

Approved by  
the Select Board on:

1/24/2022

## Belmont Select Board Meeting

January 10, 2022

Remote Meeting

7:00 PM

**RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA**

DATE: January 28, 2022  
TIME: 11:38 AM

### CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Select Board was called to order by Chair Adam Dash. Vice Chair Roy Epstein and Select Board member Mark Paolillo were present, along with Town Administrator Patrice Garvin, Acting Assistant Town Administrator Glenn Clancy, and Department of Health Director Wesley Chin.

### COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Leaf Blower forum will be held on January 25, 2022 at 7 pm on Zoom.
- New Year's Cooks Corner program will be held on January 14 and 28, 2022 at Beech St. Center. Call the program line at 617-993-2976 to register for this free event.
- Belmont's 28<sup>th</sup> Annual MLK virtual celebration. Guest Speaker Rahsaan Hall will give presentation titled "the Arc and the Pendulum" on Monday, January 17, 2022 at 9 am. Register for this event at [bit.ly/MLKBelmont2022](https://bit.ly/MLKBelmont2022). It is a free event but donations are accepted. Sponsored by the Belmont Human Rights Commission.
- Human Rights Commission member Fran Yuan will honor Martin Luther King Day on January 18, 2022 at 1 pm with a talk at the Beech St. Center about the Human Rights Commission and the life of Martin Luther King. After the presentation there will also be a special showing of a movie about Thurgood Marshall. Call events line at 617-993-2976 to register.
- One year Memorial Vigil and Walk for Henry Tapia will be held on January 22, 2022 at 4 pm at 45 Upland Rd., Belmont.
- AARP tax preparation appointments will be offered at the Beech St. Center from February 7 to April 12, 2022. Call for appointments starting January 11, 2022 at Beech St. events line 617-993-2976.
- Message from Town Clerk: For anyone interested in running for office, nomination papers are available at Town Hall. Deadline is February 15, 2022. Precincts 1, 5, and 7 need additional candidates. Details are on the Town Clerk webpage.
- Belmont against Racism is sponsoring an event titled "Road to Inclusive Democracy" about State redistricting on Thursday, January 17, 2022. Senator William Brownsberger will be one of the speakers at this event.

### COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

Amy Trotsky, Town Meeting member who lives on Claremont Rd. reported that contractor trucks blocked her driveway and said they were there to cut down a healthy tree on their lot. They called Mike Santoro who was very helpful and he said there was a mistake. She thought there had to be advanced notice if a mature, healthy tree was to be taken down.

Glenn Clancy, Director of Community Development, said if the Town thinks there is cause to remove tree, a formal hearing process is required. He doesn't think the tree was ever supposed to be removed. But he will follow up on this issue.

Jay Marcotte, Director of DPW, spoke about this issue. He reported that this was a mistake by the tree contractor. It was fortunate that the resident was there. The normal process is that if a tree is high risk, then the DPW can take the tree down without a hearing. If there is a healthy tree that the Town deems should be removed, a public tree hearing is held. If anyone opposes it, then it goes to the Select Board to hear reasons for not taking it down.

Marie Warner, Town Meeting member, called about an issue at the Bradford where rainwater and stormwater was coming down on the sidewalk. Glenn Clancy was able to connect with Toll Brothers. She asked Glenn if the issue was fixed permanently. Glenn said Toll Brothers made the repair. His understanding that it was due to a fastener that wasn't tightened enough.

Bill Anderson asked that DPW follow up about the tree issue that Amy Trotsky reported. He thinks we need to investigate the issue further. He thinks that the DPW should check with the tree companies to make sure no more misinformation is being presented.

#### Proclamation for Henry Tapia Day of Remembrance, January 19, 2022

The Proclamation was read by Adam Dash.

The proclamation, issued by the Town of Belmont and Belmont Human Rights Commission, seeks to mark the day of January 19 as a reminder of the racist violence that led to the death of Henry Tapia and to serve as a reminder that ongoing racist work has to continue.

*Motion was made to approve and accept the proclamation for Henry Tapia Day. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

#### TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

##### a. January Bulletin

Patrice Garvin reported that the January Bulletin will go out tomorrow.

##### b. Update on ARPA Letters to Treasury and Representative Clark

A letter was sent out to the Secretary of Treasury from the Mass. delegation regarding revenue loss calculations for ARPA funding and the result is that the interim rules have changed again. Belmont benefits from the revised rules. Dash said that the Town sent out letters to Representatives Clark and Rogers, and Senator Brownsberger about the unfairness posed by High School debt exclusion and MSBA reimbursement being counted as ~~revenue~~ revenue. The new rules allow towns to either itemize the revenue loss from debt exclusion or accept the \$10M limit. Patrice said this means the Town will be able to keep the \$7.8M received in ARPA funds to date.

##### c. Community Path Project Committee Applicants Wanted

Patrice reported that to date, they have not received any Community Path applicants.

#### ACTION BY CONSENT

### COVID Update

Wes Chin, Director of the Department of Health, reported that on Friday the Health Department sent out an erroneous link for a vaccine clinic being held this Wednesday. The correct link was sent out on Friday.

Chin said the department is working with Patrice to set up another Town testing site for next week. Patrice reported that this is part of the surge testing approved by the Select Board from ARPA funds. The testing clinic will be held on January 18, 2022.

Belmont is undergoing a COVID surge right now. Patrice said that it is good that we can offer PCR testing in Belmont because there are so few tests being offered elsewhere. Chin reported that 60% of the new cases are in fully vaccinated individuals. The next Belmont Booster Clinic will be held this Wednesday, January 12<sup>th</sup> and next week on January 18<sup>th</sup>.

Paolillo said that attendance in schools is down. Patrice met with Superintendent Phelan to discuss testing. The Town is working to provide at-home testing for teachers.

- ARPA Requests for funding

Garvin said through her conversation with Superintendent Phelan and the Board of Health, they have come up with a plan to purchase COVID antigen tests. Superintendent Phelan wanted to provide tests for teachers and the Town wanted to provide testing to low income residents, seniors and employees in Town who need testing. Patrice said she would like to purchase 1700 rapid antigen tests at \$18.40 for two tests. There are cheaper tests available but not until mid February. It is important to get tests now, during the surge so Garvin is asking that the Select Board approve \$33K of ARPA funds to purchase 1700 tests and implement a plan for testing. 565 tests are being allocated to teachers after February vacation, 650 will be distributed to seniors and low income residents, and the rest is being set aside for Town employees. Garvin said they want to use them by their expiration date so we have to be careful not to purchase too many at one time.

*Motion was made to approve the expenditure of ARPA fund in the amount of \$33K to purchase 1700 rapid home COVID tests. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

### Discussion and possible vote on future cardboard event

Jay Marcotte said the cardboard event held before Christmas was successful. He is anticipating more of a need after Christmas so the DPW will be holding another Cardboard Event on January 29<sup>th</sup> from 8 am to 1 pm. The January event will have a dedicated administrator to greet people so the costs were a little higher than the December event. Registration will be available on the Recreation Department website.

*Motion was made to approve Cardboard Event on January 29, 2022 from 8 am to 1 pm for a fee of \$5 per car. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

### Discussion and possible vote to approve a five month extension contract with Green Mattress from Milford Massachusetts for curbside pickup for a total cost of \$25.00 per mattress, end date June 30, 2022

Marcotte said they have recycled about 141 mattresses per month on this contract and saved \$15 per mattress with the Mass. Grant. The Mass. grant for this project ends Jan. 31, 2022 so after this we have

to pay the full price. Even though the grant is ending, Marcotte wants to maintain current contract pricing and schedule until the end of fiscal year, June 30, 2022.

Marcotte explained that Green Mattress does the collection and the State reimburses Green Mattress. When the grant ends on January 31, 2022, Green Mattress will submit invoices to the Town and charge \$15 for processing and \$10 for collection. Green Mattress separates 85% of mattress components and sends to different commodity recycling places.

*Motion was made to approve the contract extension with Green Mattress from Milford, MA to process and collect mattresses curbside for a total cost of \$25 per mattress and to continue the collection schedule of every other Tuesday. This contract will have an end date of June 30, 2022. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

Vote on request from Belmont High School PAC Patrons for a one day liquor license (beer and wine only) for a fundraiser to be held at the Beech Street Center on Friday, February 11, 2022 from 7:00 PM -10:00

Lauren Capitani, co-chair of PAC Patrons, reported that all attendees must be vaccinated. They are also requesting that everyone is masked except when at their own table. The event is a Trivia Night to support performing arts groups at the High School.

*Motion was made to approve a one-day wine and beer license on February 11, 2022 to Lauren Capitani on behalf of the Belmont High School Performing Arts Company (PAC) Patrons to be held at Beech St. Center from 7 to 10 pm. Applicant is reminded that no one under the age of 21 years will be allowed and that no alcohol will be consumed outside the building.*

Discussion and possible vote for appointment to the Belmont Human Rights Commission

Brian Nadeau said they have two candidates and are close to getting the ninth position filled. The Commission is recommending Joan Horgan for one of the open positions.

*Motion was made to appoint Joan Horgan as a full member of the Human Rights Commission with a term that will expire on June 30, 2023. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

Vote to accept the resignation of Jennipher Burgess from the Diversity Task Force

Patrice Garvin said since the Diversity Task Force are at the tail end of report, then they don't need to fill the vacancy left by Jennipher's resignation.

#### SELECT BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

The parking trial initiated by the Traffic Working Group – Middle/High School is in progress and started on January 3, 2022. So far it seems to be working well. The group will be able to present recommendations once the trial is over.

The Structural Change Impact Group has scheduled meetings every Thursday. They are still working on following through on a number of items.

#### APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. December 13, 2021 – 8:00 AM - Budget Meeting

b. December 13, 2021 – 7:00 PM - Regular Meeting

c. December 13, 2021 – Executive Session

d. December 16, 2021 – 8:00 AM – Budget Meeting

e. December 20, 2021 – Executive Session

f. November 15, 2021 – 7:00 PM – Regular Meeting – Edited/revote 8/H \* 8:05 PM \*

*Motion was made to approve the December 13, 2021 budget meeting minutes, the December 13, 2021 regular meeting minutes, the December 13, 2021 Executive Session meeting minutes, and the December 20, 2021 Executive Session meeting minutes as amended.*

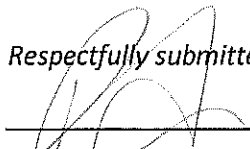
*Motion was made to reconsider the approval of the November 15, 2021 joint meeting minutes with the Zoning Board of Appeals. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

*Motion was made to approve the Select Board joint meeting minutes with the Zoning board of Appeals on November 15, 2021 as amended. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

Executive Session: To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; all unions

*Motion was made to go into Executive Meeting and not return to public session. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

*Respectfully submitted,*



*PATRICE GARVIN, Town Administrator*