

**MINUTES
TOWN OF BELMONT
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM
Monday, June 9, 2014
7:00 PM**

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CALL TO ORDER

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 7:07 p.m. by Chair Rojas in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Baghdady and Paolillo were present. Town Administrator David Kale and Assistant Town Administrator Marshall were also present.

Chair Rojas reviewed the agenda.

QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[There were none.]

ACTION BY APPOINTMENT

Application for No-Cost Infrastructure Assessment Request to MassDOT for Schools Sidewalk

Ms. Jennifer Thomas, Burbank PTA President, appeared before the Board regarding the Safe Routes to School assessment. State grants are available to help fund infrastructure improvements for safe routes to school. The process requires that the MassDOT will evaluate routes to the designated school submitted for consideration to determine whether or not it is qualified for grant funding. Additional funding is not required from the Town of Belmont. Each school will need to submit an application and the Town will need to submit a form letter.

Selectman Paolillo suggested that the School Committee and School Department endorse this project, as well. Chair Rojas agreed. Selectman Baghdady asked about the process once the DOT accepts an application. He expressed concern about "the execution of the right-of-way process" and suggested that the School Committee be asked to weigh in on this request. The Board agreed that clarification on easements is needed; the application may need to be sent to Town Counsel for review.

Ms. Thomas said she will follow up with the Board within 36 hours.

Extension of Conditional Liquor License for El Centro Restaurant to July 16, 2014

Mr. Kale informed the Board that, while they are very close to finishing construction, El Centro will need to extend to mid-July (July 16, 2014).

The Board moved: To approve the request to extend the conditional liquor license to July 16, 2014.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Proclamation: Belmont Car Wash's 50th Anniversary

Mr. Adam Tocci, General Manager of Belmont Car Wash, and Mr. Otto Torres, Assistant Manager, appeared before the Board to accept the Proclamation. Mr. Tocci spoke about the history of the business in Belmont.

Chair Rojas read the Proclamation.

The Board moved: To approve the proclamation as read.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Benton Library's Annual Report Presentation

Ms. Elizabeth Gibson and Mr. Richard Cheek, of the Benton Library, appeared before the Board to present an overview of the Benton Library's Annual Report. Ms. Gibson said it was an excellent year for the Benton.

She reviewed some of the year's highlights:

- new air conditioning and new furnace
- pre-school story time
- English Language tutoring
- Library book group
- Food Pantry drop off location
- Bulgarian language classes
- library hours are regular at 16 per week
- 20-25 active volunteers
- 18 board members
- fundraising has been successful (to cover operating costs) and additional funding has been set aside for capital costs

Chair Rojas acknowledged the Benton for the amazing work it has done to preserve the library and to offer this resource for the community. Ms. Gibson stressed that many people work together to make the library run smoothly.

Update: Community Path Advisory Committee (CPAC) Final Report

Mr. Jeff Roth, CPAC Chair, and members of the CPAC appeared before the Board to provide an overview of the CPAC's Final Report. Mr. Roth introduced the CPAC members and provided a brief overview of the committee progress as well as its recommendations.

The committee has been meeting since August 2012 to proceed with the following three tasks:

- evaluate existing data and studies on bike paths
- gather data/feedback from residents, abutters, town departments
- submit a written report for the BOS's review

Mr. Roth reviewed seven recommendations/next steps:

1. Recommended Community Path routes
2. Conduct an Engineering feasibility study
3. Topics that require further research
4. Coordinate with Waltham segment of Mass Central Rail-Trail
5. Continue dialogue with Belmont community
6. Form a permanent planning and Construction Committee
7. Secure funding for next steps in design and construction

Chair Rojas informed the audience that the Board will not make a decision regarding the recommendations presented this evening. Mr. Roth provided more detail for the proposed primary and secondary routes presented.

The design and construction fee-per-mile of the proposed bike path was then discussed. Mr. Stanton suggested that state money is available.

Mr. Roth informed the Board that CPAC spent a lot of time mitigating the abutters' concerns regarding the possible Channing Road section as an option for the path. The feedback received had been incorporated into the report.

Selectman Baghdady raised the issue of the path running along the live train route. He said the train moves very fast and is very noisy. He wondered how this section of the path could be considered "family friendly". Selectman Paolillo agreed and added concern that *path access* near the live train route was an issue. Mr. Roth answered that it does not appear to be a major problem where implemented.

Mr. Roth informed the Board that an underpass connecting Winn Brook to the High School is being proposed. The Board discussed this point as well as the train speed, the congestion of the Belmont Center area, pedestrian accessibility, and various other safety points. Mr. Conroy stated that many of these issues will be fully addressed in the feasibility study.

Mr. Roth then detailed the Concord Avenue near-term and low-cost safety improvements, e.g., bollards, green painted lanes through intersections, and a buffer lane between parked cars and bike lanes. The Board agreed that the eastern routes all present challenges.

Regarding the need for engineering studies, Mr. Roth explained the proposed scope of a feasibility study, stressing that it is a critical next step for all proposed routes.

Mr. Roth identified other topics that will need further research, including path access points, Belmont Center redesign, MBTA impacts, the Moraine Street area coordinate with Waltham segment of Mass Central Rail-Trail.

Mr. Roth suggested that a permanent planning committee be formed. He then discussed the need to secure funding. Selectman Paolillo asked about the timing of a feasibility study related to funding and reminded that the outcome of a study will impact the efforts to identify funding. Mr. Kale agreed that the study and the identification of potential funding will need to be coordinated.

Mr. Roth acknowledged the work of the committee members as well as the efforts of Mr. Wheeler.

Chair Rojas thanked the committee for the excellent report. He acknowledged the effort put into the report.

Audience Comments

Mr. Bruce McKinnon, Channing Road, summarized the comments of Mr. Cosmo Caterino (CPAC member who could not attend this meeting). The comments were not in support of the report; but offered alternative recommendations.

Mr. Paul Roberts, Cross Street, noted that the community will benefit greatly from this report. He encouraged proceeding with the feasibility study, high usage of the bike path in Cambridge and possible boon to Belmont Center from extending the path through Belmont.

Mr. Phil Lawrence acknowledged the efforts of CPAC and thanked them for their time in developing this report.

Ms. Laurie Graham, School Committee member, also thanked CPAC and specifically Chair Roth. She noted that, although the School Committee had concerns, the CPAC heard them and acknowledged the concerns. The School Committee will need to stay involved in this conversation, since the proposed paths are so close to Belmont High School.

Mr. Monte Allen asked if the CPAC was being disbanded. Chair Rojas replied that yes, in the near future this will happen, but that a permanent committee will be established.

Ms. Bonnie Friedman said that if the path is too far away from homes and businesses – it gets less use. If the proposed path is done well, it will be actively used.

The Board took a five-minute recess.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Common Victualler's License – Bellmont Caffè - 80 Leonard Street

Mr. Minas Daldalian, owner of Bellmont Caffè, appeared before the Board to request Common Victualler's license approval for his new café in Belmont Center.

Chair Rojas noted that the ZBA needs to deal with the transfer of the special permit from Mimms (the previous owner) to the new owner. Mr. Kale said that the transfer should not be an issue and the temporary occupancy certificate was approved by the Community Development department. Mr. Kale agreed with the Board that the transfer of ownership should have been confirmed prior to the café's opening, and, if the special permit is not approved, the Common Victualler's license would not be approved. Chair Rojas confirmed that all of the other approvals (Health Department, Occupancy, etc.) are in order.

The Board moved: To approve a Common Victualler's License for Bellmont Caffè,

conditional upon the Zoning Board of Appeals approval of the transfer of the Special Permit at its July meeting from the previous owner.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Dan Scharfman 2nd Annual 5K Run

Mr. Charlie Conroy, on behalf of the Foundation for Belmont Education, appeared before the Board to request approval for the 2nd Annual Dan Scharfman 5K Run to be held on Sunday, October 5, 2014. He noted that \$20K was raised at last year's event. The route and time will be the same as last year.

The Board moved: To approve the use of town land for the Dan Scharfman 2nd Annual 5K Run, on 10/5/2014.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Outdoor Dining License – 687 Belmont Street

Mr. Kale noted that there are no indoor seats in the establishment because currently it sells take-out meals. The owner is requesting outdoor seating on the sidewalk in front of the business. Mr. Kale reviewed the details. He said that, in order to allow outdoor seating, the Common Victualler's license will need to be waived.

Chair Rojas raised the issue of parking requirements. Selectman Paolillo raised the issue of setting precedence with every take-out place in town desiring outdoor seating, as well.

The Board discussed details relating to this request.

The Board moved: To waive the Common Victualler's license requirement and to approve the outdoor seating request, subject to revocation by the Board of Selectmen.
The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Kale reported on the following items:

- The FY15 Water System Improvement Project Bids were received and the lowest responsible and responsive bidder is Cedrone Trucking, Inc. for a total of \$1,237,546.08. It is recommended that the Contract be awarded and authorization for the Town Administrator to execute the contract on behalf of the Town.

The Board moved: That the FY 15 Water System Improvement Project be awarded to Cedrone Trucking, Inc. from Billerica, MA as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder for the Base Bid (\$1,182,317.61) plus Alternative A (\$55,228.47) for the total low bid price of \$1,237,546.08, and that the Town Administrator, David Kale, be and is hereby authorized to execute the contract for said work on behalf of the Town of Belmont, subject to the approval of said contract as to form by Town Counsel.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

- Mr. Fredrick Jones is working on fundraising for improvements for the White Field House. Mr. Jones has been working with Gerry Boyle and the School Committee will be required to officially accept the donation. Chair Rojas suggested that the Office of Community Development be involved as well.
- The Committee appointment process is underway and the Board will hold a working session in July.
- The town's web pages will reflect an upgrade this week.

NEXT MEETINGS

Wednesday, June 18, 2014

Executive Session I

The Board moved: To enter into executive session at 9:55 p.m. to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the Chair so declares. The Board will not return to open session.

A roll call vote was taken: Chair Rojas said aye, Selectman Baghdady and Paolillo also said aye and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).


Executive Session II

The Board moved: That it will remain in Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to the purchase or lease of real property if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation position of the public body and the Chair so declares. The Board will not return to open session.

Adjournment

The Board moved: To exit Executive Session and adjourn the meeting at 10:57 p.m.

A roll call vote was taken: Chair Rojas said aye, Selectman Baghdady and Paolillo also said aye and the motion passed unanimously (3-0).



Mr. David Kale, Town Administrator