

**Select Board
Minutes for October 1, 2019
Needham Town Hall
Select Board's Chamber**

6:45 p.m. Informal Meeting with Citizens: No activity.

7:00 p.m. Call to Order:

A meeting of the Select Board was convened by Chair John A. Bulian. Those present were Maurice P. Handel, Matthew D. Borrelli, Daniel P. Matthews, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick, and Recording Secretary Mary Hunt. Marianne B. Cooley was not present.

7:00 p.m. Introduce Newly Promoted Police Officers:

John Schlittler, Police Chief appeared before the Board to introduce newly promoted Lieutenant John McGrath and Sergeant Richard Evans. Chief Schlittler gave a brief background on each officer, saying both men grew up in Needham and have been employed by the Needham police department since 2006. He said he is pleased to promote both men to their new rank.

The Board congratulated the men, thanked them for their service, and wished them continued success in Needham.

7:10 p.m. Bike Share Program:

Dave Davison, Assistant Town Manager/Finance appeared before the Board with an update on the status of the bike share initiative. Mr. Davison said the Lime Bikes rideshare program will be ending its second season very soon. He said Lime Bikes is currently discussing with the MAPC whether or not they wish to continue next spring, for a third year. He commented a meeting with participating communities will be held to discuss the importance of connectivity of the program with other towns. Mr. Davison said towns will discuss their interest in moving to a docked based system, rather than the current dockless system, noting communities would be expected to pay for docking facilities. He surmised communities outside the metropolitan area would likely be less interested due to the expense. Mr. Davison explained the use of the bicycles system-wide, the number of rides coming to downtown Needham or the Heights (50% of which originate from or to the Needham Crossing area), and that most usage is between 4pm-6pm. He stated the number of riders declined this year, saying the reason is due to the cost of using electric assist bikes (\$5.50/30 minutes) rather than peddle bikes (\$1/30 minutes). Discussion ensued on bikeshare programs in other towns, including Bluebikes, Ant Bike, as well as bicycles that sit in one place for long periods of time. Mr. Davison said Lime Bikes and the MAPC will make a decision in the coming weeks as to whether to continue for another year.

The Board thanked Mr. Davison for the update.

7:20 p.m. Appointments and Consent Agenda:
Motion by Mr. Borrelli that the Select Board approve the Appointments and Consent Agenda as presented.

APPOINTMENTS: No Appointments were made at this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA

1. **Water and Sewer Abatement Order #1281**
2. **Accept a \$1,500 donation made to the Needham Public Health Division’s Substance Prevention Alliance of Needham (SPAN) from the Needham High School PTC Trust.**
3. **Approve a change in the date of the next Select Board meeting from Tuesday, October 22, 2019 to Wednesday, October 16, 2019.**
4. **Accept a \$100 donation made to Needham Family & Youth Services from the Borgos family. The monies will be used towards future programs in the Youth & Family Services Department.**
5. **Approve Executive Session minutes of August 20, 2019 and September 24, 2019.**
6. **Endorse the nomination of the City of Framingham and Dr. Yvonne M. Spicer, Mayor, for the Metro West Regional seat on the Boston Region Metropolitan Planning Organization and authorize the Chair to sign the nomination letter.**
7. **Grant permission for the following residents to hold block parties:**

Name	Address	Party Location	Party Date	Party Rain Date	Party Time
Richard Myers	78 Warren St.	Warren Street between May St. & Great Plain Avenue	10/6/19	10/20/19	4pm-8pm
Brenda Salamone	41 Rae Avenue	18 Fairfax Road	10/6/19	N/A	4pm-7pm
Anne McCaffrey	107 Hoover Rd.	Hoover Road between Webster & Manning	10/19/19	10/20/19	4pm-6pm

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

7:20 p.m. Town Manager:

1. Green Communities
 Ms. Fitzpatrick updated the Board on the Green Communities Designation and reviewed information requested at the last meeting, including the kind of grants given to cities and towns. She commented grants would not be the primary reason to join Green Communities, but the money would be beneficial. Ms. Fitzpatrick said Needham has the capability, capacity, staff, and sophisticated budgeting to apply for the designation. She said a public hearing will be held on Wednesday, October 16, 2019 at 7:30 p.m. in Powers Hall to hear an additional presentation on the specific energy reduction plan being proposed, potential payback, and to hear

from residents. She said the deadline for filing an application has been extended to November.

Discussion ensued on communities who have reached the energy reduction requirements and received grants.

Mr. Matthews commented he does not believe grants alone are compelling enough to join the program. He said joining the program has more to do with trying to find constructive ways to work with the state and other communities to address human caused climate change. He said people should not think of the program as a money making activity.

Mr. Borrelli commented if Needham is going to be doing some of the requirements anyway, it may be good to join to get a benefit, or it could stay put and not have any of the issues that could “hamstring” the town in the future. He concurred grants, although not a reason, could be a benefit depending on the cost analysis.

Mr. Bulian concurred saying whenever Needham is eligible and can access grant money it helps support projects that are going to be done anyway and is good for taxpayers.

2. Town Manager’s Report

Ms. Fitzpatrick reported the newly constructed Memorial Park Building is now open and being used by various town groups. She said money has been well spent on the project.

Ms. Fitzpatrick reported Needham was awarded state funds for a feasibility study to extend the Rail Trail from High Rock Street to Needham Junction. Meetings have been held with the MBTA to further explore sharing the railway. She said Senator Rush was helpful in securing the funds.

Ms. Fitzpatrick said Senator Rausch helped Needham access funding for installation of new pedestrian-scale energy efficient lighting in Needham Heights.

Ms. Fitzpatrick said Representative Garlick’s office helped secure funding for security and accessibility enhancements at the Center at The Heights.

She said the Select Board will be asked to review the capital plan in November and December, as it is due the first week of January.

Ms. Fitzpatrick said Needham will focus on the RAVE Alert System for reverse 911 calls to residents. She said people who live, work, drive through Needham, or have an elderly parent living in town should sign up online at the Town’s website to receive emergency notifications. She said there will be a booth at the Harvest Fair in an effort to sign people up for the service.

7:41 p.m.

Board Discussion:

1. Comprehensive Permit 1180 Great Plain Avenue

The Board discussed traffic circulation for the Comprehensive Permit filed with the ZBA for 1180 Great Plain Avenue.

Mr. Handel said it makes sense to utilize the existing traffic access to the site, not restrict it to either abutting street. He said he prefers a one-way solution from either Great Plain Avenue to Walnut Street or vice versa, with judgement as to the most sensible traffic pattern left to the ZBA, DPW, and traffic committee.

Mr. Borrelli acknowledged the site is tight, with 3 traffic options available from the Town Engineer report. He said the traffic burden should be shared between Great Plain Avenue and Walnut Street. He said he prefers the exit be on Walnut Street, however concurred the final decision should come from the Town Engineer.

Mr. Bulian said the architect proposed a circular traffic pattern around the building, noting green space and trees would be lost.

Mr. Handel said a circular traffic pattern does not make sense, minimizes green space, burdens one side of the property, and is not fair to abutters on either street.

Mr. Bulian agreed, saying the amount of traffic generated from 16 units will be negligible.

Mr. Matthews commented one of the traffic plans was for a circular pattern around the building. He noted, however no such plan was submitted to the ZBA. He commented that the Select Board concluded the overall plan for the site makes good use of the property. The problem, he said, is that driveway access to parking is only wide enough for one car. Mr. Matthews said while the Select Board recommended approval of the project, it asked for a better traffic plan. He said it is up to the Select Board to make a decision based on the existing plan submitted. Mr. Matthews said he is persuaded by the recommendation of the DPW, which basically says 2-way traffic is not a good option. He said his preference is to support either of the one-way options as recommended by the DPW, with further input by the Town Engineer. Discussion ensued on the possibility of a “horseshoe” traffic pattern, and it was agreed that it was not a good option.

Mr. Borrelli said he supports the experts who have said a one-way traffic pattern is best.

Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Board vote to authorize the Town Manager to send a letter to the ZBA with respect to the traffic circulation for the 1180 Great Plain Avenue project, recommending either option: Entering the property from Great Plain Avenue only and exiting only onto Walnut Street OR entering the property from Walnut Street only and exiting only onto Great

**Plain Avenue, with final determination of either option to be informed by further input from the DPW or Town Engineer.
Second: Mr. Handel. Unanimously approved 4-0.**

2. Housing Choices Bill

The Board discussed the concept of sending a letter to the Town's legislative delegation jointly with the Planning Board outlining concerns with House Bill 3507 - Housing Choices Initiative.

Mr. Bulian read the letter dated October 3, 2019 to be sent to Representative Denise Garlick, Senator Michael Rush, and Senator Becca Rausch regarding House Bill 3507.

Discussion ensued on Needham reaching its 10% Chapter 40B housing requirement and additional Chapter 40B housing units.

Motion by Mr. Handel that the Board vote to send a letter to the Town's legislative delegation jointly with the Planning Board outlining concerns with House Bill 3507, and to authorize the Town Manager to make minor modifications to the draft letter consistent with any comments provided by the Planning Board.

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

3. Committee Reports

No Committee Reports were made.

Mr. Bulian reminded the public the Harvest Fair will be held on Sunday, October 6, 2019 from 12 pm - 4 pm in Needham Center.

8:07 p.m.

Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Handel that the Board vote to adjourn the Select Board meeting of Tuesday, October 1, 2019.

Second: Mr. Borrelli. 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=>