

Tuesday, October 13, 2020
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Foxborough Town Hall
Andrew Gala, Jr. Meeting Room
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Mark Elfman, Chair
Ed O’Leary, Vice Chair
Stephanie McGowan, Clerk
Leah Gibson
Chris Mitchell

Also Present:
William Keegan Jr., Town Manager
Mike Johns, Assistant Town Manager*
Christina Metcalf, Community Info. Specialist*
*Attended Remotely

1. 7:00pm - Citizen's Input – Dick Heydecker

ME – You are able to come up here and make a statement. We spoke with someone at the State level who would sit down and speak with you about your concerns.

DH – I still have questions on the Burrell School project that I brought up at a previous meeting regarding the protocols about the project.

ME – Please call Bill tomorrow to pursue your issues with someone at the State level.

2. 7:05pm COVID-19 Informational update – We are still in Phase 3: Step 2. We have 13 cases right now and in yellow. Total of 175 people tested positive. We’ve tested 15,000 people tested and that includes Gillette. Of those 13 cases, 2 of them are players (try and get general population that has been tested separate from Gillette) and will have Tom Kenvin come in and give an update. Halloween update will happen a bit later in the meeting.

3. 7:15pm Fire Dept. & Planning - Hazard Mitigation Plan Update- Deputy Fire Chief Thomas Buckley and Planning Director Paige Duncan presentation on Hazard Mitigation Plan update and request for Board approval of plan.

PD – Here to present the Hazard Mitigation Plan. This plan looks at possible hazard related to climate change and other weather events, look for where they could occur and plan for them. The Federal Government has required this to be done every 5 years. They do fund it and it allows us to be eligible for grants. We contributed <\$5,000. This plan has been posted on the website since February 26th. It includes a profile, looks at land uses and critical facilities, and planning process. We had a public meeting and collected data. It talks about hazards such as flood, wind, winter, fire, and geologic. It looks at vulnerabilities and risk assessment as well as where the losses could be and tries to quantify some of the values and provides mitigation measures. The process followed all the requirements and criteria and we are here to have the Board officially approve this plan.

CM – Does a review happen during the 5 years to go over and see what needs improving?

TB – The last plan was done in 2010. This is something that the current committee can look at now that we have continuity in the committee. The DPW had done a bulk of the recommendations for the 2010 plan. With this plan moving forward, the Highway team will be able to mitigate some of these issues that have come up.

PD – We received another grant which is the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Program that will dovetail nicely into that and be a continuation of this plan.

CM – Along with the comments of praise from the State, there were recommendations, did we accept or update our plan with those recommendations?

PD – Yes the plan you are voting on tonight includes those and can be implemented for this plan but also for future plans, i.e. including more business next time.

Motion to approve the updated Hazard Mitigation Plan as proposed by S. McGowan, 2nd by C. Mitchell. Approved 5-0.

4. 7:35pm DPW- Presentation of Town Common Circulation Improvement Plan by Tim Thomson, Pare Corp
DPW Director Chris Gallagher and Town Engineer Lance DelPriore

CG – Here to wrap up the North end/Main Street of the Common. Were here a year ago for a trial. We set up temporary curbing rather than barrels and we are here to show you the finalized plan to show you what it would look like, answer any questions you may have and hopefully get a vote to move this forward as a permanent change.

TT – The physical changes that are proposed are very similar to what is out there now. We will permanent reduce the section at the north end of the Common down to one circulating lane and the ends of the islands there will be expanded out and again follow the pattern of the current temporary curbing. Near the Orpheum/Rock Hill Street were barrels set up to deter people from going down the new one way only Rock Hill Street and that will be replaced by an extension of the vertical curbing and sidewalk in front of the theater. The signage that was out there temporarily will also become part of the permanent set up, including the signing and striping as you approach the North End exit. There will be new pedestrian warning signs for the cross walk. There will be “Do Not Enter” and “One Way” along with the island extension should be a clear indication for people to not go down that road.

CM – Will the islands will they be concrete or planted?

TT- Just concrete but there could be opportunities for planters.

CG – It is something we considered, the reason behind going just concrete is that it helps anything from getting to big and becoming an obstruction.

CM – What’s the size of the island that will be in front of the theater?

CG – That island comes out about 13 feet off of the existing curb line.

LG – Will the trucks be able to get through?

TT – This layout will be slightly small and allow for trucks to get through.

CM – When can this be done?

CG - Before winter, we will do the other end once people are back to commuting normally. Would do rumble strip or other things and will be looking at grant funding potentially through MIIA.

Motion to approve the Town Common Circulation Improvements as presented by the DPW and Pare Corporation by S. McGowan 2nd by C. Mitchell. Approved 5-0.

5. 7:45pm Dept. Head Presentation - Planning Department Paige Duncan, Gabby Jordan and Diana Gray

In Foxborough we have a unique situation. Diana works for 3 boards, Conservation Commission, Planning and Zoning and has great expertise in public hearing requirements and posting requirements. We have worked together since 2006. Gabby has worked in Town Hall since 2003 and is a town resident. Planning Board is an elected board and handle the orderly growth and development of the community and is also in charge in the Master Plan. The Planning Board looks at special permits, site plan approval, subdivisions and scenic roads. The Master Plan is the road map for a community. This is a required document from the state. It won an award from the Massachusetts Planning Association. A Master Plan was started in 2012 and finished and approved in 2015. We have accomplished at least half a dozen of the goals in the Master Plan. Other Planning department responsibilities include the EDC, The Foxborough Common Business Collaborative, the Housing Production Plan working group, Foxborough Housing Coalition, Design Review Board, Wayfinding and Branding, Affordable Housing Trust, Billboard Advisory Committee and Hazard Mitigation Local Planning Team. These are just a few of the things that we do in our department. We get a lot of grants and position ourselves as a Town to get these grants. We have CDBG funding grant for small business, signal design grant for Commercial Street, \$40,000 Housing Production Plan grant and \$15,000 for the Hazard Mitigation Plan, \$15,000 wayfinding and branding grant, \$75,000 Mass Gaming Commission grant and at \$625,000 MassWorks grant.

ME – What happened when the State came in and looked at that intersection and said we didn’t need a light?

PD – That was SRRPD and they looked at Rte. 140 and they determined that the intersection did need a light. The problem is that it was just a study, there was no funding but it did show that a signal could be justified there because of the high rate of speed that people are traveling.

Subdivision is a new neighborhood and we have 6 that currently approved or under construction. We have an inspector that make sure things are going right.

Every house that is built is huge and the land cost is so high that our affordable housing is around \$500k. Accessory apartments are also being discussed and that may help the community.

Our current projects are to finalize the Housing Production Plan, continue to support local business during Covid, support the Housing Authority with their Walnut Street housing project, continue to work on Regional Destination Planning with Plainville and Wrentham, and being part of the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness program.

As you can see on the State of Housing in Foxborough slide, 30% of Foxborough households are cost burdened, meaning over 30% of their income is spent on housing, and this is classified as difficult. The senior population is 55% and 34% of households are low-income. Let's come together as a community to figure out housing in Foxborough that works for everyone that doesn't change the fabric of the community.

CM – How far along is Walnut Street?

PD – There is no design yet, I'm hoping to meet with the Housing Authority to get some assistance. We did apply for a grant to create an RFP for that site and we have started talking about design.

LG – Paige has her hands in a lot of projects and does a great job. I've talked about it before but getting the Planning Board, Conservation and Zoning Board of Appeals minutes and meeting agendas out.

6. 8:05pm Recreation - Update on Halloween Activities in Foxborough

Recreation Director Deb Giardino and Assistant Recreation Director Renee Tocci to provide information about Halloween happenings in Foxborough and recommended safe activities per CDC, Mass DPH and Foxborough Board of Health

3 events: Halloween eggs in people's yards sold out in 1-2 days.

- Fox-boo-rough Trick or Treat drive thru, FFD, FPD, Grace Church, Friends of Foxborough Recreation, Kraft Group, on Saturday, October 31st. There will have registration and it will be 2-4pm. Some business may participate as well.
- UnCommon Pumpkin patch trying to line the outside of the common.

Halloween is happening – the Board of Health recommends having small party, scavenger hunt, and virtual costume contest, trick or treat in your own neighborhood. Trick or treating is on, but with safety in mind. Applying social distancing measures and staying home if you aren't feeling well.

7. 8:15pm Assistant Town Manager's Update

- Recruitments are happening. Filling positions due to retirements. Custodian for Public Safety and COA. In the process of library position, DPW laborer and 2 others.
- We will have our 3rd police negotiations.
- 95% of the unemployment claims we are dealing with are fraudulent.
- Mass.gov/news/Halloween during Covid-19 Halloween
- It is the 245th birthday of the United States Navy

8. 8:25pm Town Manager's Update

- Veterans department will be doing a recognition on Tuesday 20th at 10am in the morning on the corner
- SEMRECC ribbon cutting at 11:00 am, Tuesday, November 17th
- Halloween guidance at the Mass.gov site
- Don't forget to vote

9. 8:35pm - Selectmen's Update - 9.01 Old Business - Schedule for Budget Discussion

Bill Keegan met with School this week and have our preliminary meeting. We are holding off until we get a state budget, which is a major piece of the budget situation. Advisory Committee had their first meeting last week.

LG – The last School meeting was a big portion on budget. They are funded until 12/31/20. I assume there are similar costs on the town side?

BK – Not as nearly as much as the schools. Will have more detail in the next meeting.

10. Action Items

Motion to approve Michael Esty as a Constable for the Town of Foxborough with a term to end 10/13/2023 by S. McGowan, 2nd by C. Mitchell. Approved 5-0.

11. Adjourn

Motion to adjourn by S. McGowan, 2nd by C. Mitchell. Approved 5-0.