



**SELECT BOARD  
AGENDA  
Tuesday, May 18, 2021  
7:00pm**

**The Select Board Regular Meeting is being held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A. S.20. Interested individuals can listen in and participate by phone and/or online by following the link and phone # below.**

UpperTH ProWebinar is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Select Board

Time: May 18, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83283282870?pwd=WDJrVy9BT25HN1d5WU4yWkIMQ09HQT09>

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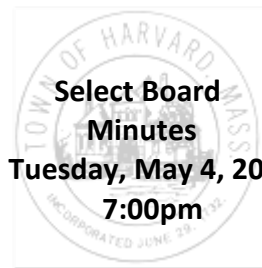
+13126266799,,123906012# US (Chicago)

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## **Agenda Items**

- 1) Follow up from the Annual Town Meeting (7:00)
- 2) Select Board and School Committee discuss employee health insurance (7:10)
- 3) Public Communication (7:40)
- 4) Approve minutes of 5/4 (7:45)
- 5) Staff Report/Updates; to include more details on ARPA (American Rescue Plan)and CARES Acts (7:50)
- 6) Action/Discussion items: (8:05)
  - a) Appoint Ideation Committee reps. from other boards:  
Bob O'Shea Park & Rec, SusanMary Redinger School Committee & Charles Oliver  
Finance Committee
  - b) Discuss next steps for the annual appointment process; schedule any necessary interviews
  - c) Discuss Diversity Statement
  - d) Act on request from the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church for use of tree for their  
Remembrance Ribbon Project in honor of Memorial Day
  - e) Approve award of the Ginny Thurston Scholarship
  - f) Act on Town Administrator contract
  - g) Strategic Planning Session preparations
- 7) Select Board Reports

***Next Regular Select Board Meeting  
Tuesday, June 1, 2021  
7:00pm***



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:**

Alice von Loesecke, Kara Minar, Stu Sklar, Lucy Wallace, Rich Maiore

**Town Department attendees:**

Town Administrator Tim Bragan, Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director Marie Sobalvarro, Executive Assistant Julie Doucet

**Additional participants:**

Board of Health Chair Sharon McCarthy, Kate Lucey

**Mosquito Spraying Opt Out Hearing**

Board of Health (BoH) Chair Sharon McCarthy began by thanking Community & Economic Development Director Chris Ryan, DPW Director Tim Kilhart, Town Administrator Tim Bragan and BoH Admin Alison Flynn for their help to complete the opt-out application.

McCarthy explained studies have proven there is no efficacy of large – scale mosquito spraying in locations such as Harvard that have a heavily forested and rural landscape thus why the action is being taken to opt-out of the state aerial spraying program. She noted the Board of Health has always been very active with educational outreach to residents on the best ways to protect themselves. McCarthy said included in the opt-out application is a detailed outreach plan based on varying risk levels.

The Select Board members wondered what may happen if a public health emergency was declared due to a case of triple EEE being identified in Harvard. McCarthy said the likelihood of that happening is slim and spraying has not been proven to protect residents and may even provide a false sense of security. The board members thanked the Board of Health for a clear application with good support as to why mosquito spraying is not a desirable option for the town of Harvard when it comes to mosquito control.

There was no additional public comment.

By a roll call vote, Minar – aye, Lucy Wallace – aye, Rich Maiore – aye, Stu Sklar – aye, Alice von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously on Tuesday, May 4, 2021 at 7:00pm to opt-out of mosquito spraying and any other aerial or other mosquito control spraying conducted by the SRMCB.

**Agricultural Preservation Restriction (APR) Community Harvest Project property**

Town Administrator Tim Bragan reported this property was given to the Community Harvest Project to raise fresh produce for donation to the Worcester and other food banks in the area. He understands the Conservation Commission is working on the details of this restriction. By a roll call vote, Minar – aye, Sklar – aye, Wallace – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to approve APR for the community harvest property.

## Minutes

By a roll call vote, Minar – aye, Wallace – aye, Sklar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to approve the 4/20 minutes, as presented.

## Staff Report/Updates

- US Army Restoration Advisory Board (RAB) on the Former Fort Devens Environmental Cleanup Project will hold next meeting Thursday, May 20, at 6:30pm.
- The Massachusetts Select Board Association and MIIA will co-host a free webinar on May 12, 2021 from 11:30AM-1:00PM to discuss codes of conduct for town boards and committees. Advanced registration is required and is open up to an hour before the start of the webinar. Here is a link to register [Webinar Registration - Zoom](#)
- We had 24 firms request the packets for the DPW RFQ. Eight companies showed up for the non-mandatory walkthrough at the DPW last week for the pre-bid walkthrough the Permanent Building Committee held in conjunction with the DPW Facility Assessment and RFQ that is out for Planners/Architects to respond.
- Three letters of interest have been received for the Ginny Thurston Scholarship. They will be holding a video awards ceremony on Tuesday, June 1st. A video can be submitted or a member of the school staff will present the award on our behalf. The official vote to award the scholarship based on recommendation will be on the May 18th meeting agenda.
- Executive Assistant Julie Doucet is working on the annual appointments so that the Board can set up future meetings/interviews.
- The DPW truck, that was surplus by the Board, has sold for \$13.5k.
- Isotope is back (the point people had been otherwise detained for Feb & March), and we are awaiting their proposal.
- There are no new updates on the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) guidelines. They say more information will be forthcoming in the couple of weeks. We are allowing DPW workers to ride two people in a single vehicle and they are required to wear masks.

## Budget Update:

- The House passed their budget (see attached article and MTF report) and it did not change the Cherry Sheet from the last adjustment (see attached).
- We are working on re-opening the TIOLI section of the transfer station and are looking for volunteers to help initially in order to make sure the guidelines are followed and that non-approved items are not left. Volunteers will be necessary to help when the area opens initially.
- We are making progress on the “Dump Dollars” an electronic payment system to be used alongside of the punch cards. Julie Doucet is doing a great job on this and is working with Marie Sobalvarro, Bob O’Shea, and the Finance Department to work out the details.
- With Town Meeting just over a week away (Saturday, May 15, 2021 @ 12noon) here is some information you should know:
  - The tent is going up on Sunday due to how busy the tent company is.
  - Julie has notified the School AD and park and Recreation who have been great about moving or rescheduling practices/games. Julie also tried to get the company to change the date of erecting the tent but they are just out straight with demand for tents.
  - Celebration is using the tent on Friday and will be setting up chairs, tables, podium... etc. when they are done.

- Chairs will be 3 feet apart this time and masks will still be required.
- The two other tents will again be for couples and non-mask people.
- Hard copies of the Town Reports and Town Warrants will be available at Town Meeting.

### **Resin cost adjustment for Transfer Station bags**

Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro estimates a \$4000 increase for the cost of bags for the coming year. She reported the Finance Committee had included \$5000 in the budget even though the Select Board voted no free bags for seniors this year. All agreed it makes sense to utilize those funds to cover the increase in costs for the bags.

### **Still River Little Library**

Resident Kate Lucey was able to show the little library that is being placed in the town right of way at the intersection of Still River and Still River Depot Roads. By a roll call vote, Minar – aye, Wallace – aye, Sklar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to approve use of the right of way in Still River.

### **Annual Town Meeting Summary of Warrant Articles (Attachment A)**

The Select Board takes votes on their support for articles and they decide which member will speak to articles submitted by them.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Minar – aye, Sklar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to support articles 1, 2 and 3.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Minar – aye, Sklar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to support articles 4, 5, 6 and 7.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Sklar – aye, Minar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to support article 8.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Minar – aye, Sklar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to support article 9.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Minar – aye, Sklar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to support article 10.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Minar – aye, Sklar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to support articles 1, 2 and 3.

### **Article 11: Disposition of Bromfield House Building and Property**

Discussion ensued on this article:

Alice von Loesecke is not in favor of moving the house. She prefers the house and land be sold together. She respects the view of those who do not want to give up town land but fiscally she believes selling both together makes the most sense.

Lucy Wallace, Stu Sklar and Kara Minar maintain their position that town owned land especially in the center is an important and valuable asset. They believe it is their fiduciary responsibility as elected town officials to be prudent with town assets. They also agree a proper entrance into town is significant. Bromfield House Committee member Rich Maiore is sensitive and cautious about what can legal be

done with any proceeds from the sale. He highlighted the committee's approach to institute a two year time frame to see what happens.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Sklar – aye, Minar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – nay (4-1), the board voted to dispose of the house and/or the improvements thereon known as the Bromfield House at 39 Massachusetts Avenue, Harvard, Massachusetts by sale, conveyance, transfer, or another method of disposition; and b) raise and appropriate, borrow, or transfer from available funds a sum of money, to be spent by the Select Board, for the costs related to the disposition of said land and/or improvements, or pass any vote or votes in relation thereto.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Minar – aye, Sklar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to support articles 12 & 13.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Minar – aye, Sklar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to support article 14.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Minar – aye, Sklar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to support articles 15, 16 and 17.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Sklar – aye, Minar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to support articles 18 & 19.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Minar – aye, Sklar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to support article 20.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Minar – aye, Sklar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to support article 21.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Sklar – aye, Minar – aye, Maiore – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to support article 23.

### **Select Board reports**

Kara Minar did not have any specific reports but made note of a couple of items:

- 1) The Library Trustees have expressed concerns with the internet service being provided by Charter Communications.
- 2) Still River residents have met with Tim Bragan to discussion options regarding the speed sign unit.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Maiore – aye, Sklar – aye, Minar – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to enter into executive session at 9:05pm as per MGL 30A Sec. 21.3 to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open an open meeting will have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position. Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; to actually conduct collective bargaining and contract negotiations with non-union personnel. The Board will reconvene into open session only to adjourn.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm

Documents referenced:

Mosquito Opt-Out application – dated 5.4.2021

MDAR letter – date November 2020

Waste Zero letter – March 30, 2021

## Summary of new volunteer forms

Committee/Board	Name	Term
Bare Hill Pond	Ben Barron	3 year
CPC	Arielle Jennings	3 year
CPIC (Capital Planning)	Jeffrey Lin	3 year
Conservation Commission	Bob Douglas	3 year
	Brian Sage	
	Dan Tracey	
Cultural Council	Ellen Harasimowicz	3 year
	Timothy Schmoyer	
	Marijke Vallaey	
	Shannon Kinayman	
Elm Commission	Chuck Christensen	3 year
Finance Committee	Christina Williams	Moderator appoints
Park & Recreation	Marisa Steele	3 year
Planning Board	Susan Hansen (withdrew)	3 year
Multiple Areas of Interest		
Jeffrey Lin	Michael Silva	Arielle Jennings

### Relevant notes:

- BHPWMC & Elm Commission; names above would fill an existing vacancy not one created by a member not seeking reappointment.
- CPC, Cultural Council, Elm Commission and Park & Recreation provided recommendations for the names you see in the list above.
- The Conservation Commission will vote on a recommendation at their May 20<sup>th</sup> meeting.
- Planning Board – Hansen vol form came in 5/4. They have not yet met with her.





Message

Wed, May 12, 2021 7:34 PM

From: krausemary@gmail.com  
To: Alice von Loesecke <avonloesecke@gmail.com>  
Cc: Julie Doucet tbragan@harvard.ma.us

Subject: Re: Remembrance Ribbons

Thank you! Is there anything else you need from me?

On Wed, May 12, 2021 at 4:41 PM Alice von Loesecke <[avonloesecke@gmail.com](mailto:avonloesecke@gmail.com)> wrote:

Hi Mary,

What a lovely idea! I think the Select Board can vote on this at our next full meeting on May 18th, which should give you time to arrange everything, I hope?

I have copied Tim and Julie for agenda purposes.

Alice

> On May 11, 2021, at 5:16 PM, Mary Krause <[krausemary@gmail.com](mailto:krausemary@gmail.com)> wrote:

>

>

>

> Hello,

> I am writing to you as a member of the Worship Committee for the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church.. (HUUC) We were planning a Remembrance Ribbon project in honor of Memorial Day. The plan is to hang ribbons on a tree near the HUUC with the names or phrases of things from this past year that we would like to honor or remember. The tree is a small chestnut near the pathway entrance to the church on Elm St.

>

> I have just learned that the land around the church belongs to the Town and was advised to check with the Select Board about this project. We will store a box of Ribbons near the Church portico and the project will be open to HUUC and anyone who wishes to hang a ribbon to honor or remember. We can post a small sign inviting anyone who wants to hang a ribbon to do so.

>

> I will be responsible for removing all the ribbons by July 1.

>

> We hope to have the ribbons ready by this Sunday so that people can start hanging their ribbons before our service on Memorial day.

>

> I am happy to speak to you if you have any questions or concerns.

>

> Are there any other steps that we should take?

>

> Thank you for your time and for your service.