

SELECT BOARD  
TOWN OF NATICK

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**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Conducted Via Virtual Meeting (ZOOM Meeting)**

**November 18, 2020**

**6:00 PM**

**PRESENT:** Jonathan Freedman, Chair, Karen Adelman-Foster, Vice-Chair, Richard P. Jennett, Jr., Clerk, Susan G. Salamoff, Michael J. Hickey, Jr.

**ALSO PRESENT:** Melissa Malone, Town Administrator, James Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator – Operations; John Townsend; Deputy Town Administrator, Finance; Dorothy Blondiet, Director of Human Resources, James Freas, Director of Community and Economic Development, Police Chief James Hicks; Executive Assistant, Joan M. McNamara

**ABSENT:** None

Chair Freedman called the meeting to order at 6:05PM and noted that the Meeting is being recorded by Pegasus and Zoom.

Chair Freedman stated that all votes taken will be by Roll Call Vote. Instructions were also given that there is a “raise hand” button for those who wish to participate during this meeting. For those participating by phone, please press \*9 to raise your hand and #6 to unmute your phone.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence was observed.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**A. Request to Accept Donation from Cognex Corporation in support of their "Work Hard" philosophy**

Police Chief James Hicks was with the Board this evening to thank Cognex Corporation for this generous donation. We also have representatives from Cognex here this evening. Chief Hicks and Chair Freedman wished to express that Cognex has been a fantastic partner to work with and they have done so much for us. Amanda DiCenso, Cognex's representative, states that they support the Work Hard Play Hard philosophy and like to partner with and donate to folks in their community.

On a Motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Ms. Adelman-Foster, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0, to accept the donation from Cognex Corporation in support of the “Work Hard Play Hard Philosophy”. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey	Yes
Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Freedman:	Yes

B. NASA Presentation to the Board

Jillian Wilson-Martin, Sustainability Coordinator, was with the Board this evening to make a presentation with the group NASA DEVELOP. Several members of the NASA team were also present this evening. Climate adaptation and Climate Change. The goals of the project were to map flood vulnerability and susceptibility in the Charles River watershed, as well as impervious surface cover and potential for watershed degradation. Town staff, including William McDowell, Town Engineer; Marianne Iarossi, Conservation Agent and Open Space Planner; Richard Ames, GIS Coordinator; served as members of the Natick project team and provided guidance to NASA during the course of their work. The full memorandum is attached to this evening's agenda.

C. Approve Small Business Saturday Proclamation

On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to Approve the Small Business Saturday Proclamation for Saturday November 28, 2020. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey	Yes
Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Freedman:	Yes

D. Intent to Form Town Administrator Screening Committee

On December 28, 2020, the Town Administrator position will become vacant. In accordance with Article 20 of the Natick By-laws, Mr. Freedman stated that, the Board was initiating the selection process and giving notice of their intention to establish a Screening Committee, to review the applicants for the position of Town Administrator. Per the Chair, the Board has also directed the Human Resources Director to send a copy of the Notice to the Chairs of the Planning Board, the School Committee, the Finance Committee, the Personnel Board and the Town Moderator to designate their designees and provide those designees to the Select Board no later than 12/4/20. The Select Board will also make 4 appointments to the Screening Committee. All persons including citizens and employees are encouraged to apply. Please send applications no later than 12/7/20 by 5:00pm.

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Between December 9 and December 16, 2020, the Board will make appointments to the Screening Committee.

Chair Freedman states that he will read the items for Executive Session this evening and also notes that we will be returning to Open Session at approximately 8:00PM. Chair Freedman noted that we have 1 item for Executive Session and read the following:

- A. Pursuant to MGL c. 30A, S. 21 (a)(3) - To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the Chair so declares: PEC Agreement  
<https://www.natickma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/6381/Public-Employee-Committee--Agreement-FY-18-21>

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to enter into Executive Session. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey	Yes
Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Freedman:	Yes

Open session resumed at 8:14PM.

### **CITIZENS' CONCERNS**

None this evening.

### **SELECT BOARD UPDATES**

#### **A. COVID-19**

Mr. Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator-Operations noted that there are concerns are the rising rates of COVID and the upcoming Thanksgiving holiday. He asked citizens to please adhere to the Governor's Orders for gatherings and travel. As of today, there are 38 confirmed cases in Natick. We are still considered in the green rating.

## **DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

### **A. Continuance of Strategic Planning Discussion**

Ms. Malone stated that she has no further information to share this evening, however she would be happy to answer questions and review things with the Board at this time. Ms. Malone reviewed with the Board the differences between Option 1 and Option 3 which were presented on November 4, 2020. Ms. Malone stated that in Option 3, it would be “setting the sights” on an override for Fiscal Year 24 as Option 1 in no way specifying a year for an override but is more generic. Ms. Malone also presented and attached to this agenda many Articles from various publications which show why this issue is before the Board today.

Ms. Malone also noted that If we use stabilization funds for FY22 and do not replenish those for FY23, we would need some type of plan for sustaining services for the Town.

### **B. 2021 Licensing Fees Continuation of Public Hearing**

This public hearing was opened on November 2, 2020, and was immediately continued to this evening.

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to Close the public hearing. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey	Yes
Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Freedman:	Yes

Mr. Hickey proposed a 50% decrease in the restaurant S12 liquor license fees. Chair Freedman noted that this would likely be about a \$65,000.00 loss to the Town.

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to reduce the S12 liquor license fees by 50%. All other license fees will remain the same. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey	Yes
Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Freedman:	Yes

### C. 2021 Parking Fees

Mr. Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator-Operations attached a Memo to the Board this evening. He noted that he is still in negotiations with the Archdiocese regarding the rental of the lot.

Highlights of Mr. Errickson's memorandum are below:

For calendar year 2020, 305 parking permits were issued at a cost of \$385 each. Due to the pandemic, parking in Natick center was impacted in 2020, with lower demand on overall spaces, commuter spaces, and business spaces. Since we are unsure what will happen in 2021, making significant adjustments to the parking permit program at this time is not recommended. There are still ongoing costs to maintain the Town-owned lots, including snow/ice removal, insurance, staff time (enforcement), basic maintenance, and other costs, that remain despite demand. With this in mind, I am recommending making no change to the cost of business permits for the 2021 calendar year, keeping the rate at \$385 annually.

### D. Water and Sewer Abatement Appeals

Mr. and Mrs. Sibley and Yu (Anna) Zhang have returned to the Board this evening after having been heard on their water and sewer abatement appeals to the Board several weeks ago. The board decided to ask the petitioners to come back to the Board for final resolution.

#### 1. Andrew and Erin Sibley

Mr. Errickson stated there is no new information to report with regard to the Sibley's abatement hearing. Although the Board is sympathetic to the Sibleys, they denied the Sibleys request for an abatement this evening.

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Adelman-Foster, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0, to not grant an abatement request to Andrew and Erin Sibley. The Roll Call vote was as follows:

Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey	Yes
Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Freedman:	Yes

2. Yu (Anna) Zhang

Ms. Zhang and her father Enzo are here this evening. After a review of the case once again, the Board has not closed the door to Ms. Zhang if she is able to come up with any more information in the future that will support her appeal, but at this time, they are unable to support giving her an abatement.

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Salamoff, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to deny the request for abatement by Yu (Anna) Zhang. The Roll Call vote was as follows.

Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey	Yes
Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Freedman:	Yes

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Procurement Officer Award Contracts

1. Emergency/On-Call Plumbing Services Renewal (Natick Facilities Dept.)
2. Emergency/On-Call Door and Door Hardware Services Renewal (Natick Facilities)
3. Crack Sealing Services Renewal Natick Roadways (DPW)
4. Traffic Signal Maintenance Services Renewal (Natick Fire)
5. Charles River Modeling Services Project- Contract for Environmental Engineering Services

B. Weekly Warrant Review

C. Approve Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes July 1, 2020  
Meeting Minutes July 8, 2020  
Meeting Minutes July 22, 2020

D. Recreation and Parks Recommendation to Reappoint Commissioner David Ordway to Open Space Advisory Committee

E. Approve Recreation and Parks events to occur on the Natick Town Common

Common Street Spiritual Center - Worship Service for 25 people:

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November 24, 2020, December 27, 2020 & January 31, 2021 (1:30- 3:00pm), December 13 & 21, 2020 (4:00 – 5:00pm)  
December 24, 2020 (4:00 – 6:00pm)

Milestone Church - Christmas in Metrowest  
(8:00am – 12:00pm)

St. Linus Parish - Christmas Crèche to be displayed on Town Common (December 9, 2020 through January 7, 2021.

Chabad Center - Menorah to be displayed on the Town Common December 8, 2020 through December 20, 2020

- F. Approve Acceptance of Donations to Recreation & Parks from various sources during the month of October, 2020
- G. Reappoint Kathy Rehl to the Conservation Commission
- H. Reappoint Michael Collins and Melissa Sullivan to the Historic District Commission
- I. Approve change of Manager for Smashburger Acquisition – Boston, LLC, d/b/a Smashburger #1707
- J. Approval of net zero energy code letter

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 5-0-0 to approve the Consent Agenda. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster:	Yes
Mr. Jennett:	Yes
Ms. Salamoff:	Yes
Mr. Hickey:	Yes
Mr. Freedman:	Yes

### **SELECT BOARD CONCERNS**

Ms. Salamoff announced to the Board that they should make a note to register for the MMA Annual Conference and Trade Show which will be held virtually. You can register on the MMA website.

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On a Motion by Ms. Salamoff, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board, by Roll Call Vote, voted 5-0-0 to Adjourn the Select Board Meeting at 10:43PM. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Ms. Adelman-Foster	Yes
Mr. Jennett	Yes
Ms. Salamoff	Yes
Mr. Hickey:	Yes
Mr. Freedman:	Yes

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Michael J. Hickey, Jr., Clerk

\_\_\_\_\_, Select Board Meeting Minutes Approved by the Select Board on \_\_\_\_\_.

All documents used at this Select Board meeting are available at:

<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=828&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agend>