

The Select Board met on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 remotely via ZOOM at 7:00pm. Board member Mackenzie was absent. The following Board members were present:

Mark Gallivan, Chair
Benjamin Barrett, Vice Chair
Glenn Maffei, Clerk
James O'Neil

Also participating
James Johnson, Town Administrator
Patrick Shield, Assistant Town Administrator
Aoife Kelly, Executive Assistant

Remote Participation

Pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote means. Chair to announce that all members will be participating remotely during the meeting. Every vote taken will be taken by roll call vote.

Appointments

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair Gallivan called the meeting to order at 7pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing for an All Alcoholic Beverage Restaurant License for CTA GROUP LLC dba Sticks&Stones, 514 High Plain Street. (Vote expected).

On motion of Board Member O'Neil, seconded by Chair Gallivan, voted to open the public hearing for CTA GROUP LLC dba Sticks&Stones for an all alcoholic beverage restaurant license located at 514 High Plain Street. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0). Business owners Elie Haikal and Saba Akouri were present. With no communication on this matter from the public, on motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Chair Gallivan, voted to close the public hearing. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0). On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Chair Gallivan, voted to approve request of CTA GROUP LLC dba Sticks&Stones for an all alcoholic beverage restaurant license located at 514 High Plain Street. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote to appoint the following candidates to the position of Police Officer:

Chief Kelleher and candidates John Holmes and Anthony Antonelli were present. Chief Kelleher introduced both candidates to the Board and provided some information on their background and experience. Candidate Holmes and Antonelli expanded on their backgrounds. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Vice Chair Barrett, voted to appoint John Holmes to the position of Police Officer. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0). On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Vice Chair Barrett, voted to appoint Anthony Antonelli to the position of Police Officer. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Recreation Committee Interviews and Vote for appointment: (One Regular & One Associate Position)

Candidates Jeffrey Hutnick and Marie Jeanlouis were present. Marie introduced herself to the Board and provided some background on her experience and why she is interested in becoming a member of the Recreation Committee. On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Vice Chair Barrett, vote to appoint Marie Jeanlouis as an associate member of the Recreation Committee. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0). On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Vice Chair Barrett, voted to promote Jeffrey Hutnick to a regular member of the Recreation Committee. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Norfolk County Presentation with regards to Offer to Lease four parcels of land (13-169, 13-167, 13-166 & 18-21) to the Town of Walpole. Board Discussion and Possible Vote to follow.

Jim Johnson provided an overview of proposal being offered to the Board and expanded on the lease option that is similar to the offer that was presented to the Select Board in the summer of 2020. Jim informed the Board that on the advice of counsel County officials would not be in attendance tonight but advised the Board to submit their questions in writing and the County Administrator will attempt to have them answered. Jim highlighted certain aspects of the proposal; deadline to respond is March 21st, and the estimated cost of the lease over the 20 years is \$728,396, if the Select Board wanted to move forward with the lease a Town Meeting would need to be held prior to March 21st to appropriate the funds within the 90day period. Jim urged any interested parties to contact the County Administrator John Cronin at 781-234-3435. The Board discussed the proposal at length and outlined that this proposal is similar to previous offer and the Town does not have the funds to lease the land from the County. The Board expressed their disappoint that no representative from the County was present, this project directly effects a lot of people and there are a lot of abutters to this project. The Board appreciates the adding of solar to the school curriculum however the educational demand could be met utilizing a smaller array of solar. The Board emphasized the need to submit questions to the County and the proper debate needs to occur between the Town, the community and the County. The Board stressed the need for public input and comment on this project and the County needs to ensure that happens. The Board asked Jim to reach back out to the County to see if they would be willing to attend a future meeting to just discuss the current offer to lease.

New Business

Vote to close the Spring 2022 Town Meeting Warrant

On motion of Board member O’Neil, seconded by Vice Chair Barrett, voted to close the Spring 2022 Town Meeting Warrant. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote request of Joy Roco to use the Town Common on Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 12pm-1:30pm for a Public Rosary

On motion of Board member O’Neil, seconded by Vice Chair Barrett, voted to approve request of Joy Roco to use the Town Common on Saturday, October 15, 2022 from 12pm-1:30pm for a Public Rosary. On roll call voted of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Vote request of KC&E Adventures to use Adams Farm from June 27 – August 10 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9am to 3pm for mountain bike camps

On motion of Board member O’Neil, seconded by Vice Chair Barrett, voted to approve request KC&E Adventures to use Adams Farm from June 27 – August 10 on Mondays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 9am to 3pm for mountain bike camps. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Board member O’Neil, seconded by Chair Barrett, voted to accept with gratitude the following donations

Donna Sherman to COA Gift Account	\$50
Yvette Morrill to Trails Committee Gift Account	\$100
Multiple Donors to Recreation Smiling Eyes Financial Assistance	\$163
Walpole Lions Club Troop 44 to Trails Committee Gift Account	\$219.39
On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).	

Minutes

On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Vice Chair Barrett, voted to approve the Minutes of December 21, 2021 as presented in our packet. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).

Town Administrator's Update

FY23 Budget

Right now we have a balanced budget. We are waiting on a few items specifically the Governor's budget and the insurance numbers which may not come until mid-February. I may be asking the Board to extend the delivery of the budget message and budget, just as I did last year from the beginning of February to later on in the month, in order to provide an accurate budget for the Finance Committee to work off for their deliberations. This Board is set to discuss the budget next week.

Warrant

The warrant was closed tonight, town counsel and I are working on it to ensure the proper language.

Solar Pilot Agreement

I was contacted by the attorneys representing the South Street solar parcel that was approved by Town Meeting. They are going to start working on the pilot agreement for the Select Board to consider. They are still working their way through the permitting process and I believe they are with the Conservation Commission now. I'm guessing that it will be coming up again in the next six months or so, I am pleased they are moving forward with it and I will certainly update the Board when I have more information.

On motion of Board member O'Neil, seconded by Vice Chair Barrett voted to adjourn the meeting and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 7:45pm. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (4-0-0).