

**MINUTES: REGULAR MEETING OF THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, May 10, 2021 7:00 p.m. via Go To Meeting**

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In attendance: C. Iino, R. Regolo, E. Blewett, A. Stirna, K. Zandi, L. Lefko, D. Mooney Absent: L. Annino, Jr.

1. The meeting was called to order at 7:01 p.m.
2. Public comment: None
3. Department/Board of Education reports
BOE liaison Kathy Zandi reported and fielded questions on the following:
 - Plans for last day of school, Commencement, Project Graduation and prom
 - 2021-22 calendar
 - Curriculum update: impact on students from pandemic, recovery efforts
 - Diversity/equity/ cultural competence efforts
 - KES playground update
 - 2021-21 Budget passed, next steps
 - Superintendent search
 - Reminder to refer to rsd17.org often for full report and important updates
4. Approval of minutes
A motion by Iino, seconded by Blewett, to approve the minutes of April 26, 2021 as written passed unanimously.
5. Appointments
Iino received two letters of recommendation from the Republican Town Committee regarding vacancies on the Open Space Committee.
Iino moved to appoint John F. Mancini (R) and Michael D. Drew (R) to the Open Space Committee for terms ending December 31, 2021. The motion, seconded by Blewett, carried.
6. Old Business
 - A. 2021 Budget: Regolo offered to answer any questions. Budget is on track. No action was taken.
 - B. MYCIP: No action was taken. A possible outdoor town meeting was proposed.
7. New Business
 - A. Memorial Day Video
Blewett asked Iino elaborate upon the decision-making process behind this year's parade cancellation. Iino described the history of the town Memorial Day commemoration, which was traditionally held under the direction of Rick Albrecht, in coordination with the VFW and the Congregational Church. Upon Albrecht's passing, the local Lions stepped in to oversee the event. The town continues to provide support in securing the necessary permits and military support. In February, Iino and Lions parade coordinator Charlie Smith agreed that a live program was ill-advised given the uncertainty about the pandemic at the time. There was discussion.

Iino described plans to commemorate fallen Americans with a video tribute, similar to the one produced with the HKHS production team last year. Filming of the traditional flag raising/lowering will take place April 16, outside Town Hall. Town leaders are encouraged to participate in the production. Blewett argued that the Town should hold a live event on

Memorial Day, rather than providing a video broadcast. She said that many people would prefer to come to a live event.

B. COVID policies for Town Hall

Blewett had asked for explanation of cohesive strategy for mask policy and plans for reopening.

By Charter, the first selectman manages Town Hall operations. Iino said that given the current data and the limitations of the building, the town is not ready for full opening. Nevertheless, she noted that all services are being provided, and that staff is working harder than ever to meet the needs of the public. There was discussion.

There was consensus that special considerations are indicated for specific locations like the town clerk's vault. Reopening plans are constantly reevaluated by Iino, town hall staff and officials, given changing statistics regarding infection rates and vaccination status among residents. The safety of staff and the public are top priority.

C. Vista Tour de Shore

A motion by Iino, seconded by Blewett, to allow the Vista Tour de Shore cycling fundraiser to pass through town on Sunday October 10 (rain date October 17) carried.

8. First Selectwoman's comments

A. Iino described results of recent CONN-OSHA inspections and was happy to report that due to quick response by staff members Walt Adametz, Michele O'Toole, Elizabeth Disbrow, and Richard Pleines, fines incurred were reduced by more than half. The town will employ the free services of CONN-OSHA for assistance in specific required training and other remediation efforts.

B. Iino reported on recent updates concerning federal funding available to the town from the American Rescue Plan Act and the Coronavirus Fiscal Recovery Fund.

9. Selectmen's comments

A. Blewett inquired about PFAS water testing for residences. Iino provided an update and described the program for the second phase of testing – 18 wells in the vicinity of Town Hall. The first round covered the area around Beechwood, including portions of FireTower Road, Kenilworth Drive and Route 81.

10. Adjournment

A motion by Iino to adjourn at 7:45 p.m. was seconded by Blewett. The motion carried.

Respectfully submitted on 5/12/2021 by Elizabeth Doyle Disbrow