

**APPROVED BY
SELECT BOARD**

June 5, 2023

**Minutes of the
Town of Belmont
REGULAR SESSION
of the
SELECT BOARD
May 8, 2023**

**RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: June 13, 2023
TIME: 8:39 AM

To view the recording of the meeting, please click [HERE](#).

Call to Order: Vice Chair Epstein called the meeting to order at 5:30pm.

Select Board Members	Present	Staff Members	
Mark Paolillo, Chair	Yes	Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator	Yes
Roy Epstein Vice Chair	Yes	Jennifer Hewitt, Assistant Town Administrator & Finance Manager	Yes
Elizabeth Dionne, Member	Yes	George Hall, Town Counsel	Remote
		David Blazon, Director, Facilities	Yes
		Ellen Cushman, Town Clerk & Bylaw Review Comm.	Yes
Others Present			
Surekha Patel, Owner, Handy Spa Owner	Yes	Michael Widmer, Moderator	Yes
Geoff Lubien, Warrant Committee Chair	Yes	Rev. Chris Jablonski, Member, LGBTQ+ Alliance	Remote

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Paolillo shared several community announcements.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Arbor Day Proclamation. Ms. Dionne read the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: The citizens of Belmont take great pride in their trees and appreciate their immeasurable value to the environment; and

WHEREAS: 2023 will be the thirty-ninth-year Belmont has been awarded recognition as a Tree City USA by the National Arbor Day Foundation; and

WHEREAS: Trees and forests are renewable natural resources which provide us with timber for construction and furniture, paper and chemical products, electric energy, firewood for our hearths, recreation and respite; and

WHEREAS: Trees and forests in Belmont reduce energy demands for heating and cooling, moderate the temperatures, clean the air, remove carbon dioxide from the air, produce oxygen and provide habitat for birds and other wildlife; and

WHEREAS: Trees in the Town of Belmont increase property values, enhance the economic vitality of business areas, beautify our community and improve our quality of life; and

WHEREAS: Trees, wherever they are planted, are a source of joy and spiritual renewal.

NOW, THEREFORE, WE THE SELECT BOARD, declare Friday, April 28, 2023, to be Arbor Day in the Town of Belmont. We urge the Town's employees, civic organizations, clubs, businesses and schools to join in a concerted effort to plant trees throughout the community on their properties, to protect and care for our trees and woodlands and to join in observances and celebrations of Arbor Day in Belmont.

THE SELECT BOARD

Public Hearing - Discussion and possible vote on the liquor license application from Kashtbhanjan, Inc. dba Handy Spa, 243 Belmont Street, Belmont, MA for a new \$15 off-premises package store (all alcoholic beverages).

Ms. Garvin confirmed that there is a license available to confer. Ms. Dionne asked how many liquor stores there are in town, and Ms. Garvin provided the number and explained the breakout between Beer & Wine and All-Alcohol licenses. There was a discussion of this issue.

Ms. Dionne asked if there had been any objections from neighbors. Mr. Patel said no abutter notices had gone out, but there had been an advertisement. There was a discussion of the difficulties with Mr. Patel's attorney. Because of the lack of abutter notice, this item will be put on a future agenda.

There was a discussion of the liquor license process.

FY2024 Budget Discussion and possible final vote

Ms. Hewitt reviewed the status and structure of the FY24 Budget as well as what has changed. She then reviewed details of items that have changed, which were discussed.

The total proposed budget is \$151,026,938.

A Motion was made to approve the FY2024 budget as presented on May 8, 2023. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Discussion and possible vote to appoint a Representative to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for a term of three years.

Ms. Dionne explained why she is interested in filling this role and said she would like to have an alternate also identified.

A Motion was made to appoint Elizabeth Dionne as the Representative to the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) for a term of three years. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Town Administrator's Report

Engagement Letter from Tax Attorney: Ms. Garvin and Mr. Hall explained why a tax attorney is needed. There was a discussion of the rates for the services. Mr. Paolillo requested a rate card by level or individual and said listed some items in the letter that he did not like.

Mr. Epstein asked for a budget from the firm. Mr. Hall said he believes the estimate is approximately \$5000.

Ms. Garvin said she would contact the company about the issues identified.

Discussion and possible vote on request from the First Church, Belmont Unitarian Universalist, for use of the Wellington Station Town Green on Saturday, May 20, 2023 (Town Day) to use as a "drop in" activity center for families from 10:00 AM – 1:00 PM.

Ms. Dionne expressed concern about the church talking about church programs, events, and possible recruitment (as indicated on their request) on Town property. This was discussed.

A Motion was made to approve the request from the First Church, Belmont Unitarian Universalist, for the use of the Wellington Station Town Green on Saturday, May 20, 2023 (Town Day) to use as a "drop in" activity center for families from 10:00AM -1:00PM. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Discussion and possible vote on requests from the LGBTQ+ Alliance:

- a. **To host the Annual Gay Pride Parade on Saturday, June 17, 2023**
- b. **For use of the Wellington Station Town Green on June 17, 2023, from 9:00 AM – 4:00 PM.**
- c. **To chalk paint 7 crosswalks in rainbow colors.**

Rev. Jablonski provided details of the parade and events at the Wellington Station Town Green.

There was a discussion about painting the crosswalks. Alternative activities discussed.

Mr. Paolillo said Mr. Clancy and the Chief MacIsaac indicated that painting the crosswalks is not legal.

*A Motion was made to approve the requests from the **LGBTQ+** Alliance to:*

- *host the Annual Gay Pride Parade on Saturday, June 17, 2023*
- *use the Wellington Station Town Green from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM*

The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Discussion and possible vote on the request from Colin Daly, Founder of Just Us Foods, Inc., to place a food truck at the Claflin Street Municipal Parking Lot on Thursday, May 11, 2023, from 3:00 PM through 6:30 PM to sell hummus.

Ms. Garvin said this type of request has not been received in the past and that the Board of Health has approved it.

Ms. Dionne expressed concern about the exhaust from the truck.

There were several questions and some discussion about this request.

A Motion was made to approve request from Colin Daly, founder of Just Us Foods, Inc. to place a food truck at the Claflin Street Municipal Parking Lot on Thursday, May 11, 2023, from 3:00 PM through 6:30 PM to sell hummus provided that the truck complies with anti-idling rules. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Discussion and possible vote on positions for warrant articles and possible amendments for the May 1, 2023 Annual Town Meeting (ATM).

Article 8 Amendment

There was a discussion of amendments being filed very close to Town Meeting, with the Chair strongly opposing this practice.

Mr. Widmer and the Board spoke about the issue of amendments being submitted after the deadline, and explained what happened with the amendment in question, which was actually submitted at the appropriate time. There was a discussion of the amendment.

Ms. Dionne reminded the Board that they originally voted unfavorable action on this Article.

There was a discussion of this amendment with Ms. Cushman explaining what process was used and the goals of the amendment.

Mr. Paolillo said he believes this is a substantive change, and Ms. Dionne said “cultural event” is open to interpretation.

A Motion for unfavorable action on the revised substitute motion for Article 8 was made. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

There was a discussion of the role and timeline of the Bylaw Review Committee.

Article 3 Amendment

Mr. Hall explained that he doesn’t believe the amendment is necessary but that it is appropriately written.

Mr. Epstein asked if the amendment changed anything that would have happened in the original motion and was told it does not.

There was a discussion of the changes, their impact, and whether or not approving an amendment received so late is appropriate.

A Motion was made for favorable action on the Amendment to Article 3. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Discussion and possible vote to award Facilities contract to LeVangie Electric Company, Inc., Hanover, MA for the Winn Brook Elementary Fire Alarm and Public Address System in the amount of \$425,000.00.

Mr. Blazon reviewed the history of this request, explaining that the system was originally approved before the pandemic and due to that delay, a new request for a higher amount had to be made.

A Motion was made to award the Facilities contract to LeVangie Electric Co., Inc. of Hanover, MA for the Winn Brook Elementary Fire Alarm and Public Address System in the amount \$425,000.00. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Upcoming Topics

- a. Public Hearing for change of category of liquor license, Art's Specialties, 369 Trapelo Road (May 22)
- b. Review of FY2023 Capital Projects (May 22)
- c. Library Donation Presentation (May 22)
- d. Permanent Audit Committee Update (May 22)

Next Meetings

- a. May 10, 2023 – 6:00 PM – Water & Sewer Public Hearing, Location TBD
- b. May 22, 2023 – 7:00 PM – Regular Meeting

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting of the Belmont Select Board Committee, and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 6:45pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Peghiny
Recording Secretary