

**MINUTES  
TOWN OF BELMONT  
BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
SELECTMEN'S MEETING ROOM  
Saturday, February 11, 2012  
11:22 AM**

**CALL TO ORDER**

A regular meeting of the Board was called to order in open session at 11:25 am by Chair Jones in the Selectmen's Meeting Room. Selectmen Firenze and Interim Town Administrator Kellie Hebert were present. Selectman Paolillo arrived at 11:35.

**QUESTIONS FROM TOWN RESIDENTS**

[There were none.]

**ACTION BY APPOINTMENT**

**Relocation of the Thomas Clark House**

Mr. Michael Smith, resident and Co-chair of the Belmont Historic District Commission and Mr. Sean McDonnell of the Architectural Heritage Foundation were present to address the Board and to answer questions about the project.

Mr. Smith gave updates on the project.

The move had to be rescheduled from Saturday, February 11<sup>th</sup> at 7:00am and is now planned for Saturday, February 18, 2012 at 6:00am. A logistics meeting was held on Friday morning with all the respective department heads.

There is a major water main that will be crossed during the house move. They have contacted the MWRA to get proper permits and authorizations to proceed with the move.

There was a question about the foundation preparation at the temporary storage site at 301/303 Concord Avenue. The house will be placed in such a way that they will avoid the original footprint of the former structure that existed at the site.

Any issues with the overhang from the trees along the route will be assessed and addressed by the Tree Warden. Any necessary tree work will be completed the morning of the move. This will allow for the least impact on the trees since they can pull back branches and do any trimming once the house is being moved.

If the house cannot be moved on Saturday, February 18<sup>th</sup>, it "needs to come down." In the case of bad weather, "ice and snow would keep the house from being moved".

Slopes were checked out along the route. They need to explore a contingency plan if the house move is not successful or there is a problem that occurs during the transport.

Once moved, the house will need to be secured. The transfer of ownership should go to the Architectural Heritage Foundation once the house leaves the property.

If Mike Smith needs to walk door to door to publicize the move, he will.

The MWRA requires a permit application from Admiral House Moving Company.

The Town Administrator will draft the letter of authorization on behalf of the Board of Selectmen with Town Counsel's review.

Fire and Police Department will have a copy of the keys for the property. The building will be secured and fenced.

Mr. Smith stated that "If the building can't be moved, it will be demolished."

The Tree Warden, Mr. Tom Walsh, has assessed the route. He didn't see any problem with the tree at Dunbarton Road. He doesn't think it will be a problem. They will be careful with the trees as they want to minimize any damage to trees.

By 10:00am they hope to have the house on the temporary storage site.

They will work with the Town Treasurer to ensure that all financial conditions are met.

Floyd Carman, Town Treasurer requested that there is a contingency plan if the house falls apart during the move. He suggested that the School List Serve and Reverse 9-1-1 should be used for outreach.

Selectman Paolillo asked questions regarding the insurance policy and contingency planning. He noted that he wants to make sure the community is protected.

Ms. Hebert noted that Vail Excavation has offered to donate the demolition services and would provide the disposal of debris if an immediate cleanup was required due to any emergency situation occurring. She suggested that Vail Excavation Services be immediately available to respond if an emergency demolition was necessary.

Mr. McDonnell agreed that Vail Excavation Services should be available in the case that there is any last minute roadway blockage and if an emergency cleanup was necessary. The contracted Moving Company has moved 100's of homes and in 27 years they have not any issues with this happening. There are some remaining insurance issues that need to be addressed. The liability coverage is being paid by the AHF.

Attorney George Hall, Town Counsel noted that the license agreement for the temporary storage of the house can be terminated within 30 days if the Town knows that there is no

permanent location for the home. Selectman Paolillo stated that the Town can revoke the agreement at anytime. The Town will need to keep a close eye on the situation.

Attorney George Hall noted that Massachusetts State Law Ch. 85 requires that the Board sign a letter of authorization to allow the house to be transported on the public roadway.

*The Board moved:* To approve a letter of authorization in accordance with Chapter 85, that the Town of Belmont authorize the transport of the Thomas Clark House on the public way subject to the terms and conditions as drafted by the Town Administrator in coordination with the Town Department Heads.

The motion passed unanimously (3-0).

The Board moved to adjourn the meeting at 12:00 Noon.

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Ms. Hebert, Interim Town Administrator