

Approved by
the Select Board on:

4/13/2023

Minutes of the
Town of Belmont
REGULAR SESSION
of the
Select Board
Monday, March 6, 2023
7:00pm

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: June 13, 2023
TIME: 8:39 AM

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
Adam Dash, Vice Chair	Yes	Jennifer Hewitt, Assistant TA & Finance Manager	Absent
Roy Epstein Member	Remote	Mark Haskell	Remote
Other Officials Present		Other Officials Present	
Matthew Lowrie, Chair, Planning Board	Remote	Russ Leino, Chair, Community Path Project	Yes
Jay Marcotte, DPW Director	Yes	Elizabeth Dionne, Chair, Community Pres. Com.	Yes
James MacIsaac, Chief of Police	Remote	Paul Roberts, IT Advisory Committee	Remote
Ellen O'Brien Cushman, Town Clerk	Remote	Brandon Fitts, Recreation Director	Yes

Community Announcements

Ms. Cushman announced that there is no early, in person, voting for this election and explained how to request a Vote By Mail ballot. This info is available on the Town Clerk's website.

Mr. Paolillo announced several upcoming events.

Executive Session – *To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; (Item added).*

A Motion was made to enter into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

The Board went into Executive Session at 7:10pm.

A Motion was made to leave into Executive Session. The motion passed unanimously roll call vote.

The Board returned to Regular Session at 7:24pm.

Mr. Epstein left the meeting at this point.

Comments from Town Residents – no comments.

Town Administrator's Report

- Belmont Police Officer Earns Lifesaving Award for Off-Duty Actions: Tabled until the officer is able to attend.
- Human Resources Director Update: There has been no success appointing a director. The next step is to engage a recruiting firm to assist with this and possibly some other positions.
- Update on Governor's Budget Local Aid Numbers: Compared to last year's State aid, Belmont has received an addition \$1.6M. Ms. Garvin reviewed the details and what work is being done in the budget effort as a result of these funds.
- Tax Impact of Rink Debt Exclusion: An average home will see a total of \$248 tax impact per year, which includes any fundraising.

Belmont Hill School update with the Chair of the Planning Board

Mr. Paolillo said that comments and emails were received about the Select Board getting involved with the Belmont Hill Project deliberations. He said the Board is not allowed to get involved in Site Plan Review, which falls with the Planning Board. He also explained that the tenor of some comments have become inappropriate and while the Select Board appreciates public input, civility needs to be maintained. He cautioned that comments or emails that hint of violence will not be tolerated. He continued the statement and explained the Board's position on the matter, and their authority regarding the Planning Board and its Chair.

Regarding Belmont Hill, Mr. Lowrie explained the history of the hearing process and the level of public input regarding this project. He also outlined the remaining outstanding issues and status of the process.

Mr. Paolillo declined to take public comment because that should happen at a Planning Board meeting. He explained why the Select Board can not intervene in the work of the Planning Board and ZBA even though it is the appointing authority.

An unidentified member of the audience spoke without being recognized. Mr. Dash explained that the Board cannot remove Planning Board members. Members of the audience continued to ask questions which the Board deflected and did not respond to.

Mr. Paolillo called a short recess at 7:45pm. The meeting resumed at 7:48pm.

Discussion and Possible Vote on Request for One Day Liquor License from Andre Rojas to Host an Event on Friday, March 24, 2023 from the Hours of 6:00 PM through 11:00 PM at the Homer House, 661 Pleasant St., Belmont

Mr. Rojas explained the purpose of the request, the event plans, and the qualities of Homer House.

A Motion was made to approve the request One Day Liquor License from Andre Rojas to Host an Event on Friday, March 24, 2023 from the Hours of 6:00 PM through 11:00 PM at the Homer House, 661 Pleasant St., Belmont – conditional upon the approval of the Office of Community Development. The motion passed unanimously.

Committee Appointments, Reappointments and Resignations

Website Renewal Committee – Resignation

Mr. Dash explained why Mr. Roberts is resigning from this committee. Mr. Paolillo thanked him for his service.

Mr. Roberts provided an update on the status of the work of the Website Redesign Committee.

A Motion was made to accept the resignation of Paul Roberts from the Website Renewal Committee. The motion passed unanimously.

Review of Community Preservation Committee FY2024 Applications:

- a. Grove Street Baseball and Basketball Reconstruction (B. Fitts): Mr. Fitts explained the history and components of the project and detailed the current status.

Ms. Dionne explained that this project was originally more expensive, and outlined the components that were removed to bring the cost down. The CPC voted unanimously to support this and the basketball court replacement project.

Mr. Marcotte joined the conversation and there was a discussion of the timing of the project and seeding.

- b. PQ Basketball Court Replacement (B. Fitts): Mr. Fitts reviewed this project and explained that the court is currently not usable because of safety concerns. He added that there are no outdoor public courts currently available.
- c. Off-Cycle Request – Belmont Woman's' Club Window Restoration Installation Project for Third Floor (W. Murphy/J. Jenkins): Ms. Murphy provided historical information on this project, and the issue with rot in some of the third-floor windows which has prompted this request.

Ms. Dionne said that this request met the criteria for an off-cycle request.

- d. Fund to Support the Creation of New Affordable Housing (R.Heller/B.Lipson): Ms. Heller explained the purpose of this funding request and how the funds will be managed and used. She also spoke about affordable housing development in Belmont.

There was a discussion of how affordable housing funding and growth might work with this grant.

Predevelopment Planning for Rejuvenation of Sherman Gardens (A. MacMartin/M. Zajac)

Mr. Zajac reviewed the history of funding between Belmont and the Cambridge Housing Authority, which manages Sherman Gardens for the Belmont Housing Authority. He then gave a history of Sherman Gardens and the problems with these old buildings. He then explained the proposed replacement building and the plan to build it.

Mr. Paolillo asked some questions that Mr. Zajac answered.

Ms. Dionne said the CPC is excited about this project and explained the reasons for their support.

There was a discussion of how resident relocation would be handled during construction.

Discussion and possible vote to award the base bid for the Payson Park Playground Construction Renovation to JNJ Sacca, Inc., of Arlington, MA in the amount of \$879,900.00 and award the purchase of playground equipment through the State of Massachusetts BuyBoard from Landscape Structures in the amount of \$159,083.22.

Mr. Marcotte outlined the bidding process for this project and the schedule for this work.

1. *A Motion was made to award the base bid for the Payson Park Playground Construction Renovation to JNJ Sacca, Inc., of Arlington, MA in the amount of \$879,900.0. The motion passed unanimously.*
2. *A Motion was made to award the purchase of playground equipment through the State of Massachusetts BuyBoard from Landscape Structures in the amount of \$159,083.22. The motion passed unanimously.*

Update on the Community Path Project Committee

Mr. Leino reviewed Phase 1 of the project and its current status as well as some of the challenges being encountered. There was a lengthy discussion of the challenges, some changes to the construction plan, and what Belmont's involvement should be.

Mr. Leino then provided an update on Phase 2 including what work is being done in preparation for this phase, which was discussed.

Discussion and possible vote on date to open the Annual Town Meeting (ATM) warrant and date to close the ATM warrant.

Ms. Garvin reviewed the articles for Segment A. There was a discussion of how few items are in this segment and whether items should be moved into it to relieve the pressure on other segments.

Segment B contains the standard articles, which Ms. Garvin detailed.

A Motion was made to open the Annual Town Meeting warrant on March 7, 2023 at 8:00am and to close at 4:00pm on March 21, 2023. The motion passed unanimously.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

December 21, 2022 - Select Board Joint Session with Community Path Project Committee:

A Motion was made to approve the December 21, 2022 minutes of the Select Board Joint Session with the Community Path Project Committee as amended. The motion passed unanimously.

February 9, 2023 - Select Board Joint Session with the Warrant with the Warrant Committee, School Committee, and Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee – “Budget Summit V”:

A Motion was made to approve the February 9, 2023 Select Board Joint Session with the Warrant with the Warrant Committee, School Committee, and Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee – “Budget Summit V” minutes. The motion passed unanimously.

Next Meetings

- March 20, 2023 at 7:00pm, Joint Session with the Warrant Committee
- April 3, 2023 7:00pm, Regular Session
- April 5, 2023 7:30am, Reorganizational Meeting
- April 24, 2023 at 7:00pm – Regular Session

Select Board Committee Liaison Reports

- Mr. Dash reported on the activities of the Comprehensive Capital Budget Committee.
- Mr. Paolillo met with the Council on Aging Director & Assistant Director to connect and see what their needs are.

Executive Session: *To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; The Belmont Police Superiors Officers Association*

A Motion was made to go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; The Belmont Police Superiors Officers Association. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote.

The Board went into Executive Session at 9:16pm. It will adjourn in Executive Session and not return to open session.

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Peghiny
Recording Secretary