

**MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOVEMBER 18, 2002
REGULAR SESSION**

Call to Order

The Board of Selectmen met in regular session on Monday, November 18, 2002 at 7:30 PM in the Selectmen's Meeting Room at the Belmont Town Hall. All members were in attendance.

Questions from Town Residents

There were none.

Action by Appointment

Public Hearing on Utility Petitions

- Keyspan—Sandrick Road
- Verizon— Brighton Street

The Board convened a public hearing on the petition of Keyspan to install and maintain a gas main on Sandrick Road. A representative from Keyspan reviewed his petition.

The Board acknowledged receipt of an email from a resident expressing concern that at this time of the year, the road will not be restored to its current condition after digging up the street. She requested that the work be delayed until spring.

A couple of residents appeared before the Board to recommend this project be delayed until the spring when they believe the repair of the road can be done with higher quality and durability.

The Board moved: to approve this petition, conditional upon Keyspan delaying installation of the gas main until Spring 2003.

The motion passed unanimously, (3-0).

The Board convened a public hearing on the petition of Verizon to install and maintain conduit and cable in Brighton Street. A representative from Verizon reviewed his petition.

An affected resident inquired about the status of the project being undertaken by Verizon.

The Board moved: to approve the petition by Verizon to install and maintain conduit and cables along Brighton Street.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Position Vacancies

This matter was deferred to a future meeting.

Discussion of Hull Street Residential Parking Restrictions

The Board met with residents of Hull Street to discuss the recent implementation of restricted residential parking.

Mrs. Mahoney reinforced Sgt. Hamilton's observation that the increased parking on nearby streets such as Beech and Maple, resulting from the Hull Street restriction, is not rectifying the parking problem but moving it.

Sgt. Hamilton of the Police Department provided an overview of the parking problems that have been experienced on Hull Street and the implementation of a six-month trial period of a restricted, resident parking sticker program for Hull Street between Trapelo Road and Maple Street.

Residents argued against the implementation of a \$10 fee for resident stickers.

A couple of residents argued against restricted parking on Hull Street in general.

Dr. Solomon recommended the continuation of the trial, with the rescission of the administrative fees for the parking stickers during this trial period.

The Board moved: to continue the trial as implemented, with the elimination of the administrative fees for the duration of the trial.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Discussion of Development of 1.34-acre Parcel at McLean

The Board acknowledged the opinion of Town Counsel clarifying the nature of this project in relation to the permanent building committee. The Board discussed the process for creating a Request for Proposals for the development of the 1.34-acre parcel for both additional parking to support the existing Waverley Oaks housing complex and the creation of additional affordable housing units.

Mrs. Mahoney expressed a desire for the Town to maintain control over the development process.

The Board agreed to authorize the appointment of a temporary committee in order to draft a Request for Proposals to develop the property.

The Board requested the ad hoc working group develop a draft charge for the Board's review.

Discussion of Municipal Vehicles

The Board reviewed correspondence from the Town Administrator regarding the use of municipal vehicles. The Town Administrator reviewed the Town's municipal vehicle use policy and sought feedback from the Board on the current language.

It was noted that the policy does not address the fuel efficiency and economy of the vehicles. In addition, it was felt that the Board required some information including a comprehensive inventory and audit of the

use.

The Board directed the Town Administrator to perform the required analysis.

Action by Writing

Reports from Police Department:

Traffic Safety at Intersection on Davis Street

The Board reviewed a memorandum from the Police Department regarding traffic safety at the intersection on Davis Street.

The Board moved: to approve the recommendation of the Police Department to install a Do Not Enter sign restricting access to Davis Street during peak traffic times.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

High School Traffic Safety

The Board reviewed a report from the Police Department regarding traffic safety at the Belmont High School.

The Board moved: to approve the recommendation of the Police Department to install a stop sign at the exit from the high school parking lot at Hittinger Street.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Dr. Solomon expressed continued concern for the safety hazards created by the current system of dropping off students.

The Board agreed that Dr. Solomon would work with the Police and the School Department to explore other mechanisms to enhance student safety in this area.

Letter from Chair, Traffic Advisory Committee re: Intersection of Lexington and Sycamore Streets

The Board reviewed a letter from the Chair of the Traffic Advisory Committee requesting authorization for an official traffic count at the intersection of Lexington and Sycamore Streets to determine whether a four-way stop sign can be installed at this intersection.

The Board moved: to approve the request of the Traffic Advisory Committee to conduct an official traffic count at the intersection of Lexington and Sycamore Streets.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Letter from Resident re: On-Street, Overnight Parking Restrictions

The Board reviewed a letter from a resident regarding on-street, overnight parking restrictions.

There was general discussion of the merits of the Town's by-law restricting on street parking overnight. The Board agreed in principle to this by-law.

Mrs. Mahoney noted that overnight parking is allowed in school and municipal lots. Dr. Solomon suggested that alternative off-street overnight parking options be publicized as well as the discouragement of on-street, overnight parking, unless the Police Department is notified in advance of exceptional circumstances.

Correspondence re: Traffic Safety at Intersection of Fairview Avenue and School Street

The Board reviewed correspondence regarding traffic safety at the intersection of Fairview Avenue and School Street.

Sgt. Hamilton recommended the Police Department and Town Engineer conduct a traffic study of this intersection.

It was agreed that this intersection should be studied for safety upgrades, hopefully in connection with the MWRA project.

The Board moved: to refer this matter to the Police Department and Town Engineer for further study.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Correspondence re: Implementation of Proposed Rule on Whistle Bans

The Board discussed a letter from a resident expressing concern about a proposed federal regulation regarding train whistles at railroad crossings. The Board noted research by the Assistant Town Administrator indicating that the proposed regulation is not likely to be promulgated and took no further action on this matter.

Letter from the Suburban Coalition re: FY 2003 Membership

The Board reviewed a letter from the Suburban Coalition regarding FY 2003 Membership.

The Board moved: to approve the Town's membership in the Suburban Coalition in 2003.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Letter from Resident re: Request for Reimbursement of Tax Abatement

The Board indicated that this matter has been resolved and no further action is required.

Letter from Resident re: Appointment as Constable

The Board reviewed a letter from a resident requesting appointment as a constable.

The Board moved: to appoint David Benoit as constable.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Letter from Historic District Commission re: Comments on Pleasant Street Reconstruction

The Board reviewed a letter from the Historic District Commission regarding comments on the planned

reconstruction of Pleasant Street.

The Board moved: to refer the comments to the Community Development Department for their review and recommendation.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Copy of Letter to Town Administrator from Arlington Selectman Lyons re: National League of Cities (NLC) Membership

The Board reviewed a copy of a letter from Selectman Lyons inviting the Town to become a member of the National League of Cities (NLC). The Board expressed an interest in membership, particularly given Mr. Lyon's leadership position with the League. However, the board determined to forego membership for next year in light of the Town's current budget situation.

Copy of Letter to Town Administrator from Town Counsel re: Construction of Acoustical Fencing at Dog Kennel

The Board reviewed a copy of a letter to the Town Administrator from Town Counsel regarding a request to extend the deadline for completion of construction of acoustical fencing at the Healthy Pets dog kennel.

The Board moved: to approve the extension of the deadline for the completion of the acoustical fence.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Correspondence re: Updates on Uplands Development and Regional Flooding Control Efforts

Mr. Brownsberger updated the Board on issues related to the sewer service for the Belmont Uplands project and gave an update of his efforts to work on regional sewer and flooding issues. He noted Belmont resident Bill Pisano's willingness to assist the Town on an informal basis.

Application for Municipal Discharge Permit

The Board reviewed the application for Municipal Discharge Permit.

The Board moved: to authorize Chairman Brownsberger to sign the application for a municipal sewer discharge permit to be submitted to the MWRA.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Selectmen's Issues List

The Board reviewed its issues list.

The Board requested an update from the Solid Waste and Recycling Advisory Committee examining the concept of pay as you throw for potential implementation in Belmont.

Dr. Solomon encouraged more publicity of existing tax relief opportunities for Belmont residents.

The Board also requested an updated list of Town-owned parcels for its review.

Approval of Minutes

The Board reviewed draft minutes of the Board's meetings of October 15 and 21, and 28, 2002.

The Board moved: to approve the minutes as drafted.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Other

Mr. Brownsberger inquired of the Police Department about the sale of parking passes for the Waverley Square parking lot. Sgt. Hamilton commented that the Police Department would be able to release parking passes for the Waverley parking lot for residents in the apartments above the commercial businesses adjacent to the parking lot.

Mr. Brownsberger noted his intention to meet with the Board of Library Trustees to discuss his thoughts on the library expansion project.

Action by Appointment (Continued)

Discussion of Location of Fire Station Headquarters (Potential Executive Session)

Discussion of Litigation (Executive Session)

Discussion of Collective Bargaining (Executive Session)

The Board moved: to enter executive session for the purpose of discussing the potential acquisition of land to locate a fire stations headquarters; further for the purpose of discussing potential litigation; and further to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0), by roll call vote.

The regular session adjourned at approximately 9:30 p.m.

Melvin A. Kleckner, Town Administrator
Clerk, Board of Selectmen