

Tuesday, May 10, 2022
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Gala Room, Town Hall
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Leah Gibson, Chair
Stephanie McGowan, Vice Chair
Seth Ferguson, Clerk
Mark Elfman
Dennis Keefe

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 - None

2. 7:05pm - Reorganization of Board of Selectmen

ME – I nominate Leah for Chair.

LG – I nominate Stephanie to continue as Vice Chair.

ME – I nominate Dennis to be Clerk.

Motion to appoint Leah Gibson as the Chair of the Board of Selectmen effective May 11, 2022 by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

Motion to appoint Stephanie McGowan as the Vice Chair of the Board of Selectmen effective May 11, 2022 by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

Motion to appoint Dennis Keefe as the Clerk of the Board of Selectmen effective May 11, 2022 by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

2.2 BOS representatives/appointments to Capital Improvement Planning Committee, Economic Development Committee and Audit Committee

Motion to appoint Seth Ferguson to the Economic Development Committee by L. Gibson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

Motion to appoint to Dennis Keefe as the BOS rep to the Capital Improvement Planning Committee as of 7/1/22 by M. Elfman 2nd by S. Ferguson. Approved, 5-0.

Motion to appoint Mark Elfman NRC pending further review by L. Gibson, 2nd by S. Ferguson. Approved, 5-0

Dennis is willing to Audit Committee, we can determine that at the next meeting.

3. 7:10pm Use of Public Way Application - CrossFit Torque

3.1 Approval of a Use of Public Way Application on August 14 from CrossFit Torque, Christine Ciampa*

CC – After with talking with Sgt. Collins about the route, who has been incredible and made the process really seamless, because of the route we are looking to use that has a spot a Route 1 in Foxborough on East Street.

LG – To clarify this is East Street in Wrentham at the end of Main Street in Foxborough.

CC - We went to MassDOT and the form we submitted to them says that Foxborough and Wrentham are aware of this race. Then MassDOT will take 20 days to approve to route and if they say no we have a backup route using mechanic street if MassDOT has an issue with the first choice route.

ME – Wrentham has signed off, and then it goes to MassDOT?

LG – Yes. We'll know the final route in the beginning of June.

Motion to approve a Use of Public Way Application for the CrossFit Torque 2nd Annual Road Race on August 14 using one of two approved routes and to be determined by June 8th pending the determination made by MassDOT by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

4. 7:15pm 1-Day Beer & Wine License Approval -Achilito's – Margaret Pimentel

4.1 Approval of two 1-Day Beer & Wine Licenses for Achilito's Taquiera on May 20 & 21

LG – We have seen this applications before but if you could explain your application.

MP – I'm the owner of Achilito's Taquiera and we are hoping to provide beer for the Garth Brooks concert.

LG – You are aware that it has to be delivered on the same day. Also, everyone says the most lovely things about your restaurant and that you're a great business owner in town.

MP – Yes, I'm aware. Thank you I appreciate that.

SM – Can you remind me that it was football game or another event that you previously had this license?

MP – I can't remember the event but we do I have the Real ID scanner and ID bands as well.

LG – It's impressive to buy that and shows the real commitment to safety.

Motion to approve two 1-Day Beer & Wine Licenses for Sol Taqueria d/b/a Achilito's Taqueria for May 20th and 21st by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

5. 7:20pm Preliminary Uptown Parking Plan Discussion - Planning Director Paige Duncan DPW Director Chris Gallagher and Lt. Ken Fitzgerald to begin conversation with Selectmen on Uptown Parking Plan options

PD – The 1 hour parking was removed because it was not being enforced and they were removed as part of our Wayfinding and Branding and we would deal with them as needed. As MRPAC is fully up and running and Shovel Town is opening this summer, we want to be proactive about the parking Uptown. There will be 50 rental units on Wall Street, 4 units above the Shovel Town and 15 units at the former funeral home site in 2023 as well. We acknowledge all the activity Uptown. We have 9 streets with on street parking and 4 parking lots. We had made some plans and after talking we realized it was a bit harder than we thought. I'm going to have Lt. Fitzgerald speak a bit more that.

Lt. KF – I've come from spending 14 years in Natick, who had a whole parking departments and groups handling parking. From a public safety/law enforcement perspective with enforcement, there are two issues, blocking handicap and blocking, blocking a fire hydrant, streets, crosswalks, etc. When you get into parking restrictions such as no parking on Tuesdays or time limit, it's hard to enforce and there is no ROI. The longer the time limit the bigger the challenge. I don't know if we are there yet, we could be heading that way. We had come up with some other ideas so we are aren't getting into to urban downtown parking meters and parking enforcement.

LG – That was the challenge with the sign clutter.

PD - When we all sat down to discuss this and heard the challenges, we came up with some fixes. There is ample parking Uptown, and it seems like people don't like to walk or that it is not visible.

LD – One thing is perception and wanting to collect data at events at the Rodman Awards and a comedy show. The police department will use their drone to capture aerial images at these events and get some info before Shovel Town opens. The other issues to discuss is the takeout parking zone. We thought that maybe a 5 minute pick up zone if we do that we need to have a policy in place for the Board to consider that request. We don't want to take away from other business by doing that.

PD – So we want to collect data and have an education effort. We will be working with MRPAC and Shovel Town to ensure their customers are parking place are for them. We also thought about snow storms and visitors of the new housing where visitors could park and had to think about that. These are ideas for Phase 1 that we have right now.

SM – I do see the snow being an issue because some people park in school or the Town Hall lots that need to be plowed by DPW.

BK – We would exercise the parking emergency so they couldn't park in those areas.

LG – We have the snow emergency but looking at different ways to inform people about snow emergencies.

SM – The goal isn't to ticket people.

PD – The problem is if folks don't have parking, they may not have anywhere to put their car. We don't have any decisions yet. We don't have the answers but we are looking. We are looking for takeout and snow emergencies parking.

DK – One of things I've seen in the other communities are partnerships with churches with a possible stipend potentially.

PD – That is a great idea and we are going to be opening up a 1 month comment period.

ME – What about the house that we are going to tear down?

PD – That is not in our Phase 1 because it hasn't happened yet. They will demolish 15-17 Market Street and then move 15-17 Market Street and then once the other apartments are done they will use that as a 14 space parking lot.

ME – That would be an ideal location for a snow lot.

LG – I think there we need to do an education piece to where the parking is. I know with Lovely Pizza they were asking for a 15 minutes spot and there is all the spots next to Silver Camel and the property owner has those spots and should try to work something out within the lot. We've talked about alley ways that we could clean up to make it more comfortable with pedestrian passing, like lights or passable walkways.

ME – The first time we talked about parking issues when Union Straw opened. When that happened, we had discussed an app, is that still feasible?

PD – I will see if there is an app, hopefully one that we don't have to create one from scratch.

LG – I know you had an intern last year, maybe they would be able to help with some data collection and observation.

ME – Why can't you chalk cars anymore?

Lt. KF – It as determined to be unconstitutional with case law and would be telling our people to do that would be out of bounds. There is a separate division of parking attendants in other cities that could because they aren't law enforcement.

SM – I think we could have an educational piece with the businesses as well.

DK – The Patriots have a huge parking problem but they have apps and maybe they could be a resource.

SF – I was thinking about the Schneider parking lot and anecdotally people don't want to park there because of its looks and it doesn't look like a town parking lot.

LG – Could we talk to Schneider about using a wayfinding signs?

PD – We have received some feedback that we need to adjust the signs when you are coming. We should have the sign pointing to the Bird Street parking for Bird Street. The other issue is that we need to make sure there is lighting and safe passages. We want to get comments and start thinking about these things and talk to other stake holders
Future phase's discussion: When there is a major theatre event there will be congestion that is inevitable. We do want to address the challenges as they arrive and be proactive. We do have a future 14 space parking lot as well as a small space next to the 15 unit apartment building. Other Wayfinding improvements will also need to be thought about.

LG – Now that Rockhillll is one way we might want to put up permanent signs?

LD – I will look into the parking. We will be doing striping and maybe some double striping to indicate that it is a two way.

PG – We did open up a comment period using survey monkey. We would like to come back on the June 7th meeting to show what we've found and get some signs ready for what we want to try.

LG – I did have someone approach me at a MRPAC event who had to park at the memorial hall handicap space and wanted to know if we were in compliance.

BK – Another thing to consider is a ride-share drop off location.

6. 7:40pm Assistant Town Manager's Update

6.1 Mandated Reporter Legislative update – There is a Senate Bill #104 will becoming up on hearings sponsored by Sen. Paul Feeney in partnership with CSAAC. This bill would expand the number of people who would be mandated reporters. Last time it went to the house, we had public safety, schools, and administration did testify on behalf of this bill. Foxborough does lead the way in training and we would like to see this throughout the Commonwealth. Bill did write an email to the legislation to support this bill.

DK – Is there a list of mandated reporters that we can look at?

6.2 Town Manager Evaluation update and timeline – Board members from this past year should have received an email(s) from the application and to be reminded.

LG – You should shut the anonymous evaluation options off.

MJ – We are asking you to go through it and schedule a meeting with Bill to discuss your evaluation with him. The following week you'll submit your portal and then Leah will present the summary evaluation on June 7th.

DK – I would be excluded from this evaluation?

MJ – Yes. I have attached the performance evaluation and review policy in Board Docs as well as on the Town HR page and is used by our supervisors.

SM – Did you send the evaluation?

MJ – Yes we did, but we can again.

7. 7:50pm Town Manager's Update

7.1 General update on Town business and operations – Yesterday I testified about the FORWARD legislation submitted to the Governor and Lt. Governor. This would be legislation that would support \$4.6 million dollars to support the Walnut Street housing project by extending sewer and provide traffic improvements.

- Town Meeting last night generally went well. There was some level of disappointment with the last two articles and how they went.

- The Senate Ways and Means reported out this afternoon for the FY23 budgets. They do look good for State Aid numbers. The Governor files his bill then it goes to House Ways then Senate and the back to those and then a committee and those are then combined submitted to the Governor and then it is approved or not. We are almost done with this process.

- I sent a letter to the chair of the Public Service Committee this week to make sure that Foxborough can withdraw from Civil Service. This has stalled because of the review of the Civil Service act itself. Those discussions have concluded and that letter was to reassert our position that we would like to be removed.

- Capital plans will be reviewed as well as ARPA plans with department heads tomorrow and I will have an update on those plans.

- Want to wish a happy retirement to Ed Hurley on his retirement from his 28 years at YMCA.

7.2 Temporary Outdoor Dining Approvals - Foxborough Country Club and Foxborough VFW

8. 8:00pm - Selectmen's Update

8.1 New Business - BOS Summer and FY23 Schedule discussion – We are proposing to have only 1 meeting for July and August and potentially not have the January 3rd meeting.

8.2 New Business - Memorial Day Parade and Ceremony, May 30, 10:00am

8.3 Old Business - Annual Town Elections – Thank to everyone who ran, congrats to those who one and thank you to A

BK – Thank you to Ed O’Leary for his years of service and welcome Dennis to the Board.

ME – Shout out to the DPW, the rotary looks beautiful with all the flower pots.

MJ – For anyone who is wondering why the flags are at half-staff at Town Hall was because WWII Veteran Josephine Miller has passed away this week.

9. Action Items

9.1 Rally Point - Renewal of 2 Pool Table Licenses for Rally Point Pub and Inn

Motion to approve the renewal of 2 Pool Table Licenses for Rally Point Pub and Inn by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

9.2 Foxborough VFW - Renewal of 2 Pool Table License for Foxborough VFW

Motion to approve the renewal of 2 Pool Table License for Foxborough VFW by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

9.3 NPS, LLC - Annual License Additional - Dead and Company, The Weeknd, and Garth Brooks (2nd show)

Motion to approve the additional events for Garth Brooks Stadium Tour on May 20, Dead and Company Summer Tour '22 on July 2, and The Weeknd After Hours Til Dawn Tour on July 21 to the NPS, LLC Annual Entertainment License by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

9.4 DPW - Acceptance of a donation of labor and materials valued at \$4,861 for hydro seeding the Common from Transit Seeding Inc.

Motion to accept a donation of labor and materials valued at \$4,861 for hydro seeding the Common from Transit Seeding Inc. by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

9.5 BOS - Approval of Petition for Grant of Location by National Grid, Installation of 35 feet of 2-5" conduits at two locations across Elm Street near Pole 23 and 24

Motion to approve the Installation of approximately 35 feet of 2-5” conduits at two locations across Elm Street in the vicinity of the substation at 63 Elm Street from the northwest side of the road to the southeast side of the road towards Pole 24 and Pole 23 by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman.

Discussion – LG – nothing to report out of the public hearing.

Approved, 5-0.

9.6 BOS - Approval of BOS Minutes from 3/15/22 and 3/29/22 meetings

Motion to approve the March 15, 2022 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

Motion to approve the March 29, 2022 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

10. Adjourn – 8:18pm

Motion to adjourn by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.