

**TOWN OF CONCORD  
SELECT BOARD  
MINUTES  
FEBRUARY 8, 2021**

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the Concord Select Board convened in a meeting via video conference call on February 1, 2021 at 4:00pm.

Present were Linda Escobedo, Chair; Susan Bates, Clerk; Terri Ackerman, Jane Hotchkiss, and Matthew Johnson. Also present was Stephen Crane, Town Manager.

**Call to Order**

**Roll call vote**

Ms. Escobedo: Present  
Ms. Ackerman: Present  
Ms. Bates: Present  
Ms. Hotchkiss: Present  
Mr. Johnson: Present

**Consent Agenda**

- Town Accountant Warrants – February 4, 2021
- Gift Acceptance
  - o The Umbrella Arts Center \$1500.00 Drive-in Movie Event
  - o The Rotary Club of Concord \$1500.00 Drive-in Movie Event

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

**Roll call vote**

Ms. Escobedo: Aye  
Ms. Ackerman: Aye  
Ms. Bates: Aye  
Ms. Hotchkiss: Aye  
Mr. Johnson: Aye

**Town Manager's Report**

Town Manager Stephen Crane reported that the first of the vaccine micro-clinics will take place at the Harvey Wheeler Center on Wednesday, February 10 from 1-4PM. The clinic is full and registration is closed. Given the feedback about seniors and limited access to or proficiency with the internet, the COA and Health Department accepted reservations by phone. The volume of calls disrupted the phone system for a number of Town departments. In addition to conducting the micro-clinics, Town staff continue to pursue any and all options to increase the amount of vaccine available.

The third White Pond public forum was rescheduled due to the snowstorm. It will now be held on Tuesday, February 9 at 6PM via zoom.

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National Grid has informed the Engineering Division that they plan to start construction on a new gas main on Bedford Court as soon as the second week of February 2021.

CPW operations crew began winter storm response activities on Tuesday, February 2 around 11 AM. The conditions deteriorated throughout the night as heavy, wet snow began to accumulate with wind gusts reaching 30mph. The storm ended Tuesday morning around 11 AM dropping a total of 20 inches of snow. CPW crews continued to work on cleanup throughout the day. Snow removal operations in the downtown and West Concord business districts began at 8 PM Wednesday evening. This work continued through the night, and was completed by 7 AM Thursday morning. The cost of this storm through Thursday morning was about \$124,019.03, which includes labor and supplies.

The work on the FY22 Budget is ongoing with the initial review of department requests.

First round interviews for the Land Manager position are being conducted this week.

**Chair's Remarks**

Ms. Escobedo thanked the Town and Public Information Officer Erin Stevens in particular for the adaptations and outreach being made in regards to the COVID-19 Pandemic.

There will not be a Select Board meeting next week due to the Presidents' Day holiday on February 15.

The Town Meeting Preview Meeting will take place on Saturday, February 27.

**Middle School Building Committee Presentation**

Middle School Building Committee co-chair's Pat Nelson, Dawn Guarriello, Superintendent Dr. Hunter, and SMMA consultant Kristen Olson attended to present on the current status of the Middle School Building Committee project. The full presentation is available in the [meeting materials](#).

**Resolution for a Just Transition to Building Decarbonization in the Commonwealth**

Sustainability Director Kate Hanley and Climate Action Advisory Board Chair Jake Swenson attended to present [the resolution](#) for the Select Board's consideration. CAAB is looking for the Select Board to submit this resolution to the state legislature, Governor, and state agencies. The goal of the resolution is to call for a commitment to a just transition away from fossil fuels to decarbonization of buildings in Massachusetts by acting at the state-level and allowing rapid

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municipal action.

Select Board members were in support of the resolution, and noted that they were looking forward to taking additional action to advance the Town's climate action goals moving forward.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

**VOTED:** to endorse a non-binding resolution "A Resolution Calling for the Massachusetts State Legislature, Massachusetts Governor, Department of Public Utilities, Board of Building Regulations and Standards, and the Executive Office of Labor and Workforce Development to commit to a just transition to building decarbonization in the Commonwealth."

**Roll call vote**

Ms. Escobedo: Aye

Ms. Ackerman: Aye

Ms. Bates: Aye

Ms. Hotchkiss: Aye

Mr. Johnson: Aye

**Concord 2025 Executive Committee Draft #3**

Ms. Escobedo prepared a [new draft](#) for the Concord 2025 Executive Committee.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

**VOTED:** to approve the Concord 2025 Executive Committee Charge as presented and amended today.

**Roll call vote**

Ms. Escobedo: Aye

Ms. Ackerman: Aye

Ms. Bates: Aye

Ms. Hotchkiss: Aye

Mr. Johnson: Aye

This committee is now accepting volunteers for this committee. Residents can submit green cards on the Town website: <https://concordma.gov/739/Vacancies---Member-Positions>

**Committee Nominations**

There were no committee nominations.

**Committee Liaison Reports**

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Ms. Bates attended the Economic Vitality Committee, where they discussed options to allow outdoor dining beyond the COVID-19 Pandemic. This will likely require bylaw changes. The Town is applying for tourism recovery grants, and is partnering with Lexington for a campaign to attract visitors from 50 miles away and beyond. CCHS students are collaborating with businesses to help develop their websites, social media, and e-commerce. The Cemetery Committee had a presentation from Boston Scanning, who is working on digitizing all of the cemetery records. The Board of Assessors reviewed abatement applications, and is increasing the frequency of their meetings to review the applications in a timely manner. The Concord Business Partnership met and heard information from the Town Manager and Chief Financial Officer regarding the upcoming budget.

Ms. Ackerman attended the Concord Cultural Council, where they are reviewing applications for grant funding. They plan to vote on these applications next week. The Library Committee met and discussed their administrative code, where they are preparing revisions for the Select Board to consider at an upcoming meeting. There is a vacancy on the Library Committee. The Library is preparing budget requests related to staffing. The Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee met, where they reported that the steel bridge over Route 2 is expected to be completed this summer. The BFRTAC is working hard on the last half mile on the southern portion of town in coordination with the Sudbury team. They received a community connections grant for bike racks and shelters to be located in West Concord near the train station.

Mr. Johnson attended the NMI-Starmet Reuse Committee, where they spent most of the meeting reviewing the draft executive summary of their report. The committee is encouraging feedback from residents, and Mr. Johnson advised that residents review the draft report and make their comments known to the committee. The Housing Authority now has three candidates for each of the three open seats that will be filled at the upcoming Town Election on March 25. The Housing Authority has received many applications for the Executive Director role.

Ms. Hotchkiss attended the Natural Resources Commission, where they continue to review the Middlesex Schools proposed turf fields. The NRC began to discuss the 50-foot no build policy to develop greater consistency in how this policy is applied. The NRC discussed the future of the Town's policy on neonicotinoids. The White Pond Public Forum will take place at 6:00pm on February 9<sup>th</sup>. The Historic Districts Commission met and discussed the new ownership of the Hawthorne Inn, which is being converted to a private residence. There was continued discussion of Jenny Dugan Road as a historic district, as well as an expansion of the Main Street historic district.

Ms. Escobedo attended the Financial Audit Advisory Committee, where they discussed the management letter for the 2020 Town Audit. The auditors will be coming to the Select Board to present the audit at an upcoming meeting. The Finance Committee reviewed the FY22 Budget Guidelines, which were also included in the Select Board's [meeting materials](#).

**Miscellaneous Correspondence**

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The Select Board received correspondence from a group of citizens supporting the Finance Committee's decision not to use funding from the Legal Reserve Fund for the Estabrook Road litigation in 2020. The Board also received correspondence from The West Concord Cultural Commission regarding signage and pedestrian and bicycle safety at Junction Park.

**Public Comments**

Todd Benjamin of Sudbury Road asked how the Select Board is supporting Concord families in getting kids back to school as soon as possible. Ms. Escobedo responded that that is foremost in the minds of the School District, and the Select Board will do what they can to help them accomplish this as soon as it is feasible and safe.

Diane Proctor of 57 Sudbury Road asked the Select Board to highlight how residents can access the electronic green cards for committee volunteers. Residents can fill out a green card highlighting their interest in volunteering on the Town website:  
<https://concordma.gov/739/Vacancies---Member-Positions>

**Adjourn**

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY  
**VOTED:** to adjourn.

**Roll call vote**

Ms. Escobedo: Aye

Ms. Ackerman: Aye

Ms. Bates: Aye

Ms. Hotchkiss: Aye

Mr. Johnson: Aye

**Minuteman Media Network Coverage:** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wUgnspxd5sE>

**Meeting Materials:** <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/27975/February-8-SB-Packet>