

**RECEIVED
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BELMONT, MA**

DATE: October 14, 2020
TIME: 2:54 PM

**Minutes
Town of Belmont**

Select Board

Virtual Meeting on Zoom

Monday, August 31st, 2020

7:00pm

Approved by
the Select Board on:

9/14/2020

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Select Board was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Roy Epstein. Vice Chair Tom Caputo and Select Board member Adam Dash were present.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- An Outdoor Flu Clinic will be held with CVS Pharmacy on Friday, September 18th from 10am-12pm at the Beech Street Center. Masks will be required, clothing with easy access to the upper arm should be worn, and prescription insurance should be brought. The clinic is open to all and pneumonia shots will be available as well. Pre-registration will be required. Please contact Dana Leavitt at (617) 993-2977 with any questions.
- Coffee and Conversation with Chief of Police on Tuesday, September 15th at 10am on Zoom. Chief MacIsaac will discuss new initiatives he has launched since taking on his new role, their approach to keep the community and its citizens safe since COVID, and to answer questions. Please contact Dana Leavitt at (617) 993-2977 or email Dleavitt@belmont-ma.gov for Zoom information.
- A new breakfast program is being offered by the Beech Street Center in partnership with Russo's in Watertown. A hot breakfast sandwich and fruit cup will be provided. Breakfasts will be available two days a week through grab and go or delivery. The program will be limited. Please contact Dana Leavitt at 617-993-2977 for more information. Special thank you to Belmont Helps, who are volunteering to deliver breakfast.
- Tomorrow, September 1, 2020 is primary Election Day. The Select Board reminds the public to please vote if you have not yet done so.

ACTION BY CONSENT

COVID-19 Update

Brief reminder to continue social distancing, mask wearing, and washing hands from Epstein.

Committee Appointments

Dash and Assistant Town Administrator Jon Marshall noted that some committees were still in need of applicants.

Zoning Board of Appeals

There were six openings and five applicants, three appointments of full members and three appointments of associate members.

After some discussion, ZBA Chair Nick Iannuzzi joined the call and clarified the state of the ZBA: that Andrew Plunkett and Craig White did not seek reappointment and Phil Ruggiero had resigned. Iannuzzi requested that the Select Board promote Casey Williams up to Craig White's full member position, promote Andrew Kelley to Andrew Plunkett's full member position, and with Phil Ruggiero's resignation, promote Teresa McNutt to Phil Ruggiero's full member position. Iannuzzi asked that Elliot Daniels and William Fick be appointed as associate members.

Motion: To appoint Andrew Kelley and Casey Williams as full members to the Zoning Board of Appeals with terms ending in 2023 and appoint Teresa McNutt as a full member with a term ending in 2022. (Vote passed 3-0)

Elliot Daniels joined the call to be interviewed by the Select Board members. Daniels introduced himself. Daniels grew up in Belmont and became an electrician after college. Daniels answered further questions of the Select Board. Finally, Epstein asked Daniels if he had a preference for which term he be appointed for. Daniels said he did not, but he pictured himself being on the ZBA for the long term.

Since William Fick was not on the call, Epstein summarized his knowledge of Fick, a distinguished criminal defense lawyer who lives in Belmont. The Select Board agreed that Fick was a great candidate and that Daniels would fill the 2023 slot and Fick the 2022 slot.

Motion: To appoint Elliot Daniels as an associate member to the Zoning Board of Appeals with a term ending in 2023 and William Fick as an associate member with a term ending in 2022. (Vote passed 3-0)

Town Moderator – Request to call 2020 Special Town Meeting to be held by Remote Participation

Moderator Michael Widmer joined the call to explain that a letter was required prior to the Special Town Meeting. The letter included the steps to give access to the Town Meeting to promote broad participation. The Special Town Meeting would begin at 6pm on Monday, September 21, 2020.

Motion: To call the Special Town Meeting to begin on September 21, 2020 and to be held by remote participation. (Vote passed 3-0)

Sign Special Town Meeting Warrant and Discussion of Articles

Epstein read out the articles for the September Town Meeting Warrant:

- Article 1: Short report by Epstein on Town fiscal outlook and a report by Anne Marie Mahoney describing the work of the DPW and Police Station Building Committee
- Article 2: Adopting Carleton Circle as a public way
- Article 3: Authorization of easements as part of the “Safe Routes to School Project”
- Article 4: Community Preservation Committee projects: the Town field, playground and court restoration for \$680,000, Homer House window restoration project for \$100,000, a feasibility study for the redevelopment and creation of affordable housing units in Belmont Village for \$173,000, reconstruction of the Belmont Police Station exterior stairs for \$100,000, and phase 2 of the Emergency Rental Assistance Program for \$100,000
- Article 5: To see if the Town will vote to transfer \$320,000 from retained earnings for purchase of the trailers currently being leased by the Town for the temporary police headquarters

Some discussion ensued between the Select Board members and Garvin about the long-term use of the trailers, which they agreed to have further clarified by Town Meeting.

- Article 6: Transferring water capital balances to repurpose the funds for FY21 Water Main Replacement Program
- Article 7: Transferring sewer capital balances to repurpose funds for the Town’s sewer and stormwater system
- Article 8: Minor amendment to a zoning by-law
- McClain District Zone 3 Overlay By-law to lay out necessary provisions for zoning in McClain area to allow project to go forward
- Removal of Civil Service for Police and Fire employees

There was discussion amongst the Select Board members about including more reports from committees during Town Meeting. Dash and Widmer suggested that some committees could record reports and put them online. Widmer and Caputo agreed to meet to further discuss additions of other reports.

Motion: To adopt the Warrant that was provided on August 31, 2020 for the Special Town Meeting to begin on September 21, 2020. (Vote passed 3-0)

[Open public comment]

- *Ariane Belkadi (Abutter to Woodland Street trailers, Town Meeting Member Precinct 3):* Wanted to make known that abutters to the trailers were not given notice of Article 5 or the opportunity to provide input on the purchase on the trailers. She reported current and potential issues with the use of the trailers, and said that without a meeting where Article 5 could be discussed with the abutters, she will be in opposition to Article 5 at Town Meeting.

Epstein said that he would be happy to meet with abutters and nearby residents of Woodland Street.

Widmer added that his plan was to finish Articles 1-8 on the first night and Articles 9 and 10 on the second night, so Town Meeting members would know the sequence of the items discussed.

- *Maryanne Scali (Town Meeting Member for Precinct 4):* Asked why the Town wanted to withdraw police and fire from Civil Service and if the discussion had been held with the unions.

Epstein answered that the Police and Fire Chiefs and Select Board had discussed the possible change for over a year and were in agreement that it was an appropriate article to bring to Town Meeting.

Garvin said the Warrant would be posted the following day on the website and get the motions and information out to Town Meeting members.

Discussion and possible vote on Town's response to Beatrice Circle Supplemental Proposal

Epstein summarized his most recent revisions to the letter in response to the Beatrice Circle supplemental proposal. He had found a discrepancy in the proposal regarding the square footage of the units, changed "grossly" to "very" within the letter, and had received public comment regarding fire spreading and incorporated a recommendation from Chief Frizzell on the language around fire spreading concerns.

Motion: To authorize Chair Epstein to send the Town's latest version of the response letter to Mass Housing regarding the Beatrice Circle Supplemental Proposal. (Vote passed 3-0)

Discussion and possible vote on continuation of free parking at the Claflin Street Parking Lot

Epstein acknowledged that some requests had come from Belmont Center merchants to keep the free parking at the Claflin Street parking lot. Epstein said his inclination was to reinstate paid parking at the lot after Labor Day. Dash said his understanding was that implementing the closure of Leonard Street and free parking had provided all those who worked in Belmont Center with some form of support, and that it made sense to keep the Claflin Lot free until the one-way closure of Leonard Street ends on September 27, 2020. Caputo suggested extending free parking to September 27, 2020 as a final measure.

Motion: To extend free parking at the Claflin Street parking lot until September 27, 2020. Vote passed 3-0)

SELECT BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

Epstein reported that the Community Path Project Committee was continuing to discuss comments on the design and issues to address at result of the public engagement meetings.

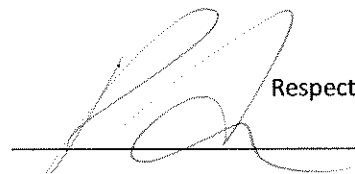
Dash noted that it was Chief David Frizzell's last day as Belmont Fire Chief, and the Select Board asked him to speak. Frizzell joined the call and thanked Belmont and all who worked with him for his 35 years of service. The Select Board members thanked Chief Frizzell for all his work and welcomed Acting Fire Chief Wayne Healey to his new position.

Caputo gave an update on the Capital Budget Committee and discussed the nature and makeup of that group with the Moderator. In recent years, the member position that served on both the CBC and Planning Board no longer

made as much sense, so the position would no longer be a mandated Planning Board member, but instead a Town Resident. Caputo said the meeting also highlighted the CBC and the Community Preservation Committee, and there was a desire for more collaboration between the groups. The group also requested that the transition of the Select Board Liaison to the CBC occur in June rather than April, as it was often a disruptive transition. The Select Board members agreed that the transition was disruptive and agreed to address the potential change at a future meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

Motion: To adjourn at 8:36pm. (Vote passed 3-0)


Respectfully Submitted,

PATRICE GARVIN, Town Administrator