

**Town of Needham
Select Board
Minutes for Tuesday, April 30, 2024
Powers Hall and
Via ZOOM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89068374046>

- 6:04 p.m. Call to Order:
A meeting of the Select Board was convened by Chair Kevin Keane. Those present were Vice Chair Heidi Frail, Marianne Cooley, Joshua Levy, and Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. David Davison, Deputy Town Manager/Director of Finance, Katie King, Deputy Town Manager, and Susan Metropol, Recording Secretary, were also in attendance.
- 6:06 p.m. Public Comment:
Joe Matthews, 31 Rosemary Street, reported that he believes the article information as printed for Article 44 contains errors and provided clarification. He expressed his disappointment and urged the Select Board to review the information in the Article before Town Meeting.
- 6:08 p.m. A joint meeting of the Select Board, Planning Board, Finance Committee, and Housing Needham Advisory Group (HONE) was then convened. Following the joint meeting, the Select Board continued their meeting as below.
- 8:15 p.m. Consent Agenda:
Motion by Ms. Cooley that the Board vote to approve the Consent Agenda except Item 7.
Second: Ms. Frail. Unanimously approved 4-0.
- Motion by Ms. Cooley that the Board vote to approve Item 7 of the Consent Agenda.**
Second: Ms. Frail. Approved with 3 votes in favor and 1 abstention.

CONSENT AGENDA

1.	Accept the following donations to the Needham Free Public Library: • From Sally and Bob Davis, in memory of Gail Honbury, \$250; • From Cathleen Andrew, in memory of Jean McGoldrick, \$30; • From Heather Simmons, in acknowledgement of an art sale, \$6; and • From Devin DiChiara, in acknowledgement of art sales, \$70.50.
2.	Approve the calendar year 2024 Spring Licenses as follows. This approval is predicated on the receipt of all required paperwork. • Closet Exchange/Designer & Boutique – Sale of Second Hand Articles • Closet Exchange/Consignment Drop Off – Sale of Second Hand Articles • Needham Coin & Jewelry Buyers – Sale of Second Hand Articles • Crosby Jewelers, Inc. – Sale of Second Hand Articles

	• 2nd Hand Rose of Needham – Sale of Second Hand Articles • Needham Bowl Away – Bowling Alley • Lt. Manson H. Carter Post 2498 VFW – Pool Table • Go Green Airport Express LLC – Taxi/Livery • Xploreal LLC – Taxi/Livery																								
3.	Approve a request from Ryan Marshall, Highrock Church, to hold the road event “The Jog for Joy 5K.” The event is scheduled for Sunday, June 9, 2024, at 9:00 am – 12:00 pm. The event and route have been approved by the following departments: Fire, Police, and Public Works.																								
4.	Approve the placement of a granite celebration bench by the Needham Revitalization Trust Fund on Amity Path to be dedicated in honor of Joyce Buni.																								
5.	Update the Board meeting calendar by changing the July 23 rd meeting to July 9 th . <table><tr><td>April 30, 2024</td><td>August 13, 2024</td><td>November 26, 2024</td><td>February 25, 2025</td></tr><tr><td>May 14, 2024</td><td>September 10, 2024</td><td>December 3, 2024</td><td>March 11, 2025</td></tr><tr><td>May 28, 2024</td><td>September 24, 2024</td><td>December 17, 2024</td><td>March 25, 2025</td></tr><tr><td>June 11, 2024</td><td>October 8, 2024</td><td>January 14, 2025</td><td>April 9, 2025</td></tr><tr><td>June 25, 2024</td><td>October 22, 2024</td><td>January 28, 2025</td><td></td></tr><tr><td>July 9, 2024</td><td>November 12, 2024</td><td>February 11, 2025</td><td></td></tr></table>	April 30, 2024	August 13, 2024	November 26, 2024	February 25, 2025	May 14, 2024	September 10, 2024	December 3, 2024	March 11, 2025	May 28, 2024	September 24, 2024	December 17, 2024	March 25, 2025	June 11, 2024	October 8, 2024	January 14, 2025	April 9, 2025	June 25, 2024	October 22, 2024	January 28, 2025		July 9, 2024	November 12, 2024	February 11, 2025	
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6.	In accordance with Section 20B (v) of the Town Charter authorize the Director of Human Resources and the Town Manager to approve reclassification changes within the existing established Classification Plan.																								
7.	Approve Minutes of March 26, 2024 (Open and Executive Session) and April 2, 2024 (Open and Executive Session).																								
8.	Approve a revision of the Charge and Composition of the Stormwater Bylaw Working Group.																								
9.	Accept the following donation to the Needham Fire Department: • \$50 from Paul Neri																								
10.	Accept the following donation made to the Needham Community Revitalization Trust Fund for the Bert Wikstrom Bench: \$100 from Mark Gluesing and Adrienne Smith.																								
11.	Approve and sign Water Sewer Abatement #1327 and #1328.																								

NOTICE OF APPROVED BLOCK PARTIES

Name	Address	Party Location	Date	Time	Rain Date
Evan Judd	30 Washburn Avenue	Washburn Avenue	5/11/24	12pm-6pm	N/A

NOTICE OF APPROVED ONE-DAY SPECIAL ALCOHOL LICENSES

Hosting Organization	Event Title	Location	Event Date
Temple Beth Shalom	L'Chaim - Annual Gala	Temple Beth Shalom, 670 Highland Avenue	5/4/2024

8:17 p.m. Introduce Rob MacLean, Director of the Needham Free Public Library:
Presenter: Katie King, Deputy Town Manager

Katie King introduced incoming Director of the Needham Free Public Library Rob MacLean. Mr. MacLean was previously the Director of the Weymouth Free Public Library, having led the libraries through various stages of building development. Mr. MacLean is a graduate of Simmons College and Harvard College. A major focus of his role will be connecting the library to the community, ensuring that the library serves as a reflection of the community, and guiding the library through various phases of expansion and development. Mr. MacLean expressed his excitement to be a part of the Needham community and thanked the Library Foundation of Needham and the Friends of the Needham Public Library for their partnership. Select Board Members expressed their enthusiasm for Mr. MacLean's arrival.

8:20 p.m. Public Hearing: Eversource Grant of Location – 34 Whitman Road
Presenter: Jacqui Duffy, Eversource Representative

Eversource Energy requested permission to install approximately 8 feet of conduit in Whitman Road. The reason for this work is to provide service to 34 Whitman Road. The Department of Public Works has approved this petition, based on Eversource Energy's commitment to adhere to the Town's regulation that all conduit installed must be 3" scheduled 40 minimum; and, that when buried, that conduit must be placed at 24" below grade to the top of the conduit.

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Board vote to approve and sign a petition from Eversource Energy to install approximately 8 feet of conduit in Whitman Road.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 4-0.

8:22 p.m. Public Hearing: Eversource Grant of Location – 99 Whitman Road
Presenter: Jacqui Duffy, Eversource Representative

Eversource Energy requested permission to install approximately 12 feet of conduit in Whitman Road. The reason for this work is to provide service to 99 Whitman Road. The Department of Public Works has approved this petition, based on Eversource Energy's commitment to adhere to the Town's regulation that all conduit installed must be 3" scheduled 40 minimum; and, that when buried, that conduit must be placed at 24" below grade to the top of the conduit.

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Board vote to approve and sign a petition from Eversource Energy to install approximately 12 feet of conduit in Whitman Road.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 4-0.

8:24 p.m. Public Hearing: Outdoor Dining License – Eat Farmhouse LLC d//a The Farmhouse (Continued):
Presenter: Dora Tavel-Sanchez Luz, Owner

Eat Farmhouse LLC d/b/a The Farmhouse, located at 970 Great Plain Avenue, is seeking to establish an outdoor dining space on a back patio to the rear of the establishment which lies on an easement upon which the Town has rights to public parking. The applicant is requesting seasonal use of the space, in-line with the Zoning By-Law and their Special Permit. The applicant will require an exception to Select Board Policy SB-LIC-016 to permit more than three parking spaces to be used for outdoor dining.

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Select Board vote to approve an Outdoor Dining License for Eat Farmhouse LLC d/b/a The Farmhouse, and to grant an exception to Select Board Policy SB-LIC-016 to permit additional parking spaces to be used for outdoor dining.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 4-0.

8:28 p.m. Public Hearing: Alteration of Premises for an All-Alcohol License in a Restaurant – Eat Farmhouse LLC d//a The Farmhouse (Continued)
(Continued):
Presenter: Dora Tavel-Sanchez Luz, Owner

Eat Farmhouse LLC d/b/a The Farmhouse, located at 970 Great Plain Avenue, currently holds an All-Alcohol liquor license. The current licensed premises a total of 1,711 square feet with 100 seats. The proposed amendment seeks to expand the premises to include a 1,150 square foot outdoor patio area with 58 additional seats (with indoor seating reduced to 76 seats when the patio is in use).

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Select Board vote to approve the Alteration of Premises amendment application for Eat Farmhouse LLC and vote to forward the Amendment application to the ABCC for review and final approval.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 4-0.

8:31 p.m. Town Manager:

American Rescue Plan Act Funding

Kate Fitzpatrick provided an update on ARPA spending, commitments, grants, and projects with approximately \$114,000 currently unencumbered and outlined plans for these funds.

Consolidation of Information Technology Functions

The Select Board discussed the Memorandum of Understanding approved by the School Committee on April 23, setting forth the rules of engagement.

Motion by Ms. Cooley that the Select Board vote to approve the Information Technology Consolidation Memorandum of Understanding between the Select Board and the School Committee.

Second: Ms. Frail. Unanimously approved 4-0.

Positions on Warrant Articles

Article 21

Ms. Fitzpatrick noted that the Community Preservation Committee is likely to withdraw this article due to a condensed timeline for this project this summer. Ms. Fitzpatrick added that there is a possibility the project could be funded in the fall in conversation with the Community Preservation Committee. Mr. Davison noted the need to reappropriate the funds for the project to another eligible project and recommended that the Board reopen the Board's recommendation on the Public Works Building, striking the borrowing amount and replace it with funds from Article 21. The remaining balance would be funded by a transfer from free cash.

Article 28

Mr. Davison recommended that the motion be awarded by substituting a transfer from free cash.

Motion by Ms. Cooley to recommend a motion to amend Article 28 by striking the text “the Treasurer, with the approval of the Select Board, is authorized to borrow said sum under Massachusetts General Law Chapter 44, Section 7” and replace with the following text “\$1,275,000 be transferred from Free Cash”.

Second: Mr. Levy. Unanimously approved 4-0.

Article 41

The Board discussed Article 41, with specific discussion related to affordability and deed restrictions on housing.

Motion by Mr. Levy that the Board vote to support article 41 in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Second: Ms. Frail. Unanimously approved 4-0.

Article 43

Ms. Fitzpatrick reported that the petitioner is in discussion with the moderator with regard to his Citizens' Petition.

Article 44

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Board vote to support article 44 in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 4-0.

Article 45

Motion by Mr. Levy move that the Board reconsider article 45 and vote to adopt to support of the motion and proposed motions to amend article 45.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 4-0.

Article 46

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Board vote not to support article 46 in the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Approved 3-1, Levy against.

Articles 48, 49, 50:

Mr. Davison recommended that articles 48, 49, and 50 be withdrawn and that it will be more appropriate to raise these articles in the fall.

Motion by Ms. Cooley to withdraw articles 48, 49, and 50.

Second: Ms. Frail. Unanimously approved 4-0.

9:22 p.m. Public Hearing: Outdoor Dining License – Sai Restaurant Inc d/b/a Masala Art:
Presenter: Vinod Kapoor, Owner

Sai Restaurant Inc LLC d/b/a Masala Art, located at 990 Great Plain Avenue, is seeking to establish an outdoor dining space on a back patio to the rear of the establishment which lies on an easement upon which the Town has rights to public parking. The applicant is requesting seasonal use of the space, in-line with the Zoning By-Law and their Special Permit. The applicant will require an exception to Select Board Policy SB-LIC-016 to permit more than three parking spaces to be used for outdoor dining.

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Board vote to approve an Outdoor Dining License for Sai Restaurant Inc d/b/a Masala Art, and to grant an exception to Select Board Policy SB-LIC-016 to permit additional parking spaces to be used for outdoor dining.

Second: Mr. Levy. Unanimously approved 4-0.

9:25 p.m. Public Hearing: Alteration of Premises for an All-Alcohol License in a Restaurant
– Sai Restaurant Inc d/b/a Masala Art:
Presenter: Vinod Kapoor, Owner

Sai Restaurant LLC d/b/a Masala Art, located at 990 Great Plain Avenue, currently holds an All-Alcohol liquor license. The current licensed premises a total of 3,700 square feet with 116 seats. The proposed amendment seeks to expand the premises to include a 600 square foot outdoor patio area with 44 additional seats.

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Board vote to approve the Alteration of Premises amendment application for Sai Restaurant Inc d/b/a Masala Art and vote to forward the Amendment application to the ABCC for review and final approval.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 4-0.

9:27 p.m. Board Discussion:

Committee Reports

Mr. Keane reported that the Needham Branding & Town Seal Committee met and are making progress on developing a town brand.

9:28 p.m. Adjourn:

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Select Board vote to adjourn the Select Board meeting of Tuesday, April 30, 2024.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 4-0.

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 14, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.