



## Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, July 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022  
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:22 PM  
Members Present: Chair Seth Ridinger; Selectmen Jamie Underwood and Matt Mecum;  
April Steward, Town Administrator; and Town Counsel Stephen Madaus.  
Members Absent: Alison Mack, Administrative Assistant to the Board

### **Approval of meeting minutes:** 06.21.2022 and 07.06.2022

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 06.21.2022 and 07.06.2022, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

### **Report of the Town Planner to the Board of Selectmen:**

- Shared Streets: Waiting to hear back from the local district whether we are able to install a traffic signal at Sewall and Route 140. We have not gotten any word back yet and may need to proceed without getting word of that as we would need to expend those funds as of June 2023 and will need to initiate an RFP Process.
- Submitted required documentation MassDOT's Shared Streets & Spaces program. Once we get guidance from the local highway district, we may be able to consider a traffic signal at S. Sewall & Rt. 140.
- Organized and staffed the Planning Board meeting on 7/11/22. Part of that meeting was an executive session to discuss the ongoing litigation around the 8 Gulf Street appeal.
- Prepared for and will staff the 7/18/22 ZBA meeting focused on the continued public hearing for the proposed LIP project at 100 Shrewsbury Street. Since most of the technical matters have now been addressed by the applicant and third-party review with a few minor items pending, Town Counsel Adam Kosta and MHP consultant Joe Peznola will begin drafting a decision with conditions of approval for the ZBA's consideration ahead of the July meeting.
- Reached out to MassDevelopment's Real Estate Services division to see what possible grants or technical assistance regarding the potential reuse of the Flagg House. I am still awaiting feedback as of this writing as most people are out on vacation.

### *Grants Updates:*

- As of this writing, we are still awaiting guidance from MassDOT's District 3 office on our ability to explore installing a traffic signal at one or both of the Sewall/140 intersections.

Once we get clarification, we can begin drafting an RFP for the work proposed under the grant and in the previous design work.

**Chief of Police Report to the BoS:**

- I would like to introduce David McNutt as our selection for our full-time police officer position.
- Dave is a graduate of the Boylston Police Academy and comes to us with experience from the Barre Police Department where he received positive references.
- Dave is mountain bike certified and a patrol rifle armorer.
- An extensive background check was completed on Dave and there was nothing concerning found.
- He had his medical and psychological exams conducted approximately 6 months ago with no issues.
  - We have scheduled these and will take place in a few weeks.
- He was previously employed by Green Gardens Landscaping as a landscape foreman.
- If you have any questions for Dave or I, please ask.

*June Breakdown:*

- 12 Accidents
- 15 Criminal Summons/Arrests
- Conducted 9 Investigations
- Conducted 94 Motor Vehicle Stops
- Dispatch Processed 75 Emergency 911 Calls
- Total Activity was 1,906 calls
- Working with the Council on Aging to hold a workshop to discuss various scams with our seniors.
- Working with the schools to develop a tabletop exercise for an active shooter scenario.
- Working with Tower Hill to hold an active shooter training with their employees.
- National Night Out will be held on Tuesday, August 2<sup>nd</sup> from 5-8
  - At the municipal Complex
  - Mikes Moonwalk will be supplying an obstacle course and a bounce house
  - The Dogfather will be available for people to purchase food.
  - We hope to find a band that would like to play
- I will be utilizing vacation time the week of August 7<sup>th</sup>.

**Appoint Patrolman David McNutt to the Boylston Police Department:**

David is a full time Police Officer for the Town of Barre and has been there for about 6 months. He is a graduate from the Boylston Police Academy. Prior to that he was doing masonry work out in Rutland.

The Board welcomed David to Boylston. Seth stated that we trust the Chiefs expertise and that he has been thoroughly vetted and that they bring the most capable officers to Town.

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to appoint Patrolman David McNutt to the Boylston Police Department, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

### **Town Administrator's Report to the BoS:**

1. **Remote meeting extension for local boards signed into law:** On Saturday, July 16, Lt. Gov. Karyn Polito, as acting governor, signed legislation to extend key pandemic-era accommodations, including remote local government meeting authorizations, through March 31, 2023. Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022 also allows select boards, in consultation with their town moderator, to lower quorum requirements 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.
2. **ARCO Gift:** ARCO came in this last week and presented the town with a gift of \$5,000 to thank the town for allowing them stack arriving tractor trailers near the Highway Building while they were waiting to unload materials on Pine Hill Drive. This arrangement helped to ease traffic congestion on Pine Hill Drive and was much appreciated by ARCO. The board will need to accept the gift on behalf of the town.
3. **DCR Notice:** I have included in your packet a notice received from the DCR proposing to rescind a regulation found at CMR 8.00 that was put in place by the predecessor agency, the Metropolitan District Commission. The DCR is looking to move the substantive provisions to 313 CMR 11.00. There will be a public hearing on this proposal held on Friday, July 29th from 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM.
4. **Out of Office Reminder:** Once again, I would like to remind you that I will be out of the office on Thursday, July 28th and returning from medical leave on Monday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>.
5. **Early Families of Boylston, Massachusetts:** There was a very nice article in The Item this past week on the work done by Nancy Ann Filgate, Nadine Eckstrom, Victoria Triolo, Patricia Kelleher Bartram, and Nathan Rollins. Two copies of the book have been donated to the Board of Selectmen and will be kept in the Selectmen's Chambers for anyone who would like to read it.

Seth stated that he is looking forward to taking a closer look at this publication and stated that it is a wonderful resource for the Town. April added that if anyone is interested in purchasing one, there is no set fee, it is more of a donation to the Historical Society.

6. **Motion Activated Street Lights:** I received a letter from a resident asking if it would be possible to convert streetlights on Stiles Road to motion activated streetlights. I reached out to Mark Barakian on the matter and found out that The Light Board did discuss this option for several months back. It was decided back then to replace the lights again would not be cost effective because they just replaced the fixtures. The Light Department replaced the High-Pressure Sodium pole mounted fixtures back in 2017 to LED fixtures. This had a savings of around 7,290 kwh's per month, and a cost saving of around \$600.00 per month. The new fixtures have a life expectancy of around 20 years. Mark said he would look into this again to see if the product has changed, last he remembered the fixtures had to be Wi-Fi connected to "talk" to each other or use some kind of microwave. The system was originally designed for city lighting where the lights were close to each

other. Mark also mentioned that it may be hard from drivers with lights flashing on, but will look into it more and get back to April.

7. **Town Hall Repairs:** I received notice from Parks and Recreation that there was an issue with the upstairs door over the weekend and while it was being locked the glass in the door shattered. We had the glass replaced today and a second panel of glass that has been cracked for a while on the lower level at the same time was replaced as well.
8. **Feasibility Study:** The Feasibility Group met on Tuesday, June 21st and reviewed three RFQs. The group worked to develop one RFQ and will do a final review within the next week. The BoS can review the document before it is sent out to bid, which I would like to see happen after the board's next meeting on August 22nd.
9. **Woo Sox Visit:** Boylston is still riding it out in 2nd place in the Woo Sox Town Takeover Competition. Since so many Boylston residents came out to support the Woo Sox, they in turn would like to come out and support the town and to pass out goodies and Woo Sox game schedules. I have requested to see if they could attend the Matthew J. Phillips Memorial Cornhole Tournament that is being held on Saturday, September 17th, and they confirmed their attendance today. If you can think of any other events, they may be able to attend, please let me know and they will check to see if it works in their schedule.

Jamie suggested reaching out to see if they would be able to attend the National Night Out that the Boylston Police Department is holding.

#### **Emergency Tower Location Discussion: Stiles Road: Paul Baril:**

Resident Paul Baril came before the Board of Selectmen to express his objection to the Tower Location for the Radio Communications Project. Mr. Baril expressed the following:

1. Abundance of data that communicates proximity to radio towers can reduce property values up to 20%.
2. When he bought the house, he was aware of the water tower however did not sign up for a radio tower next to his house. Those implications are financial and anesthetic. Believes that he and the rest of the people in town will be burdened financially by this project.
3. The tower is 150' and the land its on is 150' so if it falls, it will fall onto his property or a surrounding property. The site is way too small to support the tower.

Mr. Baril asked if the Board was familiar with the regulations regarding towers, Jamie responded that this project has been in the works for around 4 years now and the information they have been given has been thoroughly researched. Jamie's concern is that if they stop this project now, its going to have to go back to another town meeting vote which will push the project back even further. Discussion continued regarding Mr. Barils opinion on how this project was presented at the Town Meeting and expressed that this project will be outdated in a few years. April mentioned that the Highway Department is using FirstNet currently and has been having dropped calls and are looking to go elsewhere. The system that they are going with will connect with surround towns and help with our mutual aid calls, the system that Mr. Baril is suggesting, would

not do this and would be double to triple the cost. Seth Ridinger stated that Mr. Baril makes a compelling argument and is sympathetic to his situation, but on the flipside, they also need to take public safety into perspective, and they are going off years of research that has been brought to them and are trying to do the best they can with that information. Matt Mecum added that the town wasn't obligated to notify abutters as to what was going on but stated that they probably should have made people in the area aware.

Mr. Baril asked how they are going to compensate him for the devaluation of his property. Jamie responded that he would have better support from Police and Fire since there are dead zones in that area. Mr. Baril asked if there has been an environmental study completed for the area and the board responded that they were unsure. Jamie asked Mr. Baril what he would like them to do, and Mr. Baril responded that he would like to hear what the alternatives are. Seth stated that when Mr. Baril first approached the board, he took some time trying to find another viable option and had multiple conversations with people involved and although Mr. Baril is proposing a lot of good ideas, from working with the people who are experts on this it seems like it would be hard to move it for all sorts of various reasons. Discussion continued with questions from Mr. Baril regarding regulations for the tower. Jamie asked if Mr. Baril if he has come before the board seeking monetary payout and Mr. Baril stated no, he would like to see the tower in another location. Jamie stated that the town as a whole voted on this at the Town Meeting and this location was told by the experts that it is the best location. Mr. Baril asked what the town is going to do when this system is outdated in a few years down the road and Jamie responded that if these two million dollars save one active shooter from occurring then he would spend that every day of the week. Seth stated that Mr. Baril makes a great point, and if he could send him that piece of information, it's certainly a valid question. Mr. Baril responded that it has been shown in case study after case study and things are going in a different direction. April asked Chief Flanagan if he has heard of any other communities using the type of network Mr. Baril is talking about. The Chief responded that he has not, its either UHF compliant system or another one. Primarily because the equipment that he is referencing is about thirty million compared to the two million they will spend. Chief Annunziata expressed that the problem with their current system is that manufacturers have stopped making the equipment. This system they are moving towards will never become obsolete as long as they perform maintenance to it. Its also the curse of technology as it changes so much and if they always keep waiting for the technology, they will find themselves in the redundant cycle. Mr. Baril stated that he is happy to provide the case studies and respects what Chief Flanagan has said but feels that the town voted in the absence of certain information and that he feels the town is investing in a dinosaur. Jamie added that the most important thing is public safety at this point and making sure our residents and emergency personnel are safe.

Seth stated that he believes we have covered a lot of information and appreciates Mr. Baril taking the time. If there was a viable alternative, he would be all for it but what he is hearing from the experts is that they have done their due diligence and research and for the time being, the location on Stiles would make the most sense. April stated that the equipment they are currently utilizing is no longer being manufactured so as their units go down, there is no replacement so they are at a point right now where they legitimately had to go into a museum to get a radio that would be compliant. Mr. Baril stated that he is not arguing the need to have the blanket coverage, what he's arguing is that he's taking one on the chin. He hasn't talked with his

neighbors yet and stated that he needs to raise their awareness and explain as to what is going to happen. He feels that his role in this is to let people know what happened. Jamie stated that he feels they did not hide anything, and they continued to discuss the process in which residents are informed about projects in town and Mr. Baril being the direct abutter. Seth stated that once this goes in front of the Planning Board, as an abutter you would get a notice at that point and before that its just in the Planning stages; until that permit is pulled, it's like it doesn't exist. Mr. Baril stated there is a lot of steam going on in this town and that information he was provided is untrue. He expressed his discontent with the site location and how his house value is going to be affected. The Board expressed that they understand where he is coming from and are sympathetic to him but everything that must be said has been said and plan to move forward with the meeting. Mr. Baril stated he will provide other information to the Board but has more questions he would like answered and believes someone should have mentioned this to him sooner. He asked what is going to move the needle with this project and will fight it tooth and nail until it goes up. Seth stated that he would need a solution that serves the whole community and covers the entire area and must be comparably cost effective. Mr. Baril stated he would like information on permitted use based on the height of the tower and if it were to fall; do you need a permit for that. Also, any information regarding the tower falling and impacting the water tank. The Board thanked Mr. Baril for their time, and he thanked the board.

#### **Review / Approve BOS Meeting Schedule September - December 2022**

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to approve the BoS Meeting Schedule from September – December 2022, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

#### **Approve Phillips Cornhole Tournament at the Pop Warner Football Field: 09/17/22 or rain date 09/18/2022 and waive the fees:**

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to approve Phillips Cornhole Tournament at the Pop Warner Football Field: 09/17/22 or rain date 09/18/2022 and waive the fees, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

#### **Vote to sign the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative Resolution:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to sign the Blackstone Watershed Collaborative Resolution and authorize the chair to sign if applicable, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

#### **Adopt Designer Selection Procedure:**

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to adopt the Designer Selection Procedure, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

#### **Appoint a Board of Selectmen member to discuss Facilities Tech position:**

Matt Mecum stated that he feels we need to communicate with the School District that its extremely unprofessional and disrespectful for them to poach town employees and a slap in the

face to the taxpayers because one way or another it's a cost to the taxpayers. He doesn't blame the Facilities Tech for getting the offer, but would like it as an official communication, draft a letter and get it approved at the next meeting.

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to appoint Seth Ridinger to discuss the Facilities Tech position, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

Seth stated that he is not one hundred percent confident that a letter is the best way to go but can be discussed at the next meeting. Seth agrees with the sentiment and that they were blindsided but will discuss the topic more at the next meeting.

**Authorize the Chair of the BoS to sign a Letter of Intent and Non-Federal Cost Share Commitment for HMGP-4496-MA Hazard Mitigation Plan:**

April explained that the State is offering just about 90% with a 10% match, this would basically cover the update of our Hazmat Mitigation Plan.

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to authorize the Chair of the BoS to sign a Letter of Intent and Non-Federal Cost Share Commitment for HMGP-4496-MA Hazard Mitigation Plan, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Vote to accept the gift of \$5,000 from ARCO for use of the town lot located at Rte. 70 and Rte.140:**

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to accept the \$5,000 check from ARCO for the radio communication, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Designate Town Hall, 221 Main Street, as Boylston's official polling location for both Election Day and Early In-Person Voting:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to designate the Town Hall, 221 Main Street, as Boylston's official polling location for both Election Day and Early In-Person Voting, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Designate the Boylston Town House, 599 Main Street, as Boylston's alternate polling location for both Election Day and Early In-Person Voting:**

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to designate the Boylston Town House, 599 Main Street, as Boylston's alternate polling location for both Election Day and Early In-Person Voting, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Designate the following In-Person Early Voting Hours for the Massachusetts State Primary, exceeding the number of hours required by the State and allowing registered voters increased opportunity to cast their ballots: August 27th to September 2nd, 2022. Saturday, August 27th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., Monday - Wednesday, August 29th, 30th, and 31st, 9 a.m. to**

**12 noon, Thursday, September 1st, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., with a voter registration session being held from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. on Saturday, August 27<sup>th</sup>:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to designate the following In-Person Early Voting Hours for the Massachusetts State Primary as listed, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Designate the following In-Person Early Voting Hours for the Massachusetts State Election, exceeding the number of hours required by the State and allowing registered voters increased opportunity to cast their ballots: October 22nd to November 4th, 2022. Saturday, October 22nd, 12 Noon to 4 p.m., Monday - Wednesday, October 24th, 25th, and 26th, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Thursday, October 27th, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., Saturday, October 29th, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m., with a voter registration also being held on October 29th from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday-Wednesday, October 31st, November 1st and 2nd, 9 a.m. to 12 noon, Thursday, November 3rd, 4 p.m. to 7 p.m.**

*Designate the following In-Person Early Voting Hours for the Massachusetts State Election as presented to the Board of Selectmen, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Delegate the assignment of police details for all elections to the Town Clerk and the Police Chief:**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to delegate the assignment of police details for all elections to the Town Clerk and the Police Chief, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Vote to approve the maximum useful life of the communications equipment to be financed with the proceeds of the \$2,000,000 borrowing authorized by the vote of the Town passed May 2, 2022 (Article 20) is hereby determined pursuant to G.L, C44 Section 7(1) to be 15 years.**

*Matt Mecum made a motion to approve the maximum useful life of the communications equipment to be financed with the proceeds of the \$2,000,000 borrowing authorized by the vote of the Town passed May 2, 2022 (Article 20) is hereby determined pursuant to G.L, C44 Section 7(1) to be 15 years, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Vote to waive all fees associated with permits for the Communication Project:**

*Jamie Underwood made a motion to waive all fees associated with permits for the Communication Project, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.*

**Fire Chief Report to the BoS:**

- 79 calls this past month, mostly EMS calls

Received an additional supply of pediatric and adult masks. Will drop some off at the Town Hall and Library. COVID numbers are continuing to trend down.

### *Greater Boroughs Partnership*

- Diane Ledger has resigned as the Regional Account Inspector and Michael Cedar has replaced her.
- Penny is our Regional Health Nurse. She does the contract tracing for us.

### *Grants*

- Still waiting on a few grants. Has seen some grants being awarded nationally but not around this area yet.

### *New Hires – (2 positions available)*

- Have four internal candidates who are interested

### **Board of Selectmen Miscellaneous Items:**

#### *Matt Mecum:*

- Cooling Station: Chief Flanagan, April, Bob Bourassa, and Matt talked today for having the Town House open up as a cooling station this weekend. If anyone needs a place to go get cool, please feel free to do so.
- Diane from the Greater Boroughs Health Collaborative was working with us on the Dilapidated Buildings. Asking if there has been any movement on the building that burnt down. April stated that the last she knew was that it did not qualify that the state would get involved with. Matt asked if the Town was doing anything to force them to clean up. Jamie stated that he believes it falls under the jurisdiction of the Board of Health and Safety. The next step would be to talk to Tony and see what he thinks.

#### *April Steward:*

- Resident Complaint: Waste Products not being picked up by one company. Jamie stated he heard they are moving away from residential and going to commercial.

At 8:22 PM, Matt Mecum made a motion to Go into Executive Session for:

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** (closed to the public): *Per MGL c.30A, §21, (3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares. - Fire Fighters Union*

**EXECUTIVE SESSION** (closed to the public): *Per MGL c.30A, §21, (3): To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body and the chair so declares. – Police and Dispatchers Union*

To approve the meeting minutes from 06.21.2022 Executive Session.

*Will not return to open session. Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.  
Roll call vote:, Matt: Yes, and Seth: Yes.*

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Mack, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

**Meeting Materials**

Agenda	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Philips Cornhole Tournament Event Request	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Town Administrators Report	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Police Chiefs Report	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Fire Chiefs Report	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
DRAFT Hazard Mitigation	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Designer Selection Procedures	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Town Planner Report	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Building Inspectors Report	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
FD Union 5324 Request	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
BoS Meeting schedule September – Dec 2022	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
06.21.2022 DRAFT Meeting Minutes	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
07.06.2022 DRAFT Meeting Minutes	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office