

Approved by  
the Select Board on:

5/10/2021

SELECT BOARD MEETING  
MONDAY, APRIL 12, 2021  
REMOTE MEETING  
7:00 PM

RECEIVED  
TOWN CLERK  
BELMONT, MA

DATE: May 13, 2021  
TIME: 2:38 PM

CALL TO ORDER

A meeting of the Select Board was called to order at 7:00 pm by Chair Adam Dash. Vice Chair Roy Epstein and new Select Board member Mark Paolillo were present, along with the Town Administrator Patrice Garvin, Assistant Town Administrator Jon Marshall, Director of Community Development Glenn Clancy, Diana Ekman Assistant Health Director, and Highway Division Manager Mike Santoro.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Warrant Briefing by League of Women's Voters, April 15 at 7 pm.
- New underground parking garage at the Bradford is now open, two hours free parking at Cushing Sq. (behind the Starbucks).
- Mark Paolillo, new Select Board member, said in order to solve the problems ahead, we need to be respectful and united. Residents should respect one another and understand that we will have differences in the town but we need to stick together.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

- a. March 29, 2021 – Regular Meeting
- b. March 31, 2021 – Regular Meeting

*Motion was made to approve minutes of March 29 and 31, 2021 as amended. Motion was approved by vote of 2-0. Paolillo abstained.*

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[NONE.]

ACTION BY CONSENT

Proclamation in honor of Belmont being recognized as Tree City USA for the thirty seventh year by the National Arbor Day Foundation

- Mark Paolillo read the proclamation. The Select Board declares Tuesday, April 30, 2021 to be Arbor Day in Town of Belmont. We hope that residents join in the celebration of this day by planting trees in observance of this day.

COVID Update by Diana Ekman, Assistant Health Director

- The second round of home residents have had second round of vaccines completed (50).
- These vaccines in the home will be available during the next two weeks. To date, 24% of Belmont's residents have been fully vaccinated. 40% of all residents have had one vaccine.
- The Health Department suggests for residents to continue to wear face masks in public. As of April 16, everyone over 16+ can get vaccinated and people can register ahead of time on the State website. We are still in the Step 1, Phase 4 of reopening.

- Health Dept has been working with COA to reach out to senior residents. It's best to go on State website but we are ready to be of help.

Discussion and possible vote on request from the Belmont Veterans Officer to hold annual Memorial Day Parade & Observation Ceremonies on Monday, May 31, 2021

- Robert Upton from Belmont Veteran's Office (BVO) updated the Board about the Memorial Day Parade. The parade has not yet been cancelled but he thinks that they may have to make decision to cancel. Belmont needs to follow state guidelines and this limits outside events to 150 people for Step 1, Phase 4. The parade was not held last year.
- Upton said that the observation ceremony may be able to be held with the group of 10 organizers. The public can visit the ceremony as long as social distance is kept and it could be broadcast for those who cannot attend.
- Epstein commented that we have had observances during COVID at Veteran's Memorial with small groups so the cemetery memorial seems viable.
- Upton says that observation ceremony would start at 12 noon.

Norma Massarotti asked if we could hold the parade the way the High School graduation was done last year. The Select Board thought this would not be appropriate because we don't want people lining the sidewalks.

*Motion was made to approve the request from the Belmont Veteran's officer to hold the Annual Memorial Day Observation ceremony on Monday May 31, 2021 at 11 am. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.*

Discussion and possible vote on request from the Belmont Veterans Memorial Committee to formally designate the Belmont Veterans Memorial at Clay Pit Pond as "The Belmont Veterans Memorial Park"

- Michael Callanan, co-chair of Belmont Veteran's Memorial Committee (BVO), said that the BVO is asking to designate the memorial at Clay Pit Pond as the Belmont Veteran's Memorial Park. He showed a map of the designated area. He said the BVO will take responsibility for the maintenance and upkeep of the area.
- He also asked if a band could come to the park, near or after Fourth of July, if COVID rules allow.
- Epstein asked if there are landscape decisions to made, will they be made with the town government and is there a demarcation of the defined area? Callanan said that this particular request is a naming designation and the area will not impinge on any other property and they will not be putting up a physical demarcation.
- Dash said he appreciates that the BVO will take care of the maintenance, but the Select Board just want to make sure they communicate with the town to make sure it is done properly.
- Paolillo is supportive of the naming of the park and also agreed there should be coordination with other town groups. He thanked the BVO for making it available to the community.

Bill Anderson suggested that volunteers from schools and scouts could be used for the maintenance of the park.

*Motion was made to change the name of the Belmont Veterans' Memorial at Clay Pit Pond to the Belmont Veterans' Memorial Park. Motion approved by a vote of 3-0.*

Public Hearing on the Grant of Location Petition Request from Verizon for Job #1A3V9NM, White Street

- Mike Santoro reported that Verizon wants a permit to install FIOS to the new buildings on Trapelo Road. Most of work is on the sidewalk on White St. The restorations have been reviewed with Community Development and they have no problem with it. Santoro said this will be a curb-to-curb restoration.
- Epstein said as long as sidewalk and streets are restored to original condition it seems fine.

Ade Baptista said that there was a restoration done about a year ago on White St. near school. Parents were not warned ahead of time and this affected drop offs. He asked if notices will come out before work starts? Santoro said there should have been an abutter's notice that went out. He will follow up with Verizon to make sure there is a notice sent out ahead of time.

[Public portion of public hearing is being closed.]

*Motion was made to approve the request from Verizon for job #1A3V9NM to replace one, 4-inch PVC conduit approximately 151 feet, beginning at existing pole P25 and extending 125 feet in a south westerly direction and then turning westerly crossing White St. 26 feet to the property 481-491 Trapelo Rd. Approved by vote of 3-0.*

Discussion and possible vote to fill vacancy on the Structural Change Impact Group

- Paolillo and Dash were both on the Structural Change Impact Group and when Dash stepped off, a vacancy was created. The vacancy will be an open resident position. There are two applicants from the initial round of appointments who could be considered for this vacancy. Dash asked if we want to open up the appointment process again or go with the previous applicants? The Chair, Travis Franck, stated that he would like the new member to have experience that would enrich the compensation and benefits subcommittee.
- Dash said that Norma Massarotti and Brian Antonellis were the applicants who were not appointed last time and were still interested in the appointment. He asked them to attend this meeting.

Dash invited both applicants to give a short statement about their qualifications:

Brian Antonellis

Brian is a lifelong resident of Belmont. He worked as a CPA for 10 years and was responsible for auditing a range of organizations, from small companies to federal agencies. Currently owns his own commercial real estate company and in that capacity, works with companies to create new revenue sources for municipalities. His audit experiences include working with municipalities like the Big Dig and MBTA. Because he has his own employees, he has been exposed to Human Resource issues.

Norma Massarotti

Norma has professional experience at large companies and she is now working in biotech. She has a degree in mechanical engineering and has strategic planning experience and experience managing large budgets. She has lived in Belmont for 20 years and has volunteered in a variety of town roles and this is the third time she has applied for an appointment on this committee. She said she is not an expert in

compensation but she has been on the receiver side as a decision maker for employee cost cutting measures.

- Epstein suggested enlarging the committee from 10 to 11 members because both applicants are suitable to the requirements of appointment. Dash answered that the agenda doesn't include changing the charge, and he does not think it would be appropriate to change the charge at this meeting.
- Paolillo asked if we could appoint one candidate tonight and then change the charge at the next meeting. He suggested that Norma be appointed now and then invite Brian to the April 26th meeting so he can be appointed after the charge is modified. He thinks bigger groups sometimes bring more expertise and this committee will be looking at complex items.

*Motion was made to appoint Norma Massarotti to the Structural Change Impact Group. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.*

Public Hearing on the Grant of Location Petition Request from Verizon for Job #1A4M8ED, Common Street convened at 7:50 pm

- Mike Santoro explained that the hearing is for service for residence at 70 Common St. The installation of FIOS requires Verizon to dig underground. He said Verizon will put a temporary patch and then grind an overlay and restore to its original condition.
- Epstein asked if Verizon would have to do this again if another person wants FIOS on the same street next year? Santoro said that is true. He commented that it would be nice for Verizon to canvas the neighborhood for new installations so they could consolidate work and prevent them from having to dig up the road so often.
- Epstein said that because Common St. is so busy we should ask Verizon about other residents who might want FIOS so they can consolidate installation efforts.
- Dash said because Verizon isn't here, that we can't ask them this question.

Residents' comments:

Chris Doyle asked if guidelines could be established that will allow us to consolidate work on these types of installations?

Vince Stanton said he didn't know that there were places where you have to go underground. Epstein replied that Common St. doesn't have phone poles. Santoro said that some are above and some are below ground for cable hook ups.

- Dash announced that he feels if we are going to approve these petitions that the vendor should attend. He would like to see Verizon and the homeowner attend the next Select Board meeting on April 26th before we approve.
- Paolillo agreed that we need representation from the vendor in order to approve these types of requests.

*Motion was made to table the public hearing on the Grant of Location Petition Request from Verizon for Job #1A4M8ED, Common Street to Monday April 26<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.*



## Discussion and possible vote on positions for Citizens Petitions

### 1. MGL The BRAVE Act

Aaron Pikilingis is the citizen petitioner. The petition involves military veteran's benefits.

- The petition asks that the Town adopt four provisions of the BRAVE Act.
- 1. Allow the Town to pay employees while they are fulfilling military service obligations. (MGL Chapt. 33, Sec. 59). This benefit adds differential pay; town pays the difference if military is less than town. Pikilingis provided a slide that estimated the financial impact of the provision based on deployment periods. He said that currently, there are only four town employees who serve as members of the National Guard or Reserves who would be affected by this provision. Right now, this benefit is only offered to members of the police and fire departments. If the Town adopts this petition, the Town would have to offer this benefit to all residents. If someone is deployed, the Town would have to also take on contribution to their pension. The Warrant Committee was trying to run these numbers, but there are many variables contributing to the costs which confound the issue. Select Board said they would like to get a better estimate of the costs of this before they go to Town Meeting.
- 2. Directs the Town to establish a program allowing veterans to provide volunteer services to the Town in exchange for a reduction in property taxes (MGL Chapt. 59, Section 5N). The concept is similar to the town work-off program for seniors. The Council on Aging reports that there are around 20 seniors, on average, who currently participate in this program. This would enlarge the eligible group.
- 3. Disabled veterans who pay taxes on a home owned by a trust would be eligible for tax credits and exemptions (MGL Chapt. 59, Sec. 5, Clause 22G). This clause extends the eligibility criteria to include veterans. This would not impact the town's finances but will codify into law existing practices and simplify the process.
- 4. Gold Star parents: adds a tax exemption for parents/guardians of those who died in service to our country (MGL Chap. 59, Sec. 5, Clause 22H). Gold Star parents are currently eligible for a tax credit of \$400. This clause would make them eligible for full exemption of residential property taxes. Currently, this would only affect one household.

### Residents' comments:

Ann Marie Mahoney said that two of her children are currently in active duty. She reported that when an individual is deployed more than 17 days, the town is no longer paying their salary.

- Garvin said that It costs town money because if replacement is required, a substitute would have to be hired. She explained that the true financial impact is difficult to estimate due to salary differentials.
- The Select Board announced that this topic will be discussed at the upcoming League of Women's Voters' meeting. All members agreed that it would be important to review this petition before it is raised at Town Meeting.
- Paolillo said it's not always about cost. Even if this petition is costly, he would like to support it to be able to give back to Veterans, but he stated that there needs to be more clarity around the numbers.

Chris Doyle asked if Belmont could adopt a version of this petition which includes only part of the bill.

- Aaron Pikcilingis thinks it would be possible to craft a local version of it, as long as laws weren't rewritten.
- Epstein thanked Aaron for his explanation, but he doesn't think we should bring it to Town Meeting until we understand it better.
- Dash thinks this would be best brought up at Fall Town Meeting.

Bob Upton from BVO, commented that he would support this, but only if it makes sense financially. He reminded people that the Town currently uses disability and retirement benefits provided by the VA.

- Pikcilingis said he will be presenting this same topic at the Warrant Committee this week. He offered to share his slide deck so residents could see it.

## 2. Amend 60-805 of the General Bylaws – Parking at Intersections and Enforcement

- Adriana Poole is the citizen petitioner for this amendment. She said a law already exists but her petition involves enforcement of this law. She says that construction trucks are parking too close to the intersection on Concord Ave. and she would like install a sign prohibiting parking.
- Dash said we don't need to go to Town Meeting because law exists and the issue is about enforcement. The Select Board members think the best option may be to send this request to the Transportation Advisory Committee (TAC). Poole said she is willing to withdraw this petition as long as the issue is addressed.
- Dash said hopefully TAC can come back with a solution. Poole asked if she withdraws article, can the petition still be put up on screen at Town Meeting just to bring awareness? Dash suggested that she discuss this request with Mike Widmer, Town Moderator.
- The Select Board members said that any revision would have to be reviewed again by the by-law review committee. Adriana said she will send both the original and edited version of the petition to the Select Board and they can forward to TAC.

*Motion made to ask Transportation Advisory Committee to make recommendation to Select Board on the enforcement of 60-85 of the General Bylaws. Motion passed by a vote of 3-0.*

## 3. Skating Rink Building Committee

- The Board received an email from Alex Corbett, the petitioner for skating rink building committee, and the decision was made to withdraw the report because Spring Town Meeting is too early to deal with this item.
- Dash said we will not be voting on this citizen petition tonight, but we may have to be voting on it soon.

## Discussion and possible vote on positions on Town Meeting Articles

- There are 12 Town Meeting Articles proposed for the upcoming Town Meeting. Dash said he wanted to review some of the Articles for favorable action by the Select Board.

Article 5 –

- Glenn Clancy, Director of Community Development, explained that this Article is related to a property off School St. (the Commons). One building on this property has sewer back up and we have been working with the condo association to resolve the problem. He said in order to put a pump on private property, a sewer easement needs to be authorized by the Select Board.
- Clancy said this involves the owner of one unit who represents the condo board. The town will bear the cost of entire job. He devised a way to mitigate sewer back-up on 35 to 40 properties in Win Brook and he thinks the same approach can be used for this problem. For that project, they borrowed money from DEP. He said the Town should be using money from the Enterprise Fund, and we will not be asking for additional money. There also should be no cost to condo association or tax payers.

#### Article 6 –

- The new owner of a service station wants to put a canopy over the fuel pumps at the station, however, he needs to get permission from the Select Board because it will involve encroachment on town property. Town Meeting must first vote on discontinuing the right of way. Then Town Meeting has to authorize the Select Board to enter into agreement to sell.
- Epstein asked if the replacement of the sign could be made a requirement? Clancy said not through the Town Meeting process, but he knows that the property owner wants to replace the sign.

*Motion was made to recommend favorable action on Article 5 and 6. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.*

#### Article 4 --

- Ann Marie Mahoney, Chair of the Capital Budget Committee, discussed Article 4, which proposes to amend the general by-law for the Capital Budget Committee. She reports that the Planning Board has had a difficult time finding a representative to the Capital Budget Committee. Committee members discussed that the planning board member representative may not make sense anymore. They would like to change the charge of the committee and trade a Planning Board member for a fourth appointed member by the moderator. This would be a 3-year term. The committee would remain at 7 members; this would only change where the members come from. They are looking for a member from the community with expertise.
- Epstein supported the article. He feels there's not much overlap with the Planning Board activities so having an additional resident in lieu of a Planning Board representative makes sense.

*Motion was made for favorable action on Article 4 Capital Budget Committee. Motion approved by vote of 3-0.*

#### Article 11 –

- Marty Bitner joined the group to discuss Article 11, a non-binding resolution for fossil free new constructions. This Article would ask the state legislature to grant localities the ability to restrict gas permits, adopt zero net energy code and restrict gas in new construction.



- Dash asked how the Governor signing the state climate bill affects this? Bitner stated the restriction of gas permits is not in the bill and adoption of net zero is in bill but he is not sure how that will be received.

*Motion was made for favorable action on Article 11 resolution for fossil free new construction. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.*

*Motion was made for favorable action on Article 3. Motion approved by vote of 3-0.*

Article 2 –

This article involves a Municipal Light Board change in governance.

- Paolillo would like to table this until April 26<sup>th</sup> Select Board meeting so that the public can listen to our points of view.
- Epstein said this Article will come up in the Warrant Committee briefing. He said we have to be ready to give our independent answers if we are not unanimous.

*Motion was made to recommend favorable action on Article 4. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.*

Vote to approve Special Town Meeting Warrant

- Article 1 –\$8800 to pay prior year bills.
- Article 2 – transferring money to Cemetery Perpetual Care Interest Account.

*Motion was made to approve this Special Town Meeting Warrant for May 12, 2021. Motion approved by vote of 3-0.*

*Motion was made to recommend favorable action on Special Town Meeting Articles 1 and 2. Motion approved by vote of 3-0.*

Vote to approve request for an Agricultural Wine permit for the House Bear Brewing, LLC to sell wine at the Farmers Market.

- This will allow House Bear Brewing, LLC to be licensed to come to the Farmer's Market every week from the period of June 6 to October 28, 2021. The license is for sale of items, not for consumption.

*Motion was made to approve the request from House Bear Brewing for agricultural wine permit to be used only during the open hours of the 2021 Farmer's Market, approved to operate from Thursday, June 3 to September 30, 2021 between the hours of 2 and 6:30, and October 1 – 28, 2021 between the hours of 2:00 and 6:00 pm. Motion approved by vote of 3-0.*

#### SELECT BOARD COMMITTEE LIAISON REPORTS

- Paolillo attended his first meeting of the Financial Task Force 2. The committee looked at recommendations to present to Select Board. A few more meetings will be needed to finalize that report.
- Epstein is the new liaison to the School and Capital Budget Committees. He attended the Capital Budget Committee which made final recommendations for Town Meeting.



- Garvin said the Perkins and Will report about the rink is out and they will need a small, internal meeting to discuss some of the changes.
- Garvin also announced that Dave Rogers reached out to her to see if we want to apply for supplemental aid. She has asked Department Heads to consider projects for potential funding.

*Motion was made to adjourn the meeting of April 12, 2021. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.*

Next Meeting: Monday, April 26, 2021 at 7:00

Respectfully Submitted,



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PATRICE GARVIN, Town Administrator

