

The Select Board met on Tuesday November 07, 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 7:17pm followed by the Pledge of Allegiance.

AECOM, Presentation on Bird Pond Dam

Jennifer Doyle Green, Jean-Pierre Minois – AECOM, Robert Lowell and William Salomaa – DCR were present to present on the Bird Pond Dam and the DCR abandoned dam program. Jennifer provided some background on the project, the evaluation approach and the phase II investigation and alternatives analysis components. Jennifer outlined the three alternative components – repair, partial removal and full removal and how in her experience a community usually wants a dam to stay. Jennifer highlighted the current conditions of the dam, which included issues with seepage and trespassers, sediment sampling that was taken and hydraulic limitations. Jennifer explained that having the dam in place does reduce the risk of flood impacts downstream and how the removal of the spillway was preferred. Jennifer discussed how DCR would fund and implement repair design, permitting and construction. William informed the Board that this is the very beginning of the discussion and work would need to be done with the community to place the property into public ownership and negotiations would be required to secure the land rights.

The Board thanked the group for their presentation and have an understanding on why doing nothing is not an option but how this is a lengthy process. The Board agreed that whatever approach is taken they would like to see the preservation of the earth and the dam, the removal of the spillway with the least impacts to the residents. Jennifer informed the Board that in the meantime DCR would monitor the dam closely and address any issues that may arise.

Open Forum – Martin Hogan 153 Washington St. – spoke about his concerns in regards the possible changes at Bird Pond dam as an abutter.

Tony Michetti 175 Common St. – spoke about heavy truck traffic on Common Street in the early hours of the morning and speeding issue.

Kerry Herzig 74 Common St. – also spoke about the truck traffic issues on Common Street.

New Business

Vote to award Bid/Contract 2024-01 Blackburn Hall Architectural Services to RMD Collaborative, LLC

Jim Johnson provided a quick update to the Board on this. On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to award Bid/Contract 2024-01 to RMD Collaborative, LLC. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote to renew the following license categories for 2024 issued by the Select Board

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to renew Weekday & Sunday Entertainment, Parking Lots, Hotel/Motel/Lodging House, Common Victualler, Class I/II/III Motor Vehicle and Automatic Amusement Device for 2024 as issued by the Select Board. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

Vote to open the Spring 2024 Town Meeting Warrant and close it on January 23, 2024

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to open the Spring 2024 Town Meeting Warrant and close it on January 23, 2024. Motion Passed (5-0-0).

CONSENT AGENDA

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to approve the consent items as listed on the November 07 agenda

Jean Hogan in memory of Ron Fucile to Town Clerk Gifts	\$25
Richard & Mary Harvey in memory of Phyllis Piasecki to COA Gifts	\$10
Denise & William Abbott in memory of Phyllis Piasecki to COA Gifts	\$20
Tracie Hammond in memory of Phyllis Piasecki to COA Gifts	\$25
Suzanne Brown in memory of Phyllis Piasecki to COA Gifts	\$25
Barbara & Robert Vandenburg in memory of Phyllis Piasecki to COA Gifts	\$25
Marion Proctor in memory of Phyllis Piasecki to COA Gifts	\$40
Ron & Paula Scully in memory of Phyllis Piasecki to COA Gifts	\$40
Diane Brown in memory of Phyllis Piasecki to COA Gifts	\$50
Peg Bishop in memory of Phyllis Piasecki to COA Gifts	\$50
Helen Hourihan in memory of Phyllis Piasecki to COA Gifts	\$50
Michele & Thomas Sweeney in memory of Phyllis Piasecki to COA Gifts	\$50
Kathy Bento in memory of Phyllis Piasecki to COA Gifts	\$100
Nina Chambers, Carla Chambers & Dee Tart in memory of Phyllis Piasecki to COA Gifts	\$100
Elizabeth & Eric Foote in memory of Paul Wegerdt to COA Gifts	\$100
Allan Haynes in memory of Joan M. Haynes to COA Gifts	\$500
Request of HESSCO for their Mick Morgan's 5k on March 16, 2024 from 8am-noon	
Release of the Security Bond at 605 Elm Street for G&R Construction	
Motion Passed (5-0-0).	

Town Administrator's Update

FY25 budgets

Department heads are set to turn those in by the end of this week, and I am anticipating that the finance team will start checking them and I will start working on the budget the week after thanksgiving. Hoping to have a balanced budget earlier than we have done in the past so maybe just before Christmas.

Finance Committee & Select Board Meeting

Meeting is set for next week to go over DPW and Public Safety budgets on Thursday 16. We are going to meet in the police station.

November 28 Meeting

The Board will be meeting with the Finance Committee and School Committee with a 6pm tour of the new building and then going to meet next door in the old middle school.

On motion of Clerk Barrett, seconded by Vice Chair Gallivan, voted to adjourn and the meeting was adjourned accordingly at 8:25pm. Motion Passed (5-0-0).