

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – TOWN OF NATICK

MEETING MINUTES

EDWARD H. DLOTT MEETING ROOM – NATICK TOWN HALL

June 12, 2017

7:00 PM

PRESENT: Chairman Jonathan Freedman, Vice Chair Susan G. Salamoff, Clerk Richard P. Jennett, Jr., and Michael J. Hickey

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator Martha L. White and Executive Assistant Trish O'Neil

ABSENT: Amy K. Mistrot

Chairman Jonathan Freedman called the meeting to order at 7:06 p.m., noting that a quorum was present and that the meeting had been duly posted. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence observed for our fallen heroes.

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

Ms. White announced the results of the aggregation bid for electricity supply for residents and businesses. NextEra, the lowest of six bidders, was selected to supply electricity for the period of July 1 through December 31, 2017. Two rate options will be offered, Standard Green (the default option, greener and slightly cheaper than Eversource Basic [10.759 cents]) at 10.708 cents per kWh, with an additional 5% local renewable energy over and above state requirements, and Natick Basic (the opt-in option) at 10.623 cents per kWh, a less expensive option that meets minimum state requirements for renewable energy. An information session for residents has been scheduled at the Community-Senior Center and the Town's Sustainability webpage will be updated.

Ms. White announced that Boston Solar has donated an 8.12 kW direct current solar panel to St. Paul's Episcopal Church in keeping with the agreement between it and the Town, which exceeded its goal of signing on 150 contracts. Of the nine nonprofits that applied, St. Paul's was chosen due to its high electricity bills and a perfect roof for installation of solar panels.

Ms. White announced that a public hearing is to be held by MassDOT on Thursday, June 22nd at the Wilson Middle School at 7 PM regarding the Route 27 improvement project.

WHAT'S NEW

The Sustainability Coordinator, Jillian Wilson-Martin, announced on behalf of the Sustainability Program and the Department of Public Works that a new curbside "Pink Bag" recycling program for the collection of clothing, shoes, home goods, and household items will begin on June 20th for residents who receive trash and recycling services from the Town. The Town has entered into a three-year contract with Simple Recycling, a private hauler. Pink bags will be provided for free. The DPW will not be responsible for missed pick-ups. Contact information for Simple Recycling was provided.

CITIZEN'S CONCERNS

John Crisafulli of Precinct 9 asked if the Peace Flags in the School Department and at the Community-Senior Center were going to stay up since it was his understanding that the Board had voted the previous December not to allow any flags, other than the American Flag, on town property. Mr. Freedman stated that a discussion would be had with Town Counsel and the School Superintendent and the matter would be addressed at a future meeting. Mr. Crisafulli also stated that he was in the process of designing a "Patriotism Flag" in honor of current soldiers and soldiers who have sacrificed their lives, using words on the flag that would describe a True Patriot.

CONSENT AGENDA

With no discussion about any of the Consent Agenda items requested, the Chair asked for a motion to approve the Consent Agenda. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 4-0-0 to approve the Consent Agenda, conditional upon the fulfillment of all recommendations from Town Agencies and/or Departments. The following items were approved:

1. Road closure for Bacon Free Library Father's Day Concert on Mill Lane on June 18th.
2. Request to occupy a public way for two to three days by Aqua Barriers on Summer and Main Streets between June 19th and June 30th, with exact days to be prearranged with the Police Department.
3. Declaration of surplus equipment.

4. Letter to legislative delegation regarding Home Rule Petition on bridge naming rights (Special Town Meeting #1, Article 4).
5. Letter to CSX regarding Historical Panel proposal on Cochituate Rail Trail.
6. Donation to Police Department from GSEMA Troop #76181.

APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

1. **Director of Recreation & Parks:** Though this item was scheduled for Discussion and Decision, a member of the public was present to give her opinion on this item, so the item was taken out of order. The Recreation & Parks Commission had previously voted unanimously in support of keeping Memorial Beach open after August 13th (when the college-age lifeguards leave for school and typically when the beach is closed for the season) from dawn to dusk as a “No Lifeguard on Duty – Swim at Your Own Risk” beach. Karen Partanen attended tonight’s meeting to request confirmation of that vote from the Selectmen. Ms. White indicated that Town Counsel had no objections, nor had the Town’s insurance company. Helaine Chersonsky of Cedar Terrace, a frequent user of the Beach, spoke in favor of keeping it open and offered to serve as a liaison volunteer to help facilitate the lengthened season. Mr. Hickey stated that he loved the idea of keeping the beach open but expressed real concern about the lack of lifeguards. The Board Members discussed the possibility of having a staff member present and an increase in police patrols. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 3-1-0 in favor of confirming the Recreation and Parks vote, with Mr. Hickey voting against it.
2. **P.F. Chang’s China Bistro: Application for a Change in Beneficial Interest:** Attorney Andrew Upton, representing P.F. Chang’s, presented to request approval of a change in beneficial interest occurring at the corporate level with no effect on the restaurant or day-to-day personnel. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of the change.
3. **Dimas, Inc. d/b/a Dolphin Seafood Natick: Application for Change in Manager:** Peter Giannocopoulos, the owner and manager of record, spoke on behalf of his son, Ted, who has worked at the restaurant for 10 years, taking over the role of restaurant manager. Moved by Ms. Salamoff and seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 4-0-0 to approve the change in manager.
4. **Walnut Hill School: One-Day Alcohol License:** Pat McDougal, the school’s campaign coordinator, requested a one-day alcohol license for a fundraiser on June 17th to benefit the Delbridge Family Center for the Arts. After confirming that all alcohol policies and police department recommendations would be followed, Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, moved to approve the one-day alcohol license and the Board voted 4-0-0 in favor.
5. **Natick Center MBTA Station Working Group: Overview of Station Redesign Project:** Josh Ostroff, Chair of the Transportation Advisory Committee, presented with John Doherty of MBTA Capital Delivery and Frank Astone of AECOM (contracted by the MBTA to deliver a design for the Natick Center MBTA Station) to provide an update on the project. A “working group” has been established to help coordinate this project and will meet roughly monthly over the course of this approximately 18-month design process. This heavily used, fully inaccessible commuter rail station will be upgraded to full ADA compliance with new wayfinding and signage, safety and security enhancements, good bus connections, bike facilities, and pedestrian access, etc. Public meetings will be held by the Transportation Advisory Committee at the 15%, 30%, and 60% design milestones to keep the public up to date with periodic updates to the Board of Selectmen, other town committees, and stakeholders.
6. **Continued Public Hearing: Lookout Hard Cider LLC:** This public hearing was opened at the May 30th Selectmen’s meeting and continued to this evening at the request of Lookout Hard Cider. John Burns, the farm manager, presented on behalf of the farm to amend both its pouring and entertainment licenses. Also present was Attorney Jim Hanrahan, representing the Farm. The request for the entertainment license was to extend the time that live entertainment is allowed in the tap room by one hour, i.e., from 12 noon-8:00 p.m. to 12 noon-9:00 p.m. The Selectmen initially voted on the incorrect hours so that vote was reconsidered and a new motion was made by Ms. Salamoff and seconded by Mr. Hickey after the public hearing was closed to amend the hours that entertainment would be allowed in the tap room to 12 noon-9:00 p.m.; the Board voted 4-0-0 in favor. Lookout Farm is looking to use an additional, existing patio space during the U-Pick Season (five weekends from mid-September to mid-October plus Columbus Day Monday, or 11 days), when 85% of their yearly farm business occurs. The Selectmen discussed not restricting use of this patio but there was also discussion about not expanding the Farm’s request without the knowledge of its neighbors. Mr. Jennett recommended licensing the new patio for the months of September and October. No members of the public came forward to speak on behalf of or against the Farm’s request. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Mr. Hickey, the public hearing was closed on a vote of 4-0-0. Two motions were put forth, the first by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, to allow use of the requested patio area for the months of September and October, weekends and holidays only, and the second by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Freedman, to allow for use of the second patio during the U-Pick Season, i.e., from mid-September to mid-October plus Columbus Day Monday. There was no discussion regarding the first motion. Regarding the second motion, Mr. Freedman stated that the Mr. Burns and Mr. Mofensen have typically been very good about asking for exactly

what they need, but that he thought the Farm should be able to respond to financial opportunities. The first motion passed on a vote of 3-1-0, with Ms. Salamoff the dissenting vote, allowing use of the second patio for the months of September and October, weekends and holidays only. Lt. Lauzon's recommendations will be included in the approval letter that is sent to the Farm. Ken Soderholm, a member of the Lookout Farm Advisory Committee, spoke on behalf of the Farm, stating that the Belkins, who own the Farm, have been great stewards for it. He also questioned the continued need for the Advisory Committee. Mr. Freedman suggested putting this topic on a future agenda with the possibility of having two meetings, one to get input about whether the Committee should continue and a second to make a decision about its future. Mr. Soderholm also acknowledged the recent death of Bob Eisenmenger at the age of 80 and recognized his service to the Town of Natick as a 30-year member of the Planning Board.

7. **Ben Stevens, President, Trask, Inc.: Request to Waive Street Opening Moratorium at 66 Everett Street:** Mr. Stevens requested a waiver of the moratorium in order to hook up to gas service, though the street has already been opened once to hook up to water and sewer. Mr. Hickey stated that he had discovered that, as a matter of practice, the DPW has been allowing street openings for water and sewer but not for gas. He indicated that he had gone to see the street and found it to be in somewhat poor condition. He suggested that if a vote is made to waive the moratorium, it should be subject to adopting the recommendations of the Engineering Division and that repair work be done to the street from curb to curb, ending up with a better road than currently exists. Mr. Freedman stated that though the Board is generally not in favor of waiving the moratorium, this circumstance is more acceptable since the Town will end up with a better road if that is the vote. Mr. Freedman also stated that a new policy is being developed by the DPW and that he would like to see it take effect on July 1st. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Mr. Hickey, subject to the conditions outlined above, the Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of waiving the moratorium.
8. **Terri Evans, Planning Board & Master Plan Advisory Committee Member, and/or Director of Community & Economic Development: 2030+ Master Plan Existing Conditions Report:** Ms. Evans announced that a second major meeting regarding the 2030+ Master Plan is scheduled for June 14th at the Wilson Middle School at 7:00 p.m. that will give shape to the goals and strategies of the Master Plan. Ms. Evans discussed the existing conditions report and stated that this very extensive document can be found on the 2030+ website. The MetroQuest online survey, which expanded on the Existing Conditions Report with a focus on how to move forward and what Natick should become over the next many years, was completed in May and garnered over 1400 responses, some of which, including key goals, will be presented at the June 14th meeting.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

9. **Discussion Regarding Zoning By-Law Review Committee:** Ms. White recommended that no action be taken on this matter since Ms. Mistrot, who is not present this evening, is passionate about this issue and should be present during the discussion. Ms. White did recap her memo recommending sunsetting the committee (formed in 2011 to oversee a two-phase program involving comprehensive amendments to the Zoning By-Law, with Phase I intended to create a more "user-friendly" document and Phase II intended to develop and propose amendments to the Zoning By-Law) since Phase I has been completed. The suggestion is then to allow the Planning Board, in conjunction with the Director of Community and Economic Development, assume management of the project and steer it through the approval process. Terri Evans, Planning Board Member, stressed the importance of having a robust committee constituted to make substantive changes in Phase II. Ms. Evans agreed to follow up with the Planning Board Chair regarding the possibility of the Planning Board voting on whether to sunset the committee. This item will be continued to the next meeting, and Ms. Evans agreed to follow up with the Planning Board Chair to discuss the Planning Board taking responsibility for phase II if the committee is sunsetted.
10. **Update Procedure for Signing Warrants:** Ms. Mistrot had previously requested all back-up material be provided for warrants to be signed and Ms. White informed the Board that the Comptroller's Office has agreed to do so. Mr. Freedman stated that the suggestion would be for the Board to authorize one Selectmen and one alternate Selectmen to sign all warrants, with a summary report of warrants signed provided to the Board at the following meeting. Ms. Salamoff offered an alternative proposal, i.e., that all three Board Officers be authorized to sign and on a rotating schedule. Mr. Jennett questioned the reason for the change and Mr. Freedman cited the new Municipal Modernization Act, which allows for this, and his wish to make as many procedures as possible administrative so that the Board can focus on policy setting. Mr. Jennett moved to designate the Chair, and the Vice Chair in the Chair's absence, as signers of the warrants. Mr. Hickey seconded the motion and the vote was 4-0-0 in favor.
11. **Camp Arrowhead Update:** Ms. White stated that the Commissioner of the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) and multiple other key people attended a meeting with her at Town Hall to discuss working towards finalizing a 10-year, tri-party agreement among the state (DCR), the Town of Natick, and the AmVets. A short-term agreement has been reached between the DCR and the Town until August 18th (a few weeks past the end of summer camp). A timeline has been established to finalize a Memorandum of Agreement and all parties are in agreement with its terms. It is hoped that Town Counsel and DCR Counsel will complete their review by the end of the week. A separate subagreement, which will be an attachment to the MOA,

needs to be established between the Town and AmVets that outlines the responsibilities of each in terms of maintaining the property. There is presently \$187,000 available from insurance proceeds to rebuild the camp subsequent to the 2016 fire, and the rebuilding has to be done within two years of the time of the fire, i.e., July 2018, or the Town will not be eligible for further insurance money. An RFP has been compiled and the hope is to bring this to the Board's next meeting for approval and authorization. A key question that still needs to be settled is whether the AmVets has adequate insurance. Ms. White will negotiate the subagreement and Mr. Freedman expressed interest in ensuring that the AmVets has their attorney involved in the process.

12. **2017-2018 Board of Selectmen Meeting Dates: July 2017-March 2018**: Mr. Freedman requested that the Board Members review the schedule provided and report back if there is any issue with any of the dates.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR NOTES: None.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS:

Mr. Hickey recommended the Board send a follow-up letter to MassDOT to reiterate concerns, restate expectations, and ensure that citizens' concerns are addressed regarding the Routes 27 and 9 Project. Mr. Hickey shared with the Board that Framingham voted to support legislation that would impose a 5-cent deposit on nip bottles, discussed this with the Sustainability Coordinator who will look into it, and recommended the Town explore this. Mr. Hickey reported that the island on Route 27 North between Stop & Shop and Austin's Liquors, where the grass is currently 3 feet high, needs to be maintained by MassDOT, and he has requested that they send a crew there and to Oak Street to clean up.

Ms. Salamoff inquired about the Fire Chief Screening Committee meeting. Ms. White stated it is scheduled for Wednesday, June 14th, when the Committee will organize and select its officers as well as review and approve an RFP, with recommendations readied to provide the Board.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board, on a roll call vote, voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 10:38 p.m.



Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Clerk

June 12, 2017 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes Approved by the Board of Selectmen on June 26, 2017.

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All documents used at this Board of Selectmen meeting are available at:
<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=416&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agenda>