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Minutes

Town of Belmont

Select Board

Selectmen's Meeting Room

Monday, July 8, 2019

7:00pm

APPROVED  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
DATE: 9/9/2019

CALL TO ORDER:

A regular meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:20pm by Chair Tom Caputo. Vice Chair Adam Dash and Selectman Roy Epstein were present. Town Administrator Patrice Garvin was present.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS:

[There were none.]

COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS:

[There were none.]

ACTION BY CONSENT:

**Executive Session: To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for collective bargaining with union personnel (all town unions)**

*Motion: To enter executive session as described above. (Vote passed 3-0; Roll call vote: Tom Caputo, Adam Dash, and Roy Epstein)*

*Motion: To leave executive session. (Vote passed 3-0; Roll call vote: Tom Caputo, Adam Dash, and Roy Epstein)*

**Vote to approve request of handicapped parking spot located at 18 Blake Street**

Glenn Clancy (Director, Community Development) joined the meeting. The Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC) had held a hearing on the application June 26 and voted unanimously to approve. The application included materials for the Belmont Police traffic division verifying the authenticity of the associated handicapped placard. The final step in the process was obtaining approval from the Board.

Arline Davis (the applicant) was present at the meeting to answer any questions regarding the application – the Board had none. She thanked Belmont Police for their assistance in the application process and noted the parking spot would allow her to safely access her house.

*Motion: To approve the placement of a handicapped parking space at 18 Blake Street. (Vote passed 3-0)*

### **Update on 33L Municipal Working Group (Massport Advocacy Group, Logan Airport Noise)**

Myron Kassaraba (Logan Airport Community Advisory Committee) provided an update regarding efforts by the 33L Working Group to bring about relief from concentrated flight paths over Belmont and surrounding communities, resulting from the FAA's change to use of GPS technology in air traffic control. A significant milestone was reached on June 24, when the working group met with Dr. Hansen from MIT who presented analysis of alternative solutions to allocating the flight paths; in attendance were representatives from Massport, the State legislature, and Sen. Warren and Markey's offices.

Next steps involved: 1) request for additional analysis from the MIT team; 2) hold a public meeting in Belmont to discuss the options; 3) reconvene the 33L Working Group to reach consensus among the constituent communities; 4) initiate vote at Massport CAC to request the agreed upon alternative solution be submitted to the FAA. Massport CAC had planned meetings in October and December and the aim was for step 4) to take place at one of these meetings.

[Open public comment.]

- *Charlie Smart*: Asked about the longer term potential to disperse air traffic to other regional airports (e.g. Worcester), particularly commercial traffic. Kassaraba said some efforts have been made in this direction, but the driver of demand at Logan was passenger traffic with increasing number of international connections.
- *Adrianna Poole (Louise Rd. / Boston West Fair Skies)*: Thanked Kassaraba for his efforts and desire to serve another year on the Logan CAC.
- *Robert O'Neil (Cambridge resident)*: Will the MIT report be made public? Kassaraba said it would, in presentation form – whatever was presented to the 33L Working Group by MIT would be published on the Belmont Town website.

### **Discussion of Meet Belmont Planning Committee charge and number of members**

Ashley Lang (Vice Chair, Meet Belmont Planning Committee) joined the meeting to request the Committee be expanded from 7 to 9 members. The rationale was that the Committee was taking on other events in addition to 'Meet Belmont'; also, there had recently been several changes to the Committee and the proposed change would help preserve continuity.

*Motion: To amend the charge of the Meet Belmont Planning Committee to the effect that there be 9 members instead of 7. (Vote passed 3-0)*

Lang requested the appointment be made as soon as possible in order to have additional help with the annual 'Meet Belmont' event in August.

### **Presentation of Information Technology Advisory Committee (ITAC) 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government Report**

Paul Roberts (Chair, ITAC), Dave Goldberg (Secretary, ITAC) and Jim Berets (ITAC) joined the meeting. Roberts presented a high level summary of work and recommendations of the 21<sup>st</sup> Century Government subcommittee of ITAC, charged with looking at innovative ways for public boards and committees to engage with the public. The subcommittee had conducted 2 surveys, one of committee officers and another of residents. Its recommendations were as follows:

- Enable remote participation in meetings by public / committee members. Roberts acknowledge a working group should be set up to implement this recommendation, as there would be numerous challenges to address. There was broad support for such a measure based on the survey results, especially among committee members.
- Look at processes (e.g. scheduling, posting documents, publicizing) to identify opportunities for modernization and streamlining.
- Increase public engagement via modernizing communications with public (e.g. social media); potentially look at an FTE position to manage the website and broaden it to include other communications roles.

Epstein expressed concern that some of the recommendations would run counter to Open Meeting Law, e.g. committee members attending remotely was only allowed under special circumstances. He also noted if the Board were to allow remote participation by committee members, it would then have to ensure all committees across the Town would be properly equipped to do so - he thought it more important to allow remote participation by the public, but this would require study to implement in a fair and reasonable way.

[Open public comment.]

- Ellen O'Brien Cushman (Town Clerk) supported the idea of remote participation by the public, and volunteered to staff the working group advising its implementation. However, she stressed that better efforts should be made towards committees completing and publishing minutes, which is another already existing avenue for meeting participation.

[Close comment.]

Caputo thanked the group for their work and expressed enthusiasm to continue to study the issue; Garvin would draft a charge for the potential working group to oversee implementation of remote participation.

#### **Discussion and possible vote on changes to the Grant of Location Regulations (including but not limited to 5G array installations)**

This followed from discussion at the Municipal Light Board meeting earlier in the evening, concerning possible changes to the original May 13, 2019 regulations. Belmont Light GM Roy had expressed concern about Belmont Light being caught up by the regulations, suggesting they should be split into two. It was agreed to table the discussion until the next meeting in order to have both Town Counsel and Counsel for Belmont Light review the matter.

#### **Discussion of the committee appointment process**

Garvin was requesting to know the Board's preferences on how to proceed with the committee appointments, as well as which format to use for viewing the applications.

With respect to the process, Dash commented that he had previously written regulations governing the committee appointments - these had served the Board well the past several years and it should stick with what is outlined therein. Epstein commented that effort should be made to make the public more aware of the timelines involved, as the majority of appointments happen in the summer.

With respect to the format, O'Brien Cushman elaborated that the Clerk's office had simplified/updated the report to highlight the mandatory skills and candidate's statement. Garvin asked whether to print paper copies of the reports or do things electronically - after discussion, it was determined to do both, since it was the first year with the new report format.

Caputo requested Garvin put together a timeline for the appointments for review at the next Board meeting; Dash noted certain appointments, e.g. Planning Board, should be front loaded in the process.

#### **Discussion of the High School Traffic Working Group charge – duration of appointments**

[Dash recused himself because he lives on Goden St.]

Garvin explained that the Working Group was intended to be a temporary committee, but was looking to go beyond its original July 30, 2019 expiration due to ongoing issues related to the High School construction.

Jessie Bennet (Chair, HSTWG) elaborated that there were still active issues under deliberation, including to vote on recommendations for the Goden-School neighborhood, which required more study. She also said it was useful to have the HSTWG up and running as a point of public access during construction.

The Board was in agreement that there was no downside to extending the working group for another year, at which point the matter could be re-evaluated.

*Motion: To extend the duration of the High School Traffic Working Group until July 30, 2020, with existing membership. (Vote passed 2-0; Dash recused)*

#### **Acceptance of Community Path Project Committee resignations**

*Motion: To accept the resignations of Leslie Lee and Michael Cicalese from the Community Path Project Committee. (Vote passed 3-0)*

#### **Discussion and possible appointments to the Community Path Project Committee**

Leslie Lee had been the School Committee appointee, while Michael Cicalese had been appointed by the Board. Therefore, the Board had to make only one appointment, for which there were 8 candidates.

Epstein proposed Andrew Wall, due to the critical need for a Channing Rd. resident to be on the Committee to address fundamental issues with respect to design. He also suggested Holly Muson due to her qualifications as a Civil Engineer, as well as to add representation from the running community, which was currently lacking. Caputo agreed that having a Channing Rd. resident was important. Dash did not know Andrew Wall and requested the opportunity to speak with him first.

It was noted that the School Committee appointment had only the restriction that the person be appointed by, and report to, the School Committee. It was decided to delay making the appointments at present, to allow the Board time to reach out to the candidates and for Caputo to reach out to School Committee Chair Burgess Cox to discuss the School Committee's appointment.

### **Discussion and possible vote on Financial Task Force II (FTFII) reorganization**

Caputo requested the Board approve an extension of the charge for another year.

*Motion: To extend the Financial Task Force II until June 30, 2020. (Vote passed 3-0)*

In addition, Caputo raised two other items: 1) Desire to broaden the committee by adding two more members. The purpose would be to add expertise in communications for helping to get the message of the FTFII to the community. Dash asked whether the Task Force was supportive of this – Caputo would gauge at the next meeting and report back. 2) Would like to keep the Board of Selectmen involved in the work of the FTFII. Would Dash and Epstein be willing to hold joint meetings between the Board and FTFII? – they were in agreement.

### **Discussion and possible vote for Selectmen member to be liaison to the Minuteman School**

Certain factors had necessitated a revisiting of the question of Belmont's participation as a member Town in the Minuteman School network. An internal working group had been established and Caputo was seeking a liaison from the Board – Dash agreed.

*Motion: That Adam Dash be the Board of Selectmen representative to the Minuteman School Internal Working Group. (Vote passed 2-0; Dash recused)*

### **Discussion of Selectmen's email mailbox communication response process**

Epstein was seeking a protocol for dealing with emails addressed to all three Selectmen. Under Open Meeting Law, the Selectmen were not allowed to confer outside of public meetings, however this could potentially cause confusion in replying to such emails. Epstein's main concern was that the emails do not go without a response.

It was agreed that the Chair should be responsible for providing at least one response to such an email; the other Selectmen could also respond if they saw fit.

### **Discussion of Fall Town Meeting Date**

Garvin had confirmed November 13 and 20, but was seeking to add a third date. She would follow-up with the Town Moderator to see if November 14 would work.

### **TOWN ADMINISTRATORS REPORT:**

Garvin reviewed the Town Administrator's Report:

- The Town had received the MassTrails Grant award in the amount of \$150k towards Phase 1a/b of the Community Path.
- There have recently been emails to the Selectmen's Inbox regarding construction vehicles accessing the High School site. Another 'Coffee with the Contractor' event is planned to be held in August, and additional signs will be going up to help direct construction traffic.

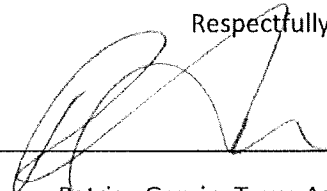
BOARD OF SELECTMEN COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS:

- The Belmont Middle and High School Building Committee will meet next Wednesday. Questions have recently been raised in regards to the turf playing fields planned for the school. A group has been established to study the matter and provide recommendations.
- Police Station ground breaking is tomorrow at 8am.

ADJOURNMENT:

*Motion: To adjourn. (Vote passed 3-0)*

Respectfully Submitted,



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Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator