

CONCORD SELECT BOARD
MINUTES
JANUARY 26, 2019

APPROVED: MARCH 18, 2019

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, a meeting of the Concord Select Board was held at 10:30 a.m. in the Select Board Room at the Town House.

Present were Thomas McKean, Chair; Michael Lawson, Clerk; Alice Kaufman, Jane Hotchkiss and Linda Escobedo. Also in attendance was Christopher Whelan, Town Manager. Mr. McKean called the meeting to order at 10:30 a.m. and announced that it was being broadcast on Minuteman Media Network.

REVIEW NEXT STEPS FOR ENVISION CONCORD-BRIDGE TO 2030 COMPREHENSIVE LONG RANGE PLAN

Mr. McKean advised that the purpose of the meeting was to provide a follow up to earlier discussions regarding the Envision Concord – Bridge to 2030 Comprehensive Long Range Plan and discuss what actions the Board should take going forward.

Mr. Lawson stated that the Board should articulate its support for various action items recommended in the Long Range Plan, especially those items which call for Select Board related actions. Ms. Hotchkiss and Ms. Escobedo noted that the action items were interconnected between several different boards, committees, and groups. Ms. Escobedo said it was important to understand where Town departments currently stood on items that were being recommended. Board members said that the new Long Range Plan identified new layers of municipal cooperation necessary for adequate future planning. The Board discussed how to best implement action items that required a high degree of coordination between various components of municipal government. Ms. Kaufman said that the Long Range Plan outlines what is possible for the Town's future without necessarily giving consideration to what the Town wants for its future. Ms. Kaufman opined that it was up to the Town to figure out what it wants and then utilize the action plans identified to develop coordinated strategies that serve cross-sector goals. Board members discussed items identified in the plan that were already underway. For example, Town Meeting will consider articles related to housing, specifically affordable housing funding, and it will also consider several articles related to zoning policies. The Town Manager mentioned that studies are underway to assess the current capability and efficiency of Town facilities.

The Board discussed at length on how to best plan for and subsequently best implement action items that required a high degree of coordination between various components of municipal government and community agencies. Mr. Lawson said it would be useful to have different departments report back to the Board on their progress with action items identified in the Long Range Plan. Town Manager Whelan noted that the current system of weekly Senior Management Team meetings was helpful for his staff to communicate their plans with other Department Heads. During these meetings, the Town Manager is also able to pass along the Board's plans and goals to his staff. The Town Manager and Board members agreed that the current system was helpful. Ms. Escobedo noted that personnel costs need to be accounted for as the Town sets its short-term and long-term goals. Board members agreed and noted that recommendations in the Long Range Plan included creating new positions, such as an Economic Director. Town Manager Whelan suggested that the Board set their annual goals soon as they will be helpful for the next Town Manager.

Mr. McKean suggested that Board members each take a specific aspect of the report, review it, and provide a response on it back to the Board at a later meeting. Mr. Lawson recommended that as liaisons to various boards, committees and commissions, the Board ask each to similarly develop a response to the Long Range plan as well. The Board discussed at length how to engage the public on these action items. Board members discussed how growth is measured on various levels.

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Board members agreed to divide the various sections of the Long Range Plan amongst the Board and each member provide a response to what are the significant growth implications associated with each section.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

ADJOURNMENT

At 12:15 p.m. upon a motion duly made and seconded the Board UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED: to adjourn the meeting for the day.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Lawson, Clerk