

Approved by
the Select Board on:

8/2/2021

BELMONT SELECT BOARD MEETING
SELECT BOARD CONFERENCE ROOM
MONDAY, JULY 12, 2021

7:00 PM

RECEIVED
TOWN CLERK
BELMONT, MA

DATE: September 29, 2021
TIME: 9:11 AM

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 Select Board member Mark Paolillo were present, along with Town Administrator Patrice Garvin, Assistant Town Administrator Jon Marshall, and Director of DPW Jay Marcotte.

COMMUNITY ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Purple Heart Day Ceremony will be held at Veteran's Memorial at Clay Pit Pond Belmont Veterans site on August 7, 2021 at 10 am.
- Summer Movie series sponsored by Belmont Recreation, Council on Aging and Library on Thursday will be held from July 7, 2021 to August 19, 2021. This is a free event. There will be games at 6:30 pm and movies shown at 8 pm. Full info at Belmontrec.com.

COMMENTS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS

[NONE.]

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Fire Chief Update

- Patrice Garvin announced that Fire Chief DeStefano will be presenting at the International Fire Chief Instructor conference in August. Also, the Chief and Fire Department were recently in the news for responding to a 7-alarm fire in Revere.
- Belmont received 1.3M of the 2.7M funds of the COVID related municipal relief allocations (ARPA). The Town should receive the additional municipal relief funds in 12 months. Garvin said she is still waiting to hear about the \$5M from the County Allocation of the ARPA funds.
- Task Force II will discuss use of the municipal ARPA funds at meeting this week.
- A Federal Aid Update Forum will be held in the Select Board room on August 18, 2021 at 7 pm to discuss the use of the federal aid money.

ACTION BY CONSENT

Discussion and possible vote to approve request to hold the 6th Annual Becca Pizzi 5k Road Race on Sunday, August 8, 2021

Motion was made to lay the vote for this item on table until organizer arrived. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.

Discussion and possible vote to approve request to hold the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) Apple Run 5k Road Race on Sunday, October 3, 2021

Motion was made to lay the vote for this item on table until organizer arrived. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.

Discussion and possible vote to approve PorchFest for September 11, 2021 4/D 7:40 PM

Mary Bradley, organizer of Porchfest, asked if the Select Board could endorse the event and also asked if the event could be extended to 6 pm. The current permit is only until 4 pm.

Motion was made to accept the Porchfest date of Sept. 11, 2021 with rain date of Sept. 12th and extend the time to 6 pm. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.

Motion was made to endorse the Porchfest event on September 11, 2021. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.

Motion was made to remove from the table the discussion and possible vote to approve request for Becca Pizzi Road Race. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

- Becca Pizzi, the organizer of the road race, requested that the Select Board approve the 6th Annual Becca Pizzi 5K Road Race scheduled for 9:30 am on August 8, 2021. The event has already secured approval from the Fire Department, Police Department, DPW, Parks and Recreation and High School Building Committee.
- Proceeds from this race benefit Belmont High School athletic programs.

Motion was made to approve the 6th Annual Becca Pizzi 5K Road Race on August 8, 2021. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Motion was made to remove from the table discussion and possible vote to approve request to hold the Foundation for Belmont Education (FBE) Apple Run 5k Road Race on Sunday, October 3, 2021

Scot DeDeo and Douglas Hall, organizers of the race, requested to hold the in-person race on October 5. The race has raised \$175,000 in last eight years. Proceeds from the race go directly to the Belmont schools.

Motion was made to approve the FBE Apple Run 5k Road Race on Sunday, October 3, 2021. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Update from the Land Management Committee

[Ellen O'Brien Cushman convened joint meeting with the Land Management Committee with a quorum of members.]

- Cushman announced that CPA funds were received for the McLean Barn and now we have to make a decision of how to utilize the funds. Cushman reported that the Barn was vandalized in 2020, and was repaired with the help of the DPW and Police using CPA funds. David Blazon, new facilities director, has the expertise to manage this project.
- The Barn has been secured with signage, vegetation was removed and a 360-degree security camera was installed that is directly connected to the Police Station. The Land Management Committee hired a facilitator to hold a community forum to discuss uses of the barn, but this plan was postponed due to setbacks. The Historic District Commission now wants to meet to decide the best use of the barn for Town. Cushman hopes to reach their desired goals by the

Fall. She said that Land Management has the funds to spend on the project. She added that decisions about use must take into consideration more than just local conservation restrictions.

- Epstein asked who is in charge of ensuring that the use conforms with restrictions and are the restrictions permanent? Cushman answered that the Land Management Committee has control of the property and agreement. The Historic District Commission is the governing body because the property belongs to the historical register. And the Trustees of Reservations are the holder of restrictions. Any challenge to use can be brought by Trustees. Amendments are subject to agreement by the Town and McLean, and then a majority vote of Town Meeting. Then the Select Board and Secretary of Environmental Affairs need to approve.
- Cushman said Tom Grimble has been working with other members to improve signage on the property. He is currently looking into new systems for improving way finding. Some other projects that the Land Management Committee has been working on are the Old Coal Road erosion issues and bug and vegetation issues in the meadow.
- Cushman urged residents to please join the community conversation on this issue and to come and see the property.
- Cushman plans set up a joint meeting with the Historical District Commission to discuss funding sources.

[Land Management Committee adjourned.]

Discussion on Underground Fuel Tank Insurance Proposal

- Patrice Garvin and Glenn Clancy updated the Select Board on the insurance proposal for the fuel tanks. Garvin reported that only one offer was received. The offer is a 12-month, A-rated proposal with coverage limit of \$1M, \$500K deductible, and premium of \$16K per year.
- Everyone agreed that this is not the best insurance policy, but it could work as a temporary solution. There will be a Town Forum on the tanks held before it is brought to Town Meeting next Spring.
- Clancy feels that this one-year policy takes the pressure off Town Meeting to make a decision in the Fall. He said he has yet to make a decision about the optimal resolution. The Town will continue to look into options about the best way to replace the function of the tanks.
- The Forum on underground tanks will be held on August 3 at 7 pm (hybrid).
- Epstein expressed that the insurance coverage is meager and a decision about the tanks is still urgent. If there is a leak, it's possible that the Town would incur the deductible of \$500k. Even if insurance would cover the next \$1M in pollution liability damages, it may not cover other costs such as the DPW yard being out of service. He feels the policy gives a limited amount of protection and should only be purchased once.

Motion was made to accept the insurance proposal offered by Liberty Insurance. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.

Discussion on recent cardboard event

- Jay Marcotte reported that the June 26th cardboard event didn't produce as much interest as the January event. 125 cars participated in the event. Marcotte believes that the timing of the event may have affected turnout; school was out, and it was before a holiday weekend.

- Epstein said that the January event had a surplus of \$250 and the June event had a deficit. He said one reason for the deficit may have been reduced participation due to the price increase from \$5 to \$10. He explained that the increase was to cover higher costs and that the Town does not aim to make money on recycling events. He thinks it may help to require pre-registration with a target number of participants for a future event and if a sufficient number is not achieved, then it would be best to cancel it.

PUBLIC COMMENTS on cardboard event:

Bill Anderson asked why we need an event? He thinks that residents could dispose of cardboard at the DPW yard. Marcotte said that cardboard disposal needs to be monitored because when contaminated, cardboard gets classified as trash and increases costs.

Vote to accept resignations:

- Ellen Wolk from the Diversity Task Force
- Terry McCarthy from the Historic District Commission
- Elizabeth (Sue) Pew from the Historic District Commission
- Carl Brauer from the Human Rights Commission

Motion was made to accept above resignations. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.

Committee Appointments:

- Diversity Task Force

Motion was made to appoint Sharon Rich to the Diversity Task force to fulfill the remaining term vacated by of Ellen Wolk. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.

- Belmont Energy Committee

Motion was made to appoint Bruce Bruno to the Energy Committee for a three-year term. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

- Cable Television Advisory Committee

Motion was made to appoint Chester Messer to the Cable Television Advisory Committee. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

- Community Path Project Committee

Motion was made to appoint Russ Leino and Vincent Stanton to the Community Path Project Committee. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

- Community Preservation Committee

Motion was made to appoint Sarah Caputo and to the Community Preservation Committee for a two-year term. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Motion was made to appoint Juliette Jenkins to the Community Preservation for a three-year term. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

f. Conservation Commission

There are two reappointments and two appointments to be made on this Commission. Four people applied for the two open seats. Garvin recommended waiting to make this decision until we hear from the Chair of the Commission.

g. Education Scholarship Committee

Motion was made to appoint Xin Yu and Sebahattin Demirkan to the Education Scholarship Committee for a three-year term. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Motion was made to appoint Karen Donelan to the Education Scholarship Committee for a two-year term. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

h. Other committees not listed

Marshall said there is another batch of appointments to schedule for next week's meeting: Council on Aging, Housing Trust, Permanent Audit, Planning Board and Recreation Committee and Vision 21 Implementation Committee. Dash invited new candidates who are interested in these appointments to come to Select Board meeting next week to make a personal statement.

Discussion and possible vote of the Viglirolo Ice Skating Rink Financing Committee charge

- Dash announced that the charge for new Ice Skating Rink Financing Committee will be voted on tonight and then there will be a solicitation of committee members. The committee will be a short-term committee and will focus on seeking out funding sources for the Viglirolo Ice Skating Rink. A building committee will be created at a later date. The Scheme 2 building design has already been chosen by the School Committee.
- Epstein suggested that this committee would be more effective with changed composition. He suggested that the Financial Task Force position be eliminated and replaced by an additional member from the hockey community. He feels the involvement of Select Board, Warrant Committee and the School Committee and Town administration will produce sufficient financial expertise. There are people who could be tapped for private fundraising, and outreach to hockey community will be important.
- Dash said rather than hockey, he would like to include a resident from the Precinct 1 rink area. Garvin replied that she thinks the focus should be kept on finance and the Financial Task Force II representation should be retained.

Ann Paulsen agrees with Epstein that members of this committee need to have fundraising skills.

- Paolillo suggested adding a seat to the committee because he feels that we need a member from the Financial Task Force II on the committee.
- A proposal was made to modify the charge of committee to increase membership from seven to eight members.

Motion was made to approve the Vigliolo Ice Skating Rink Financing Committee charge to include eight members instead of seven, to add two hockey members instead of one, and to add the Town Administrator as a non-voting, ex officio member. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

- Marshall said that committee applications for the Ice Skating Rink Financing Committee will open for applications on July 28.
- Financial Task Force II membership appointments will be brought to Select Board next week.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

a. June 14, 2021 – Regular Meeting

b. June 21, 2021 – Regular Meeting

Motion was made to approve the above meeting minutes as amended. Motion was approved by a vote of 3-0.

Discussion and possible vote to sign Conveyance of Surplus Equipment and General Release for surplus fire-fighting equipment

- Jon Marshall reported that the Fire Chief identified an opportunity to receive 12 self-contained breathing apparati free of charge from the Town of Brookline. These would normally cost \$12K to \$13K.
- Epstein asked about whether they can dispose of equipment at no cost if it doesn't work. Garvin said she would look into that issue.

Motion was made to sign conveyance of surplus equipment dated July 12, 2021. Motion was approved by vote of 3-0.

Update, discussion and possible vote of High School Traffic Working Group

[Dash was recused from the discussion because of conflict of interest. Epstein took chairmanship of the discussion.]

- Jessie Bennett, Chair of the High School Traffic Working Group reported that have had two meetings since COVID. A meeting was held tonight and unresolved issues were identified. They would like to present to Select Board with issues voted on to see what actions are left to be taken. One concern is that a new traffic pattern will exist at the beginning of the school year and they are afraid there will be issues they can't see until the pattern is put in place. She said the working group wanted to make sure that their charge was fully executed before they disband. There are people in the neighborhood who still have concerns.
- Ann Paulsen, member of High School Traffic Working Group, feels they have not accomplished enough to date, and she would like to see their charge extended. She feels that there are many issues that have not been addressed and people in the neighborhood are concerned about what will happen when the new High School opens. Specifically, there are concerns about traffic on School St. and intersection at Orchard St. and Goden St. She reported that the Town Administration told them at meeting today, that they would like to turn things over to the Transportation Advisory Committee. Paulsen cautioned that if the High School Traffic Working

Group is disbanded, that the Transportation Advisory Committee will need strong oversight to make sure they address the unresolved issues.

- Garvin explained that she thought the working group would duplicate the work of the Transportation Advisory Committee and she didn't want to overburden Town employees. She suggested that the membership of the Transportation Advisory Committee be reviewed to see if concerned residents from the neighborhood could be added to that committee.
- Paolillo asked how long Bennett thinks that the working group should be extended. Bennett said she would like committee to be extended for 6 months in order to study new data.
- Epstein said it makes sense to extend the group until the end of 2021. He agreed it would be good to see if any identifiable issues occur after the High School opens but then it makes sense to hand off to the Transportation Advisory Committee to address system issues.
- Paulsen commented that the working group's plans to study School St. and the areas from to Burbank St to Common St. did not come to fruition and they would like to followup on that issue.
- Epstein asked that the working group write a written memo on the final project. Bennett said she will compile a report of motions and their statuses. She asked if a Select Board member could be part of the working group. Epstein agreed to serve in that capacity.

Motion was made to extend the term of the High School Traffic Working Group to 12/31/21. Motion was approved by vote of 2-0. (Dash was recused due to a conflict of interest.)

Motion was made to appoint Roy Epstein as the Select Board member of the High School Traffic Working Group. Motion was approved by vote of 2-0. (Dash was recused due to a conflict of interest.)

Motion to adjourn was approved by vote of 2-0 (Dash had left the meeting due to being recused on the last agenda item).

Respectfully Submitted,


PATRICE GARVIN, Town Administrator

