



## WAKEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, April 13, 2020  
7:00 P.M. (Via Zoom virtual meeting)

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**COUNCIL  
MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

Councilor Edward F. Dombroski, Jr., Chair  
Councilor Ann McGonigle Santos, Vice-Chair  
Councilor Mehreen N. Butt  
Councilor Jonathan P. Chines  
Councilor Paul R. DiNocco  
Councilor Peter J. May  
Councilor Julie Smith-Galvin

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Town Council Clerk Sherri A. Dalton  
Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio  
Town Counsel Thomas A. Mullen

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**----- TOPICS OF DISCUSSION -----**

<b>Call to Order</b>	Councilor Dombroski called the meeting to order at 7:01 p.m.
<b>Pledge of Allegiance</b>	Councilor Dombroski introduced a compilation video of members of the Wakefield Police Department, Wakefield Fire Department, and frontline healthcare personnel that have been helping us through the COVID-19 crisis, to lead the Pledge of Allegiance, with much thanks to WCAT for putting the video together.
<b>Attendance</b>	All seven (7) Councilors were present and participating via Zoom.
<b>Approval of Minutes</b>	<p>Councilor Santos motioned to approve the March 23, 2020 regular Town Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.</p> <p>Councilor Santos motioned to approve the April 06, 2020 regular Town Council Meeting Minutes. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.</p>
<b>Public Engagement</b>	<p>Madam Clerk Dalton stated that Charles Tarbell indicated that he was speaking personally and for the Zoning Board of Appeals with favorable recommendations for Amy Wall and David Hatfield to be re-appointed to the Zoning Board of Appeals.</p> <p>Joseph Pride submitted a Public Committee Meeting Participation Form via email. Councilor Dombroski noted that Mr. Pride resides at 489 Lowell Street. He read aloud his written submission recommending Amy Wall and David Hatfield for re-appointment to the Zoning Board of Appeals.</p>

## COVID-19 Updates

Chairman Dombroski noted that as there was background noise during the Pledge of Allegiance when it first ran, it was important to show the video again.

As of this morning Wakefield has 115 positive cases of COVID-19 stated Chairman Dombroski which is up significantly from last week. Chairman Dombroski highlighted the Governor's remarks this afternoon about the fact that we are heading into a very difficult time over the next couple of weeks. Thoughts and prayers are certainly with all of those who have tested positive and may test positive in the coming days and weeks as well as those who are currently in treatment. The most important part is social distancing as well as face coverings. Another important piece is the data showing many of the people testing positive for COVID-19 are people under the age of 40. Chairman Dombroski asked that residents please discard their facemasks and gloves in receptacles and not throw them on the ground, creating a health risk and litter. He also wanted to encourage \$5,000 from the Emergency Fund to be directed to the Wakefield Food Pantry and another amount from the Fund to the Cards for the Community program established by the Wakefield-Lynnfield Chamber of Commerce.

Not only do we have over 100 cases of COVID-19 but we have five deaths, stated Town Administrator Maio. One important thing that everyone can do is to social distance themselves and to limit your time outside. While you are outside you should be wearing a mask. The Town will be bringing in 10 thousand masks and distribution for residents is being worked out. The lack of parking around the Lake has really limited the number of people around it. The local businesses have cooperated with their private lots and over the weekend 75 parking tickets were issued. Town Administrator Maio also noted the Emergency Fund has over \$17,000.00 in donations and the online portal on the website will be working soon. He asked the Council with their guidance that he would like to distribute some of the money to the Food Pantry and also Cards for the Community. Rooms at the Sheraton Colonial were secured for our first responders if they were to be exposed to the virus. Three Police Officers were exposed and were tested. All three tested negative for the virus and are back at work. Lastly, the National Grid construction on Salem Street should be finished this week. Chairman Dombroski agreed with Town Administrator Maio regarding the distribution of the Emergency Funds. Councilor Butt commented that when the Council created the Emergency Fund that it was really to help individuals and would love to think about fundraising for the food pantry and for other businesses. Chairman Dombroski noted that the Food Pantry is directly impacting individual Wakefield residents, as is the Cards for the Community program. Councilor Santos stated she understands what Councilor Butt is saying and she thinks when we advertised the Emergency Fund specifically for issues with COVID-19 and what is happening now, that we are okay with shifting a little bit of the intent and those who donated understand what they are donating for. Councilor Chines added that \$17,000.00 sounds like a lot and his worry is in a couple of weeks that isn't very much. He is supportive of the Food Pantry and Cards for the Community but we need to make sure that at least over

the next couple of weeks we have enough flexibility in the Emergency Fund knowing that we are probably closer to the beginning unfortunately of where the need is than the end and he would not want to put the Town in a position where we are giving the money away or tying it up in a particular way of helping individuals that does not allow the Town to be flexible over the next several weeks. Town Counsel advised the Council that if they are going to take a vote tonight that it be contingent on letting Town Counsel do research as to the constitutionality of donating from the Town's coffers to a private organization. He recited the anti-aid amendment in the Massachusetts State Constitution stating "no grant appropriation or use of public money should be made by any political subdivision for the purpose of founding, maintaining or aiding any infirmity, hospital institution, primary or secondary school or charitable or religious undertaking which is not publicly owned and under the exclusive control order and supervision of public officers". He said that we may have a problem donating to anybody other than individuals fund. Chairman Dombroski stated that we would not be voting on this because when the Emergency Fund was created the Town Administrator has the administrative authority. He also pointed out that these are donated private funds administered by the Town Administrator, not tax dollars. If anyone wants to have further communications on how to direct funds, they can contact the Town Administrator directly. Councilor Butt asked that the next time the Emergency Fund is discussed she has been thinking about the transient homelessness population and is wondering what the Town has been doing for them. She knows there has been a lot of gift card distribution from the Police Department to those individuals and the warm bags that people with the Human Rights Commission.

**Temporary  
Taxation  
Changes, Per  
Legislation**

The Massachusetts Legislature has allowed some flexibility in our community to make adjustments regarding various aspects of local taxation. By statute, we as a community can not waive interest and penalties on taxes. There will be a series of votes expected to be taken tonight that include extending the date that the next tax bill is due from May 1<sup>st</sup> to June 1<sup>st</sup>; waiving interest and penalties through June 30<sup>th</sup>; extending the date of abatement applications and other tax credit applications through June 1<sup>st</sup>. Councilor Smith-Galvin asked if this applies to excise tax to which Town Counsel Mullen replied no. She also inquired if there was a possibility to look at the discount that is given for early payment on water bills and whether that money can go into either the Emergency Fund or some redirection to people who are having a hard time paying their bills. Town Administrator Maio stated he would be worried if bills do not get paid at all, as there is an incentive for people to take advantage of the discount by paying early. He indicated that he would go over this with the DPW Director as we have bills that need to get paid to the MWRA as a community. Councilor Chines questioned if the MGLD has made any similar recommendations in terms of waiving penalties and interest for utility bills in which the Town Administrator replied he has no information. Councilor Santos motioned pursuant to §10(a) of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, and in light of the Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to provisions COVID-19 the date of May 1, as appearing in G.L. c. 59,

§ 57C, ¶¶ 7, 8, 10 & 11, be extended for the year 2020 to June 1; and the date April 1, as appearing in G.L. c. 59, § 57C, ¶ 7 be extended for the year 2020 to June 1; the purpose being to extend the due date for property tax bills to June 1, 2020. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote. Councilor Santos motioned pursuant to § 10(a) of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, and in light of the Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19 the date April 1, as appearing in G.L. c. 59 § 59, ¶ 3, be extended for the year 2020 to June 1; the purpose being to extend the due date for property tax exemptions applications to June 1, 2020. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote. Councilor Santos motioned pursuant to § 11 of Chapter 53 of the Acts of 2020, and in light of the Governor's Declaration of a State of Emergency to Respond to COVID-19; the Town waive the payment of interest and other penalties in the event of late payment of any excise, tax, betterment assessment or apportionment thereof, water rate or annual sewer use or other charge added to a tax for any payments with a due date on or after March 10, 2020, made after its respective due date but before June 30, 2020; the purpose being to avoid penalizing taxpayers for payments made late during the said emergency but within Fiscal Year 2020. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

## **Annual Town Meeting**

It appears quite obvious that we will need to reschedule our Town Meeting that is currently set for May 4, 2020, to a later date in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and the State of Emergency both within the Commonwealth and in the Town of Wakefield. Town Counsel Mullen stated that it has always been within the power of the Board of Selectmen or in Wakefield the Town Council to postpone the Annual Town Meeting by a vote. The new legislation makes clear that if the Annual Town Meeting cannot be completed by the end of the Fiscal Year, there will still be a budget and we will still be able to operate for the coming Fiscal Year even if Town Meeting ends in July. Whether we can actually start it in July is not clear in the legislation. He suggested to schedule the Annual Town Meeting to a date in June and the recommendation from the Town Administrator is June 8, 2020. If that date is approached and things are not looking good and Town Meeting needs to be postponed further, once the Warrant has been posted the Town Moderator is empowered to make an extension of 30 days and that 30-day extension can be repeated as often as necessary. Town Moderator Carroll reiterated that as long as the Council issues the Warrant in June, then it transitions over to his discretion to postpone the Annual Town Meeting in conjunction with the Board of Health Director. Councilor Santos motioned to postpone the Annual Town Meeting of May 4, 2020 to the date of June 8, 2020. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 on a roll call vote.

The Town Council has seen every budget and almost every article at this point. However, some of them may have recommended changes as we continue through this pandemic and see the financial direction. We should probably know more in the next couple of weeks stated Town Administrator Maio. There are three articles on the Warrant for police union contracts; fire union contract; and

the supervisors union. We have not voted on those contracts, we have not presented those contracts to the Finance Committee, however in the forecasting we have held the money aside. If for some reason we cannot come to an agreement, then we just indefinitely postpone at Town Meeting. These have to be on the Warrant for us to even discuss them at Town Meeting. Article 15 is a little different even though we have had an article very similar to this before. Instead of going through the reserve fund transfer in case anything else shows up, we put a separate article to be voted separately. Town Administrator Maio stated because of COVID-19 we are suggesting an article being added as a placeholder. He does not know whether it will be necessary for all. We are seeing extra expenses in multiple departments in response to COVID-19. About 75 percent of the costs are expected to be reimbursed by the Federal Government and we have also received grants to cover other portions. A couple of citizen articles are on the Warrant because they have brought in the required signatures; Zoning articles and the final article is the Woods Subdivision. If by some means there were to be a settlement on this, although not likely by Town Meeting, this shows good faith and we have this article ready on the Warrant. Councilor Chines addressed an article that was not put on the Warrant. Earlier in the Fall he raised recommendations with Mr. Maio for license changes both to the process as well as some of the amounts of the fees. In a normal world he expected to have brought that back to the Council for further discussion and placement on the Warrant but in light of everything going on and the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on the business community in Wakefield, he said it was decided to not move forward. Hopefully we will get back to where the economy recovers and at a future Town Meeting he hoped it could be talked through again. Councilor Santos motioned to approve the Annual Town Meeting Warrant as presented. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Committee,  
Board and  
Commission  
Updates**

Chairman Dombroski stated that, as we have been doing for the past year, various boards/committees/commissions are invited to offer any comments or updates in terms of the work that they currently have going on and what they have planned going forward. It is a good opportunity for the Town Council to be updated and also for the Council to have a good, ongoing dialogue as stated Chairman Dombroski.

Advisory Board of Public Works Chairman Christopher Tarr first thanked the Town Council for the Volunteer Appreciation Event in early March. He went on to say that so far this year they have worked on three (3) road betterment hearings which allows abutters to advocate either for or against a private street betterment. Two (2) of them have been approved by the Town – Flanders Lane and Walton Lane. Hart Street was withdrawn by the residents. A representative from the Board participated in the Complete Streets working group and Wakefield was awarded \$378,000.00. They also conduct abatement request hearings and tree hearings. One hearing was held to evaluate the need to remove a public shade tree to accommodate the National Grid project and negotiated a tree donation to recoup the canopy cover for the adjacent area. Also, this year in Spring of 2020 the board

is implementing a curbside textile recycling program called Simple Recycling. This is a user-friendly program in which bags will be mailed to your house for free and you put items in these bags and put them curbside to be picked up at no cost. Coming up will be the annual water and sewer rate hearing with recommendations to the Town Council. The Stormwater land disturbance hearing as dictated by the Town By-law Chapter 170 will be last Spring. Councilor Santos noted that in years past there has been talk about what the role of the Advisory Board was and she feels that the Board has taken on a responsible corporative role with the DPW and other Town boards. Councilor Chines asked about reducing the waste stream in Wakefield as the textile recycling is part of getting materials out of the trash and inquired if there are any other programs or initiatives that the Advisory Board sees in the future to reduce the footprints in Wakefield. Mr. Tarr said that they are open to any discussions that anyone might want to have. Councilor Butt questioned if there are programs for people that live in condos and apartment buildings so that they can participate as well. Mr. Tarr answered not specifically but that certainly will be addressed at the next Advisory Board meeting. Chairman Dombroski also noted the great work of the DPW in conjunction with the Clean Lake Committee. Chairman Dombroski thanked the Advisory Board for all their work.

Environmental Sustainability Committee is a newer committee that the Town Council has created and they have been doing really great work stated Chairman Dombroski. Chairman of the Committee Rob Darnell said the Committee was formed in May 2019. Members consist of four (4) town residents, the DPW Director, Environmental Manager, a WMGL Commissioner, a member of the Town Council, a member of the School Committee and four (4) student liaisons. The Committee communicates with Town departments and works with different businesses on projects. They have done a number of public engagements as well as surveys. They have also created a map of all the municipal roofs in town and mapped them for solar now and in the future. The Committee also works closely with the schools to reduce their waste and also implemented a composting program through the four (4) elementary schools and has estimated nine tons of compost. Looking ahead they are working to continue the zero-waste program at the schools; working with food services; assisting the DPW on trash and recycling issues; making the Americal Civic Center a zero-waste building. Earth Day is next week and they are doing a virtual community celebration. Councilor Smith-Galvin stated she is extremely proud of this Committee and there is a lot more to do in the coming years. Chairman Dombroski thanked Councilor Smith-Galvin for all her work on this committee as she was instrumental in creating it. Councilor Chines congratulated the ESC particularly for the work that the committee is doing with the schools. He also asked if there is a waste reduction agenda that the ESC has in mind. Mr. Darnell stated that they have implemented a zero-waste event at the Farmers Market and is working on having the Americal Civic Center a zero-waste building. And for residents, they have been talking with the DPW about composting. Councilor DiNocco stated that years ago there used to be several containers set up throughout the Town to accept recyclable trash

and asked if there is a way to institute that again. Mr. Darnell said that the DPW did get a grant for some recycling bins which they do have but are reluctant to put them out right now due to concerns with the virus. Chairman Dombroski noted that at the next Town Council meeting there is an opportunity to provide better insight and education into making sure we are all recycling in a clean way as it has a significant impact on everyone. Chairman Dombroski thanked Mr. Darnell for all the work he has done on the ESC and Clean Lake Committee.

## **Upcoming Town Events**

With respect to events that are scheduled to happen over the next few months and in light of COVID-19 it is apparent that we are going to need a policy in place for the foreseeable future stated Chairman Dombroski. Implementing a moratorium on any single-day town events through July 4<sup>th</sup> might be the most prudent of steps. That can certainly be revised as circumstances warrant. A lot of these events need time to be able to prepare and plan, so knowing definitively that the Town will have a moratorium provides everyone with an assurance from a safety perspective but also provides guidance to the various organizations that may still be contemplating potential events in Town. Town Administrator Maio stated that he has had conversations with members of the West Side Social Club, Wakefield Independence Day Committee and departments within the Town. There is a lot of planning that goes into events for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July and 50,000 people come in to the Town to attend these events. These events are very costly to put on as well as require significant private fundraising. When he spoke with the West Side Social Club that sponsors the children's events and the fireworks it is a \$40,000.00 cost for those events. Given where we are today, the WSSC feels very uncomfortable today asking people for donations. Town Administrator Maio recommends that all 4<sup>th</sup> of July events be cancelled. There are also many other events that happen on the Common that bring in thousands of people and he is recommending that all one-time events be cancelled through July 4<sup>th</sup>. One event that will come back to the Council is the Farmers Market which is not yet scheduled. Farmers Market like grocery stores are in a different category as they are not one-time events. Festival by the Lake has also been contacted but they have not decided yet and perhaps the Town Council needs to make that decision for them. Town Administrator Maio requested that the Town Council support his recommendations which is also the recommendations of police, fire, emergency management. Councilor Chines agrees with the recommendations and also agrees with having a consistent policy. He would like to see the community do something in an appropriately socially distanced way to recognize the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. He has received a couple of suggestions like doing a street fair or a sidewalk day for some of the businesses; a house decorating contest. He would love to think this through and would invite the community to let us know if they have any thoughts on recognizing the day. Councilor DiNocco agrees with the recommendations for no single-day events between now and July 4<sup>th</sup>. He proposed extending that from now through July 6<sup>th</sup> to capture the whole weekend. Councilor Santos is in full support and thinks by doing this we will not be putting more of a burden on our first responders. She also mentioned when the Council does talk about the Farmers Market to think about different locations

where they can be spread out. Councilor Smith-Galvin stated she is in full support as well and asked if Wakefield organizations are given priority once we are able to have events again. Town Administrator Maio answered that people need to have a Wakefield connection. Councilor Santos motioned for the moratorium on any single-day town events that would be scheduled through Monday, July 6, 2020. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Public  
Hearings**

Councilor DiNocco motioned to set the date of April 27, 2020 at 7:05 p.m. as the Public Hearing date for Bhavya Two LLC for an Application for License and/or a modification of an existing License to store Flammables at 950 Main Street. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Committees/  
Boards/Commis-  
sions  
Appointments**

Councilor Santos motioned to re-appoint Maria Palomino to the Advisory Board of Public Works for a three-year term ending April 30, 2023. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Councilor Santos motioned to re-appoint Amy Wall and re-appoint David Hatfield to the Zoning Board of Appeals both for three-year terms ending April 30, 2023. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Councilor DiNocco motioned to re-appoint Tracey Cleversey and re-appoint Daniel Calore to the Capital Planning Committee both for a three-year term ending April 30, 2023. Councilor May seconded. Councilor Chines commented on the recommendation from the Capital Planning Committee in which they requested to appoint all applicants. He asked Town Counsel Mullen if this is something that the Town Council could consider. Town Counsel stated that this committee is not established by either the Town of Wakefield's By-laws or the Charter. Councilor DiNocco's concern is that a change is being made to something that has been established. Councilor Smith-Galvin suggested that we appoint the other applicant as alternates or some other role. Chairman Dombroski noted that currently this Committee is a five (5) member committee and he raised the issue of precedent the Town Council would be setting if a committee/board/commission is looking to expand because they like a particular candidate. He feels there is potential concern going forward because we have a six-member board for voting purposes and he suggested a different way of looking at it would be an associate non-voting member. Councilor Chines stated an associate non-voting member would be something that he is amenable to. Councilor DiNocco amended his motion to re-appoint Tracey Cleversey and re-appoint Daniel Calore to the Capital Planning Committee, both for a three-year term ending April 30, 2023 and to appoint Jeffrey Giunta as an associate non-voting member to the Capital Planning Committee for a three-year term ending April 30, 2023. Councilor Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Councilor Santos motioned to re-appoint Lois Benjamin to the Disability Commission for a three-year term ending April 30, 2023. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.



Councilor DiNocco motioned to re-appoint Warren Lasky and appoint Kenneth Alepidis to the Conservation Commission, both for three-year terms ending April 30, 2023. Councilor May seconded. Councilor Butt asked Madam Clerk Dalton if there was a recommendation from the Conservation Commission. Madam Clerk Dalton answered yes. Chairman Dombroski read the recommendation in favor of Jim Luciani and Mickey Lasky. Councilor Chines stated in light of the recommendations from the Commission he is reluctant in voting Mr. Luciani off of the Conservation Commission and asked if there could be an associate member. Chairman Dombroski and Town Counsel Mullen stated that the Conservation Commission is statutorily set and is reflected in the Town of Wakefield's Charter. The Town Council does not have the power to change the number. Motion passed 4-3-0 by a roll call vote with Councilor Chines, Councilor Butt and Councilor Smith-Galvin voting against the motion.

Councilor Santos motioned to re-appoint Florence Calore and re-appoint Elizabeth Ellis to the Council on Aging both for three-year terms ending April 30, 2023. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Councilor DiNocco motioned to appoint Kathleen Cain to the Cultural Council for a three-year term ending April 30, 2023. Councilor Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Councilor Santos motioned to re-appoint Dennis Cloherty to the Fence View Committee for a three-year term ending April 30, 2023. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Regarding the Historical Commission, Chairman Dombroski pointed out that the terms are not currently staggered and suggest a change be made. Town Counsel Mullen reviewed and indicated that the terms were supposed to have been staggered from its inception, but there was apparently an oversight when the Commission was originally formed. After discussion in regards to staggering terms, Councilor DiNocco motioned to table the appointments for feedback from the Chair of the Historical Commission. Councilor Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Councilor Santos motioned to re-appoint Benny Wheat to the Human Rights Commission for a three-year term ending April 30, 2023 and to appoint Sherri Oken to the Human Rights Commission to fill an unexpired term through April 30, 2022. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Chairman Dombroski raised the request of the Permanent Building Committee Chairman, seeking additional appointments. Discussion was had regarding the number of additional construction projects expected in the coming years. Chairman Dombroski suggested considering appointment of associate, non-voting members. Councilor Santos motioned to re-appoint Charles Tarbell and

re-appoint Timothy Demers to the Permanent Building Committee both for three-year terms ending April 30, 2023 and to appoint Philip Renzi, Wayne Hardacker, and Marc Moccio all as associate non-voting members with three-year terms ending April 30, 2023. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Councilor Santos motioned to re-appoint Richard Stevens, re-appoint Susan Hickey, and re-appoint Gerald Barrett to the Recreation Commission all with three-year terms ending April 30, 2023. Councilor May seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Councilor Santos motioned to re-appoint Rob Ettinger and to appoint Kristi Yentile to the Veteran's Advisory Board for three-year terms ending April 30, 2023. Councilor Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Constituent  
Issues**

There were no constituent issues.

**Chairman's  
Comments**

The senior citizen property tax exemption is slowly making its way through the legislature and it is great news for the seniors stated Chairman Dombroski. This would be the latest step in the process to offer senior's tax relief. He credited Representative Wong with doing a lot on this front. The delegation has been re-scheduled to attend the April 27, 2020 Town Council meeting. Councilor Chines recognized Representative Lipper-Garabedian as she has made this a priority as well.

In Chairman Dombroski's role as liaison to the Finance Committee and Financial Forecasting, he had the opportunity to attend a public meeting last week of the Finance Forecasting Subcommittee. He credits Finance Committee Chairman Dan Sherman for his years of forecasting as they help with direction and guidance as the Town is making decisions both short and longer term. He noted that what came out of the discussion is a lot of "what-if" scenarios. The Subcommittee is looking at the effect of this pandemic on our Fiscal Year 2021 planning. All the budgets have come before the Town Council and the Finance Committee as well. Depending on what kind of modeling you are doing, we could be looking at potentially a 10% reduction in local receipts as well as a potential 10% reduction in State Aid. We need to be thoughtful in our spending and proactive as to not create issues for us in terms of sustainability of budgeting going forward. Town Administrator Maio said that he will be presenting to the Council recommendations on what we can do to maintain programs and to be sustainable going forward. One thing that we should be looking for when the delegation comes in on April 27, 2020, is there a revenue consensus from the State. The State is going to look at where they believe revenues are going to be; how much of the reserves they should use to help cities and towns; and how much of the Federal stimulus can be used for local aid. Councilor Chines asked for the latest version of the forecast model be circulated to the Town Council.

Chairman Dombroski reminded everyone to complete the 2020 Census before May 14, 2020. He noted that Wakefield's response rate is sixty-one percent (61%) compared to Stoneham's (60.5%)

**Matters Not  
Anticipated for  
Agenda**

There were no unanticipated matters.

**Announcements and  
Acknowledgements**

Councilor Butt noted the Sweetser Lectures were cancelled for this year and some have already bought tickets. Thanks to the Town refund checks were immediately issued and sent out. She questioned if there was a way to donate those checks to the Emergency Fund. Town Administrator Maio stated that Sweetser Lecture Series sent those checks back on their own accord as that is what they wanted to do. Individuals that received the checks can do what they want to do. She also reminded everyone that the Community Garden lottery is still open and the lottery will be on Facebook Live tomorrow at 10:00 a.m. Over 58 people have registered for the lottery.

Councilor Smith-Galvin commented that it is really great that everyone is doing these Zoom meetings and asked if the other meetings will be posted on the website. Both Chairman Dombroski and Town Administrator Maio answered yes.

Councilor Chines mentioned that the Vision and Values Statement for the community has been put on hold given the situation that we are in. Once we are past this he is looking forward to good conversations with residents and others in town. Prior to the pandemic he received good responses from different Commissions and boards in town and credited the Communication Manager for helping. He talked about another really important resource in addition to the Food Pantry and Emergency Fund which is the Interface Program that we have to connect residents to with support resources for behavioral health and substance use issues. The last thing he mentioned is that he is attempting to do virtual office hours via Facebook Live on Wednesday at 6:00 p.m.

Councilor Dombroski recognized all the first responders as they have an incredible task right now and they have been handling it just amazingly; he also recognized the health care professionals as they are working 24/7 to try to help us and we can do our part in social distancing; he recognized a lot of other folks who are delivering food, preparing food, working in the grocery stores, delivery the mail as these are all sorts of things that are able to still happen and sometimes we don't notice because we have just taken so much for granted; he recognized the DPW and Town Hall employees for their dedicated service.

**Adjournment**

At 9:53 p.m. Councilor Santos motioned to adjourn. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Next Council Meeting**

The next regular Town Council meeting is April 27, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom virtual meeting.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri A. Dalton  
Town Council Clerk

APPROVED