



**Board of Selectmen
Minutes
Tuesday, April 25, 2017 at 7:00pm
Town Hall Meeting Room**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Vice Chair Stu Sklar in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Selectmen Lucy Wallace, Alice von Loesecke and Kara McGuire Minar were in attendance as well as Town Administrator Tim Bragan, Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet.

Minutes

On a Wallace/von Loesecke motion, the board voted to accept minutes of 4/4, as presented. Minar abstained.

Appointments

Council on Aging member Beth Williams introduced Carol Lee Tonge for appointment to the CoA. She indicated the board has voted to recommend her. On a von Loesecke/Wallace motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint Carol Lee Tonge to the Council on Aging.

Elm Commission Chair Bill Calderwood introduced Matthew Shields for appointment. On a Wallace/ von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint Matthew Shields to the Elm Commission.

Town Administrator report

Bragan gave an update on events being held at the Unitarian Universalist Church in April and May.

Bragan reported the state is still working on their budget. They have made amendments which have some fiscal impact. He continues to follow their progress. He said the house has started review of their budgets and the Senate's will be out the second week of May and complete by June.

Bragan announced the Community Transit Grant Program is available for enhancing mobility of seniors and individuals with disabilities.

Bragan asked the board to choose a date for the Strategic Planning Session. They decided on Tuesday, June 23rd from 9:00am to 12:00pm. He asked members to send him their top three goals for the coming year by May 12th.

Bragan announced the town audit is complete. The auditors along with Finance Director David Nalchajian will review the report at an upcoming meeting.

Bragan asked the board to approve the street sweeping company for this spring.

On a Wallace/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to approve Hi-Way Sweeping for \$912 per day April 30th through June 15th.

Sobalvarro asked the board to officially vote items left at the old library as surplus. She has notified all town and school departments of the items. On a Wallace/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to declare items surplus.

Electric aggregation next steps

Energy Advisory Committee (HEAC) member Eric Broadbent was present to review the next steps for community choice aggregation (CCA). He indicated with the vote taken at last year's fall town

meeting the town has approved moving forward with the CCA (taking over electric supplier) for residents and businesses. He explained this would essentially replace the utilities procurement process and provide a less expensive option for residents than National Grid. National Grid will continue as the distributor of electricity. Broadbent explained not only can a CCA provide less expensive electricity it can also provide cleaner energy choices. Sobalvarro will facilitate the Request for Proposals (RFP) process for selection of a broker. Broadbent said the HEAC held interviews and voted to recommend Good Energy. He added the Metropolitan Area Planning commission has drafted an RFP we could use as a guide however the RFP process is not required. Bragan and Sobalvarro agree following an RFP process will benefit the town. Broadbent talked about public education of the program including informing residents/businesses how they can opt-out of the CCA.

Public Communication

Molly Cutler asked when trees cut by National Grid will be cleaned up. Von Loesecke said National Grid recently cleared debris near her property and was told the logging trucks would be coming through town.

License requests

Schools Trust – Hootenanny – Entertainment license with carry-in

On a Wallace/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to approve an entertainment license for the Hootenanny to be held on the second floor of Town Hall on Saturday, May 6th.

Harvard Lions Club - Volksfest

On a von Loesecke/Wallace motion, the board voted unanimously to approve licenses (entertainment & one-day liquor) for September 16th with a rain date of September 30th.

Minuteman Road Club – Ken Harrod Memorial Road Race

On a Wallace/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to approve a one-day license for the Minuteman Road Clubs beer garden on Saturday, June 3rd from 11:00am to 3:00pm.

Quarry Lane gift of land

On a Wallace/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to endorse.

Harvard General Store – all alcohol license

On a Wallace/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to sign the license.

Transfer Station punch card fees

Sobalvarro proposed some adjustments to the punch card fee structure. The board will act on the changes at their next meeting. Von Loesecke asked about the progress for accepting electronic payments for punch cards at the Transfer Station. Bragan is working on this. At the request of the Harbormaster Bob O’Shea he will also investigate this for purchase of beach stickers at the beach as well.

Special Town Meeting

On a Wallace/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to call a Special Town Meeting at 7pm on June 13th in the Cronin Auditorium

Priorities for free cash

Board members discussed monies moving to the capital fund. A more specific plan will be decided upon.

Communication plan

Von Loesecke and Wallace met to discuss the board's goal to improve outreach to the public. Von Loesecke provided a draft plan which included goals, components and process. She acknowledged her draft was very detailed and suggested further discussions to determine which areas make sense for us. This will be an item for more discussion at the Strategic Planning Session. They all agreed communication between boards/committees/departments needs improvement.

Meeting schedule

The board members decided to hold regular meetings on June 6th, June 20th, July 11th and August 1st. They will hold their annual Strategic Planning Session on Tuesday, May 23rd from 9:00am-12:00pm.

Resignations

On a Wallace/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to accept resignations of Greg Schmidt, Kara Minar, Debra VanderWerf and Ray Dunn and send letters of thanks.

Reorganization

Wallace nominated Minar for Clerk. The board voted unanimously for Minar.

Wallace nominated von Loesecke for Vice Chair. The board voted unanimously for von Loesecke.

Minar nominated Wallace for Chair. The board voted unanimously for Wallace.

Wallace said she is unable to serve on the Hildreth Elementary School Building Committee. She asked Vice Chair von Loesecke to serve in her place.

Selectmen reports

Wallace noted reading the Master Plan prior to the Strategic Planning Session would be helpful.

Wallace announced the Arm in Arm group is having a speaker at Fruitlands Museum Friday evening and encourages Selectmen to attend. She believes the topic of his talk is racial discrimination.

Wallace announced that Nashua River Watershed Association, which is leading the current Wild and Scenic River Study of the Nashua River and its main tributaries is holding its first public meeting Thursday in Groton at 7 PM.

Wallace asked Bragan to add accessibility to the application to join the community compact.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:42pm.

Documents referenced:

Vol forms – Tonge 3.26.2017 Sheilds 4.11.2017

CCA updated – 2.28.2017

General license forms – Hootenanny 3.30.2017, Volksfest 3.21.2017, Ken Harrod 3.27.2017

Draft Communication Plan – 4.4.2017

Resignation letters – Schmidt 4.4.2017, Minar 4.5.2017,

VanderWerf 4.11.2017, Dunn 4.19.2017