

**Town of Needham
Board of Selectmen
Minutes for February 28, 2017
Selectmen's Chamber
Needham Town Hall**

6:45 p.m. Informal Meeting with Citizens:
Karen Shannon, 13 Bennington Street urged the Board to consider placing a question on an election ballot asking whether the Town should opt out of allowing a recreational marijuana retail store in Needham.

7:00 p.m. Call to Order:
A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman Matthew D. Borrelli. Those present were Maurice P. Handel, Daniel P. Matthews, John A. Bulian, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick, and Recording Secretary Mary Hunt. Marianne Cooley joined the meeting at 7:10 p.m.

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing - Eversource Energy at 1242 South Street:
Maureen Carroll, Eversource Energy representative appeared before the Board requesting permission to install approximately 11 feet of conduit in South Street. She said this work is necessary to provide underground electric service at 1242 South Street.

Ms. Fitzpatrick said all paperwork is in order, noting acceptance of an easement for the subdivision is an item on the warrant for the 2017 Annual Town Meeting.

Mr. Borrelli invited public comment. No comments were made.

Motion by Mr. Handel that the Board of Selectmen approve and sign a petition from Eversource Energy to install approximately 11 feet of conduit in South Street. This work is necessary to provide underground electric service at 1242 South Street, Needham.

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

Mr. Borrelli asked Ms. Carroll when work is expected to commence? Ms. Carroll said once approval of the petition is granted, work will begin shortly after the current street opening moratorium ends on April 1, 2017.

Mr. Bulian asked how long will it take to complete the work? Ms. Carroll said 11 feet of conduit will take "a few hours." She noted additional work on the property by the owner will take additional time.

7:04 p.m. Appointments and Consent Agenda:
Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Appointments and Consent Agenda as presented.

APPOINTMENTS

Traffic Management Advisory Committee Sue Stein (term expiration: 6/30/2019)

PPBC User Representative – DPW Rick Merson
Fuel Island Project Bob Lewis

PPBC User Representative - DPW Kate Fitzpatrick
Seasonal Storage Facility Rick Merson

Metropolitan Area Planning Council (Alternate) Lee Newman (extend term to 6/30/2019)

CONSENT AGENDA

- 1. Sign the Warrant for the Annual Town Election to be held on Tuesday, April 11, 2017.**
- 2. Approve a Special One Day Wine and Malt Beverages License for Gregg Bierman, of Temple Beth Shalom to host its Purim Celebration on Saturday, March 11, 2017 from 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The event will be held at Temple Beth Shalom, 670 Highland Avenue, Needham, MA 02494.**
- 3. Ratify Grant of Location that the Board approved on February 14, 2017 for Linden Street and Cypress Street. Motion should have read: “Move that the Board of Selectmen approve and sign a petition from Eversource Energy to install approximately 31 feet of conduit in Linden Street. This work is necessary to provide underground electric service at 11 Cypress Street, Needham.” The fact sheet submitted on February 14, 2017 said 11 feet of conduit.**
- 4. Accept the following gifts received by the Needham Public Library for the period of October 15, 2016 to February 22, 2017: Needham resident Gretchen Leary donated a copy of her book, The Quiet Bear, to the Children’s Room (\$16.00); Harriet Goldin gave the library a check for \$107.00, commission from the sale of her paintings that were hung in the Friends’ Gallery; Catherine Parnell donated a copy of Save the Last Dance by Eric Joseph and Eva Ungar Grudin (\$16.95); Elizabeth Carter Wellington gave the library a copy of her new book, Circus Girl: A Novel (\$33.95); the Middlesex Savings Bank provided the library with a supply of bookmarks that list the library’s new hours and phone numbers; Bridget Gardner donated \$10.00, in appreciation for help in using the Genealogy Collection; Lee and Lulu Grodzins have provided the library with a subscription to Smithsonian (\$12.00); Ellen Knizeski donated \$150.00 for the purchase of mystery books in memory of her father Bernie Ford; Mike Deigan gave the library a 17.5” x 17.5” black and white aerial photograph of Needham; Rev. Heike Werder donated a copy of Hillbilly Elegy by J.D. Vance (\$27.99); Clara Forbes donated 5 books (149.88); Edwin Harwood donated a copy of Conclave by Robert Harris (\$26.95); the Friends of the Needham Library donated \$41,860 for the purchase of books, audiovisual items, an archives file, Children’s Room tables and a hanging rack for book and CD kits; the Library Foundation of Needham donated \$12,200 for the purchase of books and audiovisual items; Artist Dan Callahan gave the library \$25.00, 10% commission from a painting that he sold after it had hung in the Friends’ Gallery; and the family of Marion**

(Bickford) Walker gave the library a copy of Marion's 1932 Needham High School yearbook, The Advocate.

- 5. Approve a 2017 Common Victualler license application from North Hill Needham d/b/a Central Avenue Cafe, 865 Central Avenue.**
- 6. Approve a Special One Day Wines & Malt Beverages License for Dinneen Grably of the Gifford Cat Shelter to host its Spring Soiree and Silent Auction event on Saturday, April 22, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. The event will be held in Powers Hall at Needham Town Hall, 1471 Highland Avenue, Needham.**
- 7. Approve minutes of February 14, 2017, open session.**
- 8. Water & Sewer Abatement Order #1232.**
- 9. Approve request from the Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham and the Needham Police Department to use the Town Common on Saturday, April 29 from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. for a Prescription Drug Take Back Event.**

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

7:04 p.m. The Board took a brief recess.

7:10 p.m. Community Preservation Committee - Proposals Under Review:
Mark Gluesing, Vice Chair CPC and Patty Carey, Director of Park and Recreation appeared before the Board to discuss the projects before the CPC for funding consideration this year.

Mr. Gluesing said the CPC will hold a public hearing on March 8, 2017, with voting on the projects on March 23, 2017. He reviewed seven projects being considered:

1. Rosemary Lake Sediment Removal
Mr. Gluesing commented the request is for \$2,100,000. He noted preliminary work indicated a fair amount of sediment will need to be disposed of at a hazardous facility out of state. He said the permitting process is proceeding.
2. Cricket Field Renovation
Mr. Gluesing commented on renovation of the field and installation of irrigation at Cricket Field. He said the initial request amount for \$285,000 has increased to \$370,000 as there is interest in installing more sod than originally intended. Mr. Matthews asked the difference between the proposal and the current state of the field? Mr. Gluesing said the quality of the sub-grade, drainage, and installation of an irrigation system will help the fields hold up better after use and during inclement weather.
3. Hillside School Walking Trails
Mr. Gluesing commented on development of walking trails for public and educational use behind the new Hillside School. He said the property, currently owned by Wellesley but within Needham, will include a bridge and is in the design

phase. Ms. Carey said it is likely once the full scope of the project is known, the full estimate of \$210,000 will not be spent.

4. Needham Accessible Reservoir Trail

Mr. Gluesing commented on the Needham Accessible Reservoir Trail saying the project includes a bridge and crushed stone trail. Ms. Carey stated sections of the boardwalk will be modular, allowing for the units to be built offsite. She said the expense is less than if helical piles were used and will save the Town money.

5. Echo Bridge Railings

Mr. Gluesing commented on the request from the MWRA to help fund the historic restoration of the railings on Echo Bridge. He said the request, in conjunction with the City of Newton, also includes a state grant and private fundraising. He stated the Needham portion of the project is \$250,000. Mr. Bulian said he is concerned about the expenditure because of the Rosemary Pool Complex project and the availability of cash. He asked for clarification on community and individual donations. Mr. Gluesing said community donations are from businesses and other private groups, not municipal entities. Mr. Handel said the project is worthy, however, noted funds likely to support the request are not available. Discussion ensued on funding and rebuilding the railings to meet building code. Mr. Matthews said there are conflicting factors, but a decision must be made. Mr. Borrelli said he understands wanting to restore the railing to its original state, but at this time it is a lot of money. He said the alternative (Option B) is adequate.

6. Preservation of Open Space - Purchase of Land

Mr. Gluesing said a placeholder is kept for the potential purchase of open space, however no open space has become available during the cycle.

7. Rosemary Recreation Complex

Mr. Gluesing commented the Rosemary Recreation Complex project includes rebuilding of the pool, pool house, community space on the second floor of the new building, and new parking areas. He said the requested amount is for \$12,000,000. Ms. Carey said the Planning Board and Conservation Commission permits have been obtained. Dave Davison, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Finance discussed proposed financing scenarios for the project referring to his memorandum and attachments dated February 17, 2017. Mr. Borrelli asked if Mr. Davison is concerned the Town is “running too tight” on cash? Mr. Davison discussed the available free cash under scenario 1 and scenario 2, as well as the timeframe for refurbishment of the Emery Grover building and the affect on each scenario. Mr. Borrelli concurred with the methodology used by Mr. Davison. Mr. Bulian said the project is important to the Town, noting Mr. Davison’s financing projections are always done conservatively.

The Board thanked Mr. Gluesing, Ms. Carey, and Mr. Davison for the information.

7:50 p.m.

Town Manager:

Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager appeared before the Board with two items to discuss:

1. Eversource West Roxbury to Needham Reliability Project

Ms. Fitzpatrick updated the Board on the status of the Eversource Energy West Roxbury to Needham Reliability Project since the public hearing held on January 23, 2017. She said outside counsel has been retained to represent the Town before the Energy Facility Siting Board, as well as an engineer to peer review the modeling of the EMF report provided by Eversource Energy in its filing with the Energy Facility Siting Board. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented the Town has contacted the Department of Epidemiology at the Massachusetts Department of Public Health for feedback on EMF's. She noted the Town is considering consulting with someone having a background in epidemiology before any decision by the Board of Selectmen. She said the Town filed for and received an extension, indicating a hearing by the Siting Board will be held in April 2017, rather than March 2017. Ms. Fitzpatrick said the Town is moving forward to make sure information is provided and available on Needham's website.

Mr. Matthews clarified it may have appeared the Town of Needham is partnering with Eversource Energy on the project. He said the Town's status is as an intervener, allowing Needham to bring issues to the attention of the Energy Siting Board and to discuss the matter with Eversource Energy. He noted legal responsibility for the project falls to the Energy Facility Siting Board and Eversource Energy. He commented while the Town is a stakeholder, it does not get to decide how the issue is resolved. Mr. Matthews pointed out that if the EFSB approves a route and Eversource Energy chooses to move forward with a route that has access over a Town way, they have eminent domain authority. He said it is up to the Town to make sure reliability goals are achieved and the concerns of residents are heard throughout the process by the EFSB.

Mr. Borrelli confirmed Needham is not a partner in the project and must do its due diligence. He confirmed it is the EFSB's decision on the route.

Mr. Bulian stated Town Counsel advised him not to participate in discussion relative to the Eversource Reliability Project because his home is on the noticed alternative route.

2. Town Manager Report

Ms. Fitzpatrick reported the ongoing streetscape project is separate from the Town Common project as listed in the CPA handout for potential funding recommended for FY2019. She commented on the removal of nine trees and the planting of twelve new trees, saying she understands the concern some residents have at the removal of trees, but the safety of the public is of utmost importance.

She reported ongoing streetscape work will allow for new traffic signals to be active by July 2017.

Ms. Fitzpatrick also reported work continues at the First Avenue traffic signals which will allow egress from Needham Crossing to Route 128, as well as the opening of the new ramp at Highland Avenue.

Ms. Fitzpatrick reported representatives from the MBTA will be at the next Board of Selectmen meeting on March 14, 2017, at 7 p.m. to hear comments from residents regarding train idling/noise. She thanked Representative Garlick for her help arranging the discussion.

Toll Brothers, developer of the 2nd Avenue residences has pulled its building permits. She noted the developer agreed to pay the Town \$2,250,000 towards public safety improvements and I and I removal.

Ms. Fitzpatrick commented on demolition noise and a new form to be distributed to abutters by developers. She said the form will include all contact information for the contractor, police department, and building department should issues arise during demolition.

Ms. Fitzpatrick and Mr. McDonald, Director of Health and Human Services reported on expanded hours at the Center at the Heights and a recent service grant received for the bone density program. Mr. McDonald said the bone density program will be offered during the day and evening. He also commented on spring and summer programs focused on healthy cooking for seniors and mental health and wellness.

Ms. Fitzpatrick reminded the Board that since assuming the title of Director of Health and Human Services under the Town's reorganization, Mr. McDonald is now responsible for coordinating the work of aging, youth, and veterans services. The Board congratulated Mr. McDonald.

8:10 p.m.

Board Discussion:

1. Rotary Club Carnival Proposal

Mr. Borrelli said an email was received from Ted Shaughnessy, President of the Needham Rotary Club who are interested in holding a carnival for 3 nights in July on the high school property to coincide with the Needham July 4th celebration. He noted multiple steps from different boards would be required for approval. He suggested once paperwork is in order, the Board could discuss the proposal at future meeting.

Mr. Handel disclosed that as member of the Exchange Club who hold a similar event, he will recuse himself from discussion.

Mr. Matthews said carnivals nowadays have many health and safety requirements to operate within the State. He said the Rotary Club has a great deal of work to

complete, but if all the requirements are met, the Board of Selectmen could meet. He said the vendor is Cushing Amusements, who operate in other towns.

Mr. Borrelli said he is interested in hearing a proposal.

2. Committee Reports

No Committee Reports were made.

8:25 p.m

Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Handel that the Board vote to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting of February 28, 2017.

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