

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Friday, January 10, 2014
8:00 AM**

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CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 8:10 am by Chair Paolillo in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Jones and Rojas were present. Town Administrator David Kale and Assistant Town Administrator Marshall were also present.

Chair Paolillo reviewed the meeting's agenda.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Update on the Belmont Uplands/Trust for Public Land

Ms. Darci Schofield, Project Manager from the Trust for Public Land (TPL), appeared before the Board to provide an update on the Belmont Uplands and efforts of the Trust for Public Land. Ms. Schofield gave a brief overview of what the TPL does, which is to protect public land, e.g., community gardens, parks, farms, etc. They also provide conservation services and negotiate directly with landowners to come to an agreement with the goal of gaining site control. Finally, they help to amass funding to purchase the land for public ownership.

She then spoke on the specific topic of the Uplands. She said TPL has been reaching out to the landowners regarding possible opportunities for purchasing the land. She said, at this time, the landowners are not interested in pursuing a transaction with TPL.

Chair Paolillo asked about next steps. Ms. Schofield said she will continue to reach out to the landowners. Mr. Kale said that storm-water rules and regulations have been drafted. Town Counsel has opined, based on case law that the developers are not required to adhere to the Stormwater By-law because the Town enacted the Stormwater By-law after the owners filed its comprehensive permit application.

Ms. Anne Marie Lambert, TM member Pct. 8, said that there are many community members in the region – in Belmont, Cambridge, and Arlington – who are supportive of a land preservation deal at a reasonable price, and stand ready to assist the TPL should a win-win deal become a reality. There are many community members with deep concerns about the increased risk of flooding in this area with climate change. She noted that there is a Belmont storm-water working group that has been formed to address this issue.

Ms. Idith Haber, President of the Coalition to Preserve the Belmont Uplands and a TM member from Pct. 8, said that she believed that the developers would need to comply with the storm-water By-law.

Ms. Allison Lenk, also from the Coalition to Preserve the Belmont Uplands, spoke to the issue of the development being built for affordable housing. She said it may not meet the affordable housing requirements.

Ms. Lambert noted that the Conservation Commission recently discussed that clarification is needed for any project with a WPA (Wetlands Protection Act) Order of Conditions, to ensure it was clear that the exemption clause in the new storm-water by-law did not relieve a project from meeting obligations in the by-law, but not covered by the WPA. She also noted that the 40B Comprehensive Permit issued in 2007 specifically exempts the Uplands project from certain portions of Belmont's local by-laws, and it states that all other local by-laws apply to the project.

Discussion: Proposed Revisions to the Minuteman District Agreement

Mr. Robert McLaughlin and Mr. Jack Weis, Minuteman Representatives to the district agreement working group subcommittee, appeared before the Board to provide an update on the proposed revisions to the Minuteman District Agreement. Mr. Weis noted that Minuteman would like to have the amendment to the district agreement passed this spring. He said that the latest version of the agreement is still being formulated. Mr. Weis then provided some background information on the impetus to change the 40-year old agreement. He said that there was hope to make the amendment more appealing to attract new towns.

The changes, he said, pertain to operating and capital allocation formulas. The revised formulas are less controversial than they have been (in the original agreement). He then spoke to some of the adjustments to the amended agreement and how they will impact the per-student enrollment fees. On the capital side, he said that the enrollment percentages will impact the percentage a community pays toward capital. Belmont, he said, may pay slightly higher on the capital side, but it is a "zero sum game" and the formula is fairer this way.

Mr. Weis reviewed some of the other features of the amended agreement, e.g., withdrawal, weighted voting, debt issuance, new member guidelines.

The Board discussed issues relating to the proposed amended Minuteman agreement.

Mr. McLaughlin said that the new school project ought to be spelled out (the scope of the facility and debt implications) as a part of amending the district agreement. Minuteman, he said, does not seem interested in proceeding this way.

Selectman Jones suggested that the new school size be kept smaller, unless the non-member district towns take more responsibility for the new facility costs. The Board agreed with this point. Chair Paolillo said that the smaller size facility meets the needs of the 16-member towns, which are responsible for bearing the cost of it. Mr. Weis agreed and said that the smaller size

will not eviscerate the programs offered at Minuteman. The Board then discussed the potential costs concerning renovation versus building a new facility. Chair Paolillo said that this process will need to be worked out in conjunction with a new high school (BHS) project.

Regarding next steps, Mr. Weis said that the Minuteman School Committee will need to vote on the proposed member agreement. The Board agreed with Mr. Weis and Mr. McLaughlin that this new agreement is marginally better for Belmont.

Chair Paolillo said that once the amended district agreement is voted on, the Board will review it, as it will need to get on the Warrant for the Spring Town Meeting.

The Board thanked Mr. Weis and Mr. McLaughlin for all their efforts.

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Kale reported on the following items:

- Higgenbottom Pool: the broken circulation pump has been replaced and the chlorine levels are being monitored. If the levels do come down, the pool can be re-opened. He apprised the Board that a Pool Stakeholder's meeting took place with Facilities Department staff to share information. Updated information would be provided to Stakeholders for distribution to ensure better communications. The cost of the repairs will be covered from existing budget allocations. However, further capital requests may need to be made.
- The Attorney General should be approving Belmont's Demolition Delay and Snow Removal By-laws very soon. He said that those impacted by the Demolition Delay by-law will be provided information.
- The FAA and MassPort have heard Belmont's concerns regarding the increased plane traffic from Logan based on information provided by the Town. It is anticipated that a meeting with these officials will be scheduled.
- The Underwood Pool's new design will be presented on January 16, 2014 (this is a public hearing).
- There will be four focus group sessions held in late January in preparation of upcoming Comcast negotiations. More information will be available at the BMC website.
- The BOS will host a Public Forum on the Community Path on Wednesday, January 22 at the Beech Street Center.
- The Cambridge Savings Bank has provided a \$5K grant for fire safety education.

The Board moved: To accept this grant.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

ACTION BY CONSENT

Common Victualler's License: Name Change

Name change from Brother's Pizza to Mark & Toni's, 121 Trapelo Road

The Board moved: To approve the name change to Mark and Toni's, as noted above.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Seniors and the Snow Removal By-law

Selectman Jones responded to the letter sent by the Council on Aging and noted that more investigation needs to be done with regard to seniors and the Snow removal by-law. While a majority of seniors are conscientious about snow removal, he noted their physical health is more important than complying with the by-law. The Board discussed this issue.

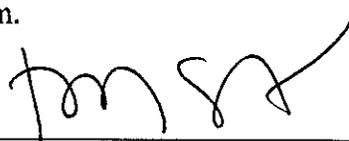
Approval of Meeting Minutes

This will occur at the next Board meeting.

NEXT MEETINGS

Friday, January 17, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. (Joint meeting with the School Committee)
Wednesday, January 22, 2014 at 7:00 p.m. at the Beech Street Center
Monday, January 27, 2014 at 8:00 a.m. (Underwood Pool Building Committee)
Monday, February 10, 2014 at 6:00 p.m.

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 9:54 am.



Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator