

**TOWN OF CONCORD
SELECT BOARD
Minutes
July 20, 2020
4:00PM
VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL**

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the Concord Select Board convened in a meeting via video conference call on July 20, 2020 at 4:00pm.

Present were Michael Lawson, Chair; Linda Escobedo, Clerk; Terri Ackerman, Susan Bates, and Jane Hotchkiss. Also present were Stephen Crane, Town Manager; Joseph O'Connor, Police Chief; Kate Hanley, Sustainability Director; and Kerry Lafleur, Finance Director.

Call to Order

Select Board Chair Michael Lawson called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Consent Agenda

- Town Accountants Warrants
- Minutes to approve: June 4, 2020; June 15, 2020; June 19, 2020 Open Session; June 19, 2020 Executive Session (not to be released); June 22, 2020; June 23, 2020 Open Session; June 23, 2020 Executive Session (not to be released); July 1, 2020 Open Session; July 1, 2020 Executive Session (not to be released); July 6, 2020; July 13, 2020; July 13, 2020 Joint Meeting with Finance Committee.

Gift Acceptance

- Spaulding Management LLC, donating a picnic table valued at \$898.00, to the Concord Visitor Center

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED: to approve the consent agenda.

Roll call vote

Mike Lawson: Aye
Terri Ackerman: Aye
Jane Hotchkiss: Aye
Linda Escobedo: Aye
Susan Bates: Aye

Town Manager Update

In collaboration with Concord Together, the Economic Vitality Committee, and the Umbrella, the Town is working on a placemaking project. Artists from the Umbrella are painting and decorating picnic tables to create outdoor seating spaces in the community.

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The Library Corporation gifted café tables and chairs already placed on the lawn in front of library.

The Town received a COVID-19 Community Development Block Grant totaling \$210,000. The money from this grant is intended to help micro businesses (those consisting of fewer than five full-time employees). The exceptions are businesses that have been protected in other relief packages or done well financially during the COVID-19 Pandemic. Once application is available, the Town will distribute it to the business community.

The Town received a Chapter 91 Waterway Permit from the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection for Nagog Pond. The Town previously received allowance from the Acton Select Board, and was awaiting the permit from the State in order to begin the work.

There was a water main break on July 20th on Peter Spring Road in Concord.

There will be a public information session on Gerow on Tuesday, July 28 at 6:00pm on zoom.

On Thursday, July 30 at 8:00pm, the Town is scheduled to hold a drive in movie at Concord Carlisle High School. We are still nailing down the details. The tentative plan is to show the movie Raiders of the Lost Arc. The capacity limit will be 100 vehicles, and residents will be able to purchase tickets through the Town Recreation website.

There was a sidewalk sale on Saturday, where businesses organized to block off certain parking spaces on Walden Street. Mr. Crane anticipates that events such as these will continue in each of the business districts in the coming months.

The Town reached an agreement with the Concord Police Association requiring Concord Police to wear body and dash cams. The annual cost of the equipment is approximately \$200,000. The Town will evaluate the impact of the new program and COVID-19 response for department employees after the training period for the new body cams.

Chief O'Connor was invited to make comments during the Town Manager's report, in which he reiterated the department's commitment to work professionally and positively with the community to ensure public safety. He was commended and thanked for the department's timely responses to directly communicating with the public in recent weeks and for adopting the body cam program during this period of national attention to policing practices and social justice issues.

There was a structure fire on Barnes Hill Road. Mr. Crane commended the quick work of the Police and Fire Department for minimizing the impact of the fire.

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Chair's Remarks

Mr. Lawson noted the Town is working to finalize a new set of public hearings ahead of Town Meeting. The first is scheduled to be a joint Finance Committee & Select Board hearing on August 17th, followed by the Finance Committee hearing on August 18th, and the Planning Board hearing on August 19th. The recording of the public hearings will be posted online.

Ag Day

Mr. Lawson reached out to Public Health Director Susan Rask for guidance on safety procedures for different kinds of events. In the State's guidance, they advise that events that draw large crowds should be postponed until Phase IV of the Reopening Plan. This advisory includes agricultural festivals. There is uncertainty over whether Ag Day would qualify as an agricultural festival.

Mr. Crane said that accommodating Ag Day in a way to best benefit the rest of downtown might make it look more like an agricultural festival, which is not currently allowed, but offered that the Town is ready to help support the event to make it as safe as possible. Ms. Hotchkiss suggested that we could ask our State Representative, Tami Gouveia, to assist in clarifying the differences between a festival and a farmers market and therefore what the Ag Committee and the town's guidance would be if the event was to be held.

Ms. Goethert of the Ag Committee offered that there are about eight farms interested in the event, and they would expect lower traffic than usual, so the event would look more like a farmers' market this year.

Mr. Lawson concluded that the Agriculture Committee should review the State's safety guidance and come back to the Select Board with precautions that could be taken. Ms. Escobedo stated that farmers' markets in other communities have had to take safety precautions, and studying these could help the Ag Committee come up with a plan for the event.

Approve 1/12th Budget for August

In June, the Select Board approved a monthly budget for July, August, and September, but the State indicated they want the budgets approved one month at a time. Finance Director Kerry Lafleur returned to ask the Select Board to approve the August budget. The State requires municipalities to budget at least 1/12th of their FY20 budget for each month. The amount the Select Board previously authorized was less than 1/12th of the FY20 budget. The Town also has

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several service contracts that extend for a year but are billed monthly, but the Department of Revenue will not allow the Town Accountant to sign off on an annual service contract unless 100% of the funding has already been appropriated or approved within the monthly budget. Ms. Lafleur noted that the August budget has been adjusted to meet the requirements of the Massachusetts Department of Revenue.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to approve the monthly spending request for the month of August 2020 in the amount of \$10,105,342 to be submitted to the Massachusetts Department of Revenue

Roll call vote

Mike Lawson: Aye

Terri Ackerman: Aye

Jane Hotchkiss: Aye

Linda Escobedo: Aye

Susan Bates: Aye

Presenting Climate Action and Resilience Plan

Sustainability Director Kate Hanley attended to present the [Concord Climate Action and Resilience Plan](#). The plan is called Sustainable Concord. The plan shows a roadmap to reducing Concord's greenhouse gas emissions 80% by 2050, and a commitment to 22 priority actions the Town can take in the next five years, including implementations steps.

The Town is not currently on pace to meet its greenhouse gas emission reduction goal of 80% by 2050. GHG emissions fell by just 6% between 2008 and 2016. To meet the current GHG reduction goal, it would require about a 2.5% reduction per year.

The two main aspects of the plan are climate mitigation through emissions reductions, and a climate resiliency plan to deal with the inevitable impacts of climate change on the community. The primary components of the plan are built environment, energy, mobility, natural resources, and preparedness. Approximately half the plan is discussing implementation steps for each of these components. The plan also includes reporting structure and timeframes to ensure the Town makes steady progress on these goals.

Climate Action Advisory Board Chair Brian Foulds stated that creating a more sustainable Concord requires buy in from the Town's municipal leaders, the business community, as well as understanding from community members on steps they can take to curb emissions.

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Ms. Escobedo questioned the financial impact of the plan. Ms. Hanley stated that the plan did not evaluate financial impacts in depth, but the next step is to understand the financial consequences and requirements of the plan. Ms. Escobedo also asked how the Select Board could identify next year priorities in the plan for incorporation into the Select Board and Town Manager's annual goals.

Ms. Hotchkiss recommends that in alongside the economic analysis steps, in the next phase of the plan, there should be broad community outreach efforts made given the amount of public support required to meet the goals outlined in the plan.

Mr. Lawson asked how progress would be measured, and what steps would be taken for accountability. He questioned if 22 action items were too many.

Matthew Johnson, who is set to become a member of the Select Board in the fall, suggested that the Select Board should have at least quarterly discussions and check-ins on the plan in order to ensure that the Town is on track to meet its climate goals.

Mr. Lawson concluded by saying the Select Board will carve out significant time in one of the upcoming meetings to further discuss how the Town can translate the action plan into goal-setting and policy.

How to Proceed with Select Board Positions of Warrant Articles

The Attorney General is planning to issue a ruling on Brookline's fossil fuel infrastructure ban soon, so Mr. Lawson noted that the board will wait to take a position on Concord's version of this article until after the AG's ruling has been made.

The Select Board has already made recommendations for the consent agenda. The only other articles the Select Board can take a position on are the citizen petitions. The rest of the articles will come up at the upcoming public hearings of the Select Board, Finance Committee, and Planning Board.

The members of the Select Board stated that they would postpone the discussion of the citizen petition articles at a meeting on August 3rd.

Committee Nominations

Ms. Hotchkiss nominated Dennis Fiori of 379 Strawberry Hill Road to the Historic Districts Commission for a term to expire on April 30, 2023.

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Committee Liaison Reports

Ms. Hotchkiss noted the Climate Action Advisory Board intern Abigail Ahern is developing sustainability guidelines for historic homes in Town. The Historic Districts Commission met and discussed the amendment to the Library settlement agreement and its impact on the design of the new expansion. This discussion will be continued to give members more time to become familiar with this new information.

Ms. Escobedo attended the Commission on Disabilities, and commended its Chair Jean Goldsberry for doing a wonderful job of being inclusive for the significant number of public attendees to the meeting. The 2229 Main Street Committee has vacancies, and they are looking for someone with an environmental science or legal background. The NMI Reuse Planning Committee has a [survey that is still open for resident input on the future of the site](#).

Ms. Ackerman reported that the Commission on Disabilities will be working with the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail and DPLM to get more signage on the rail trail to encourage people to wear masks when they pass each other.

Mr. Lawson attended the School Committee, where they provided an update on their budget. The Hugh Cargill Trust met, and discussed tax relief updates. The Light Board had a rate hearing, and raised the rate by one cent. Members of the Select Board, Finance Committee, and Housing Authority met with the developer of the Junction Village project, where they reported they are reducing the time of the TIF from 17 years to 15 years.

Miscellaneous Correspondence

There was no correspondence reported.

Public Comments

Diane Proctor of 57 Sudbury Road asked for an updated warrant article list. Mr. Lawson stated that as soon as it is available, the finalized warrant article list will be posted.

Adjourn

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to adjourn

Roll call vote

Mike Lawson: Aye

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Terri Ackerman: Aye
Jane Hotchkiss: Aye
Linda Escobedo: Aye
Susan Bates: Aye

Minuteman Media Network Coverage: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t0-jfHReVN4&t=91s>

Meeting Materials: <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/25493/July-20-SB-Packet>