

MOTIONS

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

Present: Stephanie O’Keeffe, Jim Wald, Alisa Brewer, Aaron Hayden, Diana Stein

Staff: John P. Musante, Town Manager;

Other: BID Executive Director Alex Krogh-Grabbe; Ann Lowell; and Larry Kelley.

Meeting called to order by Ms. O’Keeffe at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comment

Larry Kelley expressed concern regarding what he deemed as the excessive the number of ambulance responses at a recent Mullins Center event, urging the Town to do more to address the situation with the University.

Ann Lowell reported having received a parking ticket in the lower level of the Boltwood Garage during the snowstorm while using a handicapped parking placard; the Select Board recommended she appeal the ticket.

Mt. Holyoke Range Advisory Committee

Elisa Campbell, one of the Town’s representatives to the Committee, reported on the function of the Advisory Committee. The Select Board agreed without formal vote that it would be helpful to add the formal narrative, as presented by the Advisory Committee, to the Town website as a way of informing potential candidates about the Committee’s mission.

Ms. Stein and Brewer will look into possibility of posting similar descriptions for other non-Town committees to which Amherst appoints representatives and consider and offer recommendations on other logistical issues, including how to categorize these committees on the web site and whether they are subject to the same ethics training and Open Meeting law requirements as Town committees.

Tibet Day and Request to Raise Tibetan Flag

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to recognize March 10, 2013 as Tibet Day in the Town of Amherst, as proclaimed by the Select Board on February 27, 2012, and to permit the Tibetan National Flag to fly under the United Nations flag on the North Common on March 10, 2013.

Election Warrants

The Select Board agreed without formal vote to not put forth a non-binding referendum question on the April 9, 2013 Annual Town Election ballot in regard to the flying of commemorative flags on September 11, 2013, as had been requested by Larry Kelley. Select Board members noted while there were benefits of moving forward, including the ability to gauge additional public sentiment, as well as the potential to put the matter to rest, sentiment against moving forward prevailed, specifically a lack of due consideration by the Select Board in relation to using its ballot authority in such a manner and furthermore, the expectation of how the results would be used. Also cited was the lateness of the request in relation to need for creation and approval of ballot language in one week. It was also noted that Massachusetts General Laws provides for citizen access to the ballot via signature petition, as well as Town Meeting access via vote.

The Select Board signed warrants for the April 9, 2013 annual town election and April 30, 2013 State primary.

Cushman Village May Day Celebration

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve the blocking off of Henry Street in Cushman Village for their annual May Day celebration on Saturday, May 4, 2013 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

Taxi Driver/Chauffeur Licenses

V VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve a new 2013 Taxi/Chauffeur License for Kim B. Bergeron on behalf of Celebrity Cab Company.

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve a new 2013 Taxi/Chauffeur License for Efrain Maldonado Jr. on behalf of Aaron's Taxi Company.

Special Liquor License

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve a special wine and malt license for a reception to be held at the Guinness Engineering Center in Marcus Hall, University of Massachusetts Amherst on March 14, 2013 from 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Judy Bardwell, Clerk – Top of the Campus, Inc.

VOTED 4-0, 1 absent (Hayden) to approve a special wine and malt license for the 5th Annual Full Belly Benefit Dance Party in the JCA Social Hall, 742 Main Street on Saturday, March 23, 2013 from 7:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.; Andrea Stanley, Owner/Manager.

Select Board member Aaron Hayden arrived at 6:55 p.m.

Select Board Meeting Schedule

VOTED unanimously to revise the Select Board meeting schedule through June 2013 by cancelling the April 5, 2013 and April 17, 2013 meetings and instead meet on April 8, 2013 and, if needed, April 16, 2013.

Food Truck Regulations

Ms. O'Keeffe introduced the details for draft regulations, indicating the plan is to circulate for comment with a goal of creating formal regulation for approval in March or April, with Select Board comment scheduled for March 4, 2013. Select Board members suggested the following for clarity and inclusion: enforcement details and jurisdictions (i.e., Health Dept; Parking Management, etc.); authority in promulgating rules as related to the public way; and any potential zoning issues.

FY 14 Budget

Select Board members expressed appreciation for the high-level of detail in the Town Manager's budget document, particularly the narrative summaries and organizational charts. The Select Board requested they be made aware of any significant questions or concerns raised by the Finance Committee.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Musante reported that work continues on **Safe & Healthy Neighborhoods Initiative** with a public forum scheduled for March 5, 2013. The group's intent is to finish draft regulations the following week with recommendations to the Town Manager in order to be prepared for presentation at Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Musante previewed recommended changes to the downtown **parking regulations** to be presented at the March 4, 2013 public hearing, which include new and altered commercial loading zones, new 15-minute free spaces; additional taxi stands, changes to town center permit areas, new spaces, rates and permits associated with Boltwood garage, and minimum charge with credit cards.

Mr. Musante also provided updates on fixes to key **parking machine issues** including upgrade to available cell technology network response time of the machines; installation of light poles at eight (8) locations and solar fixtures at three (3), all by the end of May; and free-standing instructional signage to be installed by end of April. The Select Board requested draft text of the proposed instructional signage for the parking machines.

Recent award of State **Community Innovation Grants** to the Town of Amherst for regionalization initiatives were highlighted by Mr. Musante, including a shared property assessment services program with the Town of Pelham and expansion of the existing Central Hampshire Veterans' District to two additional communities.

In preparation for issuance of bonds planned to finance several projects, which will be presented to the Select Board at the March 4, 2013 meeting, Mr. Musante reviewed the Town's **Bond Rating**, which was recently reaffirmed by Standard and Poor's as AA-stable. Progress on OPEB was noted, as was the enormity of full obligation. The full rating report will be distributed as well as posted to the Town's web site.

Mr. Musante reported on Town Counsel's clarification, confirming that the Select Board has complete discretion in determining whether or not to fill a vacancy on another elected board, per MGL Ch. 41, Sec. 11. Ms. Brewer asked that the Select Board process for filling vacancies be amended to reflect the opinion. Ms. O'Keeffe agreed to present an amended policy at a future meeting.

Member Reports

Select Board members provided updates on the schedules and activities of the committees to which they serve as liaisons and representatives, as follows:

Ms. Stein reported on JCPC, and the Personnel Board; she thanked the Hadley Garden Center for their donation of trees to Amherst and also provided announcements about the upcoming Senior Follies event and Jones Library's Community Read and author visit.

Mr. Hayden reported on Recycling and Refuse Management Committee and the extent to which Amherst College interns are assisting Town committees.

Mr. Wald reported on the activities of the Historical Commission.

Ms. Brewer spoke on the recent actions of the Community Development Advisory Committee, Housing and Sheltering Committee, and Regional School District Planning Committee.

Ms. O'Keeffe offered her insights as a member of the Safe & Healthy Neighborhoods Work Group.

Chair's Report

Ms. O'Keeffe reported on her participation on the panel at the recent Chamber Breakfast on behalf of the Campus and Community Coalition; her providing the welcome address to the regional Town Clerks Association meeting recently held in Amherst; and her and Mr. Musante's meeting with the Chancellor and other UMass officials with Senator Rosenberg and Representative Story on efforts to address continuing challenges in neighborhood issues and demand on public safety resources.

Further comment on proposed Food Truck regulations will be reviewed at the next Select Board meeting.

Executive Session

VOTED by ROLL CALL VOTE: O'Keeffe, yes; Stein, yes; Hayden, yes; Brewer, yes; and Wald, yes to enter into Executive Session per Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, section 21, part a, subset 3, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining, as the Chair has declared an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the public body, with the intent NOT to return to public session at the conclusion.

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Submitted by John P. Musante, Town Manager

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting - Available in the Online Packet for the Meeting Date

Agenda

Draft Motions

Mt. Holyoke Range Advisory Committee charge

Proposed Food Truck Regulation Report and Draft details

Food Truck Regulation Map

Responses to Proposed Food Truck regulations

Community Innovation Challenge Grants Press Release

Parking Update – Machine Issues and Fixes

SHN Health Reports February 1 – February 15, 2013

SHN Inspection Complaints February 14, 2013

SHN Zoning Complaints 2012 Working Version

Request for Hosting the Tibetan Flag

Annual Town Election Warrant April 09, 2013

Special State Primary Election Warrant April 30, 2013

Select Board Meeting Schedule January – June 2013

Henry Street/Cushman Village May Day Street Closing

Map for Cushman Village May Day Celebration

Tax Driver Applications: Bergeron and Efrain

Special Wine and Malt License Applications: UMass Mar 14, 2013 and Valley Malt March 23, 2013.