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**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
Monday, September 28, 2015  
6:30 PM**

**APPROVED  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
DATE: 12-14-15**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 6:30 p.m. by Chair Sami Baghdady in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectman Jim Williams was present; Selectman Mark Paolillo arrived at 6:43 p.m. Town Administrator David Kale was present; Assistant Town Administrator Phyllis Marshall was not present.

Chair Baghdady reviewed the evening's agenda.

**ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

*The Board moved:* To exit Executive Session and Return to Open Session at 7:11 p.m. A roll call vote was taken: Chair Baghdady said aye, Selectman Paolillo and Williams also said aye and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Chair Baghdady reviewed the agenda.

**ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

**Approval of "Belmont Serves" Day – Part I**

Mr. Doug John appeared before the Board to request approval for the Belmont Serves Day to be held on Monday, October 12. He noted some of the projects that are involved in the service day.

Chair Baghdady noted that this is an annual event of providing service to the community. The Board expressed its support for this endeavor.

*The Board moved:* To approve the annual Belmont Serves Day, 10/12/2015. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

**QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

Mr. George Durante, Chair of the Vision 21 Implementation Committee, requested that the survey submitted to the BOS by that committee be publicly addressed. Chair Baghdady responded that the Board will invite him to a future Board meeting to discuss the survey.

APPROVED  
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**MBTA Update on Waverley Square Station**

Senator Brownsberger, Representative Rogers, Mr. Frank DePaola (General Manager of MBTA), Mr. Erik Stootoff (Chief Engineer), Mr. Fayssal Husseini (PE), Ms. Laura Brelsford, Assistant General Manager System-Wide Accessibility, appeared before the Board to provide an update on the Waverley Square Station.

Mr. DePaola reviewed the current Waverley Station. He explained that upgrades to the station were recently done and this triggered the ADA compliance requirement. This means that the station must be brought up to compliance. He explained what "full accessibility" would involve, including elevator options, platform rendering, and the mini-high alternative.

Mr. DePaola said that he would like to engage the Belmont community in a dialogue about the conception of creating one station, which will be a large capital project. The capital planning process will begin, for the MBTA, early next year. He then noted that the Belmont Center station faces challenges, as well.

Senator Brownsberger said that he appreciates the MBTA's outreach to the community. He noted that there are a lot of challenges to this proposal (i.e., the proposal to close both stations and create one station). He said he is aware that efficiency is a goal and that bottom-line is a concern. He thanked the MBTA and the Board.

Representative Rogers echoed what Senator Brownsberger said, noting that ADA compliance is a serious consideration.

Chair Baghdady agreed that the engagement process is valuable for the community. Chair Baghdady asked about flexibility concerning the one-station notion and whether maintaining two stations will be explored by the MBTA. Mr. DePaola explained some of the challenges to adjusting the current stations.

The Board asked clarifying questions concerning the design, the expense, and the process of closing the existing stations.

Selectmen Paolillo and Williams agreed that maintaining both stations was a preference. Selectman Williams added that it is likely that the community would want both stations to be handicapped-accessible. Mr. DePaola and Mr. Stootoff spoke to the goal of accessible access at all the MBTA stations. Mr. Stootoff noted why the design of the Waverley station presented challenges to accessibility.

Selectman Williams raised the issue of the Alexander Avenue access road to the Belmont High School. Mr. Stootoff said the Project Manager will look into this issue.

Chair Baghdady agreed that handicap accessibility was a priority. He said the Board would like to keep the Waverley Station open and it would like to improve the accessibility. He said that the Belmont Center station would be useful to keep open (and improve) as well.

## **Audience Comments**

Ms. Sue Bass, TMM Pct. 3, said that Belmont has been negligent in providing commuter parking. She then spoke to the MBTA's goal of having a faster train going out to Fitchburg. Belmont does not want two closed stations with a huge parking garage on South Pleasant Street, which already is a traffic nightmare. Something else can be figured out.

Mr. Vincent Stanton asked how residents could give feedback to the MBTA? Contact information was provided. He offered a few suggestions and put forth the notion that a community bike path could be a part of the ADA compliance.

Ms. Anne Mahon, TMM Pct. 4, asked about a special stop on Pleasant Street for only handicapped persons? The answer was no.

Ms. Judith Ananian Sarno, TMM Pct. 3, said that she supports keeping the Waverley Square station open and providing accessibility. She said a station on South Pleasant Street would remove taxable revenue for Belmont. This area is already densely populated and the addition of commuter parking and commuter traffic will not be well received by this part of the community.

Ms. Sue Dem, Louise Road, stated that elderly people would prefer an elevator over long ramps. It was noted that the MBTA prefers elevators as well.

Ms. Julie Crocket, TMM Pct. 4, spoke about the unique issues relating to the Waverley station. She noted that accessible busses exist in Belmont. The MBTA representatives replied that all trains need to be accessible, as well.

Ms. Lisa Oteri, Waverley Terrace, asked about other locations in Waverley for a station. The South Pleasant Street location is not walkable.

Senator Brownsberger broached the topic of next steps, e.g., a design charette. Mr. DePaola offered a rough timeline for next steps.

Chair Baghdady stressed that the goal is to keep both stations open and to get them appropriately accessible.

The Board took a five-minute recess.

## **Discussion and Vote: Belmont Center Green Space/Delta Enhancements**

Mr. Glenn Clancy, Town Engineer, and Mr. Andy Rojas, landscape designer and former Selectman, appeared before the Board concerning the Belmont Center Green Space/Delta Enhancement Proposal.

Chair Baghdady provided some background information. He noted that there is a new design on the table.

Mr. Rojas stated that the new plan allows for a large green space and it also keeps the access road with parking. He reviewed the plan. The green space is usable, inviting, and pedestrian-friendly, and the access road can be closed off at certain times. The Plan approved by the BOS in May 2015 has been improved.

Chair Baghdady acknowledged the outstanding efforts of both Mr. Rojas and Mr. Clancy.

Mr. Clancy said he is interested in achieving a timely resolution as the construction in Belmont Center is moving forward. Mr. Kale agreed that this piece of the Belmont Center project needs to be resolved now so that the contractor can move forward. Mr. Clancy provided some information on the storm-water catch basin design for the Delta

The Board thanked those involved in the process, including Dr. Ralph Jones and Ms. Bonnie Friedman. They stated their support for the new and improved plan.

### **Audience Comments**

Ms. Lydia Ogilby said she is glad it is over. She spoke to the awakening of the community.

Mr. Paul Roberts, TMM Pct. 8, thanked the players and stated that, while he likes Plan A, he understands this is a compromise. He asked that community input be allowed.

Ms. Marianne Scali, TMM Pct. 2, expressed support for the new Plan.

Mr. Joel Semuels, TMM Pct. 6., expressed support for the new Plan. He asked about when the road would be closed. He suggested that trash bins be added to the green area.

Ms. Carolyn Bishop, TMM Pct. 1, discussed trees, accessibility, and the placement of benches.

Mr. Ian Todreas, TMM Pct. 1, asked about snow plowing in the winter. He also asked about the guidelines of Public Safety on the access road. Mr. Clancy responded to both questions.

Ms. Jane Wentzel expressed concern about the flow of traffic and the placement of crosswalks. Mr. Clancy said that the plan is believed to be safe for pedestrians.

Ms. Kate Bowen, TMM Pct. 4, asked about the grade of the green space and the bus stop crosswalk. Mr. Rojas provided additional information. Mr. Clancy said he will look into the bus stop crosswalk.

Ms. Michelle Banker, TMM Pct. 2, asked about the slope of the land to make it more level. Mr. Rojas provided additional information.

Ms. Jennifer Page, TMM Pct. 3, asked about the closing of the access road. Selectman Paolillo said that this point is open to input from the community.

Ms. Bonnie Friedman, TMM Pct. 3, expressed support for the compromise. She raised several

points about the crosswalk, benches, the bank garage, and the access road.

Ms. Gi Yoon Huang, said this plan expresses potential. She spoke about safety, noting that the green space still does not feel safe.

*The Board moved:* To accept the updated concept for the Belmont Center Green Space/Delta Enhancements, with further attention paid to the crosswalk near the bus stop. The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board took a five-minute recess.

### **Proclamation: Payson Park Music Festival**

Ms. Tomi Olson appeared before the Board concerning the Payson Park Music Festival. She spoke briefly about the festival.

Chair Baghdady stated that this was the 25<sup>th</sup> year of the music festival.

Selectman Paolillo Read the Proclamation.

The Board signed the Proclamation.

### **Discussion: Public Hearing for Verizon Franchise Cable License**

Mr. Kale stated that the process to renew the cable license with Verizon is beginning. A public hearing will be held Monday, November 9 at 7:30 p.m.

Selectman Williams raised the issue of changing the Verizon fees for residents of affordable housing.

### **Town Administrator's Report**

Mr. Kale reported on the following items:

- **FY16 CPA Applications:** Two applications were discussed and endorsed – One application is for the repair of the Winn Brook tennis courts (\$325K). Another application is to repair the Town Hall railings (\$75K). Selectman Paolillo raised the issue of the tennis courts at the high school, which are badly in need of repair. The Board expressed its support for the BHS tennis courts. Mr. Kale will contact the School Department.
- **Youth Hockey Update:** Several follow up meetings are scheduled and more information is being gathered.
- **Master Plan for Recreation Dept.:** The town will need to go out to bid again since the original bid did only yielded one bid based on feedback received the timeliness for completion of the study will need to be excluded.
- **FAA:** The airplane noise issue continues; meetings with neighboring communities will

be held.

- **FY15 EOY Review:** A detailed review of actual FY15 expenditures and revenues was provided. , Free cash should be certified in November and tax recap forms are being completed to allow the tax rate to be set in December 2015. . Mr. Kale reviewed some of the revenues, e.g., meals tax, excise tax, ambulance receipts, fees, license/permits, etc. He highlighted several expenditures, including, salary accounts, revolving accounts, snow expenditure, etc. (Mr. Williams raised several issues – stormwater, OPEB.)

### **Approval of Meeting Minutes**

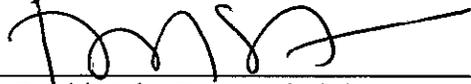
- April 21, 2015 Regular Meeting
- June 8, 2015 Executive Session
- June 12, 2015 Executive Session
- July 27, 2015 Regular Meeting
- July 27, 2015 Executive Session
- August 15, 2015 Working Session
- August 15, 2015 Executive Session

*The Board moved:* To approve the meeting minutes, as noted above.  
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

### **NEXT MEETINGS**

Monday, October 5, 2015 at 8:00 a.m. Town Hall Selectmen's Boardroom  
Monday, October 19, 2015 at 7:00 p.m. Town Hall Selectmen's Boardroom

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 10:30 p.m.

  
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Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator