

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; Guilford Mooring, Public Works Superintendent; Alan Snow, DPW Parks and Grounds Division Director; Sandy Pooler, Finance Director

Other: Christine Gray-Mullen, Chair Public Works Committee; Michael Hutton-Woodland, Chair Public Shade Tree Committee

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

Public Comment

Kim Stender from the Superintendent's Office spoke on Amherst Public Schools First Day Celebration planned for August 27, 2014 from 5:00 - 6:30 p.m. on the Town Common.

John Fox expressed concerns about timeliness of information sharing to the Planning Board by Jonathan Tucker, Planning Director regarding a draft and subsequent final report from UMass consultants working on the Gateway Transportation Study.

Ken Rosenthal spoke, indicating his belief that there is an issue of trust, a crisis of confidence. He believes that Kendrick Pace and Carriage Shops projects focus is on undergraduate housing on private property and therefore is misguided; a handout with a summary of his opinion was provided.

Vince O'Connor expressed criticism of expense for Town/School hiring of media specialist for the Amherst Together initiative, urging Select Board to advise management not a good use of tax dollars.

Helen Berg complained about decision to halt PVRTA/UMass Transit busses at 10:00 a.m. during Blarney Blowout, belief that the act was orchestrated by Town to increase public safety budget.

Larry Kelley put forth his annual request to allow the twenty-nine US flags to be flown downtown on September 11th.

Vladimir Morales requested consideration of traffic calming measures on Heatherstone and Stony Hill Roads, noting a sense of urgency. Mr. Morales also urged Select Board to vote to support his twenty-year effort to allow resident immigrants the right to vote and to instruct Representative Story to file a bill on behalf of the Town.

Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreements

Mr. Musante provided background on a request originating with Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) on an effort to implement a statewide mutual aid agreement for Public Safety and Public Works Departments, which requires a city or town opt-in.

VOTED unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to have the Town of Amherst join the Statewide Public Safety Mutual Aid Agreement in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 4J.

VOTED unanimously to authorize the Town Manager to have the Town of Amherst join the Statewide Public Works Municipal Mutual Aid Agreement in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40, Section 4K.

Liquor License Public Hearing - Alteration of Premises Judie's Restaurant

Public Hearing Opened at 7:07 p.m. Attorney Kristi Bodin, representing Judie's, provided further detailed floor plans and assurance of handicapped accessibility. An abutter's letter of support was noted. Public Hearing Closed at 7:17 p.m.

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Mangeons Bien, Inc. d/b/a Judie's, 51 North Pleasant Street relative to alteration of premises and expansion of existing premises to include a 650 square foot function room located on the ground floor of the same building, identified as Boltwood Place.

Public Works Projects – Updates & Recommendations

Pine Street - Design

Christine Gray-Mullen, Public Works Committee Chair, summarized the process to date. Ms. Gray-Mullen noted the PWC has not yet seen the updated plans before the Select Board this evening. Superintendent of Public Works Guilford Mooring provided details of the design plan presented, answered Board members questions, and noted if Select Board approved, the base coat would be completed this construction season and the top coat and sidewalks next year. Residents Marcy Sala and Vince O'Connor both expressed concerns relative to the number of crosswalks.

Cottage Street - Traffic Calming Measures

Mr. Mooring provided details of the recommendation by the Town Engineer. Concerns were expressed related to use of speed bumps as opposed to other design or enforcement tools. The town-wide transportation plan in process will provide a comprehensive plan versus a neighborhood by neighborhood response.

VOTED unanimously to authorize the installation of traffic calming measures to include three speed humps as shown on the drawing submitted by the Town Engineer titled Cottage Street and dated February 18, 2014.

East Pleasant/Triangle Street Intersection Improvements

Mr. Musante provided an outline of discussions with the Director of the MassWorks grant program about an application for \$1.5 million to provide improvements to the East Pleasant and Triangle Street intersection by relocating electrical wires below ground on East Pleasant, Triangle, and Pray Streets. Undergrounding of wires will improve the streetscape and opportunities for private redevelopment in the area. The Public Works Committee is reviewing multiple options related to public safety improvements to the intersection including dedicated lanes for turning, signal timing and a roundabout.

VOTED unanimously to support the burial of above-ground utility wires in areas in and near the East Pleasant/Triangle Street intersection, for which grant funding is being pursued from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts' Mass Works Infrastructure Program.

Grant awards are expected no later than December 2014 and if it were to be successful, design plans for underground wires would need to be reviewed/approved by various utilities before burial occurs. A decision on improvements to the intersection should be provided within next twelve months.

Main Street - Tree Boxes on Sidewalk

Alan Snow, Tree Warden, Michael Hutton-Woodland, Public Shade Tree Committee chair and Sara la Cour, Business Improvement District Executive Director provided information on the planting. The tree boxes will be installed above ground to temporarily replace the three empty tree wells on the north side of the Main Street lot with smaller ornamental trees until any improvement to the North Common and Main Street lot area is completed. Ms. la Cour indicated this is a pilot project with hopes to expand to other locations where planting of trees is not an option. The project has been reviewed by the Design Review Board and the Disability Access Advisory Committee to address various concerns.

VOTED unanimously to approve the streetscape improvements to include placement of three tree planter boxes on the south side of Main Street, adjacent to the Main Street public parking lot as described in Public Works Superintendent Mooring's memo dated August 21, 2014.

Mr. Mooring provided a brief overview of the new pavement management system with automated data collection, which will be updated annually. The system will help prioritize and provide a working model. A presentation is planned once the data collection has been completed and compiled. It was noted that the system will work with our GIS mapping. The Transportation Plan was completed with members of the Public Works, Public Transportation and Planning Committees, provide a more holistic view of transportation plan for. The goals is to identify traffic calming tools and areas in need, and connection in transportation systems.

Common Victualler License

Owner Fred Wang summarized the new business and offering of his restaurant opening at 61 Main Street, Amherst; awaiting approval from Design Review Board on awning and Inspection Services and Health final approvals.

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Mom's Dumpling and Noodle for a Common Victualler license to operate Sunday through Saturday, 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Fred Wang, Owner/Manager.

4th Quarter Financial Report

Finance Director Sandy Pooler presented the FY 2014 fourth quarter financial report, which reflects an overall operating surplus in the general fund and three of the four enterprise funds. A reminder was provided to ensure the financial report is sent to Town Meeting members with a cover letter from the Finance Committee Chair.

Town Manager Annual Performance Evaluation

Mr. Hayden reviewed his draft memo and summary of the individual evaluations, thanking Ms. Brewer for her contribution and members' amendments.

VOTED unanimously to approve the Town Manager Performance Evaluation Memo as edited.

Brief discussion on addition of new or need for revision of existing goals for FY 15 including section placement. Agreed to schedule additional discussion for September 8, 2014 meeting due to the late hour.

Town Manager's Report

Mr. Musante reported that preliminary recommendations have been presented by consultant U3 Advisors on the Town Gown Study. The steering committee meets next on September 4 to discuss thoughts and reactions to the draft with an expectation for final presentation in early October.

Southpoint Apartments Fire aftermath - work ongoing to repair affected units. Twenty-three of thirty-six displaced tenants have been placed in permanent housing, other available units on site. Continued outreach from human services agencies occurring.

Carol Ross hard at work on Amherst Together, reaching out to many people and many reaching out to her, lots of listening happening, upon which she is beginning to put together a tangible work plan.

Planning Board assisted by staff is putting together the first of multiple Downtown Parking Forums on September 23 at the Unitarian Church to begin a conversation with community members.

A letter was sent earlier this year notifying Comcast of the start of the Ascertainment process for the license. Mr. Musante put forth a renewed plea for submission of CAFs for appointment to the Cable Advisory Committee.

PVTA service improvements in Amherst are beginning next Tuesday, September 2; links to www.pvta.org for further information is available in the packets.

Mr. Musante reviewed a response from Human Resources Director Deb Radway to the letter received from the State Ethics Commission as to how it relates to current staffing.

Mr. Musante lauded the service of Tevis Kimball, Head of Special Collections, who retired at the end of July after a long career at the Jones Library. He also acknowledged work of staff members Sustainability Coordinator Stephanie Ciccarello, Facilities Director Ron Bohonowicz and DPW Superintendent Mooring, working collaboratively with UMass Planning. The Town was awarded a technical assistance grant to study potential expansion of UMass Cogen Power Grid to include possible connections to the Amherst Wastewater Treatment Plant and North Amherst Fire Station, as well as several new campus buildings.

Member Reports

Mr. Steinberg reported he is transferring his liaison responsibility for Personnel Board and Board of Health to Ms. Kruger. Inquiry to multiple committees asked to take a position on the ballot question coming up for the increase in CPA percentage. Agricultural Commission continuing discussion on Farmers Market.

Mr. Wald reported Historical Commission engaged in dealing with new developments, but also several initiatives with historic barns in North Amherst. Amherst History Mural will not withstand the demolition of the attached structure, however meetings between artist and developer have begun to possibly recreate the mural within new construction.

Mr. Wald reported on attendance at a lovely memorial service for former Board member Diana Stein's spouse Otto Stein, which provided a full sense of who he was as a man, a teacher, and father and spouse.

The Zoning Subcommittee of the Planning Board has a meeting scheduled on the same day as First Day where the consultant will review the report relative to Inclusionary Zoning.

Fall Select Board Meeting Schedule

Mr. Hayden reviewed the proposed future meeting dates of the Select Board, as well as individual dates for special events including the UMass Coffee Hour and the Four Board Meeting.

VOTED unanimously to approve the following regularly scheduled fall 2014 Select Board meeting dates: September 8, 2014; September 22, 2014; October 6, 2014; October 16, 2014; October 20, 2014; November 5, 2014; November 12, 2014; November 17, 2014; and December 15, 2014; also November 24, 2014, December 1, 2014, December 8, 2014, and December 10, 2014 as needed preceding Special Town Meeting.

Annual Town Election and Annual Town Meeting Dates

Select Board noted preference for further feedback from Town Moderator, Finance Committee and Planning Board relative to May 4 or April 27, 2015 preference for Annual Town Meeting start date.

VOTED unanimously to schedule the 2015 Annual Town Election for March 31, 2015 with polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

State Primary Warrant – September 9, 2014

VOTED unanimously to approve the warrant presented for the State Primary Election on Tuesday, the Ninth of September, 2014 with polls open from 7:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m.

Election Workers Appointments

VOTED unanimously to appoint the election workers as listed in the August 25, 2014 agenda, as amended.

Committee Appointments and Reappointments

VOTED unanimously to approve Select Board appointments for those individuals listed in the August 25, 2014 agenda to positions and terms, as presented.

VOTED unanimously to confirm the Town Manager appointments for those individuals listed in the August 25, 2014 agenda to positions and terms, as presented.

Grant of Easement – Meetinghouse Road, Pelham

The Select Board, VOTED 4-0 with 1 abstention (Brewer) in its capacity as the Board of Water Commissioners to grant to the Town of Pelham permanent and temporary easements on the Town of Amherst's property located on and off Meetinghouse Road, Pelham for the purpose of rehabilitating the bridges crossing Amethyst Brook and Harris Brook, such easements being granted pursuant to the vote taken under Article 33 of the April 28, 2014 Annual Town Meeting, as continued.

Grant of Easement – South Congregational Church, 1066 South East Street

VOTED unanimously to grant to South Congregational Church in Amherst, Inc., the owner of property at 1066 South East Street, a permanent access and drainage easement on a portion of the abutting Munson Memorial Library property, located at 1046 South East Street, as authorized by the vote taken under Article 1 of the June 2, 2014 Special Town Meeting.

Parking Reservation Requests

Trash to Treasures Furniture Sale

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of ten (10) metered parking spaces on the east side of South Pleasant Street moving north from the intersection of College Street for customer pickup and twenty (20) metered parking spaces on the west side of Boltwood Avenue moving north from the intersection of College Street for volunteer parking on Saturday September 6, 2014 from 6:00am to 6:00pm for the Annual Trash to Treasures Furniture Sale.

Annual High Point Hill Block Party

VOTED unanimously to approve the closure of Overlook Drive from house number fifty-nine (59) through seventy five (75) on Sunday, September 14, 2014 from 11:00 a.m. to 6 p.m. for the Annual High Point Hill Neighborhood Block Party.

BID Annual Block Party

VOTED unanimously to approve the street closure of North Pleasant Street from the intersection of Amity and Main Streets north to Hallock Street and East Pleasant Street from the intersection of North Pleasant Street to Pray Street from 3:30 – 11:00 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2014 for the Business Improvement District's 3rd Annual Celebrate Amherst Block Party for the event to be held from 5:00 – 9:00 p.m.

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of metered parking spaces on both sides of North Pleasant Street from the intersection of Amity and Main Streets north to Hallock Street and on the east side of Kendrick Park on East Pleasant Street from the intersection of North Pleasant Street to Pray Street beginning at 1 p.m. on Thursday, September 18, 2014 for the Business Improvement District's 3rd Annual Celebrate Amherst Block Party.

Taxi Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Guillermo-Fernando Finot for a 2014 Taxi Driver license on behalf of Celebrity Cab.

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Hamid-Eslamizad for a 2014 Taxi Driver license on behalf of Aarons Transportation.

Special Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve the Trustees of Amherst College applications for two Special All-Alcohol Licenses to serve cash bar events to be held in Lewis Sebring Commons in Valentine Hall on Friday, September 12, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m. and Friday, September 19, 2014 from 5:00 to 10:00 p.m.; Greg Wardlaw, Catering Manager.

VOTED unanimously to approve the applications of Top of the Campus, Inc. for Special All-Alcohol Licenses to serve cash bars at receptions as follows; Meredith Schmidt, Assistant Treasurer:

August 26, 2014	Integrated Science Building Lawn	4:30 p.m. – 9:30 p.m.
September 20, 2014	Fine Arts Center Plaza/under tent	6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.
September 22, 2014	Fine Arts Center Atrium	3:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m.

VOTED unanimously to approve the applications of Top of the Campus, Inc. for Special Wine and Malt Licenses to serve cash bars at events as follows; Meredith Schmidt, Assistant Treasurer:

September 4, 2014	In front of the Fine Arts Center	reception	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
September 9, 2014	Fine Arts Center, Museum entryway	reception	6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
September 10, 2014	Fine Arts Center, Museum entryway	reception	5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
September 17, 2014	Fine Arts Center, Museum entryway	reception	5:30 p.m. – 7:30 p.m.
November 18, 2014	DuBois Library Room 2601	dinner	5:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m.
November 18, 2014	Fine Arts Center	reception	6:30 p.m. – 10:00 p.m.

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Esselon Coffee Roasting Company, Inc., for a Special Wine and Malt License to serve a wedding on the grounds of the Eric Carle Museum, August 31, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. – 11:00 p.m.; Mark Krause, Manager.

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Patricia G. Colson-Montgomery for a Special Wine and Malt License to serve at a wedding on the grounds of the Eric Carle Museum, September 13, 2014 from 5:30 p.m. to 11:30 p.m., Patricia G. Colson-Montgomery, parent of the bride.

Minutes

VOTED 3-0-2 abstentions to approve the Select Board minutes of March 24, 2014, as presented.

VOTED unanimously to approve the Select Board minutes of June 9, 2014, June 23, 2014, July 7, 2014 and July 21, 2014, as amended.

Executive Session

VOTED by ROLL CALL VOTE: Hayden, Aye; Brewer, Aye; Kruger, Aye; Steinberg, Aye; and Wald, Aye to enter into Executive Session, in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 30A, section 21, part a, subset 2 to conduct contract negotiations with non-union personnel, Town Manager John Musante, and subset 3, to discuss litigation relative to The Retreat project and to discuss strategy relative to collective bargaining with the Police Supervisors and DPW Supervisors Unions, 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 reconvene in Open Meeting at the conclusion.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 10:40 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

Town Manager Cover Memo for Statewide Mutual Aid Agreements

Stateside Public Safety and Public Works Mutual Aid Laws

Application for Alteration in Premises Mangeons Bien, Inc. dba Judies

Pine Street and Triangle Public Works Committee Votes

DPW Memo on Projects

Cottage Street Memo from DPW Engineer

Cottage Street rendering

Mass Works Basemap

Mass Work Program Guidelines

Main Street Wooden Tree Planters

Pavement and Asset Management Solutions

FY 14 End of Year Report

FY 13 Press Release TM Salary 08.27.13

FY 14 Town Manager Evaluation Draft Memo

FY 14 Town Manager Goals Memo

FY 15 Budget Policy Guidelines

Comcast Letter of Ascertainment 05.14. 2014

PVTA Service Improvements Starting 8.24.14

PVTA UMass Transit Bus Service Improvements

State Ethics Notice Re Application of Conflict of Interest Law for Town Employees 07.07.14

HR Interpretation of State Ethics Notice

Town Gown Study and Parking Forum Update

CPA Ballot Question Letter to Secretary of State

Handouts for various timed items

Pine Street Design Plan 08.2014

Draft Select Board Fall Meeting Calendar 2014 September to December

Special All-Alcohol License Applications - Amherst College 9.12.14 and 9.19.14

Special Liquor License Applications – UMass various dates (9)

Special Wine and Malt Application Esselon Coffee Roasting Inc.

Special Wine and Malt Colson Montgomery Wedding

Common Vic Application Moms Dumpling and Noodle

Draft Minutes 03-24-2014; 06-09-2014; 06-23-2014; 07-07-2014; and 07-21-2014

State Primary Ballot 09-07-2014

Memo re ATM and ATE Dates 2015

Election Workers Appointment

FY 15 Appointments 08-25-14

Grant of Easement to South Congregational Church

Easement Deed for Meetinghouse Road Pelham

Easement Meetinghouse Pelham SHT 01 and 02

Parking Reservation Request Survival Center Trash to Treasures 09.06.14 mapped

High Point Block party street closure request and Map

BID Annual Block Party Request and Map

Taxi Driver Applications Fernando Fiot to Celebrity Cab and H. Eslamizad to Aarons Paradise