

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

Present: Aaron Hayden, Andrew Steinberg, and Constance Kruger

Absent: Alisa Brewer and Jim Wald

Staff: John Musante, Town Manager; Guilford Mooring, Public Works Superintendent

Other: Vince O'Connor; Matt Fuller, WMECo

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

Public Comment

Vince O'Connor provided a suggestion to the Select Board indicating that when a document is distributed by staff, such as when the planning staff provided a report to the Zoning Subcommittee last week, that the authors be noted. Mr. O'Connor also urged the Select Board to take steps to prevent Kendrick Place from becoming a "disaster" concerning unit mix and parking arrangements.

Special Licenses

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to approve the application of Top of the Campus Inc. for a Special Wine and Malt License for a reception to be held in the Conte Building Main Atrium on October 7, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Meredith Schmidt, Assistant Treasurer.

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to approve the application of Top of the Campus Inc. for a Special Wine and Malt License for a reception to be held in the Isenberg School of Management Atrium, UMass Amherst on October 20, 2014 from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.; Meredith Schmidt, Assistant Treasurer.

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to approve the application of Top of the Campus Inc. for a Special Wine and Malt License for a reception to be held backstage in the Rand Theater, UMass Amherst on October 25, 2014 from 5:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.; Meredith Schmidt, Assistant Treasurer.

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to approve the application of Top of the Campus Inc. for a Special Wine and Malt License for a reception to be held on the 3rd floor of the Integrative Learning Center, UMass Amherst on October 25, 2014 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.; Meredith Schmidt, Assistant Treasurer.

Taxi Licenses

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to approve the applications of John Maffei and Nathaniel Shippey for a 2014 Taxi Driver license on behalf of Funky Cab.

Minutes

VOTED 2-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald), 1 abstention (Kruger) to approve the minutes of August 18, 2014, as presented.

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to approve the minutes of August 25, 2014 and September 8, 2014, as presented.

Pole Hearing: New Underground Service to House #179-181 Northampton Road

Chairperson Aaron Hayden opened the pole hearing at 6:45 p.m. Matt Fuller from Western Massachusetts Electric Company (WMECo) provided an explanation of the petition. It was noted for the record that Tree Warden Alan Snow had responded via email indicating no tree issues existed for either pole petition to be heard this evening. The pole hearing was closed at 6:50 p.m.

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to grant the petition of Western Massachusetts Electric dated September 12, 2014 to erect a solely owned pole, wires and cables, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as they may find necessary, said pole to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith and made a part hereof marked – 6A420774, approximately 150 feet north of the intersection of Northampton Road for new underground service to house #179-181, and further for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with any such poles and buildings as it may desire for distribution purposes.

Pole Hearing: New Service to House #908 South East Street

Chairperson Aaron Hayden opened the pole hearing at 6:55 p.m. Matt Fuller of WMECo provided a narrative on the purpose of the petition for South East Street. James Hoerle, husband of the property owner, offered his support of the request for underground wires to the 1760 vintage house. The pole hearing was closed at 6:58 p.m.

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to grant the petition of Western Massachusetts Electric dated September 4, 2014 to erect a solely owned pole, wires and cables, together with such sustaining and protecting fixtures as they may find necessary, said pole to be erected substantially in accordance with the plan filed herewith and made a part hereof marked – 6A420292, on South East Street, as shown on diagram for new service to house #908, and further for permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with any such poles and buildings as it may desire for distribution purposes.

Chair's Report

Mr. Hayden distributed an updated draft of the public comment policy for review. Mr. Steinberg noted his preference for taking up the matter when all five members were present. Ms. Kruger expressed concern that the policy may be too general, noting support for giving the Chair discretion. However, she wants to think about appropriate language. Mr. Steinburg further suggested the Select Board review the rules as applied by the Moderator for Town Meeting regarding the ability to question motives or comment on an issue repeatedly.

Sponsorship of Atkins Rotary Maintenance

DPW Superintendent Mooring introduced Tom O'Donnell, chair of the Hampshire County Young Life organization, noting he had approached the Public Works Department looking for potential community service projects. When asked about the potential liability of volunteers working on the rotary, Mr. Mooring indicated the Public Works Department does not require insurance certificates from vendors or volunteers. Mr. Mooring indicated other groups have indicated an interest in other areas, so there may be future requests for consideration as well.

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to grant permission to Hampshire County Young Life for planting and maintenance of the center island of the three islands located in the Atkins Rotary, to include plantings and upkeep for a one year period effective immediately, such work to be coordinated by and with the oversight of the Amherst Department of Public Works, and further, to allow the installation of a sign approved by the Superintendent of Public Works acknowledging sponsorship of the island.

November 5, 2014 Special Town Meeting Warrant

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to approve the November 5, 2014 Special Town Meeting warrant as presented.

Review and Take Positions on Special Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Article 1 Reports of Boards and Committees

Mr. Musante noted Article 1 is the traditional first article for each Town Meeting. Currently, only the Finance Committee has indicated an interest in reporting to Town Meeting.

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to recommend November 5, 2014 Special Town Meeting Article #1 Reports of Boards and Committee; Ms. Kruger to speak to article on behalf of the Select Board.

Article 2 Transfer of Funds – Unpaid Bills

Mr. Musante referred to the memo from Finance Director Sandy Pooler, noting no unpaid bills exist from prior years at this time.

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to recommend dismissal for November 5, 2014 Special Town Meeting Article #2 Transfer of Funds – Unpaid Bills; Mr. Hayden to speak to the article on behalf of the Select Board.

Article 3 Free Cash

The requisite for a Select Board report was discussed. Mr. Hayden indicated the need was not apparent for the first three articles.

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to recommend November 5, 2014 Special Town Meeting Article #3 Free Cash Part A; Mr. Steinberg to speak to the article on behalf of the Select Board.

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to recommend November 5, 2014 Special Town Meeting Article #3 Free Cash Part B; Mr. Steinberg to speak to the article on behalf of the Select Board.

Review and Take Positions on State and Local Referendum Questions

Board members discussed the referendum questions presented on tonight's agenda. It was agreed without formal vote to defer taking positions until the October 20, 2014 Select Board meeting when all five members are scheduled to be in attendance.

November 4, 2014 State Election Warrant

VOTED 3-0, 2 absent (Brewer, Wald) to approve the November 4, 2014 State Election warrant as presented.

Town Manager Report

Mr. Musante reviewed the goals and intent of the downtown parking forums jointly sponsored by the Select Board and Planning Board, noting there had been a good turnout at the initial event as well as good constructive input. The next forum is scheduled for January. The Town's website, www.amherstma.gov/parkingforum includes a recording of the initial forum and residents are urged to watch and provide comment.

Mr. Musante reported Nelson/Nygaard, a nationally known consulting firm, has been chosen to prepare the Transportation Plan for Amherst, which is expected to be completed by early 2015. Mr. Musante reviewed the goals of the plan, the kick-off and future planned meetings to publicize the Plan and organization of the Task Force, noting Planning Board member Richard Roznoy will serve as chair.

Mr. Musante summarized the Amherst Business Improvement District Annual Meeting which was held October 3, 2014 in the new meeting space at the Unitarian Universalist Church on North Pleasant Street. An outline of the highlights and accomplishments was provided, as was news of his reelection to another 3-year term on the Board of Directors on behalf of the Town of Amherst.

The Town Manager explained the goals and objectives for bringing together artists, higher education, community, and business leaders to a gathering he is hosting on October 23rd, meant to prioritize Amherst's approach to development of public art in downtown, inspired by a recent study by the Public Art Commission.

Mr. Musante reported on a recent MMA Fiscal Policy Committee meeting in Boston that he attended at which policy resolutions were drafted for consideration at the MMA Annual Meeting in January. A brief overview of the rental properties violation report, police injuries and staffing, and a road paving update were provided.

Mr. Musante reported on accolades provided to the Amherst Police Department by the Massachusetts chapter of Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD), recognizing specific officers for their commitment to enforcement and prevention efforts. The Amherst Fire Department's SAFE program is to be the recipient of the Norma Knight Award for Community Service at the annual Firefighters of the Year ceremony in Boston. Additionally, two new firefighters, Nicholas Chierikos and Kaylan Vasquez, were welcomed to the department this morning.

Member Reports

Ms. Kruger reported on her attendance at a recent Board of Health meeting where the topic of fluoride was discussed and a Transportation Plan Task Force meeting. Mr. Steinberg noted his attendance at several LSSE Commission meetings. The A+ Awards recipients were referenced, highlighting Stephanie O'Keeffe, Tony Maroulis and the Amherst Rotary Club at the Chamber's Annual Awards Banquet.

FY 15 Draft Town Manager Goals

Mr. Hayden provided a handout to members for review and consideration at the Select Board meeting of October 20, 2014.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 8:43 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

DPW Response to Pole Hearing

Map and Request to Adopt Atkins Rotary for Maintenance

Draft November 5, 2014 Special Town Meeting Warrant

Memo from Finance Director on STM Article 2 and 3

CPAC 9-30-14 Agenda, PowerPoint on past projects and Allocations

State Election Warrant 2014

BID Annual Meeting PowerPoint

Letter of Invitation for Public Art in Downtown

Parking Forum Webpage

Transportation Plan Update

Taxi Driver Applications J. Maffei and N. Shippey Funky Cab

Special One Day Wine and Malt Licenses UMass Amherst 10/07, 10/20, and two 10/25 events

Draft Minutes for 08-18, 8-25, and 9-8-2014