

**RECEIVED  
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BELMONT, MA**

DATE: April 11, 2023  
TIME: 3:08 PM

**Minutes of the  
Town of Belmont  
Meeting of the  
Select Board  
Monday, February 27, 2023  
7:00pm**



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

**Call to Order:** Mr. Paolillo called the meeting to order at 7:10pm.

Select Board Members	Present	Staff Members	
Mark Paolillo, Chair	Yes	Patrice Garvin, Town Administrator	Yes
Adam Dash, Vice Chair	Yes	Jennifer Hewitt, Assistant Town Administrator & Finance Manager	Yes
Roy Epstein Member	Yes	Glenn Clancy, Director of Community Development	Yes
<b>Economic Development Committee</b>		David DeStefano, Fire Chief	Remote
Katherine Venzke, Co-Chair	Yes	<b>Other Officials Present</b>	
Paul Joy, Co-Chair	Yes	Kathleen Keohane, Library Trustee	Remote
Erin Brown	Absent	David Coleman, Chair, Transportation Advisory Comm.	Yes
Wendy Etkind	Yes	Thomasina Olson, Chair, Council on Aging	Yes
Deran Muckjian	Yes	Corinne Olmstead, Library Trustee	Remote
Jack Sy	Yes	Gail Mann, Library Trustee	Remote
Emma Thurston	Remote	Dan Eldridge, Transportation Advisory Committee	Remote
Marie Warner	Yes	Bob Keefe, Chair, Permanent Audit Committee	Yes

**Community Announcements**

Council on Aging Announcements: *audio died for a minute, so I'm not sure if something was announced here.*

LGBTQ+ Announcements: March 9, 2023 at 7:30pm there will be a virtual community meeting on how to make Belmont a more welcoming and inclusive community. This event is sponsored by the Belmont LGBTQ+ Alliance and Belmont Against Racism.

One Love, One Belmont: Ms. Jackson announced an event on March 11, 2023 from 3-5pm at the Beech Street Center to highlight organizations in Town and volunteer opportunities. Questions can be directed to the Belmont Human Rights Commission at Belmont.hrc@gmail.com.

Refugee Protection International: An event to support Ukraine will be held on March 3, 2023 at 6pm at the Belmont Town Hall.

Avoiding Fraud: The Belmont Police Department will be holding a session on March 10, 2023 at 1:15pm on how to recognize scams.

Meet Lynn Goldsmith: On March 9, 2023 at the Beech Street Center there is an event to welcome Ms. Goldsmith who is the new social worker.

Law & Justice with Wendy Murphy: March 7, 2023 at 1:15pm Ms. Murphy will discuss law and justice in relation to domestic violence and women's rights.

Katlin McGaw: Mr. Paolillo congratulated Ms. McGaw for her recent Grammy award. She is the daughter of Bob & Eloise McGaw.

**Comments from Town Residents** – no comments.

## **Town Administrator's Report**

Belmont Police Officer Earns Lifesaving Award for Off-Duty Actions – deferred to the next meeting.

Employee Spotlight – Michael Santoro, Assistant DPW Director: This is a new feature of Ms. Garvin's monthly bulletin to help residents get to know employees and what they do. Mr. Santoro's spotlight will go in the March bulletin.

Update on Opioid Settlement: Belmont will receive funding of about \$50,000 per year for 18 years. Programs and issues are being looked at to receive support. There was a discussion of how much and when the funding will be received and administered.

Update on Installation of New Signage to the Belmont Veterans Park: Ms. Garvin explained this request and that the sign will be installed.

Sign-on Letter to Gov. Healey for Lower Mystic Earmarks: This is to support a request for the administration to spend funds from the Transportation Bond Bill on coastal flooding and communities. The Board directed Ms. Garvin to sign the letter pending getting information on the amount for the Amelia Earhart Dam.

## **Open Joint Session with Economic Development Committee**

**Call to Order**: Co-Chair Joy called the EDC to order at 7:39pm.

Mr. Joy reviewed the EDC's 5 charges and the qualifications of the Committee members.

Discussion of EDC 2023-2024 Priorities: Mr. Joy explained the process used to create the goals which are grouped under the Vision Statement, Local Government Support for Small Business, New Business Formulation & Growth, and Continued EDC Activity. Mr. Joy explained the goals, which were discussed. Also recommended was the need for a Economic Development Coordinator, and how these responsibilities might be covered by others until there is funding for this role, providing them with a single point of contact. Also discussed were obstacles to opening a business in Belmont, including existing zoning by-laws, and ways to make it easier.

There was a discussion of what the Board could do to support the EDC's efforts, and how mixed-use and other development could help the tax base of the Town.

Next steps suggested by the Select Board were interviewing restaurant owners about their process of opening their business, continue discussions with landlords,

*A Motion was made to adjourn the Economic Development Committee. The motion passed unanimously.*

## **Discussion of FY2024 Library Budget**

Ms. Keohane explained the budget request and the history of their fiscal responsibly. She then outlined the 2024 request and the work done to develop it, and explained why the Assistant Library Director position is critical to fill.

Ms. Olmsted also spoke about the importance of the role and the efforts made to find funding for it within their budget that is requesting a 2.6% increase.

Ms. Mann added that the position is essential to the transition to and the running of the new building.

There was a lengthy discussion of the request and position and how to and whether it should be funded in the FY24 budget. Ms. Keohane explained that the library will lose accreditation at the current budget level.

The Board asked the Library Trustees to present to the Warrant Committee so they could provide a recommendation.

## **Discussion on Six-Month Review of Concord Avenue Layout**

Mr. Paolillo explained the history of the restriping project, saying that the Board has received numerous emails about it.

75 Mr. Coleman provided an update on the project and said it appears to be working as designed to reduce  
76 speeds. There was a discussion of the issues around the Post Office. He then reviewed some specific issues  
77 identified by people opposed to as well as those in favor of the change. He outlined signage that is still missing  
78 and that would help residents understand the new layout.

79 Mr. Clancy explained the time constraint of the person in Town that does all the DPW painting and signage,  
80 and what signage that is missing.

81 Mr. Coleman presented some proposed changes to the striping at the Post Office that could be considered  
82 along with other ideas. This was discussed.

83 Corice Rodine, 46 Center Ave, expressed support for the revised striping, especially at the Post Office.

84 Mary Lewis, Town Meeting Member, said she thinks the change has not been fully tested because the signage  
85 and stenciling is not complete, and explained why she does not support the proposed change at the Post  
86 Office.

87 Ann Paulson, 90 School Street, explained why she is in favor of maintaining the present bike lanes, especially  
88 since the idea was for the high school students to bike to the new building. She then explained why she and  
89 her friends are nervous about the Post Office situation.

90 Matt Taylor, Town Meeting Member, shared his story of how he and his daughter were almost hit by a car after  
91 falling off their tandem bike near the Post Office, and expressed his support for the new layout pointing out that  
92 the old layout uses cyclists to buffer parked cars, but the new one uses parked cars to buffer cyclists. He also  
93 shared data on pedestrian and cyclist injuries as related to parked and speeding cars.

94 Angus Abercrombie, 79 Winn Street, explained that he is a regular cyclist to the middle and high school and  
95 how he was often fearful with the old layout and why he supports the new striping and encouraging students to  
96 bike to school.

97 Thomasina Olsen, Chair, Council on Aging, explained that the Council voted that Concord Ave is dangerous to  
98 seniors. She added that one of the goals of the Community Path is to keep people safe and wondered what the  
99 status is of that project. She said the concerns of seniors must also be considered.

100 Michael Flaherty explained his concern about people parking in the bike lane which forces cyclists to swing out  
101 into the traffic lane. He also said he thinks the problem is not lack of signage but lack of enforcement. There  
102 was a discussion of the number of accidents before and after the new configuration.

103 Peg Callahan, Town Meeting Member, explained her concerns about the new configuration.

104 Ann Marie Mahoney, 24 Goden Street, expressed her concerns about and opposition to the new configuration.

105 Aaron Pikclingis, Town Meeting Member, explained his support for the new configuration.

106 Petru Sofio, a high school student, expressed his support for the new bike lane configuration. He also offered  
107 ideas to solve some of the problems identified.

108 Dana Miller, Marsh Street, reminded the group that there is parking across the street and in the church's lot.  
109 She then discussed issues identified by the Town-wide traffic study and how it ties to the Concord Avenue  
110 situation.

111 Mr. Clancy explained that signage on Concord Avenue will give Police the ability to enforce in that area, and  
112 there was a discussion of signage.

113 Mr. Dash explained his support for the new configuration, and he would like signage and bollards added, and  
114 to continue the pilot program. He also shared his positions on of the issues identified and discussed.

115 Mr. Epstein explained that he thinks there are two issues – the Post Office and everything else. For the new  
116 striping everything else he thought it could be kept but tweaked, which he outlined. For the Post Office area he  
117 felt it is only an issue for a short time twice a day, but that he did feel uncomfortable there and explained his  
118 concerns. He shared his support for reverting to the old configuration in that area.

119 Mr. Paolillo explained that he supports the new configurations, but that the Post Office area feels unsafe and  
120 explained his concerns. He asked that this area be revisited. He also said signage and bollards are important.

121 There was a discussion of the Post Office area.

122 *A Motion was made to retain the existing configuration on Concord Avenue and that the Transportation*  
 123 *Advisory Board explore additional signage, painting, markings, bollards and other safety measures*  
 124 *along the length of Concord Avenue, and that they return in 3 months with a recommendation. The*  
 125 *motion passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

126 **Update on Payson Park Music Festival**

127 Ms. Olsen outlined the artist lineup for the festival, highlighting those that include Belmont residents. She  
 128 explained that a temporary venue is needed until Payson Park is done. She asked the Board if the Town  
 129 Green could be used at no charge for the festival, and explained the details of how that could work and the  
 130 feasibility research she has done. This venue and fundraising were discussed.

131 Mr. Paolillo asked for input from the Chief of Police but otherwise the Board was supportive of the idea but  
 132 decided to vote after receiving the input.

133 **Recommendation by Permanent Audit Committee regarding Collins Center Report for structure of**  
 134 **Permanent Audit Committee.**

135 Mr. Epstein explained the history of the recommendations for the Permanent Audit Committee (PAC).

136 Mr. Keefe explained recommendations from the Collins Center report, and shared the PAC's comments and  
 137 observations about the recommendations. A discussion of how to proceed was held, with a discussion of a  
 138 possible Warrant Article was deferred to a later date.

139 There was a discussion of the hesitation to implement the recommendations of the Collins Center, the  
 140 independence of the PAC, and the roles of the Select Board and Moderator in the finances of the Town.

141 **Discussion and Possible Vote on Request from Belmont Fire Department to Delcare Surplus Materials**  
 142 **for Possible Resale.**

143 Chief DeStefano explained the request.

144 *A Motion was made to approve the request to declare the following Fire Department apparatus as*  
 145 *surplus material and authorize the sale of those items through Municipal Auction Site:*

146 *a) 34 Scott 4.5 Air Packs Frames with Air Cylinders*  
 147 *b) 4 Rapid Intervention Air Packs with Air Cylinders*  
 148 *c) 54 Scott 4.5 Air Cylinders*

149 *The motion passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

150 **Discussion and possible vote on Disclosure by Non-elected Municipal Employee of Financial Interest**  
 151 **and Determination by Appointing Authority from Planning Board Member.**

152 *A Motion was made to accept the disclosure by a non-elected municipal employee of financial interest*  
 153 *and determination by appointing authority as required by MGL Chapter 268(a) Section 19 by Jeffrey*  
 154 *Birenbaum of the Planning Board and allow him to participate in Board Case 23-0-5 regarding the*  
 155 *Belmont High School and Middle School. The motion passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

156 **Discussion and possible vote on request for one day liquor license (beer & wine only) from Kristen**  
 157 **Clark, Friends of the Belmont Public Library to host a Putt and Sip fundraiser on Friday, March 10, 2023**  
 158 **from the hours of 6:00 PM through 9:00 PM at the Belmont Public Library, 336 Concord Ave, Belmont**

159 *A Motion was made to approve the request for a one day liquor license (beer & wine only) from Kristen*  
 160 *Clark, Friends of the Belmont Public Library to host a Putt and Sip fundraiser on Friday, March 10, 2023*  
 161 *from the hours of 6:00 PM through 9:00 PM at the Belmont Public Library, 336 Concord Ave, Belmont.*

162 Ms. Garvin explained that there was a discussion with the Fire Chief about the Library needing to resolve some  
 163 items from the inspection. Chief DeStefano said the requirements have been met.

*The motion passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

## Committee Appointments, Reappointments and Resignations

**a) Recreation Commission – appointment**

*A Motion was made to appoint Kenneth Krill to a 3-year term to the Recreation Commission to expire June 30, 2025. The motion passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

**b) Cultural Council – resignation**

*A Motion was made to accept the resignation of Millie Rahn from the Cultural Council effective February 27, 2023. The motion passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

**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.**

This item was deferred to the next meeting.

## APPROVAL OF MINUTES

*A Motion was made to approve the:*

*September 20, 2022 Executive Session minutes*

*December 5, 2022 Executive Session minutes*

*January 23, 2023 Regular Session minutes as amended*

*January 23 2023 Executive Session minutes.*

January 30, 2023 Pre-Special Town Meeting Session *minutes*

*February 6, 2023 Regular Session minutes as amended*

*February 6, 2023 Executive Session minutes*

*The motion passed unanimously by 3-0 vote.*

## NEXT MEETINGS

- March 6, 2023 – with the Warrant Committee
- March 20, 2023 – Regular Meeting for discussion of Free Cash.

## ADJOURNMENT

*A motion was made to the adjourn the meeting of the Belmont Select Board Committee, and the motion passed unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 10:26pm.*

Respectfully submitted by,

Susan Peghiny  
Recording Secretary