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MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN – OPEN SESSION
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM, TOWN HALL
MONDAY, JUNE 11, 2018, 7:00 p.m.

APPROVED
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: 7/16/18

CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order in open session at 8:06 a.m. by Chair Adam Dash in the Selectmen's Meeting Room, Town Hall. Members Mark Paolillo and Thomas Caputo were present.

Also Present: Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator; Senator William Brownsberger

Chair Dash turned to the agenda.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Community Announcements

Community announcements were made by Mr. Dash.

Farmer's Market Open - Thursday afternoons in the Claflin Street Parking lot in Belmont Center

New Town Hall/Homer Building/Belmont Light Office Hours. Mr. Dash announced the new Town Hall/Homer Building Operating hours beginning June 11, 2018 through November 2, 2018 will be Mondays, 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.; Tuesdays thru Thursdays, 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., and Fridays, 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon.

June 18th Post Closure use meeting to solicit ideas from the public, 7PM in the Town Hall Auditorium

June 19th 7pm Planning Board meeting at the Beech Street Center, Discussion how to regulate Adult Use Marijuana in regards to zoning

June 18th - Incinerator site discussion in the Town Hall Auditorium where the Selectmen hope that the Town will come with all of their ideas

June 20th Payson Park music festival kicking off

June 23rd Underwood Pool opens for the 2018 season

June 24th Belmont Drives Electric at the Chenery Middle School from 1-4pm

New trash barrels will be delivered at the end of the month, deliveries will continue into early July

July 30th - Collins Center will be presenting the financial tool that they have been building for the Town

Senior Work-off Discussion

Mr. Chuck Lavery of the Belmont Board of Assessors and Nava Niv-Vogel, Director of the Council on Aging, were in attendance to discuss this item.

Nava was asked what the current rate of the Senior Work-off was. Currently seniors are able to earn up to \$1,000 per year toward paying off their taxes. The program allows a senior to work at minimum wage, currently \$11.15 per hour (it will be \$12 in 2019) working to a maximum of \$1,000. Ms. Niv-Vogel noted that the State has moved up to \$1,500 per year, and that this is would make the Town on par with the State.

Mr. Chuck Lavery concurred with what Ms. Vogel had said and added that there is a threshold of \$56,000 as a household. Ms. Vogel is looking to increase the threshold to \$72,000 which is allowed by the State. Mr. Lavery agreed that the threshold is outdated.

Chair Dash asked Town Administrator Patrice Garvin for some background on the Senior Work off. Patrice noted that Town Counsel has said that when the Town adopted the statute for having this program that it was a simple majority vote of the Selectmen to change the exemption amount and income level amount. When Town Administrator Garvin brought that to the Assessors, they said that they would be more comfortable with bringing it to Town Meeting.

Mr. Lavery stated that the Board of Assessors wanted to bring this in front of Town Meeting to increase the Board of Assessors transparency to Town Meeting. Mr. Paolillo and Mr. Lavery discussed why they thought that it was necessary and Mr. Paolillo said that he did not think that this item needed to go to Town Meeting. He and Chair Dash both stated that Town Meeting's time is valuable and that this increase is for small number of seniors (14 seniors as stated by Ms. Vogel, but there is no limit to the number of people who could be on it).

Mr. Paolillo asked Mr. Lavery if the Board of Assessors was in favor of raising the total and the income threshold. Mr. Lavery stated that they were, but the three members of the Board of Assessors wanted to take this up in front of Town Meeting. Mr. Paolillo asked if the Board of Selectmen were interested in just voting the item tonight, but without the Board of Assessors support tonight and without the Chair of the Assessors present, they did not want to vote the item.

Ms. Vogel made the point that these senior workers have a large added value to the Council on Aging and many work beyond their hours.

Selectman Caputo added that the work that these workers are most likely doing work that the Town would have to pay someone to do otherwise, and that the pay that the person that the Town hires would most likely be more than the minimum wage that the seniors are working for. Ms. Vogel confirmed this.

Continued to the Board of Selectmen July 15th meeting in order to allow the Board of Assessors to discuss why they wanted to take this up at Town Meeting and to have a discussion about having the Board of Selectmen vote on this item before the Belmont High School debt exclusion vote in November.

Update from Community Path Implementation Advisory Committee Chair and Discussion of Community Path Funding

Mr. Russ Leino, Chair of the CPIAC and Senator Brownsberger:

Mr. Leino described the history of the project and how the feasibility study was brought in front of the Board of Selectmen this past winter to get there “blessing” to move forward. Feasibility Study, to Design, to Construction. The committee has met multiple times with both MBTA and Mass DOT to anticipate and solve many hurdle and potential problems before moving on to the design aspect.

There was a follow-up meeting with members from Mass DOT this morning and on the further track is the funding question. They would like to have a solid funding source by this time next year and have a designer retained. Mr. Leino believes that this will largely be CPA funded and he hopes that the Committee will be putting in a proposal this fall.

Mr. Paolillo discussed the morning. Amy Mersher, and Jeffery Wheeler, Town Senior Planner were in attendance at the morning meeting. It was good to have these differing points of view at the meeting, especially with the path set to cross the MBTA tracks at 4 different locations currently and while there are no “fatal flaws”, there is a tough path where they must get approval from Mass DOT. What they heard today was that they need to get to a point where there is an agreement with leadership with Mass DOT and the District 4 members that were there this morning; before it goes to a project review committee who can support it before we even move into a design phase.

Brownsberger believes that there can be some movement fairly quickly on the path. He views the path in 3 parts. Phase 2 is down by Waverly Square west end, phase 1a Alexander Avenue under the tracks to Concord Avenue, 1b Brighton Street to Belmont Center. 1a and 1b could be put together in one project without finally solving the Brighton street crossing which has many strong concerns, especially which side of the tracks the path goes on.

The next stage of the process is to get the project approved, not from a total funding standpoint, but to get Mass DOT to work on it and to put it in their system as a Mass DOT pending project. This is dependent on a few forms from the Town; a project need form, a project initiation form, and then with those forms the district staff present the project. The presentation happens at two levels; the pre-project review committee and then it goes to the project review committee. The Pre Project review committee meets 3 times a year, next on June 28. They have said that they will work with us to try to hit that date. To get this into the PRC process so that it can go before the Project review committee at their next meeting on July 12th. So then on July 12th we can have a project approved by Mass DOT if everything goes as they hope.

The Senator would like to connect Alexander Avenue and Concord Avenue. This has benefits for both school path congestion and for cyclists trying access Concord Ave and vice versa.

The Board would like to move forward as quickly as possible to meeting the June 28th date. Town Administrator Garvin said that they would need to fill out a P&F in order to move forward. The Board agrees that this is the most important area currently and doing this section first would give the rest of the sections more momentum to be completed. Chair Leino agreed with that statement.

Vice-Chair Paolillo asked that the Board of Selectmen should endorse the CPIAC going for CPA funds. Selectman Dash and Caputo agreed and also stated that they believe that it would be easier for the CPA to give money for this smaller project first instead of the entire project at once.

The deadline. Brownsberger said that someone should be in touch with Mass DOT tomorrow and ask them to work with the Town and help them through the process to get the proper paperwork completed on time. Senator Brownsberger said that he would work at the State level in order to get them ready and to help them to understand what Belmont is asking for and working towards. Senator Brownsberger said that there will be a short back and forth with Mass DOT in order to see what is more lucrative and

Mr. Leino discussed how the feasibility study was meant to be as flexible as possible, so that as these hard decisions come with the movement towards design work the feasibility study was meant to be flexible and can adapt to some changes as the process moves forward.

Mr. Dash and Mr. Paolillo discussed the current charge of the committee and move to the Committee being called CPIC since the CPIAC has been commissioned for the past 4 years. The Board of Selectmen would like to afford the members the ability to leave the committee if they would like and offer some possible new positions. The board asked that the committee be advertised with their other appointments.

The Selectmen thanked both Mr. Leino and Senator Brownsberger for their hard work.

Update on Dockless Bike Share

Spencer Gober, Staff Planner of the Office of Community Development described the Bike Share idea. The bike he brought before the Board was made by Lime Bike, but there is another called Spin. To use each vendor's bike in Town the user will need to have either vendor's app. MAPC chose the two vendors in order to make sure that there would be enough bikes available to fill the region. The Dockless BikeShare is currently used in Malden.

Mr. Gober brought information regarding Lime Bike. There is a heat map to show what streets are being used, how often the bikes are being used, and the length and time of the rides.

The idea came from the “last mile- first mile” idea. They believe that people who live around one mile from public transport would be more likely to use public transport if there was a simple way to get from home to there and from transport to home.

Mr. Paolillo brought up the idea of dockless versus the docked bike systems. Mr. Gober said that the dockless affords the ability to pick-up and use a bike without the hassle of a central hub or multiple hubs. Each bike can be used and left without bringing it to a pre-determined location.

The Town of Belmont is expecting to have 34 bikes at the launch, there will be a 180 day rollout through 3-phases, at these phases the vendor would review that there are enough bikes available.

Chair Dash asked if there were any issues in Malden with the bikes. Mr. Gober said that there were no current issues that they he knows of.

Incinerator Site Discussion

June 18th - Incinerator site discussion in the Town Hall Auditorium where the Selectmen hope that the Town will come with all of their ideas. At this meeting the Selectmen will create a finite list that can then be worked through to check each ideas viability for the site. This will eventually lead to another process where they will narrow down the top ideas.

Town-Wide Traffic Discussion

The Selectmen asked the Traffic Advisory committee what ideas that there are to help alleviate traffic in Belmont as it is a regional problem.

Mr. Glenn Clancy was asked to the table. He said that this was looked at through using Wi-Fi technology to see where cars were coming from and where they are going to. The consultant is now working on looking at this data. The consultant also has the Belmont Police Department sitting at certain locations in order to capture license plates and learn the location of their origin in order to discover where the vehicles are coming from.

Waverly Square had 30,000 cars go through it daily 10 years ago and the data today says that Belmont is experiencing a 10% increase on that Town-wide. After all of the data is collected and reviewed, options will be looked at in order to try to lower traffic, but as the problem is regional and overall a geographic problem that there may not be many options to lower traffic. Mr. Clancy said the currently on the beginning of the data it seems that a lot of traffic is coming out of Arlington and Medford, which has not been the past thought process.

Selectman Caputo asked about having smaller working groups to take a look at their regions in the Town of Belmont and what can be done in their region to alleviate traffic as they know their area the best. Mr. Clancy said that he is open to that idea, but as always, funding because an issue. For the Complete Street Programs there will need to be a list of projects that will need to have an objective layer of criteria. Mr. Caputo reiterated that he would like to make sure that each area in Town gets a voice even if they do not currently make complaints. Ms. Garvin backed the idea of public outreach early in the program and the Selectmen agreed that could be

helpful.

Anne Marie Lambert, wanted to make sure that Traffic Advisory Committee and the consultant are taking into consideration the Royal Belmont Van as an option to get more individual vehicles off of the streets. Ms. Lambert had a second question regarding the Police observers and if they viewed more ride share companies and if there were many traffic vans moving through Town. She also echoed a previous idea of looking into the school bussing and students and parents driving to and from school.

Mr. Caputo asked a timing question of this study, making a point that the summer months tend to alleviate the traffic on their own.

Glenn Clancy said that the Traffic advisory committee will meet next week and they will work continuously work on traffic issues today and will not wait for the high school project to get underway if there are projects that make sense now to work on and make complete. Mr. Clancy brought up the idea that he would like to move forward is the temporary light at Concord and Goden Street.

Steve Sloan- Goden Street: He and his wife have spoken to about 25 households on Hillcrest and Goden and that there are obvious worries for the new high school and that he is happy that the TAC is looking at the issue and hearing resident concerns at their meeting on Thursday, June 14, 2018.

Town Admin Report

Received a request from Anne Marie Lambert to plant a lilac bush on the Wellington Green. The DPW will plant the bush, the Board must approve of accepting the bush and Mike Santoro, Assistant Director of Public Works, is in favor of accepting this donation.

Anne Marie Lambert -- Member of the Board of Belmont Citizen Forum: The Belmont Citizen Forum has been promoting their staycation program to entice residents to reduce the number plane flights taken for vacations to lower emissions into the environment.

Mark Paolillo moved to accept lilac bush gift from the Belmont Citizens Forum to be planted on the Wellington green. Tom Caputo seconded.

Motion Approved 3-0-0

Ms. Garvin gave the Board a draft schedule of the Special Town Meeting in November. She asked the Board to review it.

Farmer's Market Open -- As mentioned by Chair Dash earlier

The Town received official notice that the Housing Production Plan was approved on the June 8, 2018. The Housing Production Plan has a 5-year term that will expire by May 2, 2023.

Ms. Garvin asked the Chair to formally announce that the Board of Selectmen are opening the

application for volunteers of those interested in serving on Committees and Boards. There is a new model to apply for committees on the website that will be more efficient.

Board of Health Director gave a letter to update the Board of Selectmen on the local tobacco regulations. The Board of Health seeks to adopt a ban the sale of tobacco in healthcare institutions, to cap the number of tobacco retailers in Town, and to restrict the number of vape shops. There are no current vape shops in town but this is this will inhibit them in case there becomes a desire for one.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

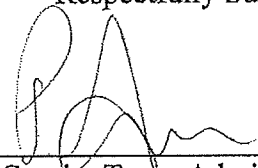
April 12th Regular Session
May 30th Regular Session
June 4th Executive Session
June 4th Regular Session

Mr. Paolillo Made a motion to approve all minutes with Chair Dash's edits - Approved 3-0-0

Mr. Paolillo made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Mr. Dash seconded. Vote: 3-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'PA', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator