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2 **APPROVED BY THE SELECT BOARD**
3 **5/22/2023**
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5 **Minutes of the**
6 **Town of Belmont**
7 **REGULAR SESSION**
8 **of the**
9 **SELECT BOARD**
10 **April 24, 2023**
11 **7:00pm**

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: June 5, 2023
TIME: 3:06 PM

To view the recording of the meeting, please click [HERE](#).

Call to Order: Mr. Paolillo called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Select Board Members	Present	Staff Members	
Mark Paolillo, Chair	Yes	Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator	Yes
Roy Epstein Vice Chair	Yes	Jennifer Hewitt, Interim Treasurer	Remote
Elizabeth Dionne, Member	Yes		
Others Present		Floyd Carmen, Belmont Retirement Board	Yes
Tom Caputo, Rink Building Committee	Yes	Taylor Yates, Chair, V21 Implementation Committee	Yes
Gi-Yoon Huang, Sidewalks Petition	Remote	Paul Joy, Co-Chair, V21 Implementation Committee	Yes
Tomi Olson, Special Event Fees Petition	Remote	Meg Moriarty, Chair, School Committee	Remote
Brian Kopperl, EV Lease Petition	Yes	Glenn Clancy, Director of Community Development	Yes
Roger Wrubel, Special Energy Code Petition	Yes	Mike Widmer, Town Moderator	Remote
Hal Shubin, Belmont Voice	Yes		

11 **Community Announcements:**

- 12 a. Online Survey for Belmont Newspaper: Mr. Shubin from the Belmont Voice announced that a
13 volunteer group is putting together a non-profit newspaper and explained their goals and plans. They
14 are currently fundraising. Their website is BelmontVoice.org and there is a survey for residents to
15 complete. They are also looking for volunteers. There will be a forum on May 17th to talk to residents.
- 16 b. Leaf Blower Bylaw in Effect: Mr. Epstein reminded residents that commercial landscapers cannot
17 use gas-powered leaf blowers May 15 – September 30th. Residents may use them, but Belmont
18 Light is offering a \$30 rebate for electric leaf blowers. Also, there is a limit to the number of blowers
19 on a property and residents can visit the DPW website for the number allowed on their property. A
20 resident asked about a landscaper using a gas-powered generator to run electric leaf blowers. Mr.
21 Epstein said this situation was not considered in the bylaw.
- 22 c. League of Women Voters Night, April 27, 2023, 7:30 PM: This event will review the Warrant for
23 Segment A for the May 1st Annual Town Meeting.
- 24 d. Water & Sewer Rates Public Forum, May 10, 2023, 6:00-7:00 PM: This is just before the 4th night of
25 the Annual Town Meeting. If there is no Town Meeting that night the forum can go later than 7:00pm.

26 **Council on Aging & Other Community Announcements**

- 27 • Frank Sinatra impersonator Patrick Tobin, April 25, 2023, 1:15pm
28 • Game Theory in WWII, April 28, 2023, 1:15pm.
29 • Coronation Celebration, May 5, 2023, 1:15pm

30 **Town Administrator's Report**

- 31 a. Outstanding Performance Award for the Belmont Water Department from Department of
32 Environmental Protection: Belmont's Water Department was recognized as Outstanding
33 Performance for 2022 due to maintenance and updates. The ceremony will be on May 11th at the
34 State House.
- 35 b. Letter to Town Meeting Representatives from Select Board: Ms. Garvin shared the yearly letter to the
36 Board. There were no comments by the Board.

Action by Consent: Proclamation in honor of the 108th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide

Mr. Paolillo read the following proclamation:

PROCLAMATION

WHEREAS: The month of April commemorates the tragic history of the Armenian Genocide of 1915; and

WHEREAS: April 2023 marks the 108th Anniversary of the Armenian Genocide; and

WHEREAS: Over one and one half million Armenians were killed and others uprooted from their homeland during this horrible event; and

WHEREAS: The Genocide represents an atrocity against humanity which we must be continually reminded of; and

WHEREAS: Surviving Armenians have relocated around the world to begin new and productive lives; and

WHEREAS: A significant and proud population of people with Armenian heritage make their home in Belmont, Massachusetts.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Select Board of the Town of Belmont recalls the Armenian Genocide to remind society of this tragic event in the course of human events.

Belmont Select Board: Mark Paolillo, Chair; Roy Epstein, Vice Chair; Elizabeth Dionne, Member.

Mr. Paolillo presented the proclamation to Jirair Hovsepien, resident and member of the Boston Armenian Genocide Committee, who spoke about the genocide as well as other acts of violence against Armenians especially the current blockade by Azerbaijan. A prayer was said by a faith leader.

The Board went into recess at 7:55 and returned at 8:00pm.

Discussion on the Traffic Working Group – Middle and High School student parking issues.

Mr. Epstein, Chair of the Traffic Working Group for the Middle & High School, explained that the area for student parking on Concord Avenue is virtually full and typically has only 4-5 spots available. He added that the problem will increase during the construction of the rink since the "jug handle" parking area will not be available, displacing about 35 cars. He explained the requests he made to the Middle/High School Building Committee to use the temporary parking lot to address the problem, which it rejected. With the loss of the 35 spaces and the increasing enrollment, the town can either use some of the parking spaces at the Middle School (if available) or allow students to park on the side streets with permits to spread the load among these side streets. He asked the Rink Committee and Residents to ask the Middle/High School Building Committee if a compromise can be reached regarding the temporary parking lot.

The Board discussed the issue and what actions they might take. Mr. Caputo explained the Middle/High School Building Committee's reasons for not agreeing to the use of the temporary parking. It was decided to meet with the chairs of the building committees to discuss the issue.

Anne Marie Mahoney, Golden Street, reviewed the history of the neighbor's attempt to work with town officials and expressed frustration that the problem was not resolved before this time. She shared her concerns that permit parking areas become no longer public, the narrowness of the streets, and adding more student parking on side streets.

Brian Iler, School Street, asked the Traffic Working Group to solve the problem more in keeping with the town's Climate Action Goals rather than creating more parking. He made some suggestions to do this. He also suggested using parking located at nearby office buildings.

Dan Halston, Myrtle Street, pointed out the disproportionate burden put on Myrtle Street and asked the Working Group to look at the issue more holistically and to share the burden equally. He shared the issues related to this situation.

Deborah Talanian, Goden Street, suggested that there might be some space at the high school and middle school campuses that are being used by construction workers. She added that there have been additional vehicles on Goden Street due to renovations to private homes.

Amy Tannanbaum, Goden Street, also asked that a solution take into account climate issues. She also asked for clarification of how the Schools interact with the Town, which Mr. Paolillo addressed. She suggested that the financial structure be changed to incentivize the use of buses.

Mr. Epstein said the School Committee recently voted to reduce bus fees by 25%. Ms. Moriarty explained the process that was used to increase ridership. She added that they will also look at start times which will provide more flexibility to get students on buses.

Ms. Dionne asked if there was a charge for parking permits, and Ms. Moriarty said there is currently no charge.

Update by the Belmont Skating Rink Building Committee.

Mr. Healy provided information on next steps for the project, some of the major issues they are working on, and the expected schedule with the goal to open late November/early December 2024. There was a discussion of the construction plan and schedule.

Ms. Hewitt explained some of the financial considerations going forward.

Discussion and possible vote on positions on Segment A Articles, 2023 Annual Town Meeting.

Discussion on Citizen Petitions:

- a. Article 6: Sidewalk Safety – Amend General Bylaws: §60-800. D(2) and D(3) Public Ways, Sidewalks and Rights-Of-Way Obstructions.

Ms. Garvin explained that after discussion it was agreed to remove the first sentence of D.3: *Fines for violations of subsections D(1) and D(2) shall be on the following schedule: first offense: written warning; second offense: \$50; third and successive offenses: \$100 each..* The rest of D.3 section remains as presented in the Warrant.

Ms. Huang said that she is in support of this recommendation.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for the revised motion under Article 6. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

- b. Article 8: Amend General Bylaw §40-325E: Fees for Special Event Permits for Use of the Park Sites: Ms. Olson shared the history of the Payson Park Music Festival and its organizational structure and financing. She explained the purpose of the Citizen's Petition. There detailed was a discussion of the article.

Mr. Paolillo expressed concern about the number of 501c(3) organizations in Town who would be able to avoid paying modest user fees for the parks, and a discussion of the consequences of the broadness of this article followed.

Lisa Pargoli, Town Meeting Member, expressed support for the Article and the Payson Park Festival.

Tony Amali, Warwick Road, read a statement in support of the Payson Park Festival.

Mr. Paolillo and Ms. Olson had a discussion of the scope and impact of the article.

A Motion was made to recommend unfavorable action for the revised motion under Article 8. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

- c. Article 9: Authorizing 10 Year Terms for Town Leases & Procurement Contracts for Electric Vehicles, Buses and Trucks: Mr. Kopperl reviewed the reason for this article, and the Board asked several questions and discussed.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Article 9. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

- d. Article 10: Replace General Bylaw § 60-310 with Specialized Energy Code: Ms. Garvin outlined the discussions that have been had to determine what the impact of this article will be on the Town. She explained that the issue is timing since there is information still missing to fully understand the impact.
- Mr. Wrubel and the Board had a discussion of the next generation, the Stretch Code, and how it would interact with this article.
- Mr. Epstein explained that this article places a new set of responsibilities on an employee who is already stretched very thin. He added that the Town is not in a position to offer guidance to applicants and said the January 1 implementation date is very difficult.
- Ms. Dionne agreed that the January 1 date is a problem and suggested that there are other times that this can be looked at (Special Town Meeting, etc.). She also expressed concern about the impact this article will have on potential development.
- Mr. Wrubel said action on climate change is not happening fast enough and wants Belmont to be bold. There was a discussion of the issues that are still up in the air.
- Mr. Clancy explained that Belmont is a Stretch Energy Community, and that Belmont is automatically included any new energy efficiency codes changes. He then went on to explain the details of residential and commercial codes. He then outlined some of the challenges of implementing the codes that are happening in other communities.
- There was a discussion of how to proceed regarding this article.
- Cabell Eames, said that she worked on this at the State level and provided some more information about the new Stretch Code and its implementation.
- It was decided to wait to vote on this article, with the Board encouraging Mr. Wrubel to withdraw the article yet still present at the spring Town Meeting, and then resubmit for the fall Special Town Meeting.

Article 2: Authorization to Represent the Town's Legal Interests

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Article 2. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Article 3: Amend Utility Easement 778-782-790 Pleasant Street: Mr. Clancy explained that the Subaru dealership has received approval from the ZBA to rebuild their facility, and this requires new easements and explained the situation and process. There were some questions and a discussion of the proposed new building and article.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Article 3. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Article 5: Amend General Bylaw §50-2020: Establish Recreation Revolving Fund:

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Article 5. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Special Town Meeting Article 1: Appropriation Belmont Rink and Sports Facility, Authorization to Borrow:

Ms. Garvin explained that in the summary there is an indication that any additional fundraising would be used to offset the cost of the project. There was a discussion of potential future fundraising and its impact on the project process.

A Motion was made to recommend favorable action for Special Town Meeting Article 1. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Discussion and possible vote on one-time increase in COLA in FY2023 for Retirees (continued from Select Board Meeting, April 10, 2023).

Mr. Carmen explained how the Retirement Board reviewed the funding schedule, pointing out that another valuation is due soon. The Retirement Board voted to support Option 2 (of 3), which extends the funding schedule to 2031 (up from 2029).

Mr. Epstein expressed his support for Option 1 and explained his reasons for this support.

There was a discussion of the funding schedule and its impact.

A Motion was made to approve a one-time increase in COLA in FY2023 for Retirees from 3% to 5% conditioned upon adoption of Option 2 as set forth by the Retirement Board. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Discussion and possible vote to approve the following One Day Liquor License Applications Requests:

- a. From the Foundation for Belmont Education for a (Wine and Malt Only) Spring Fundraiser and 80's Prom at the Beech Street Center on Friday, May 5, 2023 from 7:30 PM – 10:00 PM.

A Motion was made to approve the one-day liquor license request from Foundation for Belmont Education for a (Wine and Malt Only) Spring Fundraiser and 80's Prom at the Beech Street Center on Friday, May 5, 2023 from 7:30 PM – 10:00 PM. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

- e. From the First Church in Belmont, Unitarian Universalist, for a (Wine and Malt Only) Fundraiser Auction on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 5:30 PM – 10:00 PM.

A Motion was made to approve the one-day liquor license request from the First Church in Belmont, Unitarian Universalist, for a (Wine and Malt Only) Fundraiser Auction on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 5:30 PM – 10:00 PM. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

- f. From Joshua Gould for a private family event (Wine and Malt Only) at the Beech Street Center on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM.

A Motion was made to approve the one-day liquor license request from Joshua Gould for a private family event (Wine and Malt Only) at the Beech Street Center on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 1:00 PM – 4:00 PM. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Discussion and possible vote to approve request for an Agricultural Wine permit for the House Bear Brewing LLC to sell wine at the Belmont Farmers Market for the 2023 Season.

A Motion was made to grant an Agricultural Wine permit for the House Bear Brewing LLC to sell wine at the Belmont Farmers Market for the 2023 Season. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Discussion and possible vote to approve request from the Belmont Public Library to host a Tai Chi Event at the Wellington Station Green Space on Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM.

A Motion was made to approve the request from the Belmont Public Library to host a Tai Chi Event at the Wellington Station Green Space on Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 10:00 AM – 12:00 PM. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Vision 21 Implementation Committee Charge and discussion on future zoning proposals.

Ms. Dionne explained her issues with the condition of the Belmont zoning laws and the work that has been done to have them reviewed and modified. She highlighted some of the major issues that need attention to reinvigorate business in town.

Mr. Joy explained the steps he had taken to begin to address the issues identified by Ms. Dionne. He advised that a new zoning bylaw is needed, but the approach must be incremental, and it should begin this fall.

Mr. Yates asked for a clear mandate for how V21 can get something actionable on the fall Town Meeting and discussed the issues he sees with proceeding and how to approach them.

There was a discussion of how to proceed and what the Select Board's role should be.

Mr. Taylor outlined how the community should be involved in the process, with the Select Board offering their suggestions.

Norma Massarotti said she feels the scope is too broad and that the Structural Change Impact Group (SCIG) had offered recommendations which included some zoning and monetizing town-owned parcels. She is not sure she supports changing the scope of Vision21 to include zoning when recommendations from the SCIG have not been addressed. There was a discussion of this suggestion.

Mr. Taylor outlined some of the issues that will be easier to take care of as first steps.

Mr. Epstein pointed out that not all the regulations for new businesses are specified in the Zoning Bylaw.

Ms. Dionne moved that the Select Board declare that high priority work for the Vision21 Implementation Committee includes identifying:

- *Zoning Bylaws that are of dubious value to the Town and burdensome on restaurants.*
- *Zoning Bylaws that are of dubious value to the Town and prohibit hotels as a permissible use.*
- *Zoning Bylaws that are of dubious value to the Town and burdensome to businesses who hang signs.*

Mr. Epstein moved to amend the motion to add:

- *Identify existing bylaws and regulations that are perceived as burdensome by individuals seeking to open a business in Belmont.*

The amended motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Approval of Minutes

March 20, 2023, and April 3, 2023 Regular Sessions and April 3, 2023 Executive Session:

A Motion was made to approve the March 20, 2023 Regular session, April 3, 2023 Regular session and April 3, 2023 Executive session minutes. The motion was seconded and passed by 2-0-1 vote with Ms. Dionne abstaining.

April 7, 2023, April 10, 2023, and April 11, 2023 Regular Sessions:

A Motion was made to approve the April 7, 2023 Regular session, April 10, 2023 Regular session, and April 11, 2023 Regular session minutes as amended. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.

Next Meetings

- (1) Monday, May 1, 2023 – 5:30 PM – Pre-ATM Meeting –Belmont HS
- (2) Wednesday, May 3, 2023 – 5:30 PM – Pre-ATM Meeting - Belmont HS
- (3) Monday, May 8, 2023 – 5:30 PM – Pre-ATM Meeting - Belmont HS
- (4) Wednesday, May 10, 2023 – 6:00 – 7:00 – Water & Sewer Rates Public Hearing - Belmont HS
- (5) Monday, May 22, 2023 – 7:00 PM – Regular Meeting

Adjournment

A motion was made to adjourn the meeting of the Belmont Select Board Committee, and the motion was seconded and passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:10pm.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Peghiny, Recording Secretary