

# BOARD OF SELECTMEN – TOWN OF NATICK

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## **MEETING MINUTES**

**EDWARD H. DLOTT MEETING ROOM – NATICK TOWN HALL**

**October 30, 2017**

**6:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Chairman Jonathan Freedman, Vice Chair Susan G. Salamoff, Clerk Richard P. Jennett, Jr., and Member Michael J. Hickey, Jr.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Town Administrator Martha L. White and Executive Assistant Trish O'Neil

**ABSENT:** Member Amy K. Mistrot

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m., noting that a quorum was present and that the meeting had been duly posted, and requested a motion to enter into Executive Session to discuss matters pertaining to Real Property and Collective Bargaining with the Chair announcing that discussion of Executive Session matters in Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the Board of Selectmen's negotiating position and the Town's interests. Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, moved to enter into Executive Session and, by a roll call vote, all Board Members present voted in favor of the motion. The Board entered into Executive Session at 6:06 p.m., the Chair announcing that the meeting would return to Open Session at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 7:17 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed for those protecting our country.

## **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

Ms. White announced that the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) has approved the Town of Natick as part of its invitation for a feasibility study to proceed with the schematic design to replace the Kennedy Middle School, and that the Natick Education Foundation will hold its Apple Pi Run, a fundraiser for Natick Schools, for elementary school students on Sunday, November 12<sup>th</sup> from 11:00-2:00 at the Natick High School Track. Ms. White also announced that the Town Engineer, Bill McDowell, met with MassDOT and Eversource regarding progress on the Marion Street Bridge and was told that it is anticipated that the bridge will be open before winter.

## **CITIZEN'S CONCERNS**

None.

## **WHAT'S NEW**

Athena Pandolf, Director of the Natick Center Cultural District, attended the meeting to discuss Small Business Saturday (the day after Thanksgiving) in light of a request for a proclamation from the Selectmen recognizing same that was submitted by Women Impacting Public Policy (WIPP) and provided a brief overview of activities occurring that weekend. Ms. Pandolf also brought two proclamations, one from the Senate and one from the House of Representatives, recognizing the renewal of the Natick Center Cultural District. Moved by Ms. Salamoff and seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 4-0-0 to approve the Proclamation recognizing November 25, 2017 as Small Business Saturday.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

The Chair asked if any members of the Board or the public would like to discuss any item on the consent agenda and no discussion was requested. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 4-0-0 to approve the Consent Agenda conditional upon the fulfillment of all recommendations from Town Agencies and/or Departments. The following items were approved:

1. Acceptance of \$2500 donation from Cognex to the Police Department
2. Exemption from Town By-Laws Chapter 41, Section 4 for Jeffrey Libby (Rec & Parks Assistant Manager & School Swim Coach)
3. Weekly Warrant Review for October 13, 2017
4. Request to occupy a public way by the Meridian Lodge for a blood drive on December 30, 2017
5. Reappointment of Carolyn Love West Scalise and Ganesh Ramachandran to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund (both terms expiring June 30, 2019)
6. Authorization for the Chair to sign a letter to the Metropolitan Planning Organization regarding funding for the Route 27 bridge.

#### **APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

1. **Melissa Sullivan – Interview for Appointment to the Historic District Commission:** A new resident to Natick, Ms. Sullivan provided pertinent background information. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 4-0-0 to appoint Ms. Sullivan to the Historic District Commission.
2. **Glenn Kramer – Interview for Appointment to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund:** A six-year Natick resident with previous tenure with the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, Mr. Kramer expressed an interest in filling the open attorney's position. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 4-0-0 to appoint Mr. Kramer to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.
3. **Trend Pure Asian Cuisine – Extend Entertainment License Hours:** Attorney Richard Ravosa spoke on behalf of Liann Chan, owner of Trend Pure Asian Cuisine, indicating the desire to extend Trend's entertainment license from three days per week from 9-11:30 p.m. to six days per week, Monday-Saturday, from 6-11:30 p.m., adding trivia games such as Trivial Pursuit and Family Feud to the types of entertainment they may offer. Moved by Ms. Salamoff and seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 4-0-0 to approve the changes.
4. **Tim Kelley, JFK Taxi – Request to Reduce Taxi Rates Effective November 1, 2017:** Mr. Kelley was not present at the meeting. Mr. Jennett expressed an interest in voting on the matter anyway and Mr. Freedman stated that since this would require a change in the Selectmen's Taxi/Livery Policy, the petitioner should be available to speak. No action was taken.
5. **Assessor – Tyler Sole Source Software Update:** Jan D'Angelo, Assessor, presented in place of the Procurement Officer, who was unavailable to attend this meeting, asking for a favorable vote to upgrade this proprietary software (which is 20 years old and due for an update) used to appraise Natick properties and confirming that funding is available in the Assessor's Operating Budget. Moved by Ms. Salamoff and seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 4-0-0 in favor.
6. **Comptroller – FY 2018 1<sup>st</sup> Quarter Report:** John Townsend, Deputy Town Administrator/Finance Director, introduced Arti Mehta as the new Comptroller, who then presented her FY 2018 First Quarter Report, providing information relevant to FY 2017 Revenue, Expenditures, and Free Cash in addition to 2018 First Quarter Revenue Comparison and Expenditures.
7. **Josh Ostroff, CRT Advisory Committee Chair, and Gary Pease, Friends of Natick Trails President – Proposed Fundraising Agreement Between the Town of Natick and the Friends of Natick Trails:** Mr. Ostroff explained that a 2016 Agreement naming the Friends of Natick Trails (FONT) as the fundraising arm for the Cochituate Rail Trail had been signed but never amounted to anything because there were no naming or sponsorship rights at the time. Now that construction of the Trail will be going out to bid, Mr. Ostroff explained that this would be a good time to reconsider an agreement. Mr. Pease discussed the mission of FONT and some ways in which monies raised would be distributed. Mr. Jennett asked for confirmation that Town Counsel has reviewed the agreement. Mention was made of having our Procurement Officer involved in review of the document but Ms. White stated that there is no procurement issue here and that though he is an attorney, Mr. LeBlanc has resisted the Town's efforts to rely on his legal expertise for matters other than those for which he was hired to handle. Mr. Freedman and Mr. Hickey thought specifics for Town Counsel to look at should be delineated, such as a clearer roadmap to how funds will be received and used. Mr. Ostroff stated that he would work with Town Counsel to clarify the agreement.
8. **Josh Ostroff – Proposed Newfield Drive Parking Benefit District:** Mr. Ostroff deferred to Dr. Leona Bessanova, a Travis Road resident with whom he has been working on a proposal to provide

additional on-street, permitted, commuter parking on Newfield Drive, a town accepted public way within walking distance of the West Natick MBTA Station. Dr. Bessanova explained that the station parking lot is full by 6:30 in the morning and that though two businesses close by rent out spots, they are very expensive and the wait list is very long. As a result, her commute is increased by 1.5 hours per day. Mr. Ostroff talked about legislation for "Parking Benefit Districts" that allows a municipality to identify an area in which to reinvest parking revenue for improvements, such as lighting, something that is desired on Newfield Drive. Mr. Ostroff encouraged the Board to consider this on a comprehensive level, noting that Newfield Drive may not be the ideal location for additional parking, and Mr. Freedman recognized that the issue would need to be addressed holistically. Ms. Salamoff proposed that a staff-led task force to include neighborhood residents, the Safety Committee, the DPW, the School Committee, and Community Development be instituted to look at short- and long-term possibilities. Both Ms. Salamoff and Mr. Hickey expressed concern after actually visiting the street, noting its narrowness, and expressed reluctance to saddle Newfield Drive residents with the entire commuter parking problem. Mr. Jennett responded to Ms. Salamoff, pointing out that he is the Chair of the Parking Advisory Committee, of which Mr. Ostroff is also a member, and stated that he did not believe this to be a task force situation but a Parking Advisory Committee concern. Stating that the Committee had not met in quite some time, Mr. Jennett offered to reinstate it to evaluate the issue. Notice of tonight's Selectmen's meeting was sent to management companies for Natick Village, Kendall Crossing, Natick Green, and Deerfield Forest and many residents from these areas stepped to the podium to express their opposition to the proposal, including Jeff Jones and Lou Franchi of Kendall Crossing; Lori Gold, Marilyn Wong, and Marian Federico of Deerfield Forest; David Wirth of Natick Green; Bobby Ciarfella of Natick Village; and Alice Cunnick and a Mr. Pike, both Natick residents. Ms. Salamoff also made note of the many opposing emails received from residents and assured the audience that they would be taken seriously. The concerns voiced centered around safety, especially for kids standing at the bus stops and increased traffic accidents, inconvenience for complexes that use Newfield Drive for interim parking during snow removal, decreased accessibility and traffic blockages for residents attempting to retrieve their mail from a community mailbox, adverse effects on the residential character of the neighborhood, increased foot and vehicular traffic, the narrowness of the road and lack of a speed limit, and that revenue gained from permit parking would not be remotely sufficient to cover the cost of new lighting on the street. Ms. Salamoff felt that the Parking Advisory Committee would need to be reconstituted since it had been inactive for so long and Mr. Jennett offered to reach out to Committee Members to ascertain their interest in staying on and whether there might be potential openings. On a motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 4-0-0 in favor of reconstituting the Parking Advisory Committee and directing the Committee to review the West Natick MBTA Station commuter parking issue as a whole, and not specifically as a Newfield Drive or surrounding area issue.

## **DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

9. **Approve Debt Exclusion Question for Kennedy Middle School to be Added to the March 27, 2018 Ballot:** Mr. Townsend stated that the question had been vetted by the School Department, the Town, the MSBA, and Bond Counsel but could not guarantee that all had reviewed the same version. He recommended returning to the next Selectmen's Meeting for approval of the question after ensuring that consistency. Mr. Hickey stated that this had been voted at the previous meeting and Mr. Freedman explained that there had been a technical issue with the language in that it referred to constructing but not equipping.
10. **Crown Plaza – Request to Extend Alcohol Serving Hours on New Year's Eve:** In effect, Crown Plaza withdrew their request when informed by office staff that the Board would be unlikely to vote against the Police Department's recommendation to refuse the extension. Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board vote 3-1-0 to deny the request, with Mr. Hickey casting the dissenting vote.
11. **Vote to Renew Alcohol Licenses for 2018:** Ms. White explained that the Board was being asked to approve renewal of all 2018 alcohol licenses subject to certain conditions, with office administrative staff ensuring that those conditions are met. Moved by Mr. Hickey and seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 4-0-0 to approve 2018 alcohol license renewals subject to conditions outlined in the memo provided, including payment of outstanding taxes and fees and correction of outstanding Police Department compliance check issues.
12. **Proclamation for Fire Chief Rick White:** Ms. White stated that the proclamation would be presented at the November 2<sup>nd</sup> Town Meeting to congratulate the retiring Chief on his career. His

family has been contacted and will attend. The Board is asked to approve and sign the proclamation, which will become part of the Town Report once read at Town Meeting. Moved by Ms. Salamoff and seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board voted 4-0-0 in favor.

### **COMMITTEE/PROJECT UPDATES**

13. **Update from Fire Chief Screening Committee:** Jim Everett, Chair of the Committee, stated that the Committee is on track to recommend between three and five candidates to the Board of Selectmen by December 11<sup>th</sup>. Twenty-one applications were received from all over the United States and about 10 met all the criteria. The Assessment Center is scheduled for November 20<sup>th</sup> and the consultant will present a list to the Committee of those applicants recommended to attend.
14. **Camp Arrowhead Update:** Ms. White stated that the Memorandum of Understanding between the Town and DCR may have a typographical error and its correction needs to be documented in writing, with the final agreement moments away. Ms. White and Jemma Lambert, Director of Community Services, have been working with AmVets to get their approval of the Memorandum of Agreement between their organization and the Town.
15. **West Natick Fire Station Update:** Three Warrant Articles have been approved by Town Meeting. The new design for the fire station will be available at the next Committee Meeting.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATOR NOTES**

None.

### **SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS**

Mr. Hickey would like the existing Selectmen's Correspondence Policy "dusted off" to reflect how things are handled and to whom they are referred.

### **CORRESPONDENCE**

#### **Selectmen's Correspondence:**

#### **Town Administrator's Correspondence**

### **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 4-0-0 on a roll call vote to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 10:32 p.m.

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Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Clerk

October 30, 2017 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes Approved by the Board of Selectmen on November 13, 2017

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**All documents used at this Board of Selectmen meeting are available at:**

<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=449&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agenda>