

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

Present: Jim Wald, Alisa Brewer, Aaron Hayden, Constance Kruger, Andrew Steinberg

Absent: None

Staff: John Musante, Town Manager; David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager; Sandy Pooler, Finance Director; Guilford Mooring, DPW Superintendent; Maria Geryk, Superintendent of Schools; Sean Mangano Assistant Finance Director; Mike Morris, Director of Evaluation and Assessment.

Other: Marylou Theilman, Finance Committee

Meeting called to order by Mr. Hayden at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comment

John Boothroyd, Longmeadow Drive, expressed concerns with soil issues at Butternut Farms (HAP Housing), alleged lead and arsenic; requests HAP Housing perform soil testing and removal due to alleged health issues.

Renee Moss and Kate Lockhart from Big Brothers Big Sisters promoted the Daffodil Fun Run scheduled for April 27, 2014, a big fundraiser for their organization, as well as chalk artists scheduled for April 26, 2014.

Special Liquor Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve a special all alcoholic license for Amherst College Catering on behalf of the Trustees of Amherst College for a cash bar for the end of year departmental event to be held in the Alumni House at Amherst College on Tuesday, April 22, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.; Molly Venne, Catering Manager.

VOTED unanimously to approve a special all alcoholic license for Amherst College Catering on behalf of the Trustees of Amherst College for a cash bar for the Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce “After Five” Event to be held in the new college building at 79 South Pleasant Street on Wednesday, April 16, 2014 from 4:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.; Greg Wardlaw, Catering Manager.

VOTED unanimously to approve a special all alcoholic license for Amherst College Catering on behalf of the Trustees of Amherst College for a cash bar for the Senior Reception to be held in the King Dorm Quad, Amherst College on Thursday, May 1, 2014 from 9:30 p.m. to 12:30 a.m.; Greg Wardlaw, Catering Manager.

VOTED unanimously to approve a special wine and malt license for Top of the Campus, Inc. for a reception to be held in in the Fine Arts Center Main Lobby, UMass Amherst on Saturday, May 17, 2014 from 6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.; Judy Bardwell, Clerk.

VOTED unanimously to approve a special wine and malt license for Top of the Campus, Inc. for a reception to be held in the Guinness Lab, UMass Amherst on June 5, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Judy Bardwell, Clerk.

VOTED unanimously to approve a special wine and malt license for R & P Liquors on behalf of Pratt’s Inc. for a Spring Jam to be held on the lawn of the Hampshire College Library on April 26, 2014 from 4:00 p.m. – 8:00 p.m.; Nathan Day, Manager.

Amherst Farmers Market

Mr. Musante described this year’s parking reservation request, which mirrors last year’s permissions granted by the Select Board. Concerns were raised by Mr. Steinberg regarding the lack of sufficient progress by the Amherst Farmers Market to advance inclusion of Amherst Farmers. Mr. Hayden noted the expansion of the market last year

was to provide for such inclusion. Mr. Musante urged approval of their request this evening and noted Mr. Spinetti was unable to attend this evening because of personal health issues. Mr. Ziomek echoed Mr. Musante, urging the Select Board not to delay consideration this evening, noting that there has been an ongoing dialogue with the Agricultural Commission as well as an increased willingness of the Market to expand the number of Amherst-area farmers.

VOTED unanimously to approve the closure of that section of Spring Street within the Spring Street parking lot, the closure of Boltwood Avenue beginning at the intersection of Spring Street heading south to the access way to Porter Hall eliminating six metered parking spaces, and the reservation of the first five metered parking spaces on the east side of South Pleasant Street originating at Spring Street, moving south towards College Street on each Saturday beginning April 19, 2014 through November 22, 2014 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. for the Amherst Farmers' Market, with the understanding that the Amherst Farmers Market Committee will meet with the Agricultural Commission and develop a report to the Select Board no later than August 1, 2014 related to issues for inclusion of more Amherst farmers at the market.

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of two metered spaces on the east side of Boltwood Avenue, immediately south of the Porter Access driveway exclusively for guests of the Lord Jeffery Inn on each Saturday beginning April 19, 2014 through November 22, 2014 from 7:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

MSBA Statement of Interest – Fort River Elementary School

Ms. Geryk, Superintendent of Schools, explained the statement of interest relative to the application to the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

VOTED unanimously to authorize the School Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated on or before April 12, 2014 for the Fort River Elementary School located at 70 South East Street, Amherst, MA, which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future

- Priority 1: Replacement or renovation of a building which is structurally unsound or otherwise in a condition seriously jeopardizing the health and safety of school children, where no alternative exists.
- Priority 5: Replacement, renovation or modernization of the heating system in a schoolhouse to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in the schoolhouse.
- Priority 7: Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements.

and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the Town of Amherst or the Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

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

Finance Director Sandy Pooler spoke on the requirement of reauthorization.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 10 – Revolving Fund Reauthorization; Andy Steinberg to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Ms. Kruger recused herself from discussion on the Regional School issues.

Ms. Geryk, Mr. Morris and Mr. Mangano explained the process for voting an assessment method annually.

VOTED 4-0 with 1 Absent (Kruger) to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 11 - Amherst-Pelham Regional School District Assessment Method; Ms. Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED 4-0 with 1 Absent (Kruger) to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 12 – FY 15 Operating Budget - Regional Schools in the amount of \$29,618,478 and the appropriation of \$14,463,908 for Amherst’s proportional share; Mr. Wald to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Mr. Pooler, Ms. Geryk, Mr. Morris and Mr. Mangano explained the Elementary Schools budget proposal.

VOTED 4-0 with 1 Absent (Kruger) to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 12 – FY 15 Operating Budget – Elementary Schools budget in the amount of \$21,490,563; Mr. Wald to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Ms. Kruger returned to the meeting.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 13 – Reserve Fund in the amount of \$100,000; Mr. Steinberg to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 14 – Capital Program – Equipment in the amount of \$1,734,211; Mr. Wald to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 15 – Capital Program – Buildings and Facilities in the amount of \$633,000; Mr. Wald to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 16 – Capital Program – Bond Authorization in the amount of \$1,022,411; Mr. Wald to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 17 – Wildwood School Feasibility Study; Mr. Wald to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 18 – Debt Rescission in the amount of \$400,000; Mr. Wald to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

DPW Superintendent Guilford Mooring explained the proposed acquisition.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 19 – Watershed Land Purchase, in the amount of \$700,000; Mr. Steinberg to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 31 – Multi-Year Cell Phone Tower Agreement; Ms. Kruger to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Mr. Mooring explained the process and possibilities being discussed for needed changes in the intersection.

VOTED unanimously to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 32 – Acquisition of Easements – Triangle and East Pleasant Streets Intersection; Ms. Kruger to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Resident Helen Berg voiced her opposition to use of roundabouts.

VOTED 4-0 with 1 Absent (Kruger) to recommend to the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, Article 33 – Grant of Easements – Meetinghouse Road in Pelham; Mr. Steinberg to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Town Manager Report

Mr. Musante provided an update on the Community Health Center planning occurring with the Hilltown Community Health Center, Colley Dickinson Hospital, Representative Ellen Story, and Town staff, identifying the population who would be served in the downtown area. He expressed his support for locating a Community

Health Center in the lower level of the Bangs Center, currently occupied by the LSSE Department, via a lease to be negotiated.

The Planning Board, responding to requests from the Amherst BID to be more sensitive to the costs related to development in the downtown area, are discussing the possibility of the need for a Special Town Meeting to consider a revised Article 24 – Inclusionary Zoning, which would allow consideration of the issues in more depth. If a Special is scheduled the Planning Board will present a new article. Further information will be available for the April 22, 2014 meeting when Planning Board members and staff will be present for review of zoning articles.

The Community Preservation Act Committee has recommended \$750,000 for preservation of affordable units at Rolling Green Apartments with bonds issued for a minimum of twenty years.

The Residential Rental Permitting Program has received applications from over 1000 properties, greater than eighty percent of the total, since the implementation of the bylaw on January 1, 2014.

The Public Works Committee reviewed Pine Street design options at a recent public meeting, receiving good community feedback and expects to develop a recommendation for its May or June meeting based on community feedback for greater pedestrian safety improvements along the entire length.

On Sunday April 6, 2014, the town manager welcomed over 1000 college students to Kendrick Park for Autism Speaks U 5k run fundraiser; over \$50,000 raised for the event, noting great organization and support from UMass Greek system and the greater community.

The Town Meeting Coordinating Committee and the League of Women Voters Warrant Review is tomorrow evening, April 8, 2014 from 7:00 to 9:30 pm in the Town Room at Town Hall. The review provides sponsors of warrant articles an excellent opportunity to concisely explain to the public and members of Town Meeting the purpose of each article.

Property owners living near Atkins Reservoir and Puffers Pond dams will be getting a notice from the Town in the next 7-10 days regarding the Town's work with the State Office of Dam Safety and a consultant to update our emergency alert system, similar to notices were sent a couple of years ago.

A PVTA public hearing related to Amherst bus routes is scheduled for April 14, 2014 from 4-7 pm at Town Hall, Town Room.

Member Reports

Mr. Hayden spoke about the need for assignment of liaisons. Mr. Steinberg noted that he had been Co-Chair of the Budget Coordinating Group (BCG) as a Finance Committee representative along with Ms. O'Keeffe on behalf of the Select Board. However, since neither is serving in those capacities, it would be helpful for the BCG if he were to continue as the Select Board representative. Mr. Steinberg also indicated his intent to meet with Agricultural Commission. Ms. Brewer reviewed calendar dates for committees for members to attend should they wish. Mr. Hayden noted that the Select Board could agree without formal vote to appoint Mr. Steinberg as a Select Board representative to BCG. Mr. Hayden reviewed important dates for the Select Board.

Taxi Driver Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve a new 2014 taxi driver/chauffeur license for Ibrahim Diedhiou on behalf of Taxi Express.

Parking and Street Closure Requests

Book Cellar

The Select Board delayed consideration of the request to reserve a metered parking space for the purchase of used textbooks by The BookCellar of Nashua, NH until its April 16 or 22 meetings after review by the Amherst Business Improvement District and Amherst Area Chamber of Commerce.

Mr. Ziomek spoke on the notice of Agricultural Preservation Restriction from MA DOR received, requesting delay in the Select Board's consideration until the next meeting, so he could confirm the parcels involved.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Submitted by John P. Musante, Town Manager