

MINUTES

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

Present: Alisa Brewer, Constance Kruger, Andrew Steinberg, James Wald

Absent: Douglas Slaughter

Staff: John Musante, Town Manager; David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager; Sandra Burgess, Town Clerk; Deborah Radway, Human Resources Director; Scott Livingstone, Police Chief; Tim Nelson, Fire Chief; Sgts. Dave Foster; Sgt. Rich MacLean; Lt. Dave Knightly; Jonathan Tucker, Planning Director; Alan Snow, Tree Warden.

Other: Big Brothers Big Sisters Director Renee Moss; Planning Board Member Rob Crouner; Petitioners L. Michael Alpert, Mary Wentworth, Vincent O'Connor, Joseph Wronka, Martha Spiegelman, and Rudy Perkins.

Meeting called to order by Ms. Brewer at 6:32 p.m.

Ceremonial Swearing-in of Police Officers

Police Chief Scott Livingstone invited officers Lt. Knightly, Sgt. Foster and Sgt. MacLean forward. Town Clerk Sandra Burgess officiated the ceremonial swearing in. Human Resources Director Deborah Radway, Fire Chief Tim Nelson and countless police officers were present to offer their support and congratulations.

Public Comment

Renee Moss and Elaine Puleo of Big Brothers Big Sisters spoke on the need for parking reservation as submitted for the Daffodil Fun Run on April 26, urging reservation of additional spaces on Main Street for the safety of runners at the start. The Town Manager and Chief Livingstone said that the deployment of detail officers at the start of the race was sufficient for the safety of all participants.

Big Brothers Big Sisters Daffodil Fun Run

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to approve the reservation of seven (7) metered parking spaces on the east side of North Pleasant Street adjacent to Kendrick Park from 8:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., Sunday, April 26, 2015 for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Daffodil Fun Run.

Post-Election Reorganization

Town Manager Musante presided over the reorganization of officers for the Select Board.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to elect Alisa Brewer as Chair.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to continue current practice of rotating Vice Chair position monthly, beginning with Ms. Kruger in May.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to elect Andrew Steinberg as Clerk.

Pole Hearing – Request to Allow Below Grade Service to 51 and 57 East Pleasant Street

Public Hearing was opened at 6:56 p.m. No one from Eversource was in attendance. The Town Manager presented the petition for underground service, observing the request had been reviewed by both the Department of Public Works and the Tree Warden without issue or concern noted. Mr. Musante reported it would not involve the use of any public funds in response to a question from Joan Burgess. Hearing closed at 7:02 p.m.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to grant Eversource a location for and permission to install hex hole 105/23X on Triangle Street, to allow below grade service to 150/234-IP and 150/23-11P and to install (2) 5” conduits from 150/23X to 38/8X to allow installation of primary connection between structures in accordance with the plan marked 6A420128 to provide 3 phase below grade electrical service to customers at 51 and 57 East Pleasant Street.

Town Manager Report

The Town Manager reported on the creation of a Student Town Advisory Board (STAB) to meet twice per semester or more often as needed, providing an opportunity for feedback on Town issues impacting and/or of interest to students. Student representatives from UMass, Amherst and Hampshire College will be appointed by their respective Student Government Associations with representatives from the Town government and wider community to be appointed by the Town Manager and expected to include the Chief of Police, Fire and Health officials, elected officials, a representative from the business community, and others at the Town Manager's discretion.

Jen Brown, Public Health Nurse and AmFit Coordinator was recognized for her work leading an employee health and fitness initiative which includes facilitating a twelve week Weightwatchers class at the Bangs Center beginning in mid-April.

Promotions in DPW included Kelly Olanyk to Crew Supervisor in the Waste Water Division and Conor Burke to Operator II in the Water Division.

An outline of the timeline and recruitment of an economic development director was conveyed. The Town expects to advertise locally and nationally in April and anticipates to be in a position to make a job offer following Town Meeting with an anticipated July 1st start date.

Mr. Musante reported on local impacts related to the Berkshire Gas moratorium to new customers in Hampshire and Franklin Counties. At least two Amherst restaurants have not been able to obtain natural gas service.

Cable Advisory Committee appointments include Adrienne Terrizzi, Joan Golowich, Don Courtemanche, and Kris Pacunas, with a fifth member anticipated as soon as continued interest is confirmed.

Appointments to the University Town of Amherst Collaborative (UTAC) and subcommittees to include housing, economic development and arts, culture and entertainment are actively being sought. Creation of UTAC was one of the primary recommendations of the recently completed Town Gown Study.

The Town Manager reported on an update from the MA Department of Conservation and Recreation on the rehabilitation of the Norwottuck Rail Trail, noting excavation and repaving from Station Road to Southeast Street has closed that section of the trail, as well as the Station Road parking area. This section of the trail is expected to be completed in June.

Special Liquor Licenses

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to approve the application of the Carr's Ciderhouse of Hadley MA for a license to sell hard cider 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, April 18, 2015 through November 21, 2015 from 7:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., pursuant to Chapter 138, Section 15F of the Massachusetts General Laws; Nicole Blum; Manager.

Hours noted on application differed from the motion as written. Members agreed to hours as presented in motion, as they provided an additional hour on each end of request.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to approve the application of The Common School for a special wine and malt liquor license for a fundraiser to be held at the Yiddish Book Center, 1021 West Street on May 2, 2015 from 6:00 p.m. to 12:00 a.m.; Dana Kadish, Director of Admissions and Outreach.

Arbor Day Proclamation

Tree Warden Alan Snow summarized the projects planned for the two days requested in the proclamation.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to proclaim April 18, 2015 and April 25, 2015, as Arbor Days in the Town of Amherst, and, to urge all citizens to support efforts to protect our trees and woodlands and to support our Town's urban forestry program.

Voting & Assigning Select Board Positions on Town Meeting Warrant Articles

Mr. Musante provided an explanation of Article 21. Vince O'Connor, Larry Kelley and Paige Wilder offered comment.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 21 – Affordable Housing Property Tax Incentives; Ms. Kruger to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Planning Board Member Rob Crowner and Planning Director Jonathan Tucker presented Article 22. Sarah la Cour, Paige Wilder, Vince O'Connor, James Perot and Peter Vickery provided comments.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 22 – Zoning -Inclusionary Zoning; Ms. Kruger to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Petitioner Mike Alpert summarized Article 23. Rob Crowner presented on behalf of the Planning Board, offering their positive recommendation. Claudia Brown, Sidney Feshbach, David Markland, Ken Rosenthal, Joan Burgess, and Maurianne Adams offered comment.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to recommend referral to the Planning Board to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 23 – Zoning Petition - Butterfield Terrace Rezoning; Ms. Brewer to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Petitioner Mary Wentworth presented Article 24. Rob Crowner presented the Planning Board's recommendation to refer back to the Planning Board. Janet McGowen, Jack Hirsh and Vince O'Connor offered their comments.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to recommend referral to the Planning Board to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 24 – Zoning Petition – Amend Municipal Parking District; Mr. Wald to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Vince O'Connor presented on behalf of the petitioner.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to recommend dismissal to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 25 – Zoning Petition – Amend Mixed Use Building; a member of the Select Board will speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Petitioner Martha Spiegelman presented. Sarah McKee provided further remarks.

VOTED 3 to 0, 1 Abstention (Steinberg), 1 Absent (Slaughter) to recommend referral to the Personnel Board to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 26 – Petition – Earned Sick Leave; Ms. Kruger to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Petitioner Vince O'Connor presented.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to recommend dismissal to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 27 – Petition – Mill Street Bridge; Ms. Kruger to speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Petitioner Joseph Wronka presented.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 28 – Petition – Proclamation Towards a Human Right Culture; Mr. Slaughter or Mr. Steinberg will speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

No Petitioner was present. Ms. Radway spoke, noting petitioners for both Article 28 and Article 29 would be coming before the Human Rights Commission at their meeting on April 16, 2015.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 29 – Petition Proclamation Race Amity Day; a member of the Select Board will speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Petitioner Rudy Perkins presented with Lisa Selkirk making further remarks. VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to recommend to the April 27, 2015 Annual Town Meeting, Article 30 – Petition – Opposition to TGP Gas Pipeline; Mr. Slaughter or Mr. Steinberg will speak to the Article on behalf of the Select Board.

Committee Appointments

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to confirm the Town Manager's appointment of Pari Riahi to the Planning Board effective April 6, 2015, for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to appoint Carlyjane Dunn Watson to the Kanegasaki Sister City Committee effective April 6, 2015 for a term to expire on June 30, 2018.

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to appoint Kristen Lieber to the Audit Committee effective April 6, 2015, for a term to expire on June 30, 2016.

Parking and Street Closure Requests

Cushman Village May Day Celebration

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to approve the closure of that part of Henry Street between the intersections of Market Hill Road and Pine Street on Saturday, May 2, 2015 from 9:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. for the Cushman Village Annual May Day celebration.

Sustainability Festival

VOTED 4 to 0, 1 Absent (Slaughter) to amend the reservation approved at the March 23, 2015 Select Board meeting for seventeen (17) metered parking spaces on the west side of Boltwood Avenue moving north beginning at the intersection of College Street from 8:00 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Saturday, April 25, 2015, to include: eight (8) metered spaces on the east side of South Pleasant Street beginning at the intersection with College Street moving North and the eighteen (18) metered parking spaces on the east side of Boltwood Avenue beginning at the intersection of College Street moving north.

Minutes

Mr. Steinberg requested further review of the March 23 meeting notes and video recording, as he believes he would have abstained or left the meeting upon discussion of the library budget.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 11:35 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

Final Agenda & Draft Motions

Reorganization Policy

Eversource Pole Petition and DPW Response

Article 21 Town Manager Letter on Affordable Housing Property Tax Incentives

Article 22 FAQ and Planning Board Report

Article 23 Butterfield Terrace Rezoning Petition - Planning Board Report, Petitioner's Presentation; Letters & Emails

Article 24 MP District Petition - Planning Board Report, Options for Regulating Downtown Parking

Article 25 Mixed Use Buildings Petition - Planning Board Report

Article 28 Creating a Human Rights Culture Petitioner's Presentation

Article 30 Proposed Pipeline Facts, Letter to Senator Rosenberg with Attachments, Letter to Select Board, Analysis Report prepared for MA Dept of Energy, Concerned Scientist's Report

Arbor Day Proclamation

Daffodil Fun Run Application for Parking and Map

Cushman Scott May Day Request and Map

Sustainability Festival Parking Amendment and Map

Application for Farm Winery to sell at Farmers Market

Special Wine and Malt for The Common School

Draft Minutes March 23, 2015