

**Town of Needham  
Board of Selectmen  
Minutes for May 2, 2017  
Selectmen's Chamber  
Needham Town Hall**

- 6:30 p.m. Call to Order:  
A meeting of the Board of Selectmen was convened by Chairman Marianne B. Cooley. Those present were John A. Bulian, Maurice P. Handel, Matthew D. Borrelli, and Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. Recording Secretary Mary Hunt joined the meeting at 6:45 p.m.
- 6:30 p.m. Executive Session: (Exception 3)  
**Motion by Mr. Handel that the Board of Selectmen vote to enter into Executive Session.**
- 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.**
- Second: Mr. Bulian. Ms. Cooley polled the Board. Unanimously approved 4-0.**
- Mr. Matthews arrived at the meeting at 6:35 p.m.
- 6:45 p.m. Informal Meeting with Citizens:  
David Dyson, 8 Pandolf Lane and Mark Nasson, 18 Pandolf Lane spoke with the Board about changing Pandolf Lane from a private to a public road. Mr. Dyson said he spoke with the Town Engineer as well as members of the Building Department about the slope of a stone wall at 18 Pandolf Lane. Tony Del Gaizo, Town Engineer said there is concern with utilities, drainage, and excavation undermining the wall. Ms. Cooley told Mr. Dyson and Mr. Nasson that Town requirements must be met to allow a change from a private to public way. Ms. Cooley suggested that Mr. Dyson and Mr. Nasson meet with the Director of Public Works.
- 7:00 p.m. The public portion of the Board of Selectmen meeting of May 2, 2017 was convened by Chairwoman Marianne B. Cooley. Ms. Cooley announced the meeting is being recorded and videotaped.
- 7:00 p.m. Introduce Fire Staff:  
Dennis Condon, Fire Chief appeared before the Board to introduce newly promoted Captain Matt Bagnell, newly promoted Lieutenant Matt Fandry, and newly appointed firefighters Noah Farr, Christopher Fawcett, and Graham Flaherty.

Chief Condon said John Kraweicki has been promoted to Deputy Fire Chief, noting he was unable to attend tonight's meeting. Chief Condon also recognized Matt Bagnell saying he has been promoted to Captain and Matt Fandry who has been promoted to Lieutenant. He said both men have done an outstanding job at Fire Station #2 and Fire Station #1, respectively. He commented the men are longtime employees of Needham and that the Town is in good hands with them.

Chief Condon recognized three new probationary firefighters. He commented Noah Farr is an Air Force Pararescue Jumper, Christopher Fawcett brings his pediatric experience from Children's Hospital, and Graham Flaherty started a CPR program at Weymouth High School.

Chief Condon shared a letter about a recent emergency pediatric call recognizing Chris Fawcett, who was part of the team assisting the child.

The Board congratulated the men on their new positions.

Mr. Matthews read the letter to Chief Condon from the parents of the child requiring emergency assistance.

Mr. Matthews explained the history of how the town used to hire firefighters. He said Needham is a good place to work and told the men they are "face of the Town."

Mr. Borrelli concurred with the comments by Mr. Matthews, noting the men have amazing resumes and experience.

The Board congratulated the firefighters.

7:16 p.m.

Appointments and Consent Agenda:

**Motion by Mr. Handel that the Board of Selectmen vote to approve the Appointments and Consent Agenda as presented.**

**APPOINTMENTS: No Appointments were made at this meeting.**

#### **CONSENT AGENDA**

- 1. Approve Open Session minutes of April 5, 2017 and Executive Session minutes of February 14, 2017, and April 12, 2017.**
- 2. Approve 2017 Mobile Food Truck license for returning food truck - Captain Marden's Seafoods, Inc. d/b/a The Cod Squad. Approval is subject to receipt of required completed paperwork.**
- 3. Approve a request from Wally Massenburg, Pack Leader of Cub Scout Pack 23, to use the space behind the garages at Ridge Hill on Saturday June, 10, 2017 for its Cub Scout Field Day. The area will be needed from 2:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.**

4. **Approve a request from The Christina Clarke Genco Foundation to ride a portion of its Mother's Day Memorial Day Ride through Needham on Sunday, May 14, 2017, pending receipt of approval by the DPW. The route that the riders will take through Needham has been approved by the Police, Fire and Park & Recreation Departments. Riders are expected to be in Needham at 7:45 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.**
5. **Approve a request from the Natick Rotary to hold its Tour de Natick bike event on Sunday, June 18, 2017, pending receipt of approval by the DPW. The route that the riders will take through Needham has been approved by the following departments: Police, Fire and Park and Recreation. The Needham portion of the route involves only a short leg of the longer, 25 mile course which begins at 8:00 am. The section of the route going through Needham is 010from Charles River Street at the Dover line to South Street at the Dover line.**
6. **Approve a Special One Day Wines & Malt Beverages License for Susan Banez, of Needham Pool and Racquet Club to host its New Member Reception on June 9, 2017 from 6:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. The event will be held at Needham Pool and Racquet Club, 1550 Central Avenue, Needham.**
7. **Water and Sewer Abatement Order #1237.**

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

7:16 p.m.

Fire Department Staffing Update:

Dennis Condon, Fire Chief appeared before the Board with an update on the Department's recently completed staffing and services analysis.

Chief Condon explained the population of Town of Needham continues to increase and that the number of emergency incidents on a yearly basis has increased from 2,000 in 1986 to nearly 4,000 in 2016, not including calls for fire inspections or school fire drills. He said while the number of emergency calls has increased, the number of staff has remained constant. Chief Condon noted the Needham Crossing area will have tremendous growth in the coming years, and it is anticipated the number of emergency calls will also increase. Chief Condon said it would be beneficial having a full time ambulance in Needham Heights. He referred to the "Needham Fire Department Staffing and Services Analysis" dated February 24, 2017 outlining five possible staffing options.

Ms. Cooley noted the economics of how the ambulance service works. Ms. Fitzpatrick said a proposal for increased rates will be presented to the Board during the summer 2017. Chief Condon said current rates are some of the lowest in the Commonwealth.

Mr. Borrelli said the request for more services in Needham Heights is valid. He commented Option 5 makes complete sense. He thanked Chief Condon for the information.

Mr. Matthews said the public needs to know that more staffing and improved facilities (Station #1 and #2) are necessary because of bigger equipment and exposure to carcinogens. He said facility upgrades will be “big ticket” items for the Town. He commented some people may be surprised by the cost. Chief Condon concurred, saying servicing the community is a big responsibility, and equally as big, is making sure personnel are not unduly exposed.

Discussion ensued on building materials and construction methods in relation to fire.

The Board thanked Chief Condon for his work.

7:30 p.m.

Director of Public Works:

Richard P. Merson, Director of Public Works and Anthony Del Gaizo, Town Engineer appeared before the Board with three items to discuss:

1. National Public Works Week Proclamation

Mr. Matthews read a proclamation recognizing the week of May 21st through May 27th as National Public Works week.

**Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen approve and sign the Proclamation for National Public Works Week May 21st through May 27th, 2017.**

**Second: Mr. Borrelli. Unanimously approved 5-0.**

2. Traffic Rules & Regulations - Hillside Avenue #1 and #2

**Motion by Mr. Borrelli that the Board vote to approve and sign the Notice of Traffic Regulation Permit #P17-05-02 for Hillside Avenue, Parking Prohibited, East side from a point 70 feet north of the northerly sideline of Dale Street to a point 640 feet south on Hillside Avenue.**

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

Mr. Matthews said there is a need, but asked where will people park? Mr. Del Gaizo said there is a proposal for garage parking at a newly constructed building to help with vehicles parking on the street. He said the garage plans will be submitted to the Planning Board.

**Motion by Mr. Handel that the Board vote to approve and sign the notice of Traffic Regulation Permit #P17-05-02a for Hillside Avenue, Parking Prohibited, West side from the south sideline of Dale Street to a point 200 feet south of the south sideline of Dale Street.**

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

3. Amend Street Permit Fees

Mr. Merson recommended that Section 4 - Permit and License fees be revised to lower the driveway fee to \$150 from the current \$325 fee and clarified other fees in the schedule. He asked for the Board's approval.

**Motion by Mr. Handel that the Board vote to approve the revised Street Permit Procedures and Regulations dated May 2, 2017.**

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

Ms. Fitzpatrick said setting a lower driveway fee was a goal adopted by the Board last year.

Ms. Fitzpatrick commented on the seasonal non-essential water use restriction, saying the restriction is State mandated, and a notice explaining the restriction has been mailed to every customer and is posted on the Town website. She said the Town is starting with the one day only a week watering because the Commonwealth's Drought Management Task Force has declared a drought advisory. She said when the drought advisory is declared, the Town is mandated to watering one day only. She commented the Drought Management Task Force is meeting next week and if the level is lowered, Needham will change to the two day only a week watering schedule. She said signs will be more clear. Ms. Fitzpatrick commented customers are on notice the Town could end up with "no outdoor watering," as mandated by the State. Ms. Fitzpatrick said currently watering by irrigation system is allowed before 9 a.m. and after 5 p.m. on Sunday only. Hand held watering is allowed any time. She noted during the months of May and September residents who want to establish a new lawn are asked to contact the Town before establishing a new lawn or new plantings to apply for an exemption.

Mr. Bulian asked if the watering fine is for the same each level of restriction? Mr. Merson said the violation structure stays the same.

Mr. Borrelli reiterated the goal is to stay under 65 gallons per person/per day to hopefully relax the restriction.

Ms. Cooley recognized the Town's inability to meet the goal is solely due to summer watering. She said the rate of water during the winter is much less (35 to 36 gallons). She encouraged folks to note how much water they are using.

7:45 p.m.

Town Manager:

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

1. Amend Policy: Contributory Insurance Rules and Regulations

Ms. Fitzpatrick recommended that the Board approve an amendment to the Contributory Insurance Rules & Regulations to implement a plan whereby eligible employees may opt-out of the Town's health insurance program and receive an Opt-Out Incentive Payment. She said it is a "win-win" for employees who have

access to health insurance outside of the Town's health insurance plan, as they would receive a modest payment and the Town could chip away at its health insurance liability.

**Motion by Mr. Handel that the Board vote to approve the revised Policy BOS-PERS-003 - Contributory Insurance Rules & Regulations effective May 2, 2017.**

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

2. Town Meeting Preparation

Ms. Cooley said a motion was made at Town Meeting last night to move zoning articles to "a time certain" at the start of tomorrow evening's Town Meeting session. She said if anyone has an idea about an amendment, she encourages them to contact the Planning Board as soon as possible, a well-considered amendment is welcome rather than one presented on the Town Meeting floor.

Mr. Matthews said Town Meeting members are expected to vote tomorrow on seven zoning articles resulting from approximately three years of work. He said discussion will be complex and encouraged anyone wishing to offer an amendment to any of the articles should immediately present their idea in writing to the Planning Director by the start of Town Meeting tomorrow. He recognized the lateness of any potential changes.

7:50 p.m. Board Discussion:

1. Eversource West Roxbury to Needham Right-of-Way Project

Ms. Cooley noted the attendance of State Representative Denise Garlick and neighbors regarding one of the routes with respect to the West Roxbury to Needham Eversource Reliability Project. She said Eversource has proposed a preferred and alternate route. She commented Needham has held public hearings to gather neighborhood feedback, including whether the Board of Selectmen should take a position on a route. Ms. Cooley said by taking a position, the Town is in a better position for negotiation on what is best for the citizens of Needham.

Mr. Bulian recused himself from discussion as his home is located on the noticed alternate route.

Mr. Borrelli stated this is a project the Town does not want, noting concern among citizens to remove the project from any walkable routes and neighborhoods. He said there is consensus for placing lines deep within the middle of streets. He also commented on potential mitigation. Mr. Borrelli said he is partial to using the alternate route to keep the lines out of neighborhoods.

Ms. Cooley clarified mitigation can mean many things.

Mr. Handel said it is important the public understand counsel has been engaged and that the Town is trying to leverage as much as possible to protect Needham's interests against a large public utility.

Mr. Matthews said it seems to him the Town must engage constructively in the process to get the best result and to address concerns by residents. He noted that two public hearings were held and attended by many people with differing views, as well as a hearing in Boston to determine siting. Mr. Matthews said it is clear to him there is a wide range of understanding on the project, what it is all about, the process, and the various options for the Town. He said the project is one of several regional energy projects having to do with the reliability of the network, with decisions primarily being made by the Energy Facility Siting Board and Eversource. Mr. Matthews said it is clear the best route is one with many subjective elements, noting citizen's are as good as the experts in evaluating community conditions. Mr. Matthews commented on different routes, saying the EFSB is certain to approve the project for one of two principal routes. He said it is clear the route most supported by Needham is information the EFSB would be interested in knowing. He commented whatever route is used, the project ought to be done in a way to achieve the best level of safety. He said if Needham participates constructively, rather than trying to block the project, it could influence decisions to benefit the residents. Mr. Matthews said it is important to note Eversource's proposed route has many more residences than the alternative route (South Street route), but acknowledged concern for the population along the alternative route. He said there may be a way to follow the alternative route without going through the valley. Mr. Matthews offered the following motion regarding the siting of the Eversource Reliability Project:

**Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board of Selectmen vote to recommend the noticed alternative route with variations that avoid the Valley Road neighborhood.**

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

Ms. Cooley clarified the preferred and/or alternative route is Eversource's preferred and/or alternative route, not Needham's preferred route. She said Eversource provided notice to Needham that they have started a process to purchase a house on Valley Road. She said Mr. Matthews' motion includes the recommendation to avoid the Valley Road neighborhood which includes walking streets. She said Needham prefers more arterial routes be used.

Mr. Borrelli agreed the Valley Road neighborhood could be avoided to get to the southern route.

Mr. Handel concurred, noting some people will feel adversely affected no matter what route is chosen by the Energy Facility Siting Board. He noted for the record, Eversource is splitting an overhead line that runs down a railroad right-of-way, and as a matter of State policy the project affects many communities, not just Needham.

He said there needs to be a way to explore the realistic possibility of placing transmission lines underground that run along a railroad right-of-way within the right-of-way underground.

Mr. Bulian rejoined Board members at the table.

2. Committee Reports

Mr. Handel reported the Council of Economic Advisers will meet tomorrow, May 3, 2017 to discuss mixed use 128 zoning proposals on the west side of Route 128.

8:10 p.m.

Adjourn:

**Motion by Mr. Handel that the Board vote to adjourn the Board of Selectmen meeting of May 2, 2017.**

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

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