

**Town of Amherst  
Minutes of the Select Board**

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July 24, 2017 - 6:30 p.m. - Town Hall, Town Room

Members present: Doug Slaughter, Andy Steinberg, & Alisa Brewer

Members Absent: Connie Kruger, Jim Wald

Staff present: Paul Bockelman, Town Manager; Economic Development Director Geoff Kravitz; Superintendent of Public Works Guilford Mooring; Police Captain Jennifer Gunderson

Others present: Matt Fuller, Eversource; Tony Maroulis, UMass Director of External Relations and University Events; Housing Authority Director Debbie Turgeon and Pam Parmakian, Director of Housing; Amherst Cinema Manager George Myers.

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The meeting was called to order by Mr. Slaughter at 6:30 p.m.

**Public Comment**

Debbie Turgeon, Housing Authority Director and Pam Parmakian, Director of Housing Programs presented their marketing plan for Presidential Apartments affordable housing units, reporting a lottery will be held August 11, 2017. The application deadline of August 4, 2017 was noted for the six affordable units created as part of the regulatory agreement between the Town of Amherst and the developer. Availability includes 3 one bedroom units, (\$250 less than fair market); 2 two bedroom units (\$500 less than fair market) and 1 three bedroom units (\$800 less than fair market), 80% of the area median income. Applications are available on the Town website as well as the Housing Authority's website.

**Action and Discussion Items**

University and Town of Amherst Collaborative (UTAC) staff Geoff Kravitz, Amherst Economic Development Director and Tony Maroulis, UMass Director of External Relations and University Events spoke about a recent retreat which approximately two-thirds of the UTAC members attended. Three recommendations came out of the retreat, which need to be approved by the Town Manager and the Chancellor: 1) change roles of staff to co-directors; 2) three subcommittees: Housing, Economic Development, and Culture, Arts and Living were confirmed as appropriate subject matters for continued focus; and 3) reorganization of the UTAC Executive Committee with stronger representation from the subcommittees, further definition of the role with membership to be co-chairs of the current executive committee, and the co-chairs from each of the subcommittees, the co-directors, with a renewed action oriented focus on the Town Gown relationship. Mr. Bockelman indicated an additional recommendation for a member of the Select Board to be designated by the Chair and a member from the University to be named by the Chancellor was added following the retreat for broader representation on the Executive Committee.

Geoff Kravitz, Economic Development Director, provided a brief update on recreational marijuana providing highlights and key dates on the recent legislation.

**Public Hearings**

Eversource – Petition for two poles for new service at 32 N. Prospect Street

The public hearing was opened at 7:10 p.m. Matthew Fuller, Eversource Energy representative spoke briefly on the need for petitions. Members noted a correction in the description to reflect Cowles Lane in

place of Cows Road. The Public Works Department has confirmed that there are is no tree removal needed on this petition. There was no public comment and the public hearing was closed at 7:14 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, the Board voted unanimously 3-0 with 2 Absent to grant permission to install two (2) solely owned poles tagged 93/4M and 93/4M-1 to be set across from each other on the westerly and easterly sides of North Prospect Street approximately 200 feet south of the intersection with Cowles Lane and 15 feet each from centerline of North Prospect Street to provide service to new home at 32 North Prospect Street, in accordance with the plan marked 6A720436 and the petition filed by Eversource Energy d/b/a Western Massachusetts Electric Company.

#### Eversource Petition for One Pole on Belchertown Rod for Alpine Village Apartments

The public hearing was opened at 7:16 p.m. Mr. Fuller explained the purpose for the new pole, new code required for the new construction to replace the building lost in a recent fire. The Tree Warden has confirmed that no trees are involved in the installation. There was no public comment and the public hearing was closed at 7:20 p.m.

On a motion by Ms. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, the Board voted unanimously 3-0 with 2 Absent to grant permission to install one jointly owned pole tagged 9/14M approximately 846 feet southerly of the intersection of Colonial Village Drive and 20 feet from the centerline of Belchertown Road to provide power to Alpine Village Apartments, in accordance with the field plan marked 6A720741 and the petition filed by Eversource d/b/a Western Massachusetts Electric Company and Verizon New England, Inc.

#### Parking Regulation - Public Hearing (continued)

Mr. Slaughter said the Board was returning to the public hearing on parking regulations from the prior meeting. George Myers, General Manager from Amherst Cinema read a statement which was also forwarded to the Select Board. Mr. Myers noted that their patrons have trouble finding parking, documenting the Cinema's support for the construction of a new parking garage and the increase in duration to four hours. Mr. Myers spoke against the potential increase in fees in the core, believing that to be revenue driven rather than increasing the availability of parking, acknowledging appreciation of the work being done on the topic.

On a motion by Ms. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board voted 2-1 with 2 Absent to close the public hearing that opened on Monday, July 17, 2017 at 7:00 p.m. to consider changes to parking regulations including, but not limited to, changes in hourly rates, hours of enforcement and duration in space at multiple locations, fines, permit fees and duration (effective dates), and, consideration of a winter storm parking policy to replace the town-wide parking ban with the understanding that the Select Board will discuss whether or not to take action on their agenda of August 28, 2017.

#### School Zone: Fort River Elementary, South East Street

Mr. Bockelman explained that Fort River was the only elementary school that had not had a school zone established. Superintendent Mooring presented and reviewed the recommendation explaining the required and optional signage, as well as the option for inclusion of a flashing light.

Mr. Slaughter indicated for the record that he is an employee of the schools, however it was his belief that the discussion does not create a conflict of interest.

Mr. Mooring indicated the project will be completed within six to eight weeks dependent on delivery and costs total approximately \$6,500.

On a motion by Ms. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, the Board voted unanimously 3-0 with 2 Absent, to establish a school zone for the Fort River Elementary School, with two (2) 20 m.p.h. School Zone signs with lighting to be installed, one on the west side of South East Street for southbound traffic, and one on the east side of South East Street for northbound traffic, and four (4) advance warning signs, one on the northeast side Belchertown Road for traffic approaching the intersection of South East Street, two on Main Street, one for westbound traffic and one for eastbound traffic approaching the intersection of North East Street and one on the west side of North East Street for southbound traffic approaching the intersection of Main Street, all in accordance with the Manual of Uniform Traffic Control Devices and the Massachusetts amendments to that manual with the understanding that signage would be installed prior to the start of school aside from the ones that are not yet available.

#### Crosswalk Request – UMass, North Pleasant Street

Mr. Bockelman read the request from UMass for permission to install a new crosswalk due to the increased demand crossing for parking. Mr. Mooring indicated that the crosswalks would be ADA compliant. It was requested that the Disability Access Advisory Committee be made aware of the plans.

On a motion by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Ms. Brewer, the Board voted unanimously 3-0 with 2 absent. MOVE to authorize the University of Massachusetts Amherst to construct a new crosswalk and curb ramps to comply with ADA and AAB standards on North Pleasant Street at the intersection of Butterfield Terrace from the southeast end and to make improvements to the existing crosswalk on Butterfield Terrace at the intersection of North Pleasant Street.

#### **Street Light Requests**

##### Hobart Lane and North Pleasant Street

Captain Jennifer Gunderson requested the addition of three streetlights, one on North Pleasant Street across from the Crestview bus stop and two on Hobart Lane. The request is based on a joint study by Amherst Police in collaboration with UMass Police Crime Prevention. Outreach to the major property owners, the Regional Transit Authority, as well first responders and residents of Hobart Lane, all who are in agreement for the request. Mr. Mooring noted one of the poles on Hobart Lane may require replacement of the pole and all equipment was in stock. Ms. Brewer asked that it be shown in the minutes that it is the desire of the Select Board that the installation occur as soon as possible, preferably prior to the start of the school year.

On a motion by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Ms. Brewer, voting authorize the installation of three new street lights on existing poles, two on the south side of Hobart Lane in the proximity of house #3-17 and #47-49, and house #990 on the west side of North Pleasant Street.

##### Old Belchertown Road

Mr. Mooring noted this request came from UMass Transit related to public safety concerns and meets the criteria of the streetlights policy.

On a motion by Mr. Steinberg seconded by Ms. Brewer the Board voted unanimously 3-0 with 2 Absent to authorize the installation of a new street light on an existing pole on the south side of Old Belchertown Road, west of the intersection of Palley Village Place, a private way, across from the UMass Transit bus stop.

#### **Licenses, Public Way, and Metered Parking Reservation**

Ann Tweedy, Marketing Director for the Amherst Business Improvement District spoke on request for use of the public way for the Full Disclosure Festival planned for October 20-21<sup>st</sup> in downtown Amherst. She introduced Linda McInerney of Eggtooth Productions who explained the plans for the festival. Melinda

McCrevenon spoke about her plans for the art project on the North Common, assuring the Board no harm would come to the trees or grounds of the Common.

On a motion by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Ms. Brewer, the Board voted unanimously 3-0 with 2 absent to authorize the use of the Archway Tunnel to Boltwood Way for an art and sound installation by Exploded View, to be active until 9:30 p.m., installation of an eco-art installation/walkthrough environment by artist Melinda McCrevenon on the North Common, in the space to the left of the merry maple facing east; and an art project entitled Out To Dry on the North Common between the public walkway and the sidewalk, all as part of The Full Disclosure Festival hosted by the Amherst Business Improvement District in partnership with Eggtooth Productions in downtown Amherst on Friday & Saturday October 20-21, 2017; Ann Tweedy, Amherst BID Marketing Director; requiring installation in consultation with the Amherst Tree Warden and agreement to remove all installation at the conclusion of the festival.

Sarah LaCour spoke about the Business Improvement District's request to have pop-up parklets, landscaped areas created in a parking space, temporarily, creating a passive area for outdoor seating. The BID will rent outdoor table and chairs, plants, artificial turf and or outdoor rugs in various locations outlined in the written request. Members requested individuals be present at each of the locations. Concern related to location by the Toy Box with the pending construction. Cones will be provided as a measure of protection.

On a motion by Mr. Steinberg seconded by Mr. Slaughter, the Board voted unanimously 2 in Favor, 1 Opposed with 2 absent to authorize the reservation of metered parking spaces from 8:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. each date specified, including: the first metered parking space in front of the Amherst Visitor Information Center on the west side of South Pleasant Street on Wednesday, August 16, 2017; the third metered parking space in front of the Toy Box on the east side of North Pleasant, on Thursday, August 17, 2017; two metered parking spaces in the Boltwood Garage Parking lot adjacent to 30 Boltwood Walk on Friday, August 18, 2017, and the first two metered parking spaces on the south side of the Main Street parking lot adjacent to South Pleasant Street on Saturday, August 19, 2017 for installation of Parklets, a temporary conversion of parking spaces into green space.

On a motion by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Mr. Slaughter the Board voted unanimously 3-0 with 2 absent to authorize two Special Licenses for the University of Massachusetts to serve All Alcoholic beverages at the Library Fall Reception to be held on Sunday, October 1, 2017 from 2:00 pm. To 5:30 p.m. in the Old Chapel and the 25<sup>th</sup> floor of the W.E.B. Du Bois Library; Kimberly Mcallister, Director.

### **Committee Appointments**

On a motion by Ms. Brewer, seconded by Mr. Steinberg the Board voted unanimously 3-0 with 2 absent to reappoint Nonny Burack and Henry Lappen to the Public Shade Tree Committee for an additional one year term, through June 30, 2018.

### **Town Manager Goals**

Mr. Slaughter solicited the opinions from members on broad categories and any desire for change, additions or deletions. Mr. Steinberg suggested the addition of a category on the Board's expectations for the Town Manager to effectuate a transition if the Charter vote were successful, in recognition of the additional energy and time such a change will require. Ms. Brewer noted it would be difficult to be specific at this point in time since it is an unknown, mentioned possible substantive Town Meeting reforms will be expressed and what expectation the Board has related to those as well. Board members suggested that the Town Manager keep the Board informed of the workloads, resources etc. the process demands.

## **Town Manager Report**

Mr. Bockelman provided updates on the following:

- Notice received at a ceremony at the State House with an award for Amherst, the maximum allowed in the amount of \$825,000, the FY 2017 Community Development Block Grant, recognizing the work of the planning staff and advisory committee in submission of the application.
- He and Ms. Kruger attended the award of the Boston Post Cane to the oldest person in the community, Phyllis Pennell an Arbor resident.
- The Police Department is holding a summer camp for 8-9 grade students in conjunction with UMass Police Department.
- Roundabout construction continues and the schedule continues to be to complete major construction before the return of students at the end of August.
- The Building Commissioner is working on monitoring the proliferation of signs and was taking steps to ratchet back the most egregious violations, going to meetings of the Business Improvement District and the Amherst Area Chamber, as well as meeting with individual businesses.
- Trainings for staff on changes in public record law are being organized by Sandra Burgess Town Clerk and Debra Puppel.
- Town staff are working with North Amherst business owners and residents for suggestions on how to strengthen the application for the MassWorks grant application, including improvements to realignment for the intersection of Montague and Sunderland Roads.
- The Town of Pelham will be bringing to their Fall Town Meeting an article for K-6 regionalization with Amherst, with the two school committees actively engaged in communication.
- Linda Chalfant's retirement party is Friday at noon. Important dates upcoming highlighted.

## **Member Reports**

Mr. Steinberg noted he had done further investigation following the letter from the Lottery Commission regarding installation of a monitor for the Keno game at the Amherst Center Store. The Town has requested and received an extension of time for consideration. Mr. Steinberg noted there are a number of these installations at other bars, restaurants and neighborhood stores. He has consulted with the owner of the store as to location and monitoring of sales, his experience in other stores, and his belief that it would increase sales. Mr. Bockelman noted the action would be to object. Members agreed no further action necessary.

Ms. Brewer reported on the Cultural District Celebration tomorrow evening at Amherst Works.

Mr. Slaughter provided a brief update on the recent Transit Authority Advisory Board meeting, adopting a series of reductions in services, receipt of a grant and request of funds from reserves.

Mr. Steinberg moved to adjourn at 10:05 p.m. Ms. Brewer seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

Submitted by Paul Bockelman, Town Manager

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

Draft Motions and Final Agenda 07-24-2017

Select Board Letter to Pioneer Valley Transit Authority

Mass CDBG Grant Award Letter 07-20-2017

Pole Hearing – Eversource Petition 2 New Poles for New home 32 North Prospect

Pole Hearing – Eversource and Verizon Joint Petition 1 new pole Belchertown Road

DPW Recommendations on Pole Petitions

Letter in Support of Pole Petition Mary Ellen Pappas Barden

Public Comment Public Hearing Parking Regulations Broudy

UTAC Restructuring 2017

Request for School Zone Fort River Principal and DPW Response

Request for Crosswalk North Pleasant UMass Facilities Campus Planning and photos

Town of Amherst Streetlight policy

Request for Streetlights Hobart Lane and North Pleasant Street and Public Safety response

Request for Streetlight Old Belchertown Road and Maps

Town Manager Evaluation 2017 07-10-17

BID Request for Use of North Common and Boltwood Walk Tunnel

BID Request for Parklets 7-19-17

Two Special All Alcohol UMass Amherst 10-01-17 Web DuBois and Old Chapels