



Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Monday, December 5th, 2022
Time: 6:30 PM – 8:18 PM
Members Present: Chair Seth Ridinger, Selectmen Jamie Underwood and Matt Mecum, April Steward, Town Administrator; Town Counsel, Stephen Madaus and Alison Kennedy, Administrative Assistant to the Board

The meeting commenced at 6:30 PM.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

Town Administrators Report to the BOS:

1. *ABCC License Hearing:* I received a report from the Fire Chief and the Police Chief regarding an incident that occurred at the Dragon 88 on Thanksgiving Eve. Boylston Police Officers were dispatched to the Dragon 88 Restaurant for the report of an altercation outside the establishment. Once they arrived on scene, they needed to enter the building and push their way through the crowd to reach the bouncer who was attempting to control the out-of-control patron. The patron would not comply with the officers' requests to calm down and subsequently needed to be tased. EMS was then called to the scene in accordance with police department protocol. According to both police and fire reports, the number of patrons in the establishment was estimated to be well over the 99-person max that Fire Code allows, with estimates around 250-300 patrons inside the establishment. Under M.G.L. c. 138, Sections 23 and 64, the Board of Selectmen acting as Local Licensing Authority may modify, suspend, revoke, or cancel a license upon "satisfactory proof that [the licensee] has violated or permitted a violation of any condition [of the license] or any law of the commonwealth." I would like the board to review the reports from the Police Chief and the Fire Chief and schedule a hearing where the licensee or its representative may attend the hearing and address the Board.

Jamie Underwood made a motion to hold an Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission hearing Tuesday, January 3rd regarding the Dragon 88, Inc. Matt Mecum seconded, Voted all in favor.

2. *Animal Control/Dog Officer:* Ali was able to attend a call today to discuss entering an IMA with the Town of Shrewsbury to potentially partner with them for animal control services. The town of Northborough is also in need of services and has also approached Shrewsbury. Shrewsbury already has an IMA with Grafton and Westborough but is willing to investigate hiring a second officer and expanding the services into a regional service with Shrewsbury being the host community. Costs would be distributed through the member communities by an assessment based on population, paid in quarterly installments. Another call is scheduled to be discussed further in the next three to four weeks.

3. *West Boylston Lions Football:* You may have already heard that the West Boylston Lions Football team won their division play-off game at Gillette stadium last Friday. I am working with the Towns of West Boylston and Berlin to see if we can have a recognition event for their championship run. Tahanto and West Boylston's basketball teams will be playing each other on Friday, January 6th at West Boylston's High School. This would be the perfect venue to recognize the teams for their achievement.

Discuss and vote to approve Community Preservation Committee By-Law:

Five Statutory Requirements.

1. *At Large Positions:* Zero to four members.

Jamie asked if we have it appointed or elected. Jamie would like to have it as elected. Matt stated that he would like to have it as appointed. Seth stated that the recommendation that was brought to them was appointed and he is okay with that as we have so many previous committees that are appointed; it's hard to get people to run for these things. Matt stated that we have such a hard time getting people to get appointed or run and it's more work to run for election. Jamie would like to have it as elected because he believes in the election process. Discussion continued on whether it should be appointed or elected as they both have their pros and cons. Resident Elaine Jones added that out of 187 communities only about 5% have their committee elected. Resident Arielle S. on the Parks and Recreation Committee mentioned that she was elected, and it was not a difficult process.

Matt added that if we were to go appointed, his concern was that he was not going to be comfortable rubberstamping people involved from the beginning. He would like to see an open, equitable chance of getting appointed; obviously elected takes that concern away. Resident Mark Anttila asked if going with appointed allows the committee to meet faster; There is a lot of passion right now and don't let it wait till May. Resident Arlene Murphy stated that she is not really interested in filling a major role in the committee moving forward. Another Resident who is apart of the CPA mentioned that he sees it both ways however he isn't sure he will continue with the committee because he doesn't believe he has the skill set to do so and make the right decisions on where the money is going and believes appointing may be the best way. Elaine Jones – 250 Sewall Street. Once the committee gets organized, they have a lot to do and it needs to be done before they can even think about spending any money; go through all documents, meet with boards and committees, have a public hearing to get public input, write their plan, have an application process and also put together a budget to put together before Town Meeting. Discussion continued. Resident Kathy Richards from 632 Main Street stated that when she was a Library trustee which was an elected position, there were always times when you didn't get candidates, so the Selectboard ends up appointing someone anyway.

Seth mentioned that he believed that the general consensus of the Coalition was to have the positions appointed. Mark Anttila stated that there is a lot of passion right now and let it move forward to keep the momentum going. Other residents raised their hands to give their opinions on if it should be appointed or elected.

The Board of Selectmen decided to make it an appointed position.

2. *Number of members on Board/Committee:*

Jamie suggested keeping it small as the members would feel as though they must commit themselves and show up. Larger groups, people don't feel they need to show up each time. The Board agreed to have 4 at large members appointed.

3. Term for At Large Members: (the way it is written)

- 4 at Large Members – 3-year terms that are staggered.

4. Affordable Housing Committee:

- We currently do not have an Affordable Housing Authority; we fall under Worcester's.

Disc Golf Discussion: Parks and Recreation Representative and Jeffery Turgeon from Worcester Sports Foundation:

Pam F and Arielle S. from Parks and Recreation came before the Board with Jeffrey Turgeon from the Worcester Sports Foundation to present bringing DISC Golf to Boylston.

DISC Golf is passive recreation. It involves standing at a location and throwing a frisbee (just like golf but with a frisbee).

Jeffrey stated that part of the reason he is here tonight is that we are looking for a nod of approval. The Sports Foundation will cover the \$300 fee to get DEF to do the walk through, they just want to make sure that this is something they can possibly move forward with. The course itself can be installed and decommissioned easily; baskets sit in the ground like a fence post and tee pads are low key in terms of the set up, and they have been mindful as they want to make sure they are addressing needs. They are not proposing any town funds, this would be done all through donations. They will be working directly with Parks and Recreation to do the fundraising and volunteer recruitment.

Seth has if they met with the Historical Restoration (HRP). Pam mentioned that some individuals did come to meetings and offered some suggestions/guidance. Jamie stated that he believes that it's time we use this property more and feels that it will be used by many residents/children.

Resident Bob asked how the need was identified. Jeffrey stated that other courses in the area have around 200+ members come through a week. The game has grown about 300% since COVID; outdoor activity, relatively easy to pick up and inexpensive.

Bob stated that his concern would be the amount of traffic coming through and that its more of a regional appeal than a town appeal. Would the town be more receptive to pickleball courts or dog parks? Jamie mentioned that Manor Park and other fields in town are rented out by groups that are not Boylston residents. Matt added that bringing in new activities is helpful to bring people around town.

Concerns:

Membership Drive: This is a nonprofit. Not looking to make money off this. It is being installed at zero cost to the town.

Trash Bins: How are those going to get managed? Jeffrey stated that the trash bins would be taken care of by volunteers. Trying to make this as easy for the town to maintain. The Board stated that they do not want this to fall on the Highway Department.

Nights and Weekends: Jeffrey stated that it can start and end at any juncture; start and end location can be changed depending on what the schedule is like regarding sports.

Gerry Quam – Resident - How can we make money off of this. Arielle responded that it would be a Parks and Rec discussion as they have not discussed it yet.

Nel Lazour – Resident - Why even have trash cans. Seth stated ultimately this would be decided by Parks and Rec.

Jamie stated that he would suggest moving forward with the application and wished them the best of luck.

Jamie Underwood made a motion to allow Parks and Recreation discretion to move forward with the DISC Golf Facility at Hillside, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.

Master Plan Implementation Update:

Matt stated that April is going to touch on this in her report. The Master Plan is effectively complete. A couple minor edits. April will be forwarding a link to the plan. The next step in this process is for the Planning Board to accept the plan. The Master Plan Committee recommends that the Town implements a Master Plan Implementation Committee. Setting up the same way of the CPA board may be the way to go. The Town Planner will play a large part in this and be the driving force. The Master Plan Committee would like the Planner to do a quarterly report on the progress and include a chapter in the Annual Town Report. Matt read off the name of members who helped: Richard Baker Chair, Mark Anttila secretary, Van Baker, Nancy Filgate, Bill Filsinger, Dennis Goguen, Lori Hart, Chris M, Claudine Underwood, Nel Lazour, Arielle S, James Spencer, David Cole and Jessica R. Matt thanked everyone involved. The thing that the committee is most proud of is that the plan came from residents. Now the work begins, and we need to make it happen. The Planning Board will take this up at their January meeting.

ARPA expenditures discussion:

April mentioned that she reported to the Finance Committee the articles that were going to be on the Special Town Warrant. They suggested instead of using free cash for the request from the Regional School District, that we use ARPA Funds instead.

April also wanted to know if the Board would like to use some ARPA funds for the second half of the funds for the Parc Grant (walkway or second egress to the water). The second half needs to be completed by June 1st, 2023, to get the remainder of the money. April stated that she would assume it needs to be ADA complaint. Seth asked if the ARPA expenditures would be to cover the \$22,000? April asked for Parks and Recreation to clearly define the scope of work and bids are coming back between \$23,000 - \$28,000.

School Feasibility Study - \$35,000: Seth stated that he is not super passionate about using ARPA funds instead of free cash. Matt stated that if the Finance Committee isn't going to support it on the Town Meeting floor, it's going to create quite a conflict that has the potential to snowball, which we would like to avoid. The other point is that he thinks the ARPA funds use is to help prevent emergencies. Although it's a leaky roof, it's also a safety/health issue and could be seen as preventing an emergency. Seth suggested throwing it on the Agenda prior to the Town Meeting for discussion.

ARPA Funds Received by Boylston - \$1,400,000. We were advised by our Financial Team/Accountant to not spend more than \$750,000 per fiscal year as that would trigger a

federal audit. This Board has approved expenditures this year towards the Radio Communications Project and we stopped around \$700,000, so we have about \$50,000 left for this fiscal year to spend.

Parks and Recreation – Camp Harrington: Matts concern is how this fall under being a concern and emergency. Seth reiterated that this needs to be completed before June 1st, 2023, in order to be eligible for reimbursement. Matt stated that we do not need to answer this tonight and have some big questions that need to be answered first.

Approval of 2023 First Quarter BoS Meeting Schedule:

Matt Mecum made a motion to approve the 2023 First Quarter BoS Meeting Schedule, Jamie seconded. Voted all in favor.

Approval of 2023 Town of Boylston Observed Holiday Schedule:

Matt Mecum made a motion to approve the 2023 Town of Boylston observed Holiday schedule, Jamie seconded. Voted all in favor.

Authorize Town Administrator to sign Architect's Agreement for the Senior Center and Public Safety Facility Project:

Jamie Underwood made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to sign the Architect's Agreement for the Senior Center and Public Safety Facility Project, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.

At 8:18 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. – Police and Dispatchers Union*

Will not return to open session.

Roll call vote: Matt Mecum: Yes, Jamie Underwood: Yes, and Seth Ridinger: Yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Mack, Assistant to the Board of Selectmen

Meeting Materials

Agenda	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Town Administrators Report	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
DISC Golf Presentation – Parks and Rec	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Sign In Sheet	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Boylston Selectmen Mtg Schedule	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Boylston Holiday Schedule 2023	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
MA Legal Holiday Schedule 2023	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Police Chiefs Report to BoS	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Fire Chiefs Report to BoS	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Dragon 88, Inc Incident Report 11.23.22	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Richard Baker memo – Master Plan	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
AIA Agreement – Catlin Architecture	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
CPA Documents	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office