

SELECT BOARD  
TOWN OF NATICK

---

**MEETING MINUTES**

**Meeting Conducted in Person**  
**Edward H. Dlott Meeting Room, Natick Town Hall**  
**June 16, 2021**  
**6:00 PM**

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

**ALSO PRESENT:** Robert Rooney, Acting Town Administrator, John Townsend, Deputy Town Administrator, Finance, Eric Henderson, Director of Assessing; Ted Fields, Senior Planner, Community and Economic Development; Executive Assistant, Joan M. McNamara;

**ABSENT:** None

Chair Adelman-Foster called the meeting to order at 6:06PM and noted that the Meeting is being recorded by Pegasus.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence was observed for those who have lost their lives in service to the ideals of this country.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

A. Natick 4th of July House Decorating Contest and Scavenger Hunt (see attached)

Friends of the 4th, the non-profit volunteer organization known for organizing the 4th of July festivities in Natick, MA, today announced that the 2021 celebration will include a house decorating contest and scavenger hunt that will take participants through Natick's historic and notable landmarks. Winners will receive prizes from local businesses, and Natick's longtime Director of Public Health, James M. "Jim" White Jr., RS/REHS, will serve as the Grand Marshall. The scavenger hunt will take place the first week of July. For all dates and Instructions to participate please visit [www.natick4th.org](http://www.natick4th.org). Natick Friends of the 4th would like to extend a big 'thank you' to MathWorks for being the sole sponsor.

B. Natick Council on Aging named a National 2021 Program of Excellence Awardee

Ms. Ramsey was present this evening to address the Board and share the news that the Natick Community Senior Center (CSC) is receiving the award for "Senior Sized" Farm Shares. In partnership with Natick Community Organic Farm (NCOF) the CSC piloted a CSA program designed for seniors. Natick Council on Aging volunteers delivered NCOF fresh, nutritious produce during the growing season. The program not only supported NCOF but also provided a weekly social contact

during the pandemic. The program was generously subsidized by the Foundation for MetroWest and the MetroWest Health Foundation.

Ms. Ramsey's memorandum is attached to this evening's agenda.

### **CITIZENS' CONCERNS**

None this evening.

### **SELECT BOARD UPDATES**

#### **A. FY21 Quarterly Reports**

Mr. Townsend and Mr. Rauf were available this evening to review the FY21 Q1 and Q2 Quarterly Reports. Mr. Townsend presented a PowerPoint presentation which is attached to the Novus agenda this evening. During the presentation, Mr. Townsend noted that ambulance fees are currently at 42% and are lagging behind. Mr. Townsend also stated that the Town is in the same financial position as where we were in FY20 in Q1 and Q2. Budget to expenses do not include expenses from COVID. The COVID account is still in the red about \$450,000 but we do still think we will be able to resolve that by the end of the year.

#### **B. Overview 2021 Roadway Improvement Program - Part 2**

Mr. Marsette, Director of the Dept. of Public Works was present this evening to review part two of the five-year roadway improvement program. Mr. Marsette attached his original memo plus an updated memo dated May 11, 2021 which are both attached to this evening's agenda. With sustained funding we will continue to see improvements over the next 7 years which includes roadways, walkways, pavements, sidewalks, handicapped, and curbsides.

Mr. Marsette also addressed recent PFAS samples that were taken on May 26<sup>th</sup>. All samples were below the MCL limit. The Town does not need to provide an alternative water source at this time. It is now safe to drink the water.

### **DISCUSSION AND DECISION**

#### **A. Modify Stonegate Development Agreement Amendment:**

This item was taken off the agenda for this evening.

Mr. Hickey noted, however, that flyers will be sent out to the neighborhood with updates on the project itself. In addition, Stonegate and the Community and Economic Development department will be holding an open house on June 29, 2021, from 5:00PM-8:00PM at the Morse Institute Library.

#### **B. Inter Municipal Agreement Sherborn Sewer Connection**

This item was taken off the agenda for this evening.

C. Report from Senior Tax Exemption Study Committee

The Senior Tax Exemption Study Committee was present this evening to answer follow-up questions from the first presentation before the Board that did not get answered. Mr. Henderson, Director of Assessing, a committee member, stated that there are pros and cons to the senior tax exemption and noted that were the senior exemption be implemented, it would be difficult work for the Assessor's office to absorb. Mr. Henderson noted that it is his job to inform rather than to make policy decisions. Mr. Henderson additionally stated that the Town of Natick has done very well offering great programs for seniors.

Ms. Salamoff noted that the Committee is asking the Select Board to sponsor an Article 5 Home Rule Petition for Means-Tested Senior Property Tax Exemption. Ms. Salamoff also stated that a community vote is optional.

All relevant documents from the Committee are attached to this evening's Novus agenda.

The Board will take it under advisement to research and analyze the feasibility.

D. Housing Production Plan Discussion and vote

Mr. Fields from Community and Economic Development is here for a presentation this evening looking for the Board to endorse the updated Housing Production Plan. Mr. Fields stated that the purpose for his presentation is to summarize the Natick Housing Production Plan for 2021. The Plan consists of 4 key elements which include: 1) Housing Needs Assessment; 2) Stakeholder Perspectives; 3) Housing Goals; and 4) Strategies. Mr. Fields also noted that the original production plan was approved by the State in 2012, and this is an updated Plan. The full presentation is attached to this evening's agenda.

On a Motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Ms. Mr. Salamoff, the Board voted 5-0-0 to Endorse the Housing Production Plan.

E. Approve Meeting Minutes Meeting Minutes March 10, 2021

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Jennett, the Board, voted 4-0-1 to approve the Meeting Minutes of March 10, 2021.

**CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Approve Block party for David Prottas on June 27, 2021, from 5:30-8:00PM

June 16, 2021

B. Procurement Officer Award Contract

Contract Award: Surveying Services for the Development of Street Acceptance Plans in the Town of Natick

C. Weekly Warrant Review/June 8, 2021

D. Doug Flutie, Jr. Foundation's Request to hang Banner from August 30th through September 6, 2021, to support the Flutie 5k

On a Motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 5-0-0 to Approve the Consent Agenda.

**TOWN ADMINISTRATOR NOTES**

1. Mr. Rooney made an announcement that Natick's new Comptroller, Michelle Laramie, started the position today, June 16, 2021.
2. The Town Administrator Advisory Committee is wrapping up its final recommendation for the Town Administrator position.

On a motion by Mr. Jennett, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 5-0-0 to adjourn the Select Board meeting at 9:00pm.

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Michael J. Hickey, Jr. Clerk

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

<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=923&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agend>