

Minutes

ATTENDANCE

Select Board

Present: Alisa Brewer, Doug Slaughter, Connie Kruger, Andy Steinberg, Jim Wald Absent:

Staff: Interim Town Manager M. David Ziomek; Finance Director Sanford Pooler, Planning Director Chris Brestrup and Sustainability Coordinator Stephanie Ciccarello

Other: Resident Mary Wentworth

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

Mary Wentworth, 22 Lessey Street spoke about her concerns related to Sun Edison's current financial stability and the Town's consideration for the photovoltaic array at the landfill, providing several related articles as handout. She encouraged the Board to look within the State for a vendor.

Mr. Slaughter offered his tremendous thanks to public safety officers and emergency personnel for the care he was provided following an accident he was involved in on the way home from the meeting last Monday evening. He also declared his appreciation to the residents of College Street who came out to offer their assistance following the accident. Ms. Brewer noted her appreciation for Mr. Slaughter's attendance this evening.

Bike Share Update

Christine Brestrup, Interim Planning Director and Stephanie Ciccarello Sustainability Coordinator provided an update on a new program they had been working on regionally. The Transportation Plan Task Force had recognized it as a strategy for Amherst in their plan, believing Amherst well suited for the program.

Availability of helmets was noted as a concern and while there is no known established program currently, the opportunity for local consideration exists. A memorandum of understanding was presented for a Phase II feasibility analysis involving the Pioneer Valley Planning Commission and UMass Amherst, which lays out the roles and responsibilities for the communities who sign on. There is an option to opt out if the program proves to be cost prohibitive. Letters of support were presented from several Amherst boards and committees. Staff were thanked for their work to date. Concerns with variances that exist presently that could change the cost substantially and the ability for the steering committee to change the agreement following authorization were noted. Ms. Brestrup reported a grant to assist with capital infrastructure has been submitted. Formal consideration to be taken up next Monday.

Landfill Solar Update

Finance Director Sandy Pooler provided an outline of the major sections of a proposed power purchase agreement (PPA) with Sun Edison on the new old landfill, the authorization of which was granted by Article 11 at the Fall Special Town Meeting. Mr. Pooler provided an overview of the structure of a PPA and indicated it would be a twenty year term with a five year renewal option. The vendor would build, operate and maintain and the Town agrees to purchase the power. For every kilowatt hour generated, we are credited on our electric bills (net metering). The vendor will also be responsible to pay taxes on the value of the solar arrays, with a minimum premium of \$15,000 per year. A bond is required to ensure removal of the array at the conclusion of the contract. Members discussed their preference for a fixed versus variable option, agreeing without formal vote to go with the greater potential/risk at a fixed rate. Questions about the costs currently paid for electricity, the risk of Eversource not connecting to the grid to achieve the highest value of tax credits and what the life expectancy is for the equipment. Mr. Pooler explained that this does not affect the cost of electricity, it effectively leverages the difference between what we pay Sun Edison and what

Eversource provides in net metering credits. The expected life span is twenty to thirty years and no information on Eversource's ability to connect. Federal Government current tax credit of 30% of the cost, a significant savings, expires on January 1, 2017. The 10% rate expected beyond that date may prove to not be cost effective. Sandy provided a handout and provided further explanation on margins and anticipated risk. Our choice was either to go out for a Request for Proposals for a vendor based on qualification and price or to go through Power Options a purchasing cooperative, which is available for direct contract under State Procurement Law. Mr. Pooler spoke about concerns with Sun Edison's finances, noting he had reviewed with Sun Edison, the Power Options Cooperative and felt that the contract provides the Town protections and would only sign if he felt it was with a partner to perform. In regard to the old landfill project, Sun Edison has indicated its intent to offer residents a 10% discount from the net metering rate. Majority of members agreed to forge ahead with a PPA on this parcel as well, secure in the regulatory processes to address any environmental concerns.

Interim Town Manager Update

Ms. Brewer indicated they had not yet received response from Ms. Radway on assistance in the search for an Interim Town Manager. Mr. Steinberg and Ms. Kruger provided an update on the process the search committee had engaged in to date, noting intent to bring forward final candidates for an interview before Select Board.

Reports

Mr. Ziomek offered accolades to Ms. Radway for her work on the search in addition to her other responsibilities. He reported he is mid-way through the budget process, meeting with department heads weekly, plan is to complete budget hearings by early December. Once those are complete, his plan is to work with Mr. Pooler on a formal budget for presentation. Mr. Ziomek reported on his attendance at a recent celebration of Amherst Cinema's anniversary and a meeting of the Business Improvement District board meeting. Announcement of the hiring of Geoff Kravitz as Amherst's first economic development director, noting Kravitz' previous experience and education, noting he was a native of Amherst.

Mr. Steinberg reported as the Board's representative to the Audit Committee, he had completed the fraud inquiry questionnaire on behalf of the Board requested by the Auditor.

Mr. Wald reported on a forum to be held tomorrow evening by the Public Arts Commission regarding the creation of a cultural district.

Ms. Kruger reported she had been working with Ms. Puppel on committee reports and process and plans to continue with her on name tags and business cards.

Ms. Brewer noted she was also working with Ms. Puppel to update the draft charges of the Public Transportation, Bicycle and Pedestrian Committee and will return to the task upon her return from vacation. She provided a draft for the Parking Task Force, explaining rationale and asked for members' review before next week's meeting.

A handout with downtown branding and way finding sign design was provided. Ms. Brewer noted the Planning Board will review on Wednesday and provide comments to the Select Board for review on the 23rd of November.

An email from Rebecca Fricke, Chair of the Amherst Agricultural Commission provided information regarding their discussions with the Amherst Farmers Market on shared values. Ms. Brewer requested documentation sent out to producers be copied to Select Board. Ms. Ryan, Market Manager will come before the Board on December 7th.

The Annual Classification Presentation is in your packets this evening for the scheduled December 7th public

hearing for members' advance review.

Special Licenses

Voted unanimously to approve the application of the Top of the Campus Inc. for an All Alcohol License on November 20, 2016 for service at a reception in the Life Sciences Lab (Room 610) UMass Amherst from 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. and for a Wine and Malt License on December 11, 2015 for service at a reception in the Isenberg School of Management Atrium, UMass Amherst from 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.; Carolyn Nofio, Board Member.

Puerto Rican Day Proclamation

VOTED unanimously to proclaim November 20, 2015 as Puerto Rican Day.
Mr. Wald read the proclamation.

Flying of the Puerto Rican Flag

VOTED unanimously to permit the Puerto Rican Flag to be flown from November 20, 2015 to November 30, 2015.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 9:15 p.m.

Submitted by M. David Ziomek, Interim Town Manager

List of Documents Presented at the Meeting – Available in the Online Packet for the Meeting Date

Final Agenda and Draft Motions

Puerto Rican Proclamation 2015

Bike Share Program Cover Memo, Feasibility Study and Memorandum of Understanding

Pooler Cover Memo and Draft Power Purchase Agreement for New Landfill

Agricultural Commission Letter of Support for Farmers Market

Parking Task Force Draft Charge

Landfill Solar Update Historic Net Metering and PPA Rate

Landfill Solar Update Proposal Comparison with Town of Dennis

Press Release Economic Development Director Geoff Kravitz

Amherst Downtown Branding Family of Elements Wayfinding Draft and Summary

PTBPC Charge

Special All Alcohol Life Science Lab Room 610 UMass November 20, 2015

Special Wine & Malt Isenberg School of Management December 11, 2015

Wentworth Handout Public Comment on Sun Edison