

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

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

Absent: None

Staff: John P. Musante, Town Manager; Sandy Pooler, Finance Director; David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager/Conservation and Development Director

Other: Alex Krogh-Grabbe, BID Executive Director

Meeting called to order by Ms. O’Keeffe at 6:35 p.m.

Public Comment

Amherst Business Improvement District (BID) Executive Director Alex Krogh-Grabbe provided information about the BID's newly-purchased trolleys, which will be available to transport people between the UMass campus and downtown in the fall, on routes and schedules to be determined. The BID is also planning to make the trolley available for special events, beginning with next weekend's Ultimate Frisbee tournament. The success of the BID's many efforts to add to the downtown was noted with appreciation by Select Board members.

Parking and Street Closure Requests

VOTED unanimously to issue the Wednesday Kendrick Park Farmers Market thirty (30) parking passes for vendor use in the Town Center Permit areas of Hallock, McClellan and the west side of North Prospect and reservation of seven (7) metered parking spaces for loading and unloading of vendors’ products and for use by market customers on the east side of that section of North Pleasant Street that abuts the west side of Kendrick Park from 12:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. each Wednesday beginning May 1, 2013 through October 16, 2013; Grace Johnston, Market Manager.

VOTED unanimously to approve the request of Bulkley, Richardson and Gelinas LLP for reservation of eight (8) metered parking spaces, four (4) on Main Street and four (4) on North Pleasant Street on Thursday, May 9, 2013 from 8 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., to enable installation of signage on their building’s exterior, as well as close that portion of the sidewalk over which a truck lift will be situated on Main Street from 8:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and on North Pleasant Street from 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m., as shown on the Google map attached to the application.

The Select Board requested an update on parking machine signage, requesting review prior to production of signage.

New Taxi Driver/Chauffeur Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve a new 2013 Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Wanjiku J. Magua of Amherst on behalf of Gottago Taxi Company.

VOTED unanimously to approve a new 2013 Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Paul Benoit of Belchertown on behalf of Aarons Paradise.

VOTED unanimously to approve a new 2013 Taxi Driver/Chauffeur License for Yusef Awad of Amherst, MA on behalf of Ambassador Taxi.

Common Victualler

VOTED unanimously to amend the Common Victualler License for Hickory Ridge Grille LLC from in season 10 a.m. to 9 p.m. daily to year round Monday through Sunday 11 a.m. to 12 a.m. daily.

Special Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve a special wine and malt license to Judy Bardwell on behalf of Top of the Campus, Inc. for receptions on various dates and locations on the UMass Amherst Campus, Judy Bardwell, Clerk, as follows:

April 26, 2013 at Memorial Hall from 5:00 – 7:00 p.m.;
May 7, 2013 at ISOM Atrium from 4-6:00 p.m.;
May 10, 2013 at Durfee Gardens from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.; and

VOTED unanimously to approve a special wine and malt license to Brenda Ryan-Newton on behalf of Top of the Campus, Inc. for a reception on May 11, 2013 at Durfee Gardens, UMass Amherst Campus from 3:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m., Brenda Ryan-Newton, President.

Committee Appointments

VOTED unanimously to appoint John Thibbitts and Abby Getman to the Agricultural Commission, both with terms to expire June 30, 2015.

Farmer-Winery License Application for Farmers Market: Mt. Warner Vineyards

Gary Kamen, owner/manager, summarized the application and his plans.

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of the Mount Warner Vineyards, LLC of Hadley MA for a license to sell wine produced by or on their behalf in sealed containers for off-premise consumption at the Amherst Farmers Market in the Spring Street parking lot on Saturdays, May 4, 2013 through November 23, 2013 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., pursuant to Chapter 138, Section 15F of the Massachusetts General Laws; Gary Kamen; owner/manager.

Voting and Assignment of Select Board Positions on Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Helen Berg, petitioner, presented.

VOTED unanimously to not recommend to the May 6, 2013 Annual Town Meeting, Article 37 Petition – PVTa Funding; Stephanie O’Keeffe to speak on behalf of the Select Board.

Melissa Perot, petitioner, presented. She noted her intent to request of Town Meeting to dismiss the article.

VOTED unanimously to recommend dismissal to the May 6, 2013 Annual Town Meeting, Article 39 Petition – Nuisance House Bylaw Amendment.

Took no action on Article 40 Petition – Rental Housing Information and Article 41 Petition – Residential Parking, as petitioner was not present; Select Board to provide one more opportunity before Town Meeting.

The Select Board requested an update from staff in regard to the Housing and Sheltering Committee’s consideration of and recommendation on the issues raised by Article 42. Additionally, further information was requested from Town Counsel in relation to what action the Town would be compelled to take should Article 42 pass and what other outcome may result.

VOTED to defer recommendation on Article 42 Petition – Affordability Restriction Echo Hill Apartments until after the Select Board learns more from the Housing and Sheltering Committee; will schedule another consideration during Town Meeting.

VOTED 4-1 (Stein) to not recommend to the May 6, 2013 Annual Town Meeting, Article 43 Petition – Purchase Conservation Restriction Parcels 84, 91 & 96 of Map 5A; Jim Wald to speak on behalf of the Select Board.

The Select Board requested a similar update in relation to Article 43. What if any action would passage compel and what, if any other outcome may result? It was thought the additional clarity would be useful for the Select Board as well as for Town Meeting's action.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the May 6, 2013 Annual Town Meeting, Article 44 Petition – Local Voting Rights for Legal-permanent Resident Non-citizens; Diana Stein to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to defer recommendation to the May 6, 2013 Annual Town Meeting, Article 27 – Free Cash until after further consideration of Article 42.

VOTED unanimously to defer recommendation to the May 6, 2013 Annual Town Meeting, Article 28 – Stabilization Fund until after further consideration of Article 42.

Select Board agreed to post a meeting preceding each scheduled session of Town Meeting, but would plan to meet only on Mondays, cancelling Wednesday dates unless necessary.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Musante provided an update on the status and schedule of the **State budget** process, with anticipated increased revenue for PVTA and Chapter 90 funds.

A plan to include booth-like enclosures for **downtown parking machines** with better lighting and signage was reviewed. The proposal will need to go before the Design Review Board for consideration, as a new element in the downtown streetscape. The Select Board requested review of final signage wording before production.

A letter of appreciation from the Tan Brook Neighbors group, noting the good work by officers Bill Menard, Marcus Humber and Scott Gallagher to address concerns in that neighborhood was highlighted under **Staff Appreciation**.

The upcoming weekend's inauguration of UMass Chancellor Kumble Subbaswamy and the dinner celebrating Stan Ziomek's community service was noted. Mr. Musante communicated the PVTA's comprehensive service analysis, which included a local stakeholders forum, which was well attended by Amherst representatives (from DAAC and Stavros, the PTBC, the UMass SGA, etc.). PVTA's effort will include a survey that will be made available both electronically on their web site and in hard copy, which the Select Board can help broadcast. An update on Rolling Green and the Town's subsidized housing inventory situation is being planned for a Select Board meeting following the conclusion of Town Meeting, in June.

Member Reports

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

Ms. Stein reported her attendance at the Sustainability Festival, the UMass Student Government Associations's reception and the Chancellor's inauguration with Ms. Brewer, Mr. Musante and Ms. O'Keeffe, the OPEB meeting with Ms. Brewer, Mr. Hayden and Ms. O'Keeffe, as well as the Sammies Awards with Ms. Brewer and Ms. O'Keeffe.

Ms. Brewer briefed the Board on her attendance at the groundbreaking of the press facility at the football stadium in addition to the events cited by Ms. Stein.

Mr. Wald reported on the Dickinson Historic District Committee vote to request a separate study committee for the Lincoln-Sunset area.

Ms. O’Keeffe reported on her attendance of the Pi Kappa Phi screening of "Shooting Beauty" during Disability Awareness Week.

Ms. Stein noted that MMA’s Beacon had a report on the AGO's office offering a decision on the quorum question -- the majority of seats without regard to vacancies. Ms. Brewer suggested that the Town Manager or other Select Board members mention to MMA and the AGO’s office regarding the lack of electronic notice about this and other issues, if given the chance.

Ms. O’Keeffe noted the Housing Production Plan in this evening’s packets was in advance of the planned May 6, 2013 discussion.

Announcements were made about the reception for Harrison Gregg, which preceded tonight’s meeting and the State primary election tomorrow for the vacant Senate seat. A resumption of prescription drug drop-off at the Police Station was also broadcast.

The meeting adjourned at 9:23 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

Special License for Sale at Farmers Market

Petitioners’ Handouts for Articles 37, 38, 43 and 45.

Amherst Housing Production Plan

Amherst Presentation for Web 03.11.13

UMass Notice to Students and Parents, Acting Responsibly this Weekend

Kendrick Park Reservation Request and Map

Special License Applications, UMass Amherst 04-26-2013; 05-07-2013; and 05-10-2013

Hickory Ridge LLC Original and Revised Common Victualler Applications

Parking Reservatin Request Wednesday Farmers Market

Bulkley Richardson sidewalk closure and parking reservation request

Bulkley Richardson Amherst office signage update and building permit application

Taxi Driver Applications