

Tuesday, April 26, 2022
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Gala Room, Town Hall
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Leah Gibson, Chair
Seth Ferguson, Clerk
Mark Elfman

Also Present:
William Keegan Jr., Town Manager
Michael Johns, Asst. Town Manager
Christina Metcalf, Communications Specialist
Katie Lang*, Executive Assistant
*Attended remotely

1. 7:00pm Citizen's Input – No input

2. 7:05pm Change of Manager Application - Foxborough Country Club

2.1 Change of Manager Application - Foxborough Country Club to appoint Julie McGonigle & Lou

Lou – We didn't have a club business manager during Covid. We had Ty Cosgrove but he resigned. We hired Julie in March and she came from a number of establishments in Boston.

JM – I've been a general manager for over 10 years in the financial district in Boston. I'm TIPS and CPR certified. I'm crowd manager certified as well.

Lou – She lives in Walpole, which was a criteria that we were looking for and appreciate that it wouldn't be a burden for her to get to the club on a regular basis.

Motion to approve a Change of Manager for Foxborough Country Club from Ty Cosgrove to Julie McGonigle by S. Ferguson, 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 3-0.

3. 7:10pm Temporary Outdoor Dining Application - The Commons Eatery

3.1 Approval of a Temporary Outdoor Dining Application

LG – Bill has approved some outdoor dining already for Union Straw and Skip Jacks, those are on private property so he can approve them. The Commons Eatery does want to make use of the public way which is why this is coming to us. The abutters were notified of this.

PD – For the past two summers we have been able to accommodate The Commons request. Based on the advice of the new Public Health Director, this year we have more seating in the alley this year. The one request from FCA was to push the tables against the Commons wall as they were in the middle last year and made traversing that alley a bit difficult. There would be two tables in the front and then 4 in the alley way. This gives them flexibility and we continue to work with them. It is well received as it is a morning/lunch crowd.

Motion to approve a Temporary Outdoor Dining Permit for The Commons Neighborhood Eatery with the condition that the tables are moved against the Commons wall by S. Ferguson, 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 3-0.

3.2 Outdoor Dining Guidance Update

LG – We made outdoor dining permanent and we discussed if we wanted everyone to do through the permanent process or since the laws right now are still allowing for temporary outdoor dining, we thought it made sense and was the easiest for the business to go through the temporary process. A reminder if this were to end next year, we do allow permanent outdoor dining in Foxborough. I asked Paige here to explain that process for businesses in the future.

PD – We did approve at the Special Town Meeting in November a new section (7.6) of the zoning bylaw, allowing outdoor premises by restaurants that would be a site plan review process for the Planning Board. It is a formal process with a fee. Temporary outdoor dining are sketches but site plan review would have schematics, so we need to further define what the

requirements would be. Around the turn of the new calendar year to talk to Planning. There are several requirements including a site plan and application. The Planning Board would review it and the Board Health, Building Commissioner, Police and Fire and the plans would have to show what we see now which is the location of the dining area, the restaurant, some setbacks, points of egress, handicap accessible, landscaping, traffic, etc. It would be a more formal process than the temporary outdoor dining application. The ABCC is the hold up here. It would be a 6-8 weeks. I'm happy to work with Katie and the ABCC.

LG – We wanted to be proactive and have restaurants think about this ahead of time. It might need to be earlier, around mid-summer, in case the state rescinds this on short notice.

SF - You mentioned fences and permanent structure, they can't build something permanent on town land.

PD – Anything that would be permanent, would start with the Board of Selectmen.

4. 7:15pm Dept. Head Presentation - Boyden Library Director Libby O'Neill & Trustees Chair Colin Earnst

4.1 New Boyden Library Director Libby O'Neill to meet the BOS and give brief update on Boyden Library

CE – Libby joined us in late March. We are very fortunate to have her here and so glad to have her at the Boyden.

LO – Just starting to get my feel for the library. I've met with Department heads. I've sent out questionnaires to staff and met with them one on one. The biggest thing I'm focused on, is programs and outreach. I have a few meet and greets in May to meet the community and welcome any feedback and suggestions with the Library. I'm starting a book club and will start a book club at the COA. Once established, I'll take suggestions for the next choice in book.

LG – Its' great to see you collaborating with other departments already.

MJ – It was a pleasure working with the Board of Trustees. Libby rose head and shoulders above the rest with her experience and energy.

BK – She has a connection with our building commissioner and we are excited to have her.

CE – As a Board of Trustees and a place for everyone in the community. Her experience and mindset is community and staff centric.

5. 7:30pm Assistant Town Manager's Update - Update on recruitment and new hires

MJ - We've been busy with hiring for Recreation Summer program staff. We also hired two library pages. This is a challenging time to recruit staff. We are going to take a look at the pay for library pages and seasonal laborer positions. We want to make sure we are comparable. We are exempt from paying state minimum wage and we have been below that but we will be looking to raise those as well.

6. 7:40pm Town Manager's Update

6.1 General update on Town business and operations

BK – I did copy the Board on a letter to Congressman Jake Auchincloss for a community project funding for Route 1 sewer design. This would be to get funds for that initial design and see where that planning process takes us. There is an initial investment to do this. The major investment would be something along the lines of \$25-30 million dollars to do this project, you wouldn't have a good handle on that until you know what the design would be. This is the very initial stage for improvement and planning. This would impact communities of Plainville and Walpole, along with Foxborough. I want to thank Chris and Lance for helping pull together the information for that letter.

Donations Approved: Historical Commission \$70 for a Historic House Plaque from Lavina Ratigan
 COA & HS - \$4.00 donation from the Stop & Shop Bag program

6.2 Use of Town Property Permits – Approved the Rotary Peace Day Program 9/17 from 1:00-4:00pm on the Common

6.3 Outdoor Dining Approvals - Union Straw and Skipjacks were approved for Temporary Outdoor Dining.

BK - We did have a meeting this afternoon to prepare for Town Meeting. After going through all 22 articles, with Town Counsel, Town Moderator, and Town Clerk and discussed quorum votes for certain articles as well. We then discussed Article 19 changing BOS name. This also requires a public hearing. We could pass the bylaw portion, and then could pass the zoning bylaw in the Fall town meeting. We discussed pushing it to the fall and feel that we should wait.

LG – I think we should take no action on this.

ME – Why would it be a zoning issues?

LG – Because it is a part of the Zoning bylaws.

BK – Other communities have done it the split way.

LG – What do you think we should do? [Agreed to push it until the fall and take no action at the 2022 ATM]

BK – We do have talking points prepared for Town Meeting.

LG – I've done the marijuana presentation but would someone want to do the other on the billboards article.

ME – I'll do the billboard presentation.

LG - There will only be 4 slides, I think it will be good.

MJ – Paul the chair of the Advisory Committee will meet and vote no action on the BOS name change article

SF – Instead of doing it at Town Meeting, we do it now?

Motion to vote no action on Article 19 for the name change of Board of Selectmen by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman.

Discussion: LG – We will be pushing this until Fall town meeting and putting a placeholder and make sure that we have the public hearing.

Approved, 3-0.

LG - The Warrant Review is tomorrow at 2:00pm in this room.

7. 7:50pm - Selectmen's Update

7.1 New Business - Town Charter discussion

LG – Seth had a great idea to review the Town Charter and review it before the new town manager starts.

ME – A lot of people are confused of what the difference is between bylaws and charter.

BK – In Foxborough it is referred to as a Special Act. What is interesting is that this is a segmented piece of the Charter.

LG – It is essentially the Strong Town Manager Act.

SF – I would expect that we would think of some things to change.

BK – The process is time consuming and could take longer and be done after the new town manager is here.

LG - Election is Monday May 2nd and Town Meeting is next Monday May 9th.

7.2 Old Business - Warrant Review Meeting April 27 at 2pm in the Gala Meeting Room, will be televised on FCA

8. Action Items

8.1 COA&HS - Acceptance of \$1,500 donation by the Friends of Foxborough Seniors for the June Senior Olympics

Motion to accept a \$1,500 donation from the Friends of Foxborough Seniors for the June Senior Olympics by S. Ferguson, 2nd by M. Elfman.

Discussion: LG - This a great and favorite events.

Approved, 3-0.

8.2 BOS - Approval of BOS Meeting Minutes from 3/15/22 Meeting – No action

9. Adjourn – 7:37pm

Motion to adjourn by S. Ferguson, 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 3-0.

