cleaned.
-There be no trash receptacles at the playgrounds and instead implement a “carry in, carry out” policy and hang signage.
-Town owned out-buildings, such as the concession stand at Chamberlain Park and Pinegrove Park shall also remain closed, however, outdoor water will remain on to allow for watering and maintenance of the fields.
Facilities to be closed or modified:
-Bathrooms serving Chamberlain Park and Pinegrove Park will remain closed due to the limited capacity to adequately maintain these facilities in accordance with CDC guidelines and concerns around the ability to secure the facilities.
-Concession areas at Chamberlain Field and Pinegrove Park will remain closed.
-Basketball hoops (due to the intensity of basketball as a contact sport) will remain secured and closed.
-Swings shall be reinstalled to be every other one to maintain proper social distancing.
If approved, all will be implemented, advertised, and distributed to organizations and persons who use the Town parks.
* Justin Belcher is here representing Dalton sports programs; Little League *is* a separate organization but he will represent it as well. Belcher explains that the CRA has been closed for 11 weeks, but has remained very diligent with 200 phone calls per week to Dalton’s senior facility, virtual tutoring, staying connected, etc. There are 75 kids registered for sports, 65 for Little League. People are ready to get moving safely. Policy for reopening the CRA is available on the website. Belcher refers to the guideline that games can be played if there is no touching or shared equipment. Belcher requests that when we get to Phase 3, basketball courts could be re-opened. It is clarified that there is no intention of selling food or opening a concession stand this summer – however the building is critical to re-opening safely as it is vital to store sanitation products, take inventory of equipment, organize/ sanitize away from the general public, as well as provide as a third washing station. If we did not open bathrooms, we would not be able to utilize running water to wash hands. While there is a manpower concern to maintain them, Little League has already volunteered to purchase all products and volunteer parents would sanitize the bathrooms. In the past we have had vandalism problems and closed bathrooms, but in Belcher’s opinion, it isn’t reasonable to use port-a-potties under this circumstance. Summer camp will need to access running water, too.
* Pat Petit weighs in, “In reference to the new order put out by the Governor, hygiene protocols on page 6 state that inside must have washrooms, but outside hand hygiene can be via setting up hand sanitizing stations, so it doesn’t mean bathrooms need to be open. The bathrooms have no ventilation, there’s an exhaust fan but no air coming in. But port-a-potties *do* have ventilation and can have sanitizer set up outside of them. Having everyone go to wash their hands in the bathroom turns it into a common area, but guideline states we can’t have a common area. Storing of equipment could be done in the grand stand which is easier than traveling back and forth, as its closer, right on the field. In regards to vandalism, the concession door was just recently left open where anyone can go in and out. In following OSHA guidelines, at the beginning of the week someone pushed the grill in front of the electrical panel which can’t happen. Rags were shoved in one corner by electrical panel which can’t happen. These are things I have to keep looking at and take away from my duties cleaning Town Hall. etc. These are reasons to keep the buildings closed. Moreover, the concession area hasn’t been cleaned or picked up since last season. Food is still on shelves, there is still slush puppy in the slush puppy machine from last year; though we’ve asked for it to be cleaned, it hasn’t been.”
* R.Bishop suggests that Dustin put a plan together to maintain bathrooms in an organized scheduling manner, as Pettit cannot watch the parks on top of his other tasks.

D.Belcher responds that with locks being changed on concession doors, there was a scramble to empty it out. Two weeks ago there wasn’t an electrical panel issue but Belcher will speak of it. In addition, boxes seen inside are preparation for this season, for example, we were prepared for spring sports in February. Access: 5+ Little League managers have a key. The grand stand is not viable as we are looking for a more secure location to store stuff. Port-a-potties wouldn’t be adequate because there’s no running water to wash hands (with vandalism- who is to say someone won’t do something to the sanitizer bottles?); and the one guardian per child may be a grandparent trying to use one on a hot summer day which isn’t pleasant.

J.Diver- “If other towns have their bathrooms open… I’d just like to see our kids have a good experience and if we have volunteers, perhaps we can set up a protocol.”

J.Smith is not aware that many towns have bathrooms, let alone are open/ closed.

J.Roughley- “It seems the Board is unanimous on wanting bathrooms open. We need to move to the next step on planning who is going to keep track of things/ be in charge.”

D.Belcher- With a new lock and key given to select people it will be easier to keep track of access and keep doors from being left open.

J.Smith- Basketball is very much a contact sport; it’s simpler to close it off.

R.Bishop- I am in favor of keeping basketball closed until Phase 3 (as early as June 29th)

J.Diver motioned to move forward with opening the parks, with appropriate signage and highly recommending parents supervise children. E.Holub seconded. Roll call vote: J.Boyle “yes”, E.Holub “yes”, J.Diver “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

J.Roughley- “We can’t hang the swings until early next week due to staffing.”

**Closed as Parks & Recreation Commission at 7:50 p.m.**

 **Shared Streets and Spaces Grant Program:**

* K.Walto viewed the MMA website to find that there is only $5 million available for this program statewide. And the application period opens on Monday. We should apply as soon as we can. One idea is sidewalks which we always need money for and is eligible under this program, and to install pedestrian flashers on Depot St. in particular which already has its engineering plans done.
R.Bishop- “Both projects sound fantastic.”
J.Diver- “I believe the intent is to recover from COVID-19, and be used for outdoor seating or accommodating walking trails for kids to get to school. I don’t think it’s going to support traffic lights or sidewalk construction. We have green area by the Senior Center, what if we use the grant to have outdoor seating for restaurants/ a tent area?”
J.Boyle- “To me, the application stands out with sidewalks. The sidewalks are still deteriorated at Chamberlain Park and at the Appalachian Trail - it’s the first thing people see; it is only about 150 ft., so not that long. I find it imperative to mention to Dan Filiault who is in process of filling out application.”
J.Roughley- “As I read it, I agree with Joe that it is specified more for COVID-19. We could possibly get pedestrian lights because it is a school route. At this point in time, for such a time sensitive project, we should go for the shovel ready one in my opinion. I can talk to the State Engineer for more insight if we can do random sidewalks as well.”
* MISC.:
It is agreed to open Gulf Rd.
J.Roughley- “In regards to paving roads, structures have been removed this week, milling will begin on Monday, it will be two weeks that they’ll be paved totally. They will start off of Pleasant St. then work their way down South.”

**Announcements**:

* **The Town Hall** is now open during usual hours from 8:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. Monday–Wednesday and 8:00 a.m. – 6:00 p.m. on Thursday. Masks must be worn and social distancing observed.
* **The Dalton Library** is now available for pickup 9:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m. M/T/Th, 12:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. W, 8:00 a.m. –4:00 p.m. F. Library users may begin placing requests immediately by emailing [dalton@cwmars.org](http://www.mytowngovernment.org/dalton%40cwmars.org). Telephone requests will also be accepted; call 413-684-6112.
* Due to the current COVID-19 pandemic, and the new law signed by Governor Baker, Chapter 45 of the Acts of 2020, the Town of Dalton Select Board voted to postpone the **Annual Town Meeting** from May 4th, 2020 to June 22nd, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. at Nessacus Regional Middle School in the gymnasium and the **Annual Town Election** from May 11th, 2020 to June 29th, 2020, from 10:00 a.m. – 8:00 p.m. at the Dalton Community House.
* The last day to **Register to Vote** for the Annual Town Meeting and Election is June 12th, 2020 between 2:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m. in the office of the Town Clerk, 462 Main Street, Dalton. If you have any questions please call the Town Clerk’s Office at 413-684-6111 ext. 14 or 15.

We are urging voters, in the interest of “social distancing”, to request an application for an **Early Voting** Ballot by mail or Absentee Voting Ballot by mail, so that these ballots can be mailed to the registered voter. If you would like an application for an Early Voting Ballot or an Absentee Ballot application mailed to you, or have any questions or concerns, please contact the Town Clerk’s office at 413-684-6111 Extension 14 or 15.

* Please note that **Dalton’s Official Meeting Postings, Agendas and Minutes** can be viewed at *mytowngovernment.org/01226*.

**Executive Session**:

R.Bishop declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body. J.Diver motioned to move to Executive Session in accordance with G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(3) to conduct strategy with respect of collective bargaining with the Dalton Police Department’s union and not return to open session. E.Holub seconded. Roll call vote: E.Holub “yes”, J.Diver “yes”, M.Strout “yes”, J.Boyle “yes”, R.Bishop “yes”.

**Adjourn**: Open Session adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Brittany Miller
Recording Secretary