



Posted 4.20.2023 at 3:30pm by JAD **Revised 4.24.2023**

**SELECT BOARD
AGENDA
Wednesday, April 26, 2023
7:00pm**

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

Pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023, An Act Making Appropriations for the Fiscal Year 2023 to Provide for Supplementing Certain Existing Appropriations and for Certain Other Activities and Projects, and signed into law on March 29, 2023, this meeting will be conducted via remote participation. Interested individuals can listen in and participate by phone and/or online by following the link and phone number below.

UpperTH ProWebinar is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Select Board

Time: Apr 26, 2023 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86569534648?pwd=V095bi9oMHg2ZXpFNmZFY3J2R2JkUT09>

Meeting ID: 865 6953 4648

Passcode: 480333

Find your local number: <https://us02web.zoom.us/u/kcqHsiqiD>

One tap mobile

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AGENDA ITEMS

- 1) Call meeting to order – Chair Rich Maiore
- 2) Commission on Disabilities to present findings from a town-wide survey regarding accessibility and inclusivity of town sponsored events, buildings, and recreational facilities. (7:00)
- 3) Meet with the Tree Warden to discuss tree planting and moving requests (7:10)
- 4) Meet with the 4th of July Committee Chair Anne Hentz (7:25)
- 5) Public Communication (7:45)
- 6) Approve minutes from 2/7, 3/21 & 4/4 (7:50)
- 7) Staff Report/Updates (8:00)
- 8) Action/Discussion: (8:10)
 - a) Discussion with Capital Planning & Investment Committee Chair Nate Finch on funding of the heavy duty vehicle for the Department of Public Works
 - b) Discuss steps for Bob O’Shea to serve as interim Recreation Director
 - c) Act on letter of support for the MVP Action Grant to protect 39 acres of land on Littleton County Rd
 - d) Act on one day entertainment license requests for Carlson Orchards
 - e) Act on annual entertainment license for Fivesparks
 - f) Act on recommendation from the Democratic Town Committee and the Town Clerk to appoint Robert Coit to the Board of Registrars.
 - g) **Act on letter of support for the Harvard Climate Initiative Committee MVP grant request**
- 9) Select Board Reports

***Next Regular Select Board Meeting
Tuesday, May 2, 2023
7:00pm***

**OFFICES OF THE
SELECT BOARD AND
TOWN ADMINISTRATION**

13 Ayer Road, Harvard, Massachusetts 01451
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www.harvard-ma.gov



April 26, 2023

Kara Runsten, MVP Program Manager
Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs
100 Cambridge Street, Suite 900
Boston, MA 02114

Dear Ms. Runsten,

The Town of Harvard Select Board fully supports the MVP application, Harvard Climate Implementation Plan-Phase One: Protective Bylaws and Outreach, submitted on behalf of the Town's Climate Initiative Committee. The grant request encompasses three important issues for the town: (1) bylaws updates for wetlands, erosion control around tree removal, and open space residential development; (2) outreach and education to town residents to improve their understanding of these bylaw updates; and (3) general outreach and education in regards to climate resiliency.

The Town passed a Climate Resolution in 2021 and subsequently established the Harvard Climate Initiative Committee. The Committee completed their Climate Action Plan for the town in late 2022, which was then approved by our board. The Committee is currently implementing its goals and actions, and these bylaw updates were one of the first actions the Committee identified. In addition to the bylaw updates, the Committee noted the need for significantly more outreach and education, not just on these bylaws but on resiliency in general. Some of this comes from the impacts the town is feeling from more frequent storms and other weather events.

Increased wetlands protections can combat the impacts of climate change, including extreme heat, increased precipitation, and drought. Bylaws on tree removal can combat flooding while maintaining nutrients in the soil rather than spilling them into our water systems and nearby streams. Bylaws on open space will allow for more dense housing, potentially affordable, yet protect the open space landscapes that serve to combat climate change through carbon sequestration. Before a town vote, all three of these bylaw changes must be supported with significant outreach and education. These changes are complicated and nuanced and require considerable education and public input. We also see the need for greater education and outreach on resiliency as we try to find the means to adapt to climate change.

As the Select Board, we fully support the application to MVP for this climate work. The grant will be matched 25% of in-kind services of town volunteers who sit on multiple committees that will be doing the outreach and education work of the grant. Thank you for considering funding this critical step toward meeting the Town's Climate Action Plan Goals.

Sincerely,

Timothy Bragan
Town Administrator