



Board of Selectmen

Date of Meeting: Tuesday, January 3rd, 2023
Time: 6:30 PM – 7:26 PM
Members Present: Chair Seth Ridinger; Selectmen Jamie Underwood and Matt Mecum;
Town Counsel Bryan Faulk, and Alison Kennedy, Administrative
Assistant to the Board

The meeting commenced at 6:30 PM.

Financial Warrants were signed in agreement.

Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

**6:30 PM Public Hearing: Alcoholic Beverages License Violation, Dragon 88 Restaurant,
260 Shrewsbury Street, Boylston, MA (Licensee: New Dragon 88 Inc.)**

Public Hearing Opened at 6:30 PM by Seth Ridinger.

On the evening of November 23rd, 2022, Police were called to respond to an incident at Dragon 88, Inc. They reportedly had between 200-300 people when the capacity is 99 people. EMTs were additionally called to the location. There were also a couple incidents of underage drinking occurring. Town Counsel stated that we received a report from the Chief of Police and suggested summarizing that report for record, then give the licensee an opportunity to respond, and then take any testimony from the audience members as witnesses. Finally, the Board would deliberate on the matter and determine whether there was a violation or violations and whether there should be any penalty imposed; as the Local Licensing Authority, they may modify, suspend, or revoke a license in the event of a violation. The licensee has counsel and their counsel was unavailable tonight so we should confirm if they would like to move forward with the hearing without Counsel present. Chair Ridinger asked the representatives of Dragon 88, Inc if they would like to proceed without counsel and it was determined to continue the hearing at the January 17th, 2023 meeting.

Matt Mecum made a motion to continue the Public Hearing: Alcoholic Beverages License Violation, Dragon 88 Restaurant, 260 Shrewsbury Street, Boylston, MA (Licensee: New Dragon 88 Inc.) until January 17th at 6:30 PM, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.

Board of Health: Discussion on Waste and Recycling Committee:

Sarah S., Chair of the Board of Health, called in to the meeting asking the Board of Selectmen for guidance on how to get this started. Seth asked if this committee needed a formal structure and April responded yes, that it does need a formal structure. Matt forwarded an email to Sarah with the names and contact information for the members. April mentioned that on the Agenda, there will be a bullet item stating that a chair, vice chair and clerk need to be identified for the committee. Seth stated at this point, we are trying to gather information and it can be run informally at this

point; if you are having a hard time getting someone to chair the committee it shouldn't be a huge undertaking at this point. Sarah will send out an email to all members to see if they can get this committee going; setting date, choosing chair, vice chair and clerk, and establishing future meeting dates. Sarah asked how often the Board of Selectmen would like to be updated and Matt responded to leave it up to her discretion.

Town Administrators Report to the BOS:

1. *Cross Street Complaint:* I received a complaint from a resident on Cross Street requesting the board to consider building a path along Cross Street for walkers and bikers. I have included the complaint letter in your packet.
2. *Feasibility Committee:* The committee met with John Catlin on Thursday, December 22nd to discuss preliminary program elements of the police, fire, and senior center. Bob Bourassa escorted Mr. Catlin around to the Police Department, Fire Department, and Town House after the conclusion of the meeting. Police, Fire, and the Council on Aging have been requested to submit their building requirements to the architect for review and design.
3. *FY24 Budgets:* Budgets are coming in from departments for fiscal 2024. Draft 2024 Budgets will be handed out to the Board of Selectmen and the Finance Committee at your next meeting on the 17th.
4. *Education Update:* My last semester at Nichols college is set to begin on January 17th. This semester will consist of three classes with my graduation scheduled for May 2023.

Board of Selectmen Goals Discussion:

Ongoing Items:

1. Moral at Town Hall:
 - a. Implemented the pay step program.
 - b. Team building
2. Subsidized Housing Inventory – ongoing – up to about 33 houses on subsidized housing inventory. Brookside was approved with about 10 other units and Trailside needs to be approved with about 33 units.
3. Accountability with developers – ongoing.
4. Senior services: contact information with seniors. Matt will discuss more with the COA more, but they need to get a full time COA Coordinator in there to get this going.
 - a. The Affordable Housing Committee needs to be formed.
5. Master Plan: Waiting on Planning Board approval

New Goals:

1. Senior Housing: Finding creative solutions so seniors can stay in Boylston rather than being priced out.
 - a. Matt added that when he states affordable housing, he does not directly mean 40B, he means that it's affordable and people can stay in town.
2. Making sure Plans are actually Implemented and followed through

- a. Hire new Town Planner
 - b. Implementing a committee to administer and oversee these plans.
3. Communication to Residents
 - a. Subscription newsletter
 - b. Light Department bills

Approval of meeting minutes: 08/22/22

- Page 7 – Paragraph 2 – Seth meant to convey that “at no means are we (the Board of Selectmen) experts on the subject.”

Matt Mecum made a motion to approve the meeting minutes from 08/22/22 with the edits, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor.

Vote to Accept the gift of \$2,500.00 from Lillian A. Luksis Charitable Giving Fund to the Council on Aging:

Jamie Underwood made a motion to accept the gift of \$2,500.00 from Lillian A. Luksis Charitable Giving Fund to the Council on Aging, Matt Mecum seconded. Voted all in favor.

Future Agenda Items:

- Recycling Purchasing Policy
- Town Planner Update:
 - Received two candidates that did not fit
- PARC Grant Update
- Speeding Issues on North and South Sewall: Revisit conversation on 17th

Citizen Comments:

Resident Ralph V. 10 Ridgefield Circle – Stated he has had the opportunity to do a lot more research on the Tower Project. He was the chair of the Planning Board previously when Verizon came to town to put a tower up and one of the main concerns then was the inadequate size of the drop zone; ice shedding. Felt that he should bring up this issue to the board as it is extremely dangerous, it sits less than 20 feet from property lines and is in very close proximity to the water tower. Ralph explained ice secretion and the issues that could come from it as well as expressing his opinion on how the bylaw was interpreted by the Building Inspector. Seth stated that since this was not on the Agenda, they cannot have a conversation about it. Ralph asked if he should request to be on the next agenda and Jamie responded that we would need to speak to our attorney as they are not even sure they can discuss the matter at this time. Seth added that they hear the concerns from residents and take their concerns very seriously, we have begun the process of finding a solution to this issue. Matt added that we need to remember that the reason we are doing this whole project is because we are severely lacking in radio communication in town and feels like that message is being lost.

Resident Bob Richard, Main Street – Spoke of a video of an ice spear falling from a tower higher than the one proposed, piercing concrete. The concern that Ralph has is very valid. He questioned how much effort was put into research on the physical location of where the tower would be placed.

Matt responded that the tower needs a line of sight and this location was presented as the best. Bob encouraged the Board members to investigate other locations where this tower could be placed. Town Counsel suggested that the Board not continue with the conversation at this time.

At 7:26 PM, Matt Mecum made a motion to adjourn, Jamie Underwood seconded. Voted all in favor. Matt: Yes, Seth: Yes, and Jamie: Yes.

Respectfully submitted,

Alison Kennedy, Assistant to the TA and Board of Selectmen

Meeting Materials

Agenda	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Sign-In Sheet	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Hearing Guide – Dragon 88 Restaurant	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Dragon 88, Inc Violation Hearing Letter	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
Town Administrators Report	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
06/21/22 Meeting Minutes Draft	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
08/22/22 Meeting Minutes Draft	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office
09/12/22 Meeting Minutes Draft	On File in The Board of Selectmen's Office