

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Select Board
Friday, April 29, 2022
Remote Online Meeting (882 3024 7857)
Called to Order at 12:30 p.m.**

Remotely participating were Board members, Chair, Harvey Boshart, Christopher Houston, and Laurie Bent. Also present were Town Manager Leon A. Gaumond, Jr., Assistant Town Manager/Human Resources Director Lisa Yanakakis.

Mr. Boshart called the meeting to order and read the following:

Pursuant to Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings in the Town of Weston will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. We will strive to provide access to such meetings via a link to call in, or other similar option. In the event we are unable to accommodate the same, despite best efforts, we will post recorded sessions of the meeting as soon as possible following the same. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceeding.

Permanent Building Committee Candidate: Joint Meeting with School Committee:

Daniel Colli

Anita Raman called the School Committee meeting to order. Ms. Raman thanked Danielle Black, School Committee member for her service to the Town for over 10 years. Mr. Boshart thanked Ms. Black for her efforts.

Jim Polando, Chair of the Permanent Building Committee believes that Mr. Colli would be an excellent candidate with extensive knowledge. Mr. Polando recommends Mr. Colli for appointment. Mr. Colli described his work experience and his experiences with condo associations. Mr. Colli described his experience with public school construction.

MOTION: Ms. Black moved to appoint Daniel Colli to the Permanent Building Committee for a term of three years. The motion was seconded by Mr. Newberg. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Newberg, Ms. Black, and Ms. Muzila, and Ms. Raman voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to appoint Daniel Colli to the Permanent Building Committee for a term of three years. The motion was seconded by Mr. Houston. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**

MOTION: Mr. Newburg moved to adjourn the School Committee meeting. The motion was seconded Ms. Black. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Newberg, Ms. Black, and Ms. Muzila, and Ms. Raman voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**

Resident Comments: Olga Aginsky stated that she does not feel comfortable stating her residential address due to privacy.

Committee Appointments: Board of the Council on Aging, Traffic & Sidewalk Committee, Weston Cultural Council:

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to appoint Shaheen Lakhan and Syamala Swaminathan for a three-year term to the Weston Cultural Council to expire April 29, 2025. The motion was seconded by Mr. Houston. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston, and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to appoint Brian Kardon, Paul Foley, and Sue Pauker for a four-year term to the Board of the Council on Aging to expire June 30, 2026. The motion was seconded by Mr. Houston. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston, and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**

Mr. Boshart stated that he is not in a position to appoint a member to the Traffic & Sidewalk Committee and would like to speak with Jay Doyle, Chair of the Traffic & Sidewalk Committee.

Tree Removal Request: 44 Hubbard Road:

Benjamin Milgram requested the Select Board consider a request for tree removal due to the proximity of the trees to his family's bedrooms.

Mr. Gaumond stated that the resident believes that the tree(s) in question pose a safety hazard for his family. Mr. Gaumond noted that the tree hearing would occur and abutters would be notified. Mr. Boshart thanked Benjamin Milgram, owner, for following proper channels. The Select Board agreed to hold a public hearing regarding the tree(s) removal.

Public Hearing: Eversource Grant of Location at Trailside Road:

Richard Schifone, Eversource

Mr. Boshart called the Public Hearing to order at 1:00 p.m.

Mr. Schifone described the grant of location to install an underground service at Trailside Road. Mr. Schifone stated that the plan is run conduit 170 feet from a pole on Ash Street to the resident's driveway to pick up an as build secondary line from the resident's driveway. Mr. Schifone stated that a direct bury pole that was originally in place under their tennis courts failed, which prompted a need for a replacement line.

Mr. Schifone noted that the installation occurred without a Grant of Location. Installation stopped when the Weston Department of Public Works discovered that a Grant of Location was not approved. The property owners expressed concern that the conduit has been above ground on their property for months, and would like the issue to be resolved.

Mr. Boshart closed the Public Hearing.

MOTION: Mr. Houston moved to approve the Grant of Location for Work Order Number 6223880 with all conditions as recommended by the Department of Public Works personnel. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bent. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston, and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**

Water Abatement: 520 North Avenue:

Mr. Gaumond stated that Betsy Cullen, of 520 North Avenue requested a water abatement due to alleged vandalism with an exterior faucet on the property.

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to approve to lower the water usage rate to the average tier in recent years for the outstanding water bill for 520 North Avenue. The motion was seconded by Mr. Houston. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston, and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**
Friends of the Josiah Smith Tavern Presentation (PP#2)

Adrienne Giske, Friends of the Josiah Smith Tavern

Ms. Giske stated that the Josiah Smith Tavern construction was on-time and did not incur additional costs. Ms. Giske stated that landscaping and irrigations systems are currently being installed. Ms. Giske stated that on May 21, 2022, the Weston Historical Society will open their exhibit of the Josiah Smith Tavern to members of the public. Ms. Giske stated that sub-tenants will not be moving into the JST until the Fall of 2022. Ms. Giske stated that restaurateurs have toured the facility.

Mr. Houston stated that a draft lease will be sent to the Friends of the Josiah Smith Tavern in the coming days. Ms. Giske emphasized that the decision of determining the restaurant and lease agreement must follow public procurement laws which is why it may not be as expedient.

Town Meeting Strategy Discussion:

Lori Hess and Alicia Primer, Chair of the Tree Advisory Group; Imai Aiu, Town Planner.

Mr. Aiu described the revisions of the Article 30, Private Tree By-law proposal for 2022 Annual Town Meeting. Ms. Primer noted that there was ample opportunity for feedback and comments from residents and developers. Ms. Primer stated that the Planning Board will not responsible for the process of approvals.

Mario Alagna asked how to propose an amendment during Town Meeting. Mr. Alagna proposed that the fees are too expensive. Ms. Hess stated that the fee structure is similar to that of surrounding Towns.

Rip Hastings, Town Moderator stated that he would appreciate advance written notice of any amendments that will be brought to Town Meeting.

Discussion on the Fire Chief's Announced Retirement

Mr. Gaumont announced that Chief Dave Soar will retire in July 2022. Ms. Yanakakis stated that there is an internal candidate that is interested in the position. Mr. Houston stated that he is in favor of internal promotions when they are warranted. Mr. Houston stated that there is a succession plan in place if needed. Ms. Yanakakis stated that she believes that the internal candidate is capable. Mr. Gaumont agrees with Ms. Yanakakis. Ms. Bent stated that a resident survey would be beneficial.

Review Committee Charge for Water Storage Planning Committee (PP#10)

Ms. Bent stated that a public committee would be beneficial to be transparent and provide opportunity for stakeholders to represent their vested interests. Mr. Houston agreed with Ms. Bent, Mr. Houston noted that representatives must communicate with their respective Boards and Committees. Mr. Gaumont proposed that a Select Board member, Planning Board member, Conservation Commission member, Finance Committee member, and three seats available to residents that are near the proposed tanks or have expertise in similar projects. Mr. Houston recommended that there be flexibility with the number of At-Large candidates.

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved to approve the draft charge for the Water Storage Planning Committee with the amendment that the Committee would be up to three candidates. The motion was seconded by Mr.

Houston. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston, and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved the Consent Agenda as follows with the revision of “approve” instead of “consider” of the 0 Wellesley Street item:

Approve Select Board minutes: March 22, 2022 regular session, March 23, 2022 regular session, March 25, 2022 regular session.

Accept gift of \$9,000.00 from Nora & Theodore Charitable Trust to the Weston Public Library. Accept gift of \$10,000.00 from the Friends of the Weston Public Library to the AIC Program Revenue Fund.

Accept gift of \$300.00 from Hugh R. Jones Jr. to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund.

Conservation Department Request of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds for conservation parking and trail improvements at the Gun Club Lane parking lot, Jericho Town Forest, and Cat Rock in the amount of \$35,110.

Approve request from the Weston High School Class of 2022 for a permit to occupy Town House Road during Graduation being held on the Town Green on Friday, June 3, 2022, between the hours of 4:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Request for permit has been approved by Police, Fire, and Public Works departments.

Approve request from the Town Center Celebration Committee & Weston High School for a permit to occupy Town House Road, and Boston Post Road between School Street and Colpitts Road during the Celebrate Weston and Spring Fling events being held on Town Green, Josiah Smith Tavern Parking Lot, Art & Innovation Center, Knox Corner, Town Square, and Boston Post Road on Saturday, May 21, 2022 (rain date May 22, 2022) between the hours of 7:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.

Move to establish summer hours at the Town Hall from June 6, 2022 to September 2, 2022 as follows: Monday – Thursday, 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m.; Friday, 8:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

Consider request to waive a property appraisal for the 0 Wellesley Street project.

2nd by Mr. Houston

Roll call vote: Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston, and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**

Executive Session pursuant to: (1) G.L. c. 30A, §21(a)(2)(3)– to discuss strategy related to contract negotiations relating to the Chief of Police AND to consider approval of Executive Session minutes.

Mr. Boshart moved to discuss strategy related to contract negotiations relating to the Chief of Police AND to consider approval of Executive Session minutes and that the Chair declares that discussing the matter in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Board. The Board will not return to open session after the executive session. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bent. **Roll call vote:** Mr. Boshart, Mr. Houston, and Ms. Bent voted in the affirmative. **Approved unanimously.**

Christopher E. Houston
Clerk

Note: A copy of all documents, explanatory material, and exhibits presented to and used by the Select Board as part of this meeting are attached to the approved minutes