



**Select Board
Minutes**

Tuesday, August 10, 2021

7:00pm

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, An Act Relative to Extending Certain COVID-19 Measures Adopted during the State of Emergency and signed into law on June 16, 2021, this meeting was conducted via remote participation.

Select Board members present:

Stu Sklar, Alice von Loesecke, Kara Minar, Erin McBee, Rich Maiore

Town Department attendees:

Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director Marie Sobalvarro,

Additional participants:

Park & Rec Chair Bob O'Shea, HEAC member Paul Green, CRWG members Ellen Leicher & Lucy Wallace

All Boards Meeting

Select Board members agreed to hold the fall All Boards meeting on Tuesday, September 21st via Zoom. Each board/committee has been asked to forward their top three goals for the coming year to the Town Administration office by September 8th. This will allow staff to compile the items for distribution to the board members prior to the meeting. Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro is preparing a memo to be sent to all boards/committees and department heads.

Sent July 19 goals liaisons sent and posted on website.

Minutes

By a roll call vote, Maiore – aye, McBee – aye, Minar – aye, von Loesecke – aye, Sklar – aye, the board voted unanimously to approve minutes of 6/22, 7/13 & 7/19, as presented.

Public Communication

Bob O'Shea, Park & Recreation Commission Chair, spoke about issues the commission is having with ballfield maintenance and parking at the beach. He said the commission is asking to collaborate with the Select Board to brainstorm ideas on how these issues could be resolved. SB Chair Stu Sklar offered to speak with O'Shea about this and suggested it be an agenda item for the August 31st meeting.

Lucy Wallace, , announced the Congregational Church is holding a food drive on Saturday, August 21st from 10am-1pm for Loaves and Fishes.

Erin McBee announced blood donations are in high need for our area. The Worcester blood bank or Red Cross are potential sites to visit for more information on how to do this.

Staff Report/Updates

Sobalvarro reported on the items included in Attachment A.

Vaccination rates in Harvard

Sklar explained the Board of Health revised the state numbers removing the prison population that was included. The board was pleased with the high percentage of the Harvard population that has been vaccinated.

Town of Harvard Vaccination Rates based on : Population as of July 15, 2021, Vaccination data as of July 22, 2021						
Age Group	Population	Fully Vaccinated	Partially Vaccinated	% Fully Vaccinated	% Partially Vaccinated	% Total and Partially Vaccinated
0-4 years	120	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
5-11 years	371	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
12-15 years	284	214	0	75%	0%	75%
16-19 years	333	282	40	85%	12%	97%
20-29 years	705	395	50	56%	7%	63%
30-49 years	1058	829	56	78%	5%	84%
50-64 years	1370	1195	86	87%	6%	94%
65-74 years	775	640	0	83%	0%	83%
75+ years	500	360	0	72%	0%	72%
Total Vaccine Eligible 12-75+ years	5025	3915	232	78%	5%	83%
Total	5516					

Town-Wide Speed Limits/Traffic Calming Measures

Kara Minar explained in 2017 Massachusetts revised Chapter 90 Section 17C to permit local authorities in cities/towns the ability to set speed limits on municipal owned roadways town-wide. She worked with Erin McBee and other town employees to gather the data. She reported more than 38 cities/towns in MA have adopted town-wide speed limits for various reasons such as improving property values and pedestrian safety. They learned the majority of cities/towns who opted to do this set a town-wide speed limit with the average speed of 30mph. The board members support efforts to resolve the speed issue on town roadways. They decided a variable speed limit is the more practical approach considering traffic conditions on differing roadways. Minar and McBee will work with Sergeant James Babu on this and report back with a recommendation.

Town Cell Tower Review

Sklar thanked Sobalvarro for her work with Isotrope to finalize a proposal for consideration.

Sobalvarro reviewed the scope of work items included in the proposal:

- Review existing locations
- Prepare an existing coverage map
- Identify town parcels on GIS
- Provide coverage models from potential candidates, including the Bolton Road water tank site and evaluate how they would integrate with existing coverage (consider variables such as location on site and tower heights),
- Provide written report
- Meet with staff/committee/public to present findings and discuss options

The cost for this work will be \$9,450. Sobalvarro will request the project be completed by the end of November.

By a roll call vote, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, McBee – aye, Minar –aye, Sklar – aye, the board voted unanimously to approve Isotrope proposal with amendment to include the entire town.

Bromfield House

Harvard Park (possible vision for future use of the property)

Park & Recreation Commission Chair Bob O'Shea said he was approached about possible needs the commission may have for this location in the town center. O'Shea explained he came up with the Harvard Park concept from this question along with recent efforts before the commission for a pump track in town. He recalls the skateboard park discussions a few years back and thought maybe something similar to this concept could work. He noted the Leominster has skateboard equipment for free that could be utilized. O'Shea added in tennis/pickle ball courts as another additional recreation residents may enjoy. He reiterated it was just a concept and the commission needs to continue talks with the residents interested in the pump track as far as maintenance and/or the lease of the land. He included walking trails, natural borders and a dedication plaque to acknowledge the gift to the town. The board members appreciated O'Shea's efforts. The conversation evolved into the land swap idea between Park & Rec and the Conservation Commission. O'Shea said the commission met in closed about this and have some ideas. Everyone agreed all potential locations in town for additional recreation should be considered. O'Shea admitted waiting until next spring is likely too long as he expects the pump track to be finalized sooner than that. Alice von Loesecke noted the Bromfield House was donated for educational purposes therefore school sports would qualify but additional forms of recreation may not.

Climate Resiliency Working Group (CRWG) resolution

Sklar explained the CRWG and the Energy Advisory Committee (HEAC) have been working on this together. Other communities have adopted something similar at their Annual Town Meeting. This item is on the agenda for initial review and feedback. HEAC member Paul Green said the resolution is basically the goals that have been set by the state. Everyone agreed this is an important statement for the voters and citizens of Harvard to make. CRWG/HEAC member Ellen Leicher added how critical it is to address environmental impacts in all of our decisions and policies moving forward. Green emphasized how important it is we all do what we can to help reduce and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions.

The board members expressed their gratitude for the continual important work being done by the HEAC help the environment and the town with their success attaining grant funding.

Select Board Reports

Stu Sklar thanked the Garden Club for their efforts to help maintain the beauty of the Town Hall landscaping.

Stu and Alice von Loesecke commented on the recent fatality of a Harvard resident on Still River Road. They extended a heartfelt thank you to all the Fire Fighters and Police Officers who were on scene as they all did a fabulous job.

By a roll call vote, Maiore – aye, Sklar – aye, Minar – aye, McBee – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 8:40pm as per MGL 30A Sec. 21.2, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with non-union personnel. The Board will reconvene into open session only to adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05pm.

Documents referenced:

Vaccination letter from BoH – dated 7.30.2021

Bromfield Park proposal – dated 6.26.2021

Isotrope proposal – dated 7.13,2021

Draft climate/environmental resolution – dated 8.10.2021