



Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Monday, February 28th, 2022
Time: 6:00 PM – 6:48 PM
Members Present: Chair Matt Mecum; Selectmen Jamie Underwood and Seth Ridinger;
April Steward, Town Administrator; and Alison Mack, Administrative Assistant to the Board

The meeting commenced at 6:00 PM.

Financial Warrants were signed in agreement.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

*At 6:00 PM, on a motion moved by Jamie Underwood, the following roll call vote was recorded to go into Executive Session under: **EXECUTIVE SESSION** (closed to the public): **Per MGL c.30A, §21(a) (3)**: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining – New England Police Benevolent Association (NEPBA), if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares. *Seth Ridinger seconded. The Board agreed they would reconvene to open session. Roll call vote recorded as follows: Matt Mecum: Yes; Seth Ridinger: Yes, James Underwood: Yes**

Town Administrators Report to the BOS:

1. ***Gov. Baker signs COVID bill with public meeting provisions:*** On Feb. 12, Gov. Charlie Baker signed a \$101 million bill supplementing certain fiscal 2022 appropriations in response to the current phase of the COVID-19 public health emergency and extending certain authorizations related to public meetings. The law extends pandemic-related authorizations related to public board and town meetings that either had expired or were due to expire soon. The following options are now available through July 15:
 - Remote option for public bodies: The law extends authorization for virtual public meetings, first enacted at the beginning of the pandemic in April 2020.
 - Open town meeting quorums: The law allows select boards, in consultation with their town moderator, to lower the quorum requirement for open town meetings to not less than 10% of the existing quorum level. The quorum provision includes a seven-day notification requirement before any select board vote.
 - Remote representative town meetings: The law allows representative town meetings to have the option to meet remotely, if approved by the select board and town moderator, as well as the town meeting when it meets.

2. ***Epidemiologist Update:*** As of February 22nd, Boylston had a positivity rate of 1.95% with 5 confirmed cases in town. The town's report of fully vaccinated individuals per capita is 86%. All towns within the Greater Boroughs Public Health Collaborative continue to decline.
3. ***Key Fiscal 2023 Local Aid Needs:*** In response to an alert received by the MMA, I sent a letter to Senator Chandler and Representative Kilcoyne requesting the following items be added into the states FY23 budget proposals:
 - Unrestricted General Government Aid (UGGA) Needs to Increase by 7.3%, not 2.7%
 - Timely Passage of a \$300M Ch. 90 Bond Bill is Essential
 - Increase Chapter 70 Aid Minimum Aid to \$100/student
 - Fully Fund Special Education Circuit Breaker, Charter School Reimbursements, Regional School Transportation, and PILOT I have included the alert in your packet for your information.
4. ***HRP Meeting with Congressman McGovern:*** Paul Dell'Aquila and I attended the meeting HRP set up with Congressman McGovern and his staff on Friday, February 25th. He suggested two ideas for HRP to pursue for funding. The first was a matching grant opportunity through the Land and Water Conservation Fund, and secondly to request a portion of the State's ARPA funds in their second round of distributions. The last time the HRP committee came before the board it was brought up that the town had four purposes listed (Town's public safety, municipal services, open space, recreational purposes) within the order of taking when Hillside was acquired.

The town has yet to designate within the whole parcel which areas should be assigned with which purpose. I would suggest that this happens before we begin to take in funds that will restrict what we can do with the entire parcel. For instance, one of the purposes was for municipal services. I would not advise to go after a grant for conservation purposes and in turn put a conservation restriction on the entire parcel prohibiting future build out for any of the other three purposes. Paul is looking into a separate Master Plan specific to the Hillside parcel to help us with that process.

- There are different grant fundings out there. Believes its going to be anywhere from \$40,000-\$50,000 for this to be done.
 - Paul is still researching this information for us.
5. ***Polar Park Boylston Day:*** Matt and I met with representatives from the WooSox to discuss the Boylston takeover of Polar Park. We are scheduled for Sunday, May 15th. A link will be available soon so people can start purchasing tickets to the game. The Boylston Lion's Club will receive a portion of the ticket sales. All the surrounding communities that have "take over days" will be competing against each other. The town that has the highest attendance will win a prize. Pre-game ceremonies will be blocked off for members of the town. More information will be forthcoming as the day draws nearer.
 - Boylston Lions Club has been working with the WooSox to designate who does what.
 - Seth stated that he called throwing out the first pitch and April stated that we were eyeballing somebody who has had a significant impact with baseball in the community.

- Matt stated that the WooSox mentioned Greenwald. Seth stated, should he decline, he is available.
- Seth asked about the ticket sales and the community with the most winning a prize – is that prorated based on per capita. April said that she is unsure and questioned it herself.
- Seth mentioned that sending the letter to Senator Chandler and Representative Kilcoyne is great. Specifically with Gov. Baker and the pilot program, Boylston as a community is greatly affected and these are some issues that are certainly important and hopefully Senator Chandler and Representative Kilcoyne would take this seriously and advocate for Boylston. He suggested that moving forward if something like this comes up again, would it be better if we all sign the document so its more official by the Board, assuming they would all support it. Not that its not great that April is doing it, but maybe it gives it an extra level of support or emphasis, it may or may not mean more coming as an official document from the Board.
- Designating the different areas of land at Hillside for open space and usable services is something Stephen pointed out at our January 31st meeting and Seth asked what the process is. April stated that we would work with the Master Plan. There are historical preservations that have been set aside; 12 acres have already been designated. As we look at the whole parcel, there are opportunities there where many representatives from the community would join onto that so we could have a wide variety of opinions to see what we would really want done with that parcel. April added that one thing she does not want to see is that just because there is land here have us build all around and be land locked with 200 acres behind it. This would be apart of the Hillside Master Plan. Seth asked if the Hillside Master Plan would be the legal entity to designate each area of that property and Aprils stated she doesn't know the answer to that question and she would have to work with the Town Planner Paul.

Vote to Open the Warrant:

Seth made a motion to open the warrant for Annual Town Meeting, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.

Review/Approve one day liquor license request: Knights of Columbus Event 03/12/2022 – St. Mary of the Hills 5:00PM – 9:00PM and to waive the fee:

Jamie Underwood made a motion to approve and waive the fee for the Knights of Columbus one day liquor license event on 03/12/2022, Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor.

Meeting Minutes: 01/31/2022 and 02/14/2022

01/31/2022 Meeting Minutes – Page 10. Matt is showing as voting yes twice.

Jamie Underwood made a motion to approve the meeting minutes of 1/31/2022 with that one edit and 02/14/2022 meeting minutes, Seth Ridinger seconded. Voted all in favor.

Building Inspectors Report to the BoS:

Sewell Streets going to get busy:

- Project with Vinacasa
 - o Still needs to go through the ZBA but is in the process of doing that
- Project further down on Sewell Street

Town Planners Report to the BoS:

Paperwork says August memo, but it is a Feb memo.

- Prepared for and staffed the 2/7/22 Planning Board meeting.
- Participated in the Master Plan Steering Committee meeting held on 2/9/22. Proposed objectives and action items are now being vetted by smaller working groups with assistance from CMRPC.
- Participated in several virtual discussions about building permit fees for new warehouse projects with Town Administrator, Town Counsel, Building Inspector & Selectman Underwood.
- Helped organize and staff two Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness core teams meetings. This month's meetings have been about establishing the logistics and substance of workshops to be held from 6-9pm on 3/30/22 (virtual only) and 4/6/22 (hybrid).

Grant Opportunities:

- Submitted Expression of Interest (EOI) to the state's One Stop program. I have asked for additional guidance on potential grants for implementing Rt. 140 projects identified in the Local Rapid Recovery Plan (LRRP) and a Master Plan for the Hillside property.
- Worked with Stantec (supported by the Barr Foundation) on a Shared Spaces grant proposal to MassDOT that would help further the projects identified for Rt. 140 in the LRRP as well as previously designed intersection improvements for N. & S. Sewall Street
- Worked with CMRPC on a potential District Local Technical Assistance (DLTA) project that would analyze and make recommendations to modernize our current subdivision and zoning bylaws.
- Matt thanked Paul for sending out that email to the Boylston businesses regarding the grants that are available.
 - o It's an opportunity not just for Route 140 but for the community. He offered to help if someone needs assistance.
 - o Seth stated that the personal touch of reaching out goes a long way.

Seth stated that Paul mentioned CMRPC reached out about updating subdivision regulations and asked if that was covered through the credits from CMRPC or through grants. Paul stated that as of right now it would essentially be a grant; Purely a grant, nothing out of our pockets.

Community Preservation Act Article Discussion:

April explained that for the CPA to be adopted by the community, first we must have an article put onto the warrant. The town would have to vote to adopt that and then it would have to go to election in November. The CPA Committee is not a town committee, it's a community committee.

April was approached by Ms. Jones requesting information on how to get this article on the warrant. April mentioned there are a couple different ways; 1) the committee could work and do a citizen's petition or 2.) have a board sponsor it. She asked if the Board of Selectmen would sponsor it and April stated it would have to be discussed by the Board of Selectmen. Ms. Jones mentioned that the Planning Board and the Parks and Recreation support this. April stated that if the Board of Selectmen do not want to sponsor this, there are other opportunities for the article to get on the warrant.

Jamie's personal thoughts are that they brought it to us and believes they should bring it to the town themselves as a citizen's petition. Matt stated that he feels its more appropriate that Parks and Rec, Planning Board, or a citizen's petition bring it to the town. He is concerned with what the tax rate is going to do this year and we would look a little bit out of touch bringing an article that will increase the taxes more. On a personal note, he is a little undecided on it but is not necessarily against it and needs more time to process all of it. April stated that there are avenues that they can tap into if they do decide to do it as a citizen's petition that will assist that committee to make sure everything is together and presented in the right way. April feels comfortable knowing that there is assistance to the committee.

Seth stated that Parks and Rec would be one of the most likely groups that makes the most sense to support it. Matt stated that he should have some conviction if they put it on the warrant and he can see both ways; with taxes, he feels like he should have more conviction. Seth stated that reading over the minutes from January 31st all three of the board members stated that they would support putting it on the warrant and letting the residents make that decision. Jamie stated that they support anyone putting things on the warrant but there is a difference supporting something and sponsoring something. Seth stated that he doesn't like saying one thing to a group and then reversing his decision. Jamie stated that this is not the time of the year, if they were come last year or maybe in two years, they would probably have a much better shot. He knows he specifically said that he's not campaigning for it. Matt stated that in general the burden is still going to fall on that group to go out and campaign. Discussion continued on sponsoring versus supporting an article. Jamie stated that it is not up for the Board of Selectmen to bring every article forward. Matt stated that we have a little bit of time on this and asked if we can ask Parks and Rec and the Planning Board if they are willing to sponsor this as this board is not going to benefit from it as much directly. It makes more sense for a board who is going to benefit from it.

Paul mentioned that the Planning Board cancelled their March meeting and is not meeting until April and is unsure if that would affect their ability to sponsor the article. April added that Parks and Rec is meeting tomorrow so its too late for that to be on the agenda. Matt thinks that we should go to Parks and Rec and Planning to see if they will sponsor it. At the same time, go to the group and let them know that they should plan to have to prepare this on the warrant, so we are not leaving anyone in the dark. Matt asked if the board members are in agreement on this item: Jamie agreed, and Seth stated that its fine.

Changing "Selectmen" to "Selectboard" article:

April received an email from Nel Lazour and explained this can also come forward as a citizen's petition or the Board of Selectmen could sponsor. It does tend to be broader, but we will have to

change the name on everything that has Selectmen on it so administratively its an undertaking. Jamie stated that he supports the concept behind it but also doesn't feel that every time someone wants to make a change to something they must come to the Board of Selectmen to make that change. Matt stated that he would prefer that this came on as a citizen's petition. He could go either way on this. He's all for it if we want to change the name, how we get there it doesn't necessarily matter to him. Matt asked if Seth was okay with that, and Seth stated sure.

Selectmen's Miscellaneous:

Non-binding questions need to get written, voted on and get going.

- Trash Pick-up

- If we don't have numbers, it's not worth putting on.
- Seth stated that he would want to get this on there. We can always pull some numbers from surrounding communities and may not need such a concrete number. More to see if there is an interest.
- We have a week and a half to make that determination
- April stated that she will speak with Stephen and try to have them before the Board for the March 10th meeting.

- Senior Center

- Aprils stated that we still have quite a few years left to pay off the school and Highway Building. She believes its somewhere between 12-15 years for the school.
- Matt stated that overall, it will be more expensive to build a public safety building now than 2-5 years down the road.
- Seth stated that he has all sorts of questions as to where and how.
- Matt stated in general it would be great to see what the residents want.
- April stated that we need to prioritize.
- More discussion continued how to approach these topics, but the board decided to all these items to the next agenda for discussion.

At 6:48 PM, Seth Ridinger made a motion to adjourn, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Mack, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

Meeting Materials

Agenda

Knights of Columbus License Request

Town Administrators Report

Town Planners Report

Building Inspectors Report

Meeting Minutes 01.31.22 and 02.14.22

On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office

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