Town of Needham
Select Board
Minutes for Tuesday, April 25, 2023
Select Board's Chamber
and
Via ZOOM
https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83866600545

6:00 p.m. Call to Order:
A meeting of the Select Board was convened by Chair Marianne Cooley. Those present were Marcus Nelson, Kevin Keane, Heidi Frail, Catherine Dowd, and Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager. Dave Davison, ATM/Finance, Katie King, ATM/Operations, Myles Tucker, Support Services Manager, and Mary Hunt, Recording Secretary (via Zoom) were also in attendance.

6:00 p.m. Public Comment Period: No comments were heard.

6:01 p.m. Arbor Day Proclamation:
Mr. Olsen presented the Board the 2023 Arbor Day proclamation, celebrating the 151st anniversary of the first Arbor Day. He commented on activities taking place at Newman Elementary School, Sunita Williams Elementary School, Riverside Park, and a collaboration with Green Needham to celebrate Arbor Day.

Mr. Keane read a Certificate of Appreciation recognizing Jim Abusamra, arborist from Hartney Greymont who is retiring after many years of service to Needham.

Mr. Olsen and the Select Board thanked Mr. Abusamra for his dedication to Needham. A photograph was taken.

Motion by Mr. Keane that the Select Board vote to approve and sign the Arbor Day Proclamation recognizing Friday, April 25, 2023 as Arbor Day in the Town of Needham.
Second: Ms. Frail. Unanimously approved 5-0.

6:15 p.m. Public Hearing - Crown Castle Grant of Location: 148 Chestnut St.
Bill Conway, Crown Castle NG East LLC representative, requested permission to install two sections of communication conduit in Chestnut Street, consisting of approximately 33 feet and approximately 130 feet respectively. This work is necessary to provide telecommunications service to Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital at 148 Chestnut St, Needham.

Ms. Fitzpatrick said all paperwork is in order.

Ms. Cooley invited public comment. No comments were heard.

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Select Board approve and sign a petition from Crown Castle NG East LLC to install approximately 163 feet of communications conduit in Chestnut Street.
Second: Mr. Nelson. Unanimously approved 5-0.

6:16 p.m. Director of Public Works:
Carys Lustig, Director of Public Works and Tom Ryder, Town Engineer spoke with the Board regarding two items:

1. Sign Notice of Traffic Regulation – Highland Avenue
   Ms. Lustig told the Board the Traffic Management Advisory Committee (TMAC) requested a school zone be established on Highland Avenue in the vicinity of Needham High School. A school zone is defined as "an area in the roadway which is posted and marked in accordance with the standards prescribed by MassDOT and the Town of Needham Traffic Rules and Regulations to indicate the applicability of the statutory speed limit of twenty (20) miles per hour for all vehicles within the zone."

   Motion by Ms. Frail that the Select Board vote to approve and sign the Notice of Traffic Regulation Permit #Z23-04-25 for the establishment of a school zone on Highland Avenue between Oakland Avenue and Rosemary Street, a distance of 780 feet.
   Second: Mr. Keane. Unanimously approved 5-0.

2. Bus Shelters in Needham
   Ms. Lustig provided the Board an update on the opportunity to acquire one or more bus shelters for installation on Route 59 from the MBTA as part of a new MBTA Street Furniture Program, Bus Shelter Purchasing Program, and potential locations for installation. This program may be extended or continued with future funding opportunities and sidewalk reconstruction plans.

   Discussion ensued on bus ridership, possible installation sites, and use of solar powered lights.

   The Board thanked Ms. Lustig and Mr. Ryder for the discussion.

6:32 p.m. Appointments and Consent Agenda:
Motion by Ms. Frail that the Select Board vote to approve the Appointments and Consent Agenda as presented.

APPOINTMENTS: No Appointments were made at this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Approve the calendar year 2023 Spring Licenses as follows. This approval is predicated on the receipt of all completed required paperwork.**

Establishment	**License Type**
Closet Exchange – Designer & Boutique	**Sale of Second Hand Articles**
Closet Exchange – Consignment Drop Off	**Sale of Second Hand Articles**
Crosby Jewelers, Inc.	**Sale of Second Hand Articles**
Segaloff's Jewelers	**Sale of Second Hand Articles**
2nd Hand Rose of Needham	**Sale of Second Hand Articles**
Needham Bowlaway	**Bowling Alley**
Lt. Manson H. Carter Post 2498 VFW Building Association, Inc.	**Pool Table**
Go Green Airport Express LLC	**Taxi/Livery License**

2. **Approve a One Day Special License for Frederica LaLonde of the Mitchell PTC for Friday, May 5, 2023, 7:00-10:00 PM. The event will be held at the Rosemary Recreation Complex, pending Police Department review and approval. All documents are in order.**
3. **Accept the following donations made to The Needham Free Public Library: from Anne & Jay Kirby, $100 in memory of Barbara Cusack; from James Hunt, Enter the Realm of the Golden Eagle, by David H. Ellis (estimated value $60); from Ellen Grossman, Mexico: The Cookbook, by Margarita Currillo Arronte (estimated value $34); and from Anna Killelea, nine children's books (estimated total value $100).**
4. **Accept a donation made to The Needham Park and Recreation Department by Franklin Sports of four pickleball nets (estimated value $800).**
5. **Approve minutes for March 28, 2023 (open session), April 4, 2023, and April 7, 2023.**

Second: Mr. Keane. Unanimously approved 5-0.

6:33 p.m. Needham Local Transportation Study:

Amy Haelsen, Economic Development Manager, and Gal Kramer and Cathal O'Gorman, Via Strategies provided an overview on the study they are conducting for the Town that is focused on evaluating the existing local transportation options in Needham, identifying gaps in service, and making recommendations for new services or changes to existing services.

Mr. O'Gorman said Via Strategies focuses on transportation planning while considering new technologies and mobility options, as well as traditional transportation methods.

Ms. Kramer gave a brief overview of the study and timeline, noting the goal is to evaluate the existing transportation options in Needham, identify gaps in service, and make recommendations for new services or existing services. A PowerPoint presentation was shown. Ms. Kramer explained the idea of microtransit, saying Needham may be a good candidate for a microtransit system. Ms. Kramer commented on a survey currently being promoted to help fill in the transportation needs and identify whether microtransit would serve the needs. She encouraged folks to take the survey and said it will be available until May 15.

Discussion ensued on businesses in Needham Crossing who were required to provide shuttle service under their special permit and the possibility of consolidating shuttle services for cost effectiveness.

Ms. Cooley stated the Select Board has been concerned about providing local mobility for some time, saying she looks forward to understanding solutions the Town may be able to access.

The Board thanked Ms. Haelsen, Mr. O'Gorman, and Ms. Kramer for the presentation.

6:50 p.m. Town Manager:
Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager spoke with the Board regarding two items:

1. Final Alcohol Regulations
Myles Tucker, Support Services Manager presented the Board with the final Town Alcohol Regulations, following Board feedback at its April 21, 2023 meeting.

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Select Board adopt revised Regulations for the Sale of Alcoholic Beverages.
Second: Mr. Nelson. Unanimously approved 5-0.

The Board thanked Mr. Tucker for his work to update the regulations.

2. Positions on 2023 Warrant Articles
The Board took positions on the remaining articles in the Annual Town Meeting warrant and in the Special Town Meeting warrant.

Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Article 37 - AMEND GENERAL BY-LAWS - NON-CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS
Motion by Mr. Keane that the Select Board vote to amend and adopt Article 37 - AMEND GENERAL BY-LAWS - NON-CRIMINAL DISPOSITIONS in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.
Second: Mr. Nelson. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Article 36 - TOWN HALL SATURDAY HOURS
Motion by Mr. Nelson that the Select Board vote to adopt Article 36 - TOWN HALL SATURDAY HOURS in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.
Second: Mr. Keane. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Discussion ensued on Article 25 - APPROPRIATE FOR GENERAL FUND CASH CAPITAL

Ms. Frail commented that the Chair of the Climate Action Committee recently discussed with the Board the idea of replacing SUVs and hybrid SUVs with electric vehicles. She referenced objections to the idea in a recently received email response.

Discussion ensued on fleet replacement, electric vehicles, how current hybrid vehicles are used by various departments, the number of Town charging stations, and changes already made by the Town under the Green Communities Act.

Article 28 - APPROPRIATE FOR QUIET ZONE

Ms. Cooley noted the Select Board motion to adopt Article 28 at the last Select Board meeting. She noted discussion by the Finance Committee and 2015 Quiet Zone cost data used by the Select Board. Ms. Cooley said data from 2015 is "a lifetime ago," new technologies are available, and that more work needs to be done regarding permitting Quiet Zones. Ms. Cooley noted the proposal to withdraw Article 28 with the understanding of a "feasibility refresh" to consider the scope of the project at intersections, costs, permitting, with a goal of bringing a design and construction article to Town Meeting next spring (May 2024). She acknowledged some people may feel it is a step backward, but said she believes it is the right step for the Select Board and the Town at this time. Ms. Cooley reiterated that Town Meeting Members have a legitimate right to know the overall cost of a project, which she said is not known at this time. She also commented on a lawsuit in Beverly, MA, and the uncertainty it brings to the project. Ms. Cooley recommended the Select Board withdraw Article 28 and bring it back next year.

Ms. Fitzpatrick suggested the "refresh" would allow for updated cost estimates, permitting, and solving the issues of the golf course crossing, among other items.

Discussion ensued on formulating a working group, and any potential downfall from not moving forward or using funds at this time.

Motion by Mr. Keane that the Select Board vote to withdraw Article 28 - APPROPRIATE FOR QUIET ZONE from the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.
Second: Ms. Frail. Approved 4-1. Mr. Nelson voted nay.

<u>Special Town Meeting Warrant</u>

Article 3 - AMEND THE FY2023 OPERATING BUDGET
Motion by Mr. Keane that the Select Board vote to adopt Article 3 - AMEND THE FY2023 OPERATING BUDGET in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.
Second: Mr. Nelson. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Article 4 - APPROPRIATE TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND

Motion by Mr. Nelson that the Select Board vote to amend and adopt Article 4 - APPROPRIATE TO THE CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.
Second: Mr. Keane. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Article 5 - APPROPRIATE TO CAPITAL FACILITY FUND
Motion by Mr. Nelson that the Select Board vote to withdraw Article 5 - APPROPRIATE TO CAPITAL FACILITY FUND in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.
Second: Ms. Frail. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Article 6 - APPROPRIATE TO ATHLETIC FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FUND
Motion by Ms. Frail that the Select Board vote to withdraw Article 6 - APPROPRIATE TO ATHLETIC FACILITY IMPROVEMENT FUND in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.
Second: Mr. Nelson. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Article 7 - APPROPRIATE TO DEBT SERVICE STABILIZATION FUND
Motion by Ms. Frail that the Select Board vote to withdraw Article 7 - APPROPRIATE TO DEBT SERVICE STABILIZATION FUND in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.
Second: Mr. Nelson. Unanimously approved 5-0.

7:45 p.m. Board Discussion:

1. Committee Reports:
   Ms. Frail reported that the Active Recreation Assets Working Group held its final meeting proposing recommendations for creating and locating a skatepark, pickleball courts, and off leash dog areas. She said the recommendations will be sent to property holders and the Select Board for further consideration.

   Ms. Cooley reported the Climate Action Planning Committee met two weeks ago with Eversource Energy representatives responsible for long term data analysis and forecasting infrastructure needs in the Commonwealth. She also commented on the MWRA project and distribution of electric power to homes in Needham. Ms. Cooley said a better understanding is necessary for future planning of distributing electricity to homes.

7:50 p.m. Executive Session: Exception 3 (Potential Litigation)
Motion by Mr. Keane that the Select Board vote to enter into Executive Session under Exception 3 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.

Not to return to Open Session prior to adjournment.

Second: Ms. Keane. Unanimously approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

8:15 p.m. Executive Session concluded and the Select Board adjourned.

A list of all documents used at this Select Board meeting is available at:
http://www.needhamma.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=99&Type=&ADID

The next Select Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 9, 2023.