

The Select Board met on Tuesday October 10, 2023 beginning at 7:00pm in the Main Meeting Room of Town Hall. The following members were present:

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

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

Appointments

Call to Order and Pledge of Allegiance

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

Presentation and Vote on Massachusetts Downtown Initiative – Wayfinding/Branding

Patrick Deschenes was present and provided a brief overview of the process to date and the work the Steering Committee has been doing in conjunction with consultant Mark Favermann from Favermann Design. Mark was also present to provide a summary for what was discussed and the results of the process. Mark provided some background on the grant program and how his firm has been working with various towns for about ten years.

Mark outlined to the Board the process to get to this point, which included looking at various aspects of the community, historic buildings, community events, trains; ideation process with the committee which involved words, colors and symbols associated with Walpole. Mark provided several options reviewed by the committee for the Select Board to discuss and vote upon. The Board thanked Mark for his presentation and the options presented by him. The Board discussed the different options, the timeline for phasing it in and possible funding sources moving forward.

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to approve the wayfinding and branding as shown on the screen and as discussed tonight by the Board. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote to appoint candidate Victoria Clancy to the position of Officer with the Walpole Police Department

Chief Kelleher introduced candidate Victoria Clancy to the Board and provided some information on her background and career to date, and what impressed the department the most is her passion for community policing. Victoria introduced herself to the Board and spoke about her career to date with the Boston Police Department since 2020. The Board welcomed Victoria to the Town and to the Walpole Police Department. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to appoint Victoria Clancy to the position of Officer with the Walpole Police Department. Motion Passed (5-0-0)

Discussion & Vote on G.L. c. 268A §23(b) (3) Exemption Request of Judith Conroy Zoning Board of Appeals Member; regarding potential conflict of interest

Zoning Board member Judith Conroy was present. Chair Hamilton, provided a brief introduction on this item and stressed the importance of the Select Board as the appointing authority to do their due diligence by having an open dialogue on this type of matter. Mrs. Conroy provided some background and her consultation with the Ethics Board back in 2021 who advised the filing of the exemption. Chair Hamilton noted that this was originally filed when Judy was an associate member and has since been promoted to a full member so the circumstances have changed. The Board discussed how this was triggered by the Chair of the Zoning Board reaching out and the importance of not having even an appearance of a conflict of interest. The Board stressed that it was up to Mrs. Conroy to determine if there is a conflict or even an appearance of a conflict when dealing with one particular developer but noted even the appearance

of a conflict can adversely affect the credibility of the Zoning Board and the Town. The Board discussed the potential use of associate members when dealing with this developer if Mrs. Conroy was to recuse herself from his cases. The Board thanked Mrs. Conroy for volunteering, appreciate her experience on zoning matter, for reaching back out to Ethics for an updated opinion and hope that she has listened to their concerns.

Open Forum – No one present

New Business

Vote to award Contract for Pool Design Services to The Vertex Companies

Town Administrator Johnson provided some background on this item and how this follows along from the pool feasibility presentation over the summer. Jim stated that he is looking to see if the Board wishes to move forward with awarding this contract, and which option to focus on. The Board discussed the awarding of the contract but noted that there is a lot of other capital projects that are vying for funding and we need to work through the list. Jim stated he would be looking to have a joint meeting with the Finance Committee and the School Committee in November and will be sure that this is a topic that is covered at that meeting.

Vote request of Veterans Agent Melissa Bingham to use the Town Common on November 11, 2023 for Veterans Day Observance

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to approve request of Veterans Agent Melissa Bingham to sue the Town Common on November 11, 2023 for Veterans Day Observance and to close Elm Street between Main and West Street from 9am-1pm. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, vote to approve the consent items as listed on the October 10 agenda

Tyler Forgeron to Hometown Hero Program	\$50
Rose-Marie Doherty to COA Gifts	\$100
Joanne DiPietro in memory of Giuseppe DiPietro to COA Gifts	\$250
Friends of Walpole Elders INC to COA Gifts Pool Table Expenses	\$1000
Dedham Savings Bank to INTERFACE Referral Gift Account	\$2000
Walpole Co-Operative Bank to INTERFACE Referral Gift Account	\$8000

Accept the resignation of Andrew Flowers from the Walpole Housing Partnership
Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Minutes

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan voted to approve the Minutes of August 1 & 22 and September 26, 2023 as presented. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Town Administrator’s Update

Town Meeting

We are all set for Town Meeting next week, Finance Committee public hearing is October 12 here at town hall at 7:30pm, we are going to start the meeting at 7pm so they can take the last few votes.

Norfolk County Retirement System

Over the last few months, the Board and I have received a couple of inquiries about the Norfolk County Retirement System and how the town should withdraw from it. I believe someone came in and spoke to that a few weeks ago,

since this all came up 2-3years ago we did a lot of legwork on it, including many legal opinions. I conducted a lot of research as well as our finance department and we have responded to the letters. At this point, I am not pursuing it unless the Board directs to me. We have researched it fully and it simply cannot be done, you cannot just withdraw the funds and put them in the state system. Nevertheless, a few people in town are continuing to raise those questions and concerns. I have addressed it in my comments and cover memo to town meeting representatives.

Joint Meetings with Finance Committee

On Thursday, November 16 at 7pm with Chief Barry, Chief Kelleher and DPW Director Mattson to discuss their upcoming needs and expectation as we begin the FY25 budget process. Another meeting similar to that on Tuesday, November 28 at 7pm and I'm expecting that we will discuss the TRI-County, new middle school, high school, the pools, East Walpole Fire, Johnson Middle School.

Grants

Recently notified that we received a \$65,000 zoning grant rewrite from the state as part of their housing choice grant program. Patrick Deschenes has done a really great job in taking over in that position, and I want to recognize him, he is always trying to seek out and leverage the town to get some grant opportunities. In addition, Landis recently received a \$300,000 grant for storm water infrastructure improvements at Jarvis, DPW yard and at town hall.

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:05pm. Motion Passed (5-0-0).