

APPROVED BY
THE SELECT BOARD
03/14/2022

Select Board Joint Meeting with the
Long Term Capital Planning Committee

Wednesday, February 28, 2022

Remote Meeting

7:00pm

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: March 17, 2022
TIME: 9:05 AM

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Select Board was called to order by Chair Adam Dash. Vice Chair Roy Epstein and Select Board member Mark Paolillo were present, along with Town Administrator Patrice Garvin, Acting Assistant Town Administrator Glenn Clancy, Director of Health Wesley Chin, and Director of DPW Jay Marcotte.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Volunteers are needed for openings on a number of Belmont committees. See Town website if you are interested.
- Iceland and Greenland Travel Log with Ron Rosenstock will be held on Friday March 4th at 1:15 pm. Call the Beech St. Center to register at 617-993-2976.
- International Women's Day presentation will be held on March 8th at 2 pm with Wendy Murphy, litigator and civil rights activist. Call the Beech St. Center to register at 617-993-2976.
- The Select Board announced that they stand with the Ukraine against the threat to democracy perpetrated by the aggression from Russia.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[NONE.]

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Distribution Funding Plan Public Forum on March 7, 2022

There is a Public Forum scheduled for March 7th to discuss the ARPA distribution plan that was presented a few weeks ago. Garvin said the ARPA distribution plan will be put on the Town website tomorrow.

Economic Development Committee Public Forum on March 8, 2022

A Public Forum will be held on March 8th to discuss a project undertaken by the Planning Division with the goal of creating opportunities in Waverly Square, including redevelopment, new businesses, affordable housing and accessibility. The Town received funds from the State to engage the services of the Urban Land Institute to help with this project.

Diversity Task Force Report

The Diversity Task Force has finished their report and final recommendations will be sent out tomorrow. The Diversity Task Force will present these recommendations to the Select Board meeting on March 21st.

V. ACTION BY CONSENT

COVID Update

Wes Chin reported that as of the end of February 2022 there were 110 positive cases of COVID in Belmont. Last week there were 14 new cases. Contact tracing did not show any hospitalizations. He reported that the average age of COVID cases hovers around 30 years old and 83% of the positive cases were fully vaccinated. Chin said that based on the new metrics issued from the CDC, Belmont is close to the level where indoor masking may not be required.

The Board of Health will take up the mask mandate decision on March 7th. The Board of Health will attend the Select Board meeting on March 7th to discuss the issue. Chin said that the Department of Public Health will be doing analyses to tease out the new Omicron variant and these numbers will be reported to the towns.

Discussion of the Group Classification of the Belmont Public Safety Communications Dispatchers with Belmont Contributory Retirement Board Chair, Tom Gibson

Tom Gibson, Chair of the Belmont Retirement Board, joined the meeting to present information about an issue that may affect the Police and Fire dispatchers in Belmont. For decades Belmont has employed Police and Fire signal operators and repairmen. Gibson asserted that the Belmont Public Safety Dispatchers are a model for other communities. They don't just take telephone calls. They monitor, repair, and communicate. In some communities, these positions have disappeared due to technology, but in Belmont the duties of dispatchers have not changed and the nine Belmont dispatchers are categorized in Group 2 which has better retirement benefits than Group 1. The audit done recently by the oversight body Public Employee Retirement Administration Commission (PERAC), determined that the Belmont dispatchers should be in Group 1. The Belmont Retirement Board has requested that these employees be retained in the Group 2 category because of the nature of their job, but Gibson said PERAC could reject this request because of the cost savings elicited by the change. If PERAC doesn't approve the Belmont request, then the next step would entail a special act of the legislature that would involve the Select Board and Town Meeting. He said this could potentially affect dispatchers who have already retired.

Open Joint Meeting with Long Term Capital Planning Committee

The Long Term Capital Planning Committee was called to order by the Chair, Chris Doyle, with a quorum of members (Ann Marie Mahoney, Jenny Fallon, Elizabeth Dionne, Melinda Wong and Roy Epstein).

Discussion on Long Term Planning Capital Committee drafted bylaw change pertaining to capital planning

Chair Doyle presented slides about the draft of the bylaw. The bylaw proposes to change the Capital Budget Committee to the Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee. The change would expand the

mandate and, hopefully, enhance public participation. An important change is that the new committee will be charged to produce a one, five and thirty-year capital plan. The composition of the committee will change from seven to nine members and the new composition will help to build better communication with Community Preservation Committee (CPC) and other committees who are not represented directly.

A draft of the new bylaw was displayed on the screen. Doyle said that feedback from other committees were incorporated into the language and they have already solicited preliminary feedback from the Bylaw Review Committee. The next step is to receive final recommendations from the Select Board, Capital Budget, School and Warrant Committee and Select Board will vote to put it on the Warrant. Patrice Garvin said this item could be put on as a placeholder and still be placed on Warrant if Select Board can't vote on it before the Warrant deadline on March 15th.

Epstein said that the bylaw has been reviewed fairly extensively and should be close to the final version, but he thinks it might be worthwhile to have one Public Forum on the subject after review by Town Counsel, George Hall and the Bylaw Review Committee.

It was agreed that a Public Forum on the proposed bylaw would be a good idea. The forum should be held by the Long Term Capital Planning Committee and The Capital Budget Committee could be scheduled after the March 15th Warrant deadline and does not require the final version of the Warrant before discussion.

Dash suggested that the Select Board vote tonight to put the bylaw on the Town Meeting Warrant.

Motion was made to put the Long Term Capital Planning Committee bylaw change on the Town Meeting Warrant. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

The Long Term Capital Planning Committee made a motion to adjourn. Motion was approved by a quorum of members.

Close Joint Meeting with Long Term Capital Planning Committee

Discussion and possible vote to include the following bylaws on the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) Warrant:

a. Leaf Blower

Dash said we will not be taking public comment on the Leaf Blower bylaw tonight. The revised draft was submitted in packet.

He inquired whether the leaf blower article should be on the Warrant? If so, what are the general parameters we should include?

Epstein feels that the drafts need updating because they were originally drafted over a year ago. The forum on the leaf blower bylaw was productive, but we don't have a final draft of the bylaw for discussion purposes. He said that he is aware that an informal committee of residents are currently working on a citizen's petition.

Dash said if we agree to put the leaf blower item on the Warrant, then we could try to work out the language later if Town Meeting members want to amend it. Epstein thinks a committee should be convened to focus on the wording of the bylaw first because Town Meeting may not be the best place open discussion on the subject.

Paolillo agrees that the Select Board should take the leadership on the bylaw. He thinks the current bylaw is too restrictive. He asked whether they could put the article on the June Town Meeting Warrant.

Epstein is concerned that there are many points that need to be defined, the most important being issues of enforcement. He said there is the potential for significant fines and we have to be careful that the bylaw is fair.

Epstein said he is willing to work with citizens to hone the bylaw. He thinks a June Special Town Meeting would be workable.

Dash said we could put this on the Warrant, and if consensus is not reached on the bylaw, then we can pull the Article. It was agreed that a revised leaf blower bylaw should be put on the Warrant for the Annual Town Meeting and it can be voted on it at the March 14th Select Board meeting.

b. Additional All Alcohol Package Store Licenses

The Town has reached its allowable limit on the number of package store licenses. The need for additional licenses was requested by Belmont business owners. The request to exceed the statutory cap allowed by the State needs to be approved by Town Meeting and then the request requires approval by the State legislature.

Motion was made to put the Article on the Town Meeting Warrant to increase the number of All Alcohol Package Store Licenses in the Town of Belmont. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Review of Award Recommendation for the Winn Brook Elementary School Tennis Court Renovations to Vermont Recreational Surfacing & Fencing Company

Jay Marcotte, DPW Director, reported that the tennis court renovation is a continuation of the Community Preservation Act project approved last May. The renovation is being undertaken because the High School needs an additional court for regulated matches for their Varsity Tennis Team. Vermont Recreation was the low bidder at \$139.9K and they have done other work in Belmont. The project entails the perimeter fence and additional fifth court. Marcotte said that work will begin in July and the neighborhood will be notified.

Motion was made to award the base bid for the installation of the fifth tennis court at Win Brook Elementary Tennis Court Renovations to Vermont Recreational Surfacing & Fencing Company of Monroe, NH in the amount of \$139,991. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Discussion and possible vote on request from the Belmont Center Business Association to host the 31st Annual Belmont Town Day on Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 9:00 – 4:00 PM

Dash said it's good to see Town Day back in the Spring. Garvin said all necessary documents have been filed.

Motion was made to approve the request from the Belmont Center Business Association to host the 31st Annual Belmont Town Day on Saturday, May 21, 2022 from 9:00 – 4:00 PM. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Discussion and possible vote on request from the Belmont Center Business Association to temporarily close one lane on Leonard Street

The Belmont Center Business Association (BCBA) is requesting that the closure on Leonard Street extend from May 2, 2022 to October 25, 2022. The BCBA have asked that the dates be set earlier in order to successfully prepare for the outdoor dining implementation. Patrice said that the BCBA is asking for the Select Board to approve the dates, pending changes to the traffic plan. The BCBA has discussed the idea of maintaining two-way traffic during the outside dining period.

Clancy reported that the businesses explained that the BCBA feels that two-way traffic would allow more parking spaces and delivery options. Clancy said he thinks that Belmont Center could successfully maintain two-way traffic and still be able to accommodate outdoor dining.

The Select Board members decided that they cannot vote on the time period for outdoor dining before the traffic plan is finalized. They asked that this vote be delayed until further information is acquired.

Discussion and possible vote on request from the Belmont Chinese American Association (BCAA) to host a 5K race on Sunday, May 1, 2022 on 9:30 to 11:30 am to kick off the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month

Michael Gao, Director, Yi Zhang, Co-Director and Wenhong Li, member of the Belmont Chinese American Association joined the group to discuss a new 5K race. Gao said he has worked with the organizers of other races in Town to develop the plan for this new race. They anticipate about 200 participants and would like this to be an inaugural event that continues in subsequent years. All funds will go to Belmont Celebrates AAPI Heritage. There will also be DJ, music and prizes.

Dash said that they just need to make sure neighbors are notified of the event ahead of time.

Motion was made to approve the request from the Belmont Chinese American Association (BCAA) to host a 5K race on Sunday, May 1, 2022 on 9:30 to 11:30 am to kick off the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Fiscal Year 2023 budget discussion

Garvin said the Warrant Committee met last week about the Town and Schools preliminary budget presentations made last week. The Warrant Committee was concerned about the \$9.5M one-time funds that were included in the budgets. Their suggestion was to reduce the budgets. Garvin said she plans to meet with the School Committee about changes to the budgets.

Patrice reported that in the Town FY22 budget \$3M was cut due to the elimination of positions. Any further cuts would be to people and services. Dash said he understands the dilemma, but maybe it would be a helpful exercise to try to reduce the budget so that the effects of budget cuts will be more visible.

Epstein agreed that the Town budget could not sustain many cuts, but that the School budget needs more attention.

The group agreed that the School budget could be revisited. Some of the items to focus on are: use of ARPA funds in FY23 budget instead of out-of-district reserves; overall FTE growth with declining enrollments; salary line increases; revising technical details in roll forward and out-of-district funds.

SELECT BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

- Paolillo announced that the Rink Financing Committee met recently and they have been successful in raising six-figure funding amounts. They are hearing from individuals and organizations that want to contribute, and he thinks they can even be more successful if they offer naming right opportunities. The members agreed that naming rights could be a good way to increase funding.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a. February 9, 2022 – Regular Session
- b. February 9, 2022 – Executive Session
- c. February 14, 2022 – Regular Session
- d. February 14, 2022 – Executive Session

Motion was made to approve the February 9, 2022 and February 14, 2022 regular minutes as amended.

Motion was made to approve the February 9, 2022 and February 14, 2022 executive session minutes.

Motion was made to adjourn and approved by a vote of 3-0.

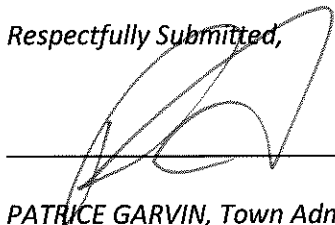
The next Select Board meetings will be on March 7, 14 and 21, 2022

Submitted by

Virginia Quinn

Recording Secretary

Respectfully Submitted,



PATRICE GARVIN, Town Administrator