

The Select Board met on Tuesday October 04, 2022 beginning at 7:00pm in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. The following members were present:

James O'Neil, Chair – Remote Participation via ZOOM
Glenn Maffei, Vice Chair
Allyson Hamilton, Clerk
Mark Gallivan – Remote Participation via ZOOM
Benjamin Barrett

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

Remote Participation

Chair announced that pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022, Select Board members O'Neil and Gallivan will be participating remotely during the meeting and every vote taken will be taken by roll call vote.

Appointments

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

Chair O'Neil called the meeting to order at 7pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

Public Hearing and Vote request of NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY for a Grant of Location to install approximately 42+/- feet of conduit for service to 30 Common Street

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to open the public hearing. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0). Town Engineer Carl Balduf and Eversource Representative Christine Cosby were present. Christine give the Board an overview of the project and the reason behind the request. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to close the public hearing. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0). On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve request of NSTAR ELECTRIC COMPANY for Grant of Location to install approximately 42+/- feet of conduit within the travelled way of Common Street. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Discussion and Vote on 295 Union Street offsite utility installation security

Town Engineer Carl Balduf, Jerry Deschenes MJ Development and Charlie Lewis were present. Jerry provided an overview of why they are in front of the Board. They are seeking approval of the security amount and also a 15 day extension on the deadline to carry out the work. Carl outlined to the Board the value of the security bond and the standard conditions that would be expected of the contractor. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve the offsite utility installation security for the work at Union Street as noted in the memo from Town Engineer Carl Balduf with a 15 day extension on the deadline. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote request of Applebee's Neighborhood Grill & Bar for Change of Manager to Jack Bender

Jack Bender was present. Jack introduced himself to the Board and provided some background on his experience in the industry. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve request of Applebee's Neighborhood Grill and Bar for Change of Manager to Jack Bender. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Walpole Police Departments Appointments:

Police Chief Kelleher and candidates John McMillan and Sean Turpin were present. The Chief introduced each candidate and provided some background on their career experience to this point. Each candidate elaborated on their experience and thanked the Board for giving them this opportunity. The Board thanked the candidates for coming forward, welcomed them to the Town and look forward to working with them in the future. On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to appoint John McMillan to the position of Police Officer. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0). On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to appoint Sean Turpin to the position of Police Officer. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Discussion with MBTA officials

MBTA Officials Mike Muller and Jody Ray were present to discuss the MBTA Foxboro Line pilot program. The commuter rail line from South Station to Foxboro was originally set to begin its 12-month initial test run starting in late 2019, but it was interrupted by COVID-19 and restarted Fall 2022. The success of the line will be largely based on ridership metrics. The Board expressed concerns that there was little communication with the commuters or the Town that this change in schedule was taking place and there were many Walpole residents adversely effected by the reduction in trains stopping at station. A lengthy discussion occurred surrounding the issues, impacts to Walpole and what needs to be achieved moving forward. Mr. Muller stated that this Fall will be used as a trial period, and there will be an opportunity to rearrange the schedule for the Spring. He commented that the changes were not made with any ill will towards Walpole, and he shared that Walpole is in fact very high on the list to receive train station upgrade funding once it becomes available. A number of possible ideas in terms of reconfiguring the station and making it more ADA compliant were discussed. The Board thanked the MBTA officials for agreeing to this meeting and stressed the need to keep this conversation going and would be willing to meet at the station in the near future to walk the site. The MBTA team were in agreement and willing to keep Walpole in mind when making any future decisions. Mike informed the Board and the public that all actionable items/complaints from riders should be directed to 617 222 2300.

Open Forum – No one present.

New Business

Vote request of Veterans Agent Mark Bryson to use the Town Common on November 11, 2022 for Veterans Day Observance

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve request of Veterans Agent Mark Bryson to use the Town Common on November 11, 2022 for Veterans Day Observance. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote request of Norfolk County Agricultural High School to use the Old Fisher Ball Field on October 21, 22, 28 and 29, 2022

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve request of Norfolk County Agricultural High School to use Old Fisher Ball Field on October 21, 22, 28 & 29, 2022 for parking as part of their Haunted Hayride. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote request of Thessaly Karas to hold a Block Party on Bubbling Brook Road on October 15, 2022 from 1-7pm

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to approve request of Thessaly Karas to hold a Block Party on Bubbling Brook Road, October 15, 2022 from 1-7pm. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote to accept the resignation of Lorraine Boyden from the Veterans Service Committee

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to accept the resignation of Lorraine Boyden from the Veterans Service Committee with regrets. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to accept with gratitude the following donation:

Charann Charitable Fund to COA Gifts

\$5,000

On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Town Administrator's Update

Town Meeting

Packets are out and the warrant information is out and is also on the website, we are good to go for October 17. Liz has to hold 3 caucus to fill a few vacancies. The moderator expects to start formalities around 7-7:15pm and formally kick everything off at 7:30pm.

Mattress Pick Up

Effective November 1 the state is mandating that there is a mattress/textile ban pick up that goes into effect permanently. This is a new state rule that will require mattresses and textiles to be kept out of the trash so that they can be recycled or donated. Bottom line you can no longer get rid of your mattress or box spring. We are working with Boston Carting to arrange some type of payment option to allow residents to deal directly with Boston Carting. Unfortunately, this is something that is coming down from the state, the Board of Health has discussed it a few times and we are trying to develop some options for our residents. We will be getting word out on the website, Melissa will be putting some publications out, we are trying to come up with options for everyone and negotiate a good price. We can't cover the cost of it we are simply not allowed to do it.

Fields Ceremony

A few weeks ago I talked about having a fields ceremony towards the mid to end of November. A generous donor, Walpole resident came forward this week and is going to donate a very large sum of money towards the friends group. Honestly I want to have it done right, so will push that grand opening ceremony and ribbon cutting back to April 2023. That way everything will be complete, so I hope the Board doesn't mind we made that call this week

On motion of Clerk Hamilton, seconded by Vice Chair Maffei, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:15pm. On roll call vote of the Board, Motion Passed (5-0-0).