



**Select Board
Minutes
Tuesday, November 6, 2018 at 7:00pm
Town Hall Meeting Room, Harvard, MA**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Lucy Wallace at the Town Hall. Select Board members Kara Minar and Alice von Loesecke were in attendance as well as Town Administrator Tim Bragan and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet. Stu Sklar was absent.

Citizens Petition

Resident Theresa Hoggins, 99 Ann Lee Road, requested time on the agenda to explain her citizens petition to ban marijuana establishments in Harvard. She has been working with other residents in town who share in her concerns. Hoggins is asking for the community to have more discussion on the topic in an effort to protect the youth of Harvard and the town overall. She offered statistics and expressed concerns on how harmful marijuana can be to young adults, troubling health effects, states that have legalized marijuana such as California and Colorado experiencing an increase in the black-market, no mechanism to test for impairment and potency of edible products. She equates the marijuana market to the 60s when “Joe Camel” was used to entice youth to purchase tobacco products. After speaking with residents at the Transfer Station collecting signatures, Hoggins quickly learned many residents did not fully understand exactly what they voted for. She admitted not being in attendance at the town meetings when this topic was discussed and vote on. Hoggins is fully aware of the process that has taken place since 2016 to institute the current bylaw however she believes the vote for construction of the new school overshadowed this very important issue. She is asking the Select Board to consider voting on a total ban or allow votes on each individual license type. She indicated Stow and Groton have taken this approach. She also asked the Select Board to consider holding off on granting a Community Host Agreement until a town meeting discussion/debate can occur.

Von Loesecke noted the Select Board has to be cautious and fully understand consequences for votes taken. Minar was sensitive to concerns expressed and too was disappointed the moratorium was not passed. She shares similar concerns Hoggins has about a retail shop in town. Minar did indicate additional revenue generation is appealing considering the new school project. Wallace directed Hoggins to the Planning Board for guidance on zoning changes.

Park & Recreation Commission

Chair Doug Thornton and field liaison Joseph Reynolds came to discuss better communication and guidance with respect to field jurisdiction. The commission has formed an Athletic Field Planning sub-committee. Reynolds explained the general idea for the sub-committee is to collect data to build a functional model that will eventually be accessible by all user groups. Once the data is collected they will begin to work on field maintenance. The Select Board members reminded them to include available fields located in Devens. Once they have the data compiled they will work on field maintenance and management. They will provide updates on their progress to the Select Board.

Metro West Collaborative Development

Community & Economic Development Director Chris Ryan summarized some of the challenges communities face due to the influences of Chapter 40B. He explained the Metro West Collaborative assists communities’ in managing housing inventory ensuring units do not expire. They assist in progress towards 10% minimum local housing goals, regulatory proactivity and assistance in creating a housing production plan that will lay out housing policy. Ryan recommends the town participate in this regional approach that allows access to quality housing services at a lower cost than Harvard could obtain on its own. He will incorporate this into the FY20 budget if the Select Board Minutes

Select Board is supportive of the idea. The board was receptive and asked if he could confirm they also assist with affordable unit resales and maintaining a list of those interested in affordable housing in town.

Public communication

Suzanne Daines, 82 Warren Ave, is a physician at Children's Hospital and appreciates Hoggins concerns. She also feels the process is frustrating and flawed. She wants to raise awareness about legalization of marijuana. Daines has concerns about where the town is headed and supports more discussion on this topic as a community.

Von Loesecke offered some clarification on the bylaw adopted by the town. She explained only one license can be granted and that license cannot be expanded or changed without approval from the town.

Wallace added traditionally zoning articles are always handled toward the end of town meetings therefore even though they are so important many residents do not participate in votes with respect to them.

Will Engler, 3 Babbit Lane, asked about the section in the host agreement that refers to the benefit to the community and who is involved with drafting the language. He asked what their next best move is.

Seth Arakelian, 10 Jacob Gates Road, asked why votes were taken so quickly. He is disappointed there was not a moratorium as in other towns. He requested the issue not be compounded by rushing into future decisions.

Lisa Engler, 3 Babbit Lane, also spoke in support of Hoggins. She understands traditionally zoning is handled at the end of town meetings but with this being unchartered territory maybe it warrants a change in tradition. She too has spoken with residents who are shocked to find out about marijuana establishments in Harvard. Admittedly, she said many realize they were not paying proper attention to such an important matter and ask the Select Board to pause and slow down.

Ken Hoggins, 99 Ann Lee Road, attended recent Park & Recreation Commission meetings and had some questions related to playing fields. He asked about the budget amount allocated for fields and how many DPW employees are assigned to field maintenance. He has witnessed situations during games when the field conditions were dangerous. He echoes many citizen concerns about field conditions.

Minutes

On a Minar/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to approve minutes of 10/16, as presented.

On a Minar/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the executive session minutes of 10/16, as presented.

Town administrator report

- Assistant Town Administrator informed Bragan the Old Library Building will be turned over to the contractor, Rinaldi, Inc., on Monday November 26, 2018. The current tenants are being notified.
- Harvard's two home rule requests from the spring were filed by Representative Benson and they are HD5218: An Act Authorizing the Town of Harvard to Establish a Cap on Property Taxes for Means Tested Senior Citizens and HD5219: An Act Amending the Act Establishing a Finance department in the Town of Harvard (see attached).
- Filming update: Little Women – it's a wrap here in Harvard and now the clean-up and tear down begins. Netflix continues to film in Town and the next date is the 8th with prep on Wednesday.
- The Harvard Energy Assistance Team (HEAT) program has started to take applications for the 2018-2019 winter heating season. Applications can be obtained from the Harvard web site and from the COA Director, Debbie Thompson

- Joanne Ward, Conservation Commission member, has completed 8 units of the Massachusetts Association of Conservation Commissions (MACC) Fundamentals for Massachusetts Conservation Commissioners training program (See attached).
- He distributed a current list of Boards/Committees vacancies.
- The WWI Memorial Rededication Ceremony is this coming Sunday at 11AM
- Final reminder that the open meeting law training is November 15th at Cronin Auditorium from 5:30-7:30PM you do need to register by calling 617-963-2925
- Town Hall will be closed on Friday, November 23, 2018 as employees will be using their Paid Time Off.
- Initial interviews for the Finance Director are underway and he expects the Select Board to do interviews and make a selection at your meeting on the 20th.
- Mass DOT has informed us that we are receiving an additional \$69,910 for FY2019 Chapter 90
- The Conservation Commission sent a letter to the Town of Bolton concerning a 40B application on the Town Line. Land Use Administrator/Conservation Agent, Liz Allard, has put together some information on the proposed project if you have questions or want to comment.
- MUNIS software is encountering problems with the accounts payable portion and will need to be upgraded. A reserve fund transfer from the Finance Committee may be able to solve a number of issues for under \$10,000. On a Minar/von Loesecke motion, the board voted unanimously to approve reserve fund transfer for Munis software update.

Select Board reports

Wallace is working with Finance Committee member Jennifer Finch to set up a volunteer fair.

Von Loesecke thanked the Harvard Press for her straight from the board article. She intends to do this once a month and looks to her fellow members for ideas on issues to write about and maybe even ideas on coming attractions.

Von Loesecke reported the Capital Planning & Investment Committee has begun their review process and have met with the DPW and Ambulance thus far.

Minar reported the Municipal Vulnerability Program (MVP) is working on a survey.

Minar said the Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee has met with MassDevelopment to go over the committee charge however a new president has not be selected to replace Thatcher Kezer. Wallace said they have also met with Senator Eldridge and Rep. Benson along with Shirley and Ayer. They are beginning outreach by sending a memo out to all departments, boards and committees.

Wallace reported the Old Library accessibility project will begin at the end of November.

Wallace said the Housing @ Hildreth House Committee is waiting on the Fire Station traffic study results. Lucy old

The meeting was adjourned at 8:40pm.

Documents referenced:

Hoggins write up – dated 11.1.2018

Park & Rec handout – dated 11.1.2018

Metro West Collaborative write up – dated 11.6.2018