

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

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

Absent: None

Staff: John Musante, Town Manager; David Ziomek, Assistant Town Manager; Claire McGinnis, Treasurer/Collector, Jeff Bagg, Senior Planner

Other: Renee Moss, Big Brothers Big Sisters Director

Meeting called to order by Ms. Brewer at 6:30 p.m.

Public Comment

Big Brothers Big Sisters Director Renee Moss spoke about their parking reservation request for the Annual Crafts on the Common event July 10-12. Ms. Moss acknowledged she had been advised about the extension of the Amherst Farmers Market onto Boltwood Avenue, noting it will require a change in the early morning unloading protocol with a turnaround at the Porter House driveway.

Larry Kelley requested the Select Board review their policy to allow the commemorative flags to be flown on 9/11, as three of five Select Board members currently in office had never had the opportunity to speak on the subject.

Public Hearing – Parking Regulation Changes

The Public Hearing was opened at 6:45 p.m. Mr. Musante provided background on the recommended changes before the Select Board including a proposed increase in fees and a change to parking regulations on Lincoln Avenue, currently restricted at all times on the west from the University to Elm Street and on the east to Fearing Street. A memo included in this evening's packet outlined the current restrictions and the proposal, which came about after review with staff including the Chiefs of Police and Fire, DPW Superintendent and Parking Administrator upon receipt of multiple correspondence from residents concerned about public safety.

John Holcombe, 154 Lincoln Ave.; Betsy McInnis, 76 Lincoln Ave.; Bruce and Louise Wilcox, 191 Lincoln Ave.; Katherine Newman, 174 Lincoln Ave.; Mark and Nancy Gilbert, 166 Lincoln Ave.; Alan Harazin, 34 Lincoln Avenue; Rick Pelletier, 160 Lincoln Ave.; Rhett Krause, M.D., 163 Lincoln Ave.; and Rick Pelletier and Louise Reilly, 87 Lincoln Avenue all spoke about personal circumstances and thoughts on the proposed changes. Concerns with the increased parking restrictions, the unintended consequences of increased speed, a change to the nature of the neighborhood as well as the loss of resident parking was also cited. Many noted agreement with no parking on one side only, preferably the west side, and understanding the need to restrict parking near the intersections, especially at Lincoln Avenue and Amity Street.

Senior Planner Jeff Bagg noted there are recommendations in the Downtown Parking Forum Draft Report to be discussed later this evening which identify the need to study areas close to the downtown and a recommendation for the expansion of permit parking for downtown residents. Mr. Musante responded to questions and inquiries from Select Board members. Ms. McGinnis provided an overview of the downtown and neighborhood permit process and street markings that exist. The Select Board indicated that the presentation failed to provide sufficient rationale for the proposal. Members expressed a need for a much more comprehensive look at the downtown area and further information from the fire chief and the committees involved in the Transportation Plan.

VOTED unanimously to continue that portion of the public hearing related to parking on Lincoln Avenue to 6:45 p.m. on July 27, 2015 and close that portion of the public hearing related to increase of parking fees at 7:45 p.m.

VOTED unanimously to increase the annual rate for lease of reserved space in the lower level of the Boltwood Garage from \$950.00 annually to \$1,000.00 per year, effective July 1, 2015.

An inquiry was made on the practice or policy for current fees charged and what relationship was there to bags provided for reservation. Mr. Musante indicated the practice of the Select Board has historically been to not charge not for profit organizations. Members suggested the practice be written as a policy and further, to request further explanation on ability to tow vehicles left in the parking lot overnight. VOTED unanimously to increase the fee for reservation of metered parking space from \$5.00 to \$10.00 per meter per day, effective July 1, 2015.

Downtown Parking Forum Draft

Senior Planner Jeff Bagg presented the framework for the draft downtown parking study, explaining it is intended as a preview of what is anticipated in the final report. The goal was to capture a detailed summary of the three forums and to describe the strategies and recommendations for actions that were prioritized by community members in the forums. The recommendations that were noted as the highest priorities from the process were to: 1) begin a planning process on the feasibility of a new parking facility in the downtown; and, 2) undertake efforts to explore and to maximize the existing parking supply. The full draft report is expected to be completed for further discussion at the Select Board's July 27, 2015 meeting. Mr. Bagg indicated the process was meant to set the stage for finding solutions for downtown parking.

Rolling Green - Closing Update

Assistant Town Manager David Ziomek provided an update on the Rolling Green closing to Beacon Communities to secure affordable housing in Amherst. Mr. Ziomek anticipated a closing date no later than July 4 to secure the funding through DHCD, HUD and Town of Amherst CPA funds.

Epstein Property Conservation Land Acquisition & Mitchell Agricultural Preservation Restriction

Mr. Ziomek reviewed both projects, providing location, details and the partners involved in the preservation projects. He affirmed that no Town funds were necessary to facilitate either purchase.

Mr. Ziomek noted gifts of property are very rare, highlighting the generosity of Sy and Alice Epstein in providing protection of conservation land, important wildlife habitat and hiking trails, adding their parcels to the Mt. Holyoke range. He also made note of the generosity of the donation by the Mitchell family and from the Kestrel Trust who provided the \$30,000 local match needed for the Agricultural Preservation Restriction, which removes the development rights for this prime farm land, a priority location.

VOTED unanimously to approve the Conservation Commission's acceptance of the 20-acre parcel of land located off Bay Road, Amherst, donated to the Town by Kestrel Land Trust for conservation purposes under the provisions of G.L. c.40, §8C, and declare said donation to be in the public interest.

VOTED unanimously to approve the Conservation Commission's acceptance of a permanent agricultural restriction on a 52 +/- acre parcel of land and with the buildings and structures thereon located at Route 116, Amherst, known as the Mitchell property, which restriction is to be held jointly with the Department of Agricultural Resources.

Puffers Pond Update

Mr. Ziomek provided an overview of the modest improvements planned for Puffers Pond: replacement of the cribbing to hold the sand on the beaches, improvements to the ADA beach access, the perimeter trail, and safety fencing at the cliff and dam, funded by Town Meeting with a matching federal grant. The Puffers Pond 2020 recommendations are being revisited, with a focus on public safety, parking, and

future dredging.

Town Manager Evaluation and Goal Setting

Mr. Musante provided highlights of the performance goals included in his progress report dated June 8, 2015. Ms. Brewer outlined the process moving forward, reviewed forms and timeline, noting their availability online. The Select Board and Town Manager provided feedback, making recommendations for changes in the forms for the current year review. It was noted that staff is removed from the Select Board email distribution list during the review process. Members offered thanks to the chair for her extensive work.

During the discussion, Mr. Steinberg suggested sample language of what could go on the screen in place of or overlaying the meeting telecast while we are reading evaluation documents at the August 17 meeting. “The Select Board is currently reviewing Town Manager evaluations prepared by each member and a draft composite written by the Chair. These were distributed to the Select Board at 6:00 pm and are available at <http://www.amherstma.gov/DocumentCenter/Index/2540>, the Select Board packet for this meeting. The Select Board will begin its discussion of the evaluation at approximately 7:30.”

The Select Board noted a conflict in the regular meeting schedule, a religious observance on the scheduled meeting date of September 14, 2015. It was agreed without formal vote to remove the September 14, 2015 meeting scheduled and include in its place September 21, 2015 or September 28, 2015, dependent on availability of a meeting room. Meeting dates of August 19, 2015 and August 31, 2015 were also added.

Town Manager Report

Mr. Musante announced his acceptance and upcoming attendance to a three week residential program at the Harvard Kennedy School Senior Executives in State & Local Government Program in Cambridge from July 6-24, thanking the Select Board for their support of his professional development.

Updates were provided on the pending appointments to the University Town of Amherst Collaborative (UTAC); the home rule petition necessary for special legislation to enable local property tax incentives to create affordable housing; the draft Building Assessment Report; and the anti-aid amendment. Work continues on the update to the strategic partnership agreement with the University, noting the current agreement continues in force until a successor agreement is completed. The Chair requested the information be made available to the Select Board at a public meeting after negotiation of the elements but prior to his signing of the agreement.

Mr. Musante reported on the positive feedback his office had received from the community on one of the new inspectors, Tina Shen, citing her professionalism and thoroughness. Additionally, correspondence from the Fields Association provided an overwhelmingly positive response on the addition of the traffic island near the Stavros facility.

Tracking the use of the electric vehicle charger recently installed in the Town Hall lot will be managed both by calculation on the use of the metered parking space and the increased use of electricity.

A contingent of Amherst officials met recently with City of Springfield officials at their invitation. They were interested in our rental permitting process, specifically what we had learned from the process as they pursue a similar process.

Member Reports

Mr. Steinberg reported on the frustration of some members from the boards and committees that he serves as liaison regarding the filling of committee vacancies, suggesting greater communication with liaisons by the appointing authority. The Recycling & Refuse Management Committee will be presenting the final draft of the Solid Waste Management Plan to the Town Manager and Select Board in the coming weeks,

which will include a recommendation to fund the recycling coordinator position in the budget. The LSSE Commission is discussing issues surrounding conditions of playing fields, issues that arose on the use of subsidies, as well as anxiety on the delay in creation of a Amherst Center Recreation Working Group. Kanegasaki Sister City is celebrating their 60th anniversary and has invited a contingent of up to five people from Amherst. Mr. Steinberg wondered about the appropriateness of a gift from the Town offering official congratulations. The Chair asked Mr. Steinberg to lead that effort on behalf of the Select Board; Mr. Steinberg agreed.

Ms. Kruger reminded the Chair on the need to review liaison assignments. Ms. Kruger and Ms. Brewer reported on Human Rights Commission picnic and awards ceremony, recognizing the members and especially the work of Ms. Radway, Director.

Chair's Report

Ms. Brewer noted she was also able to read the Amity Day proclamation during the Human Rights picnic. Juneteenth is happening this Friday at 5:30 p.m. at Kendrick Park, the Taste of Amherst is this weekend on the Common.

Ms. Brewer noted she will schedule review of liaison assignments at the next meeting, requesting members survey the list in preparation.

Ms. Brewer reported on an opportunity to attend an upcoming Economic Development Roundtable discussion in Springfield and the MA Selectmen's Association meeting on June 25 at Union Station, as well as her attendance at the LWV Legislative Luncheon and the Hampshire County Select Board's Association Quarterly meeting, where she was elected Clerk.

Board members discussed benefits of an individual Town email address for Select Board members and elected not to move forward at this time.

Committee/Board Appointments and Reappointments

VOTED unanimously to appoint Yuri Friman as an Associate member of the Zoning Board of Appeals effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2016.

VOTED unanimously to confirm the Town Manager's reappointments of Marco Boscardin and Julie Marcus to the Board of Health effective July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.

VOTED unanimously to appoint Keith Langsdale as a full member of the Zoning Board of Appeals effective June 16, 2015 through June 30, 2018.

VOTED unanimously to reappoint Housing and Sheltering Committee members Denise LeDuc and Greg Stutsman through June 30, 2018 and Nancy Gregg through June 30, 2016.

VOTED unanimously to reappoint Rene Theberge to the Public Art Commission effectively July 1, 2015 through June 30, 2018.

Parking and Street Closure Requests

Big Brothers and Big Sisters 35th Annual Crafts on the Common

Select Board asked the Town Manager to have Parking Enforcement Officers available to assist, as necessary in the morning.

VOTED unanimously to approve the reservation of eight parking spaces on the east side of South Pleasant Street and thirteen on the west side of Boltwood Avenue, both beginning at College Street moving north beginning at 9:00 p.m. Friday, July 10, 2015 to 9 a.m. Saturday, July 11, 2015 and on Saturday, July 11, 2015 from 3:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m. for artisan unloading and clean-up for the Big Brothers Big Sisters Crafts on the Common event; Renee Moss, Director.

Blue Hills Road Block Party – 14th Annual

VOTED unanimously to approve a street closing for Blue Hills Road on Saturday, August 1, 2015 from 12:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. and a rain date of August 2, 2015 for the 14th Annual Blue Hills Road Block Party; Dennis Bowen, organizer.

Taxi Driver License

VOTED unanimously to approve the application for a new 2015 Taxi Driver License for Elwood E. Shular on behalf of Ambassador Taxi.

Special Liquor Licenses

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Bread & Butter, LLC for special wine and malt license for a wedding rehearsal dinner to be held on Friday, July 3, 2015 from 5:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on the premises of Bread & Butter, L.L.C. 108 Cows Road, Unit 102, Amherst, MA; Jaime Knox, Co-Owner.

VOTED unanimously to approve the application of Top of the Campus Inc., for a special wine and malt license for a reception to be held Friday, June 26, 2015 from 4:00 p.m. – 9:00 p.m. in the Atrium of the Isenberg School of Management; Sarah Long, Board of Director.

Question on need to act on an entertainment license and special liquor license for June 17, 2015 for Bread and Butter that was included on the agenda but not included with draft motions.

VOTED unanimously to approve a special wine and malt license for Bread and Butter LLC for purpose to be determined on June 17, 2015, for hours consistent with application and subject to approval of Chief of Police; Jamie Knox, co-owner.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 10:49 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

Recommendation for Parking Regulation Changes

Legal Ad Parking Restrictions

Notice to Lincoln Avenue residents

Lincoln Ave Existing Parking Restrictions

Lincoln Ave Proposed Parking Mapped

Parking Fees Current

Lincoln Ave Residents Letters: Halcombe et al, Harazin, Jon, Weeks, Jackson & Peltier

Draft Parking Report – June 15, 2015

Epstein Property Map

Epstein Acceptance

Mitchell APR

Mitchell Neighboring Lands

Mitchell Survey Draft

Town Manager Evaluation Draft Email to Town Meeting Members, Committee Chairs & Staff

Town Manager Evaluation Draft Staff Questionnaire

Town Manager Evaluation Goals Timeline – Summer 2015 – Draft 6-12-15

Town Manager Performance Goals Progress Report – June 2015

Town Manager Town Meeting

WMass Regional Economic Development Roundtable Invitation and Pre-Event Questionnaire

Complaint Violation Inspections Report
Blue Hills Road Block Party Request and Map
Parking Reservation Request BB BS Crafts on the Common 2015 ad Map
Taxi Driver Application E. Shular for Ambassador
Special Wine & Malt Bread and Butter 7/3/15