

Town of Amherst
Minutes of the Select Board

September 11, 2017 – 6:30 p.m. – Town Room, Town Hall

Members present: Chair Douglas Slaughter; Alisa Brewer, Connie Kruger, Andy Steinberg
Members absent: Jim Wald
Staff present: Town Manager Paul Bockelman, Public Works Superintendent Guilford Mooring
Other present: Jennifer Goldman, Scott Paul, Trish McPeak-Larocca and Kathleen Carroll

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

Public Comment

Ms. Goldman requested that the Select Board investigate the application process for the affordable housing units at Presidential Apartments, alleging fraud in the advertising and the lottery administered by Amherst Housing Authority.

Appointments

On a motion by Ms. Brewer, seconded by Ms. Kruger, the Board voted unanimously to appoint Sophia Maldonado to the Human Rights Commission, Masoud Hashemi to the Agricultural Commission and Rachel Loeffler to the Public Shade Tree Committee through June 30, 2020.

Road Closures

On a motion by Ms. Brewer, seconded by Ms. Kruger, the Board voted unanimously to approve a change of date for the road closure and reservation of metered parking spaces for the Amherst Business Improvement District 6th Annual Celebrate Amherst Block Party originally approved for Thursday, September 21, 2017 to Wednesday, October 4, 2017. The motion was seconded and passed.

On a motion by Ms. Kruger, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the closure of Lincoln Avenue from the intersection of Fearing Street to Amity Street for the Annual Halloweenfest Block Party, as shown on the map provided, on Tuesday, October 31, 2017 from 5:30 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

Licenses

On a motion by Ms. Kruger, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the applications of Top of the Campus Inc. for Special Licenses for service at events held on the UMass Campus as follows:

- c. All Alcohol at the Fine Arts Center 6 p.m. - 12 a.m. 09/23/2017; 4 - 9:30 p.m. 09/27/2017; 5:45 – 11 p.m. 10/17/17, 11/01/2017, 11/30/17, 02/08/18, 03/01/18; 2:30 – 8:30 p.m., 03/04/18; 5:45 – 11 p.m. 03/06/18; 4:30 – 10:30 p.m. 03/20/18; 5:45 p.m. – 11 p.m. 03/29/18, 04/07/18, 04/12/18, 04/25/18; and 6:45 p.m. – 12:00 a.m. 04/27/18; Van Sullivan, Director.
- d. All Alcohol at the Bowker Auditorium from 6-11 p.m. on 10/03/17, 10/04/17, 10/16/17, 11/15/17, and 5:45 p.m. – 11 p.m. 02/22/18; Van Sullivan, Director.
- e. Wine & Malt at Memorial Hall from 12 – 5 p.m. on 09/17/17 and the Gordon Hall Atrium from 4 - 8 p.m. on 10/16/17; Caroline Nofio, Director.

On a motion by Ms. Kruger, seconded by Mr. Steinberg, the Board voted unanimously to approve the applications of Esselon Coffee Roasting Co., Inc. d/b/a Esselon to serve wine and malt beverages at a corporate dinner from 5:30 p.m. – 8 p.m. on Tuesday, September 12, 2017 and a wedding reception from 6 – 11 p.m. on Saturday, October 14, 2017, both at the Eric Carle Museum of Picture Book Art, 125 West Bay Road; Jennifer Therkelsen, Operations & Special Events Manager.

Public Hearings

The notice of public hearing to consider changes to parking regulations including but not limited to parking restrictions, tow zones, and/or the addition of free or metered parallel parking spaces for Fisher Street and Olympia Drive was read into the record by the Chair. A motion to open the public hearing at 7 p.m. by Mr. Steinberg, was seconded by Ms. Brewer and voted unanimously.

The Town Manager reviewed the request received from residents related to parking on Fisher Street. He said the Town's public safety officials recommended the approval of the request for no parking on either or both sides of Fisher Street as requested by the neighbors. Select Board members were hesitant to use parking regulation to manage behavior. Scott Paul, 105 Fisher Street, spoke on behalf of the Fisher Street neighborhood involving six properties, five of which are owner occupied. Mr. Paul condemned the vandalism, noise, trash and public safety issues related, as well as the impaired driving and physical fights that occur repeatedly in the neighborhood. Mr. Paul noted he has followed up with the police on noise complaints, and spoken with the landlords and tenants to no avail. Kathleen Carroll of 11 Fisher Street spoke briefly on the process for noise complaints which occur on the street, concerned that they were assigned to the closest physical address. The complaint is then on the record as occurring at the addressed property. Trish McPeak-Larocca of 33 Fisher Street spoke to the issue of residents' need for on street parking for special events, noting the Police had indicated their ability to grant an exemption for such events. Mr. Bockelman indicated that it is an unreasonable burden to ask police to exercise exceptions. Suggestion for a limited duration pilot program to gauge the effectiveness was suggested, as long as there was notice to residents of Fisher and Harris Streets.

On motion by Ms. Brewer, seconded by Ms. Kruger, the Board voted at 7:40 p.m. to close that portion of the hearing related to Fisher Street.

After discussion, Ms. Kruger moved that the Board adopt a "No Parking Tow Zone" on both the north and south side(s) of Fisher Street between the hours of 9 p.m. to 6 a.m. seven days a week, through June 1, 2018. The motion was seconded by Mr. Steinberg and passed unanimously.

Mr. Bockelman introduced the proposal to limit parking on Olympia Drive to provide sufficient space for PVTAs and school buses to navigate through the area. The proposal offered the Board three options. Mr. Bockelman recommended the Board adopt the option identified as number two.

Mr. Mooring, Public Works Superintendent, reported there were thirty-three meter heads needed for this project. He currently has nine in stock. All single space meters would be added to the ParkMobile application to allow payment by phone. Spaces to be deemed no parking would be signed immediately. The thirty-three spaces to be designated as metered would remain open/free until the meters are installed. Members agreed to a two-hour limit in the metered parking at a rate of .50 cents per hour. Ms. Goldman suggested a resident only parking permit be considered. Ms. Kruger noted this is related to a 75 unit social dormitory for the university and therefore it did not require permitted parking.

On a motion by Ms. Kruger, seconded by Ms. Brewer to close the public hearing for Olympia Drive at 8:10 p.m.

On a motion by Mr. Steinberg, seconded by Ms. Brewer the Board voted unanimously to adopt the Recommended Parking Restrictions on Olympia Drive, as outlined in the Memorandum from Public Works Engineer Jason O. Skeels, P.E. dated August 24, 2017, creating 33 parallel parking spaces, as shown on the sketch dated June 20, 2017,

For the northerly side of Olympia Drive beginning at the intersection of East Pleasant St: 350 ft. - No Parking; 180ft - Parking permitted (north side); 190ft - No Parking (through the intersection of Authority Way); 160 ft. - Parking permitted (north side); 275 ft. - No parking (northwest side); 150 ft. - Parking permitted (northwest side); 100 ft. – No Parking (to the intersection of Authority Way); and 300 ft. – No Parking (from the intersection of Authority Way to Olympia Oaks);

For the southerly side of Olympia Drive beginning at the intersection of East Pleasant St: 600ft – No Parking (south side); 190 ft. – Parking permitted (south side); 650 ft. – No Parking (through both intersections of Mather Drive to the intersection of Authority Way); and 300 ft. – No Parking (from the intersection of Authority Way to Olympia Oaks);

And, in areas where parking is allowed, to install parking meters with two hour limits at a rate of fifty cents per hour.

Town Manager Evaluation

Mr. Slaughter reviewed his changes on the Town Manager's evaluation form which he had provided in a redlined version in the Board packet this evening. Members offered comments and revisions to the Chair's proposed draft. The Chair will make further revisions as discussed.

Town Manager's Report

The Town Manager reported on the following:

- Staff have requested to implement fund raising in the form of a dress down day on Fridays in October and November in exchange for a contribution for hurricane victims, which he supports.
- The latest Cuppa Joe was held at Share Coffee with Superintendent Morris and Assistant Superintendent Cunningham in attendance. The next one is scheduled for October 13th at the Cushman Cafe, with Health Director Julie Federman.
- The memorandum of understanding for the Amherst BID is up for renewal and his inclination is to extend the existing agreement to coincide with the renewal of the BID.
- The Town Manager and Human Resource Director attended a command staff meeting, in response to an invitation from the Chief of Police, and Mr. Bockelman noted the tremendous leadership team in place. All of those in attendance have a vested interest of making Amherst a better place, holding each other accountable, addressing challenging issues, while working together. He also reported on his attendance at an annual meeting of apartment building owners, together with inspection, public safety, and University personnel to discuss issues that affect quality of life in Amherst. Information on rental regulations, guidance on building design and lease terms was provided. He and the Chair attended the UMass new student convocation.
- Mr. Bockelman announced the retirement of Captain Brian Sterling effective September 18th following 32 years of service to the Fire Department.
- Anthony Delaney has started as the newly created shared Procurement Officer for the Schools and Town.
- Claire McGinnis is attending the Suffolk University Leadership program.
- Mr. Bockelman said the final paving of the Triangle Street roundabout and East Pleasant Street was nearing conclusion.

- The State is looking at the salamander incident at the water treatment plant with an intent to fine, which we plan to review with them.
- The Economic Development Director is drafting an RFP for an economic development plan funded by a grant.
- The Attorney General has requested and been granted an extension of the time allowed for review of the Sanctuary Community Bylaw.

Member Updates

Members provided brief updates on committee meetings they had attended, future meeting dates and project plans on liaison assignments. Mr. Steinberg agreed to serve on committee appointments. The Fire Department September 11th memorial service o held this morning was noted as poignant and well attended.

ADJOURN - The meeting adjourned at 9:35 p.m.

Submitted by Paul Bockelman, Town Manager

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

Final Agenda and Draft Motions

Legal Advertisement for Hearing on Olympia Drive and Fisher Street Parking Regulations

Resident Request for Fisher Street August 14, 2017

Town Manager Memo on Parking Recommendations Fisher Street and Olympia Drive

Fisher Street Mapped

Olympia Drive Parking Recommended Restrictions and Sketch

Olympia Drive Planning Director Memo and Attachments

BID Block Party Request for Change of Date and Mapping of Closures

Reservation of Town Way Halloweenfest Lincoln Avenue Request and Map

Special License Apps UMass for Multiple Dates at Fine Art Center, Bowker Auditorium & Memorial Hall

Special License Apps Esselon Catering at Eric Carle Museum 9/123/17 and 10/14/17

Letter from Attorney General on Town Meeting Actions

Mail – Complaints and Violations Report Inspections through 8/31/2017