

The Select Board Regular Meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A. S.20.

## **Select Board participants:**

Rich Maiore, Erin McBee, Kara Minar, Don Ludwig, Charles Oliver

# **Town Department attendees:**

Town Administrator Tim Bragan, Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro, Executive Assistant Julie Doucet

### Additional participants:

Julia Kimball, HEAC Chair Brian Smith, HCTV Chair Nick Browse, HCTV Station Manager Brittany Blaney-Anderson, Bill Ference

#### **Bella Butterflies 5K Run**

Bromfield Senior Julia Kimball came seeking permission to organize a 5k run in Harvard to bring awareness to mental health. She will use the same route as the Jessie 5k starting and ending at the Bromfield School traveling on Warren Ave and Tahanto Trail. Kimball is requesting approve for Monday, October 10<sup>th</sup> as it is World Mental Health Day. The board was supportive of the event to be held on October 10<sup>th</sup> pending review and approval of the date by the Police Chief.

## **Quarterly update from the Energy Advisory Committee**

Committee Chair Brian Smith gave on overview of the committees ongoing goals/initiatives which included actions, status, and next steps in the following areas:

- Create a decarbonization plan to reduce emissions
- Convert municipal buildings from carbon-based fuel to electric heating
- Convert municipal vehicles to electric/low carbon options
- Install electric charging stations
- Continue to pursue Green Community grant opportunities
- Renewable Electricity: Install solar photovoltaic systems energy supply
- Utilize National Grid program to replace streetlights with LED fixtures

Erin McBee asked if they have met with the Building Inspector to discuss initiatives related to the municipal buildings. Smith said the committee intends to invite the inspector to attend an upcoming meeting. Smith explained with the abundance of grant opportunities for green initiatives they are finding it difficult to identify the best program for the appropriate project. He also noted the infrastructure is not quite ready to handle some of their initiatives therefore focus to goals that are attainable and of overall priority will be their overall approach. He mentioned the streetlight program is ongoing and residents can request removal of a streetlight if it is not necessary.

## Meet with the Cable Committee to discuss shared initiatives moving forward

Chair Nick Browse was grateful for the opportunity to attend. He offered his input along with input from Station Manager Brittany Blaney-Anderson. He began speaking about funding the town receives from Charter Communications through resident subscriptions as part of the Public, Educational, and

Select Board Minutes 1 September 6, 2022

Governmental Access Channels (PEG). They have noticed a reduction in the contribution amount over the past couple of years. He reported representatives from HCTV will be involved when the new contract with Charter Communications is negotiated. Browse spoke about the increase of governmental access due to the pandemic and need for remote meeting support which also caused an increase in wages. They plan to install equipment in the new Council on Aging building to support programming there. Browse expects more of a focus on public programming moving forward. Rich Maiore acknowledged and thanked the committee for all their efforts.

#### **Public Communication**

Ellen Leicher, Arm & Arm Rep., asked the board to support the change of the Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day to mirror what the school department has already done.

James O'Leary, Candleberry Lane, as president of the Harvard Youth Soccer Association he thanked Rich Maiore for visiting the fields.

Suraiya Suliman, Arm & Arm Rep., supported earlier comments made by Ellen Leicher.

#### **Entertainment License for the Fall Festival**

Executive Assistant Julie Doucet said this was overlooked at the last meeting when the one-day liquor license was approved for the Lions Club Fall Festival. Both were on the same application request. By a roll call vote, Oliver – aye, Ludwig – aye, Minar – aye, McBee – aye, Maiore – aye, the board voted to approve an entertainment license for the Fall Festival.

## **Discuss changing Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples Day**

Rich Maiore reminded the board of the vote taken at town meeting to make this change. He noted the vote was nonbinding however important for the board to recognize this take action either way. By a roll call vote, McBee – aye, Minar – aye, Ludwig – aye, Oliver – aye, Maiore – aye, the board voted unanimously to make the change.

## Update on Innholders license request from the new owners of Friendly Crossways

Town Administrator Tim Bragan reported Bill Ference the new owner of Friendly Crossways has submitted an application for an innholders license. Bragan stated the application requires approvals from various town departments. Once all requirements have been met the Select Board will be informed. Bragan plans to schedule a meeting with Mr. Ference and the relevant town departments allowing him to go over his plans and an opportunity for the town to inform him of what permitting and licensing is required. Bill Ference was expecting the license that was granted to the previous owners through the end of 2022 could simply be transferred to him to assist with the transition. He has begun working with an architect and civil engineer to address the requirement for a commercial kitchen and septic systems. He is 100% committed to following the necessary procedures.

## Mill Pond Estates 40B project site walk

Erin McBee was able to attend the site walk. She was informed the developer is amendable to increase the comment period by 15 days. Those who were unable to attend the walk asked if another site visit could be scheduled as well. Tim Bragan will draft a letter to Mass Housing regarding both of these requests. They also discussed sharing this project information with the Municipal Affordable Housing Trust.

Select Board Minutes 2 September 6, 2022

#### **Discuss Devens Cap legislation update**

The Select Board members asked Town Administrator Tim Bragan to draft a letter to Senator Eldridge and Rep. Sena to clarify their comments regarding updated legislative language to expand the Devens Commercial Development Cap.

## **Review draft Town Meeting Warrant**

Tim Bragan reviewed the seven articles. The only article in question was the expansion of the common historic district to include the Bromfield House. The Select Board members were not clear on the reasoning behind this and had further questions. Bragan will seek additional information for a more detailed discussion at their September 20<sup>th</sup> meeting. By a roll call vote, McBee – aye, Oliver – aye, Minar - aye, Ludwig – aye, Maiore – aye, the board voted unanimously to approve the warrant for Saturday, October 1, 2022.

## **Select Board Reports**

Erin McBee reported the Town of Groton is seeking a similar administrative assistant position for Land Use and the salary is significantly higher.

Charles Oliver sent an email to Arielle Jennings, Chair of the MAHT, about the Mill Rd 40B project. look

Rich Maiore reported the Open Space Committee and Park & Rec walked potential sites for ballfields which met certain size and topography.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:50.

Documents referenced:
Bell Butterflies 5k application – dated 7.18.2022
HEAC quarterly report – dated 9.6.2022
Innholders application w/relevant additional information included – dated 8.18.2022
Draft town meeting warrant – dated 9.6.2022