

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

2019 MAR 19 AM 9:11

Minutes

Town of Belmont

Board of Selectmen

Selectmen's Meeting Room

Monday, October 1, 2018

7:00pm

APPROVED
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
DATE: 11/5/2018

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:03pm by Chair Adam Dash. Vice Chair Mark Paolillo and Selectmen Tom Caputo were present. Town Administrator Patrice Garvin was present.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Belmont Town Employees will be hosting a Halloween event on October 29. Children are invited to visit Town Hall from 4-6pm for Trick-or-Treating!
- Website for reporting issues/concerns related to Belmont streets is going live. A link can be found on the Town website front page or Twitter.
- One Book One Belmont program starts today and runs through the month of October. The book this year is *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley.
- Thursday at 6pm is Belmont v. Watertown field hockey game at Harris Field.
- Belmont High School Building Project will be holding two community engagement events: 1) Oct. 4 @ 7pm Energy Summit, concerning the zero net energy design; 2) Community Engagement forum Oct. 10 @ 6:30pm at the High School Auditorium, a Q&A about the impending vote and tours of the existing high school.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS:

[There were none]

ACTION BY CONSENT:

Executive session: To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the Chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

Motion: To enter executive session. (Vote passed 3-0)

Motion: To leave executive session. (Vote passed 3-0)

Senior Tax Deferral – Discussion and Possible Vote

Dan Dargon (Assessor's Office) and Chuck Laverty (Vice-Chair, Board of Assessors) appeared before the Board to discuss lowering the interest rate on the Senior Tax Deferral program from 8% to 4%. D. Dargon

APPROVED
explained that a similar measure to lower the interest rate to 4.5% had been brought to Town Meeting in 2006 and failed to pass. Currently thirteen residents were taking advantage of the program.

Town Treasurer Floyd Carman also appeared and advocated not to lower the interest rate, arguing that that such a change would only benefit heirs, who most likely did not live in Belmont. A. Dash and M. Paolillo responded that the high interest rate was keeping eligible seniors from participating in the program, and that the change would attract more participants, allowing them to stay in Belmont.

There was discussion about the choice of 4%. T. Caputo felt it was below market rate and asked if the interest rate could be floating, relative to prime. M. Paolillo noted this would make things more complicated for the Town Treasurer's office, having to keep track of the rate based on when people join the program; A. Dash felt this would also make it more complicated for attracting new participants, since there would not be a specified interest rate to tell them. T. Caputo agreed with the rest of the Board that 4.5% would be a more appropriate number. D. Dargon said the Board of Assessors would also be in agreement with 4.5%, and would vote its official position in advance of Fall Town Meeting.

P. Garvin raised the question of how the change would affect current participants of the Senior Tax Deferral program. It was agreed that the change should not be applied retroactively, however, going forward the new interest rate would be applied to those already in the program. F. Carman encouraged the Board to include this aspect specifically in the Warrant Article.

Vote and Sign Warrant for November 6, 2018 State election

Ellen O'Brien Cushman (Town Clerk) explained that the Warrant was required in order to hold the State election. The normal seven polling locations would be open from 7am-8pm on November 6; early voting would be available October 22 – November 2. There would be four questions on the ballot. E. O'Brien Cushman noted that the fourth question on the ballot was the local debt exclusion vote, and since it was a local question it did not appear in the red booklet sent to households by the State explaining the ballot measures.

Motion: To approve the Warrant for the November 6, 2018 State Election. (Vote passed 3-0)

Endorsement of Belmont Serves

Douglas John and Jennifer Hoyda appeared before the Board and gave an overview of Belmont Serves. The event consisted of a series of volunteer projects (e.g. food drive, Claypit pond clean-up, school projects) held on Columbus Day. Around 350-400 volunteers would participate, many of them students who could receive service hours for participating.

Motion: To endorse Belmont Serves. (Vote passed 3-0)

New Traffic Advisory Committee Charge or Creation of New Committee to Replace the Traffic Advisory Committee – Discussion and Approval

Larry MacDonald and Dana Miller (Traffic Advisory Committee) appeared before the Board. A. Dash explained that the proposal to broaden the scope of TAC stemmed from feedback received during a public forum. It was up for debate whether to re-charge TAC or simply create a new committee. P. Garvin had put together a draft of the charge for a potential new committee, which would be called the Transportation Advisory Committee.

M. Paolillo suggested the committee have up to 9 members as opposed to the 7 specified in the current draft; this would allow for more people to be appointed if there were lots of qualified applicants.

L. MacDonald and D. Miller were both in favor of creating a new committee that would incorporate pedestrian and bicycle issues. A. Dash also felt that it made sense to create a new committee versus re-charge the existing TAC. There was discussion regarding the criteria for committee members – T. Caputo asked if there could be one representative from each precinct. It was felt that such qualifications could be addressed in the selection process, however they should not be specifically outlined in the charge.

[A. Dash opened discussion to the public. It was requested that he read the full draft of the charge for the potential new Transportation Advisory Committee, and he did so.]

Comments from Town residents were as follows:

Mark Persons: Suggested adding wording around accessibility, especially with respect to bicycles. Also that the new website associated with Complete Street should be well publicized.

Pete Goodrich: Asked what will specifically change from the current Traffic Advisory Committee. A. Dash explained the emphasis was broadened to include pedestrian and bicycle issues. P. Garvin stressed that assisting with policy development was also an important new component.

Vikram Kimka: Requested language to specifically address mitigation of cut-through traffic on narrow streets. A. Dash replied that language in the draft would allow the committee to address such issues; it was important to strike a balance between giving the committee a direction without boxing it in to specific measures.

Tammy Calise: Asked how the new committee would interface with Town traffic consultants, information from the new website, schools, etc. P. Garvin explained the intention was that these various projects would be reviewed by the new committee; A. Dash confirmed that the committee would be advisory to the Board of Selectmen on these matters.

Kate Bowen: Asked how the new committee would be functionally different from the current TAC; she was concerned about having a complaint driven process and that issues should be evaluated and addressed in an objective way. She stressed the importance of having a Town-wide traffic plan to help guide decisions, and this sentiment was supported by the Board.

Meghan Moriarty: Asked what the committee would do if something comes up that is outside of the expertise of its members. Should the charge include a clause about professional development? A. Dash noted there was a clause about participating in training; M. Paolillo mentioned the Town often relies on the Community Development office and traffic engineer consultants for expertise.

The Board further discussed the proposal to create a Town-wide traffic plan, and it was agreed that language should be added to the charge to mention this specifically as one of the objectives of the committee.

Motion: To create the Transportation Advisory Committee with the changes to the charge as discussed above. (Vote passed 3-0)

The Board set the deadline for applications to the new Transportation Advisory Committee as November 1, in the hope that appointments could be made at the November 5 Board of Selectmen meeting.

Incinerator Site Post-Closure Use Matrix, Discussion and Possible Vote to Eliminate some of the Remaining Uses

P. Garvin said that the anaerobic digester facility would require a study to determine if it was feasible for the site, and she had obtained a quote of \$8,200 for such a study.

P. Garvin recommended that food/leaf composting be removed from the list due to potential odors, rat problems, and the fact that such a facility would require staffing. She also recommended removing the transfer station, as it would require staffing and may not even be necessary given the new trash program.

The solar and Ice Rink options were both discussed. It was decided that further analysis needed to be conducted on the solar option, including whether Belmont Light or a private developer would take over the site and the extent to which solar could be incorporated with other options such as the bike/skate park. T. Caputo stated that the group in charge of finding a new location for the Ice Rink saw the new school as a more appealing option, but that the incinerator site should not be taken off the list yet. There would be an update at Fall Town meeting regarding plans for the Ice Rink.

Motion: To eliminate food/leaf composting and transfer station as options for post-closure uses of the incinerator site. (Vote passed 3-0)

Community Path Project Committee Discussion and Possible Appointments

A. Dash explained that the Community Path Implementation Advisory Committee (CPIAC) had essentially finished its work, and that a new committee was required to move the Community Path project forward. He shared the draft of the proposed structure and charge of this new committee, which would be called the Community Path Project Committee (CPPC).

T. Caputo asked about the spot allocated for a representative from the School – did this mean a School Committee member, member of the administration, etc? M. Paolillo thought it was important to have someone tied into the school administration.

It was decided to add two additional member slots to the CPPC, one of which would be appointed by the School Committee; this would bring the total number of voting members to 7, in addition to 3 ex-officio members. T. Caputo also proposed an addition to the charge of CPAC, to the effect that the committee should collaborate with State agencies/legislators to obtain the necessary funding and permissions for the project; this was supported by A. Dash and M. Paolillo.

[Open discussion to the public]

Jeff Roth (Chair of former Community Path Advisory Committee) supported the allocation of ex-officio members from DPW and Community Development, stating that these connections had been important during his tenure on CPAC. As a candidate for the new CPPC he reviewed his credentials: worked on similar projects in other nearby towns, lot of hours spent on CPAC, was an avid walker/biker who strongly supported the need for the Community Path. M. Paolillo appreciated Jeff's work on CPAC, but had concerns about the relationship with Channing Rd. residents for moving forward with CPPC.

A. Dash noted that one of the committee slots was allocated for someone with experience in public construction projects. He suggested the Board vote on candidates that were currently agreed upon by all three Board members.

Motion: To appoint Michael Cicalese, Vince Stanton, and Russ Leno to the Community Path Project Committee. (Vote passed 3-0)

T. Caputo expressed support for the appointment of Roy Epstein. He requested additional time to review the credentials of other candidates.

Motion: To appoint Roy Epstein to the Community Path Project Committee. (Vote passed 3-0)

Remaining appointments would be deferred to a future meeting and no new applicants would be accepted going forward.

Motion: To approve the charge of the Community Path Project Committee, as amended. (Vote passed 3-0)

[T. Caputo left the meeting]

One Day Liquor License Application from Mary Westcott for CLC Café – Discussion and Vote

Motion: To approve the One Day Liquor License for CLC Café for an Oktoberfest Celebration, Saturday October 13 from 12-4pm. (Vote passed 2-0)

BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

The Warrant Committee would be meeting this week to discuss the High School building project. A. Dash requested that T. Caputo attend the meeting in his place, as he had to recuse himself from matters relating to the new building project because he lives on Goden St. T. Caputo was happy to attend.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

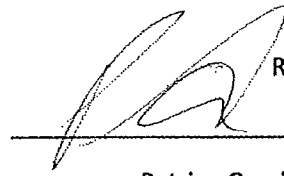
A Town Administrator's Report was presented at the meeting on September 28, therefore there was nothing new to report at this time.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES:

- *March 2, 2018 regular session:*
Motion: To approve March 2, 2018 regular session minutes. (Vote passed 2-0)
- *May 11, 2018 regular session:*
Motion: To approve May 11, 2018 regular session minutes. (Vote passed 2-0)
- *September 17, 2018 regular session:* T. Caputo requested a change in wording.
Motion: To approve September 17, 2018 regular session minutes as amended. (Vote passed 2-0)
- *September 17, 2018 executive session:*
Motion: To approve September 17, 2018 executive session minutes. (Vote passed 2-0)

Next Meetings October 15 at 7:00pm at Belmont Town Hall in the Selectmen's Meeting Room

Motion: To adjourn. (Vote passed 2-0)

 Respectfully Submitted,

Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator