

BOARD OF SELECTMEN – TOWN OF NATICK

MEETING MINUTES

EDWARD H. DLOTT MEETING ROOM – NATICK TOWN HALL

April 2, 2018

5:00 PM

PRESENT: Chair Amy K. Mistrot, Vice Chair Susan G. Salamoff, Clerk Michael J. Hickey, Jr., Jonathan Freedman, and Richard P. Jennett, Jr.

ALSO PRESENT: Acting Town Administrator Bill Chenard and Executive Assistant Trish O'Neil

The Chairman called the meeting to order at 5:10 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 Litigation, Real Property, Collective Bargaining, Executive Session Minutes, and Non-Union Personnel Negotiations 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. Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Hickey, moved to enter into Executive Session and, by a roll call vote, the Board voted 5-0-0 in favor of the motion. The Board entered into Executive Session at 5:15 p.m., the Chair announcing that the meeting would return to Open Session at approximately 7:00 p.m.

Open Session reconvened at 7:36 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a moment of silence was observed for those protecting our country.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Chenard announced that the Marion Street Bridge would be closed on weekdays from 7:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. for approximately three to four months to complete the remaining bridge work. Questions should be directed to MassDOT.

Mr. Chenard also announced that the MBTA will be installing solar panels at the West Natick T Station in about a month. The project will take approximately two months to complete. Approximately 72 parking spaces will be lost during the installation. More information will be provided at the April 17th Board Meeting.

Ms. Salamoff acknowledged the loss of a long-time Natick resident this week, Gladys Eagerman, who contributed much to the Natick Community-Senior Center and the Council on Aging and was also known for her great bakery.

ASK THE TOWN

In response to an email he had received about potholes, Mr. Chenard stated that the DPW should be contacted to have potholes filled in. Mass General Law states that insurance claims related to potholes are valid only on streets accepted by the Town. He recommended using the “See Click Fix” app to report a pothole in real time. Mr. Chenard did note that not all roads within Natick are Town roads – for example, Route 9 and the Mass Pike come under the purview of MassDOT.

CITIZEN’S CONCERNS

None.

COMMITTEE/PROJECT UPDATES (Part 1)

Camp Arrowhead (taken out of order): Jemma Lambert, the Community Services Director, noted that re-construction of the camp continues to be a difficult process. Since no bids for construction services were received by last Thursday’s procurement deadline, Mr. Chenard met with the Town’s insurance company to determine whether their contractors could be used and was told that was not possible because they are not DCAM (Division of Capital Asset Management) certified. He also reached out to our legislative delegation who promised to help fast track the process with DCR once a contractor is engaged. The Procurement Officer re-advertised on March 29th and the new deadline for construction bids is April 19th. This will cause an additional two-week delay in an already delayed process.

Karen Partanen, the Recreation & Parks Director, stated that after another detailed look at the residential program and meeting with the Recreation & Parks Commission, there are essential enhancements (outlined in supporting materials provided to the Board) that need to be made if the camp is to open this summer. Mr. Chenard stated that he has met with Ms. Lambert and Ms. Partanen to discuss their concerns, noting that he would like to gather more information to ensure the program is safe for participants, staff, and volunteers. Camp Pride has been reserved and Mr. Chenard hopes to return in two weeks to provide definitive direction for the overnight program. Mr. Hickey stated he had difficulty reconciling the recommendations made by the Recreation & Parks Director and those of the Recreation & Parks Commission, noting that there seemed to be a disconnect between the two. Mr. Chenard agreed that the staff recommendations were different from those of the Recreation & Parks Commission. Mr. Jennett expressed frustration that such a successful program that has been provided for 43 years could be in jeopardy, strongly urging the Director of Community Services and the Recreation & Parks Director to work with the Recreation & Parks Commission, the volunteers, the parents, and the campers to do whatever is needed to make the program happen. Several people voiced strong support for the program, including parents of some past campers; Tim Luff, the Natick Public Schools Assistant Superintendent and Special Education Director, who said he felt disheartened by the recommendations provided by the Recreation & Parks Department; Jon Marshall, the previous Director of Recreation & Parks and a long-time proponent of and volunteer for the “Big Res” Program; Tim Flynn, a previous Camp Arrowhead director and volunteer; and

Dick Cugini, a former Recreation and Parks Director with a 19-year tenure. Ms. Mistrot noted that further discussion would take place at the April 17th Selectmen's Meeting when Mr. Chenard would return with recommendations.

APPOINTMENTS WITH THE BOARD OF SELECTMEN

1. **Procurement Officer – Award Contract for Camp Arrowhead Construction:** As above, no bids were received. The new deadline for construction bids is April 19, 2018.
2. **Collector/Treasurer – Approve/Authorize the Sale of the Bond Anticipation Note for Land Acquisition (Saxonville Branch Line) and Sign Associated Closing Loan Documents:** Mr. Price indicated that this would be an eight-month BAN in the amount of \$2,960,000 for the Cochituate Rail Trail. Mr. Chenard explained that this was the purchase price for the rail trail running from downtown through the Framingham border and across Route 9 to Camp Arrowhead; the loan has not been paid down at all and to avoid making it a permanent borrowing cost, the BAN will be carried for another eight months. On a motion by Mr. Jennett that was seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 as follows:
 - Voted: to approve the sale of a \$2,960,000 2.50 percent General Obligation Bond Anticipation Note (the "Notes") of the Town dated March 23, 2018, and payable December 7, 2018, to Eastern Bank at par and accrued interest plus a premium of \$14,611.20.
 - Further Voted: that in connection with the marketing and sale of the Notes, the preparation and distribution of a Notice of Sale and Preliminary Official Statement dated March 23, 2018, and a final Official Statement dated March 28, 2018, each in such form as may be approved by the Town Treasurer, be and hereby are ratified, confirmed, approved and adopted.
 - Further Voted: that the Town Treasurer and the Board of Selectmen be, and hereby are, authorized to execute and deliver a significant events disclosure undertaking in compliance with SEC Rule 15c2-12 in such form as may be approved by bond counsel to the Town, which undertaking shall be incorporated by reference in the Notes for the benefit of the holders of the Notes from time to time.
 - Further Voted: that we authorize and direct the Treasurer to establish post issuance federal tax compliance procedures in such form as the Treasurer and bond counsel deem sufficient, or if such procedures are currently in place, to review and update said procedures, in order to monitor and maintain the tax-exempt status of the Notes.
 - Further Voted: that each member of the Board of Selectmen, the Town Clerk and the Town Treasurer be and hereby are, authorized to take any and all such actions, and execute and deliver such certificates, receipts or other documents as may be determined by them, or any of them, to be necessary or convenient to carry into effect the provisions of the foregoing votes.

3. **Sustainability Coordinator:**

- a. Aggregation: Ms. Wilson Martin indicated that as the Town nears the end of its six-month contract with NextEra, approval is needed from the Board to go out to bid again. The consultants have recommended accepting bids for a number of different timeframes and authorizing the Town Administrator to accept the most advantageous bid. Moved by Ms. Salamoff and seconded by Mr. Freedman, the Board voted 5-0-0 in favor of going out to bid on May 1st in accordance with existing strategy and to authorize the Town Administrator to sign a contract with the lowest cost supplier for a term no longer than 12 months.
- b. Solar and Other Energy Efficient Projects Update:
 - i. Ms. Wilson Martin explained that the Town of Natick, in collaboration with the City of Newton and the Towns of Arlington, Lexington, and Weston, served as interveners in the Eversource rate case during which she testified against the Eversource proposal to eliminate two rate classes, especially those used to net meter solar projects on municipal property, and transitioning Natick to a lower rate, thereby lowering the Town's savings. The proposal was not approved by the Department of Public Utilities, but could be in the future since Eversource is expected to petition the DPU for this change every five years. Demand charges for residential solar projects, opposed by the Board in a previous letter to our legislators, were approved in the rate case and there is legislation being considered to eliminate those charges. Ms. Wilson Martin offered to draft a letter for the Board to sign in support of this. Moved by Ms. Salamoff and seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 5-0-0 to authorize Ms. Wilson Martin to author a letter for the Board to sign that would include challenging proposed monthly minimum reliability charges that would impact everyone in 2020.
 - ii. Ms. Wilson Martin reported that, overall, Natick has been a leader in the state in terms of greatly reducing its energy use with energy conservation measures that have resulted in a savings of more than \$500,000 in electricity, natural gas, oil, and other fuel costs annually. One of the Town's grant applications relates to how to make buildings work more efficiently. The status of the previously applied for Green Communities grant will be known in July and, if approved, will be used for multiple energy efficiency projects at the DPW, the Police and Fire Departments, the Morse Institute Library, and the Eliot School. Ms. Wilson Martin also mentioned the Town's Municipal Recycling Award and credited the DPW, with special kudos to Tom Hladick, the Director of the Sanitation Program, for their innovative approach and outreach in the area of recycling.
- c. Discounted Rain Barrel Program: In its water conservation efforts, the Town has partnered with the Great American Rain Barrel Company to sell discounted rain barrels to residents, the cost being \$69, a 45% savings from the retail price of \$119. The barrels are repurposed olive-shipping containers that come with a mosquito net. The barrels must be preordered online or via email by May 5th and will be distributed at the Farmers' Market on May 12th between 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

DISCUSSION AND DECISION

4. Affordable Housing Trust and Community Development Advisory:

- a. Amend Charges to AHTF and CDAC: According to the Committee Charges, established in 2007, a Planning Board member must be appointed to these committees with no provision allowing for a Planning Board designee. Currently, no Planning Board member is available to sit on these committees. Andy Meyer, Chair of the Planning Board, provided a memo requesting that the Board alter the language of the original Charges, adding the words “or their designee” after the words “Member of the Planning Board” in order to make an appointment right away who would provide updates to the Planning Board on a regular basis. On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 to amend the AHTF Charge by adding the words “or their designee” as described above. On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 to amend the CDAC Charge by adding the words “or their designee” as described above.
- b. Appoint Patti Sciarra as the Planning Board Designee to the AHTF (term expiring 6/3/2020) and CDAD (term expiring 6/30/21): Moved by Mr. Jennett and seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 to appoint Patti Sciarra as the Planning Board designee to the AHTF, with term expiring 6/30/22, and to the CDAC, with term expiring 6/30/21.

COMMITTEE/PROJECT UPDATES (Part 2)

5. Process and Timeline for South Main Street Decision at April 17, 2018 Selectmen’s Meeting:

Mr. Hickey, having done so himself, suggested the other Board Members may be interested in doing a site walk, interacting with residents and abutters, to further inform their decision. The remaining Board Members expressed interested in doing so. The Board discussed making a final decision on the design of South Main Street at their April 17th meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

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

- a. Charles River Rotary Club 6th Annual Scoopapalooza Ice Cream Festival on 6/23/18 (Rain Date: 6/24/18), including using of the Town Common, reserving and bagging parking meters on the west side of Park Street, and the hanging of a banner from 6/18-6/24/18
- b. Parade permit for St. Mark’s church First Annual 5K on 9/15/18 (Rain Date: 9/22/18)
- c. Parade permit for Little League Opening Day on 4/28/18

- d. Use of the Town Common, contingent upon Recreation & Parks approval, for Race Amity Day on 6/10/18
- e. Parade permit for the Carry the Fall Ruck March on 4/28/18
- f. Request to accept a donation from Lee Payton to the Police Department for the Rape Aggression Defense System (RADS) class
- g. Weekly warrant reviews for 3/23/18 and 3/29/18
- h. Meeting minutes for 2/29/16, 11/28/16, 12/5/16, 12/12/16, 3/19/18, and 3/28/18

SELECTMEN SUBCOMMITTEE/LIAISON UPDATES

Ms. Mistrot provided an update on FY 2020 budget planning by the Financial Planning Committee. The Committee wants to engage in longer range, strategic thinking. The next meeting is scheduled for April 9th.

Mr. Hickey stated that the West Natick Fire Station Building Committee is looking to focus its efforts on public outreach. Mr. Chenard noted that construction costs continue to escalate and interest rates continue to increase. Ms. Mistrot stated that a meeting is scheduled with Patrick Hayes tomorrow to discuss timing for the project.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR NOTES

Mr. Chenard stated that the Finance Committee has completed their recommendation book. Copies will be mailed out and there are copies available in the Selectmen's Office.

SELECTMEN'S CONCERNS

Mr. Jennett requested an evaluation of the traffic lights at Union/135/Marion, noting that the cycles are not quite right.

Mr. Hickey said he has heard from residents that the new LED Stop Sign at the end of North Ave going onto Marion Street is very distracting. It was placed due to the reopening of the bridge, but the bridge is now going to be closed for another three to four months and Mr. Hickey would like to know the long-term plan.

Ms. Salamoff mentioned that the Little League is looking for a speaker at their April 28th activities, the same day of the Fahey Family Square dedication.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Freedman, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board unanimously voted on a roll call vote to adjourn the Board of Selectmen's Meeting at 10:06 p.m.

Michael J. Hickey, Jr., Clerk

April 2, 2018 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes Approved by the Board of Selectmen on July 23, 2018
Submitted by Trish O'Neil, Executive Assistant, Board of Selectmen

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

<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=506&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agenda>