

**TOWN OF CONCORD
SELECT BOARD
MINUTES
MARCH 1, 2021**

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the Concord Select Board convened in a meeting via video conference call on March 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

- Minutes to approve: January 25, 2021; January 25, 2021 Executive Session (not to be released)
- Town Election Warrant for March 25, 2021

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

The Health Division staff continues to focus primarily on the local response to COVID-19. Twenty Concord residents over age 85 and home-bound received a COVID vaccine this week through home visits by a public health nurse and EMT from Concord Fire Dept. An additional 100 residents will be invited to attend a clinic at the Harvey Wheeler Community Center scheduled for next week.

CMLP has launched a new webpage - ConcordCleanComfort.org. Citizens can visit this site to learn about the benefits of heat pumps which provide both heating and cooling and learn about

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rebates available to Concord residents.

CMLP has closely monitored the impacts of the pandemic on rate payers as well as the directives and guidance from national, regional, state and local authorities. The temporary suspension of collection efforts has resulted in significant revenue reduction for the electric, broadband, and water/sewer utilities. This temporary moratorium is set to expire on April 1, 2021. CMLP will recommence the collections and disconnection process on May 15, 2021.

The Town recently received a grant award from the Executive Office of Technology Services and Security (EOTSS) for the Cybersecurity Awareness Grant program. The grant will help the Town make end-user cybersecurity training, assessment and simulation tools, which will be administered by EOTSS and ProofPoint (cybersecurity vendor) and will be available to employees and others who have Town e-mail accounts. The first year of the program is paid by EOTSS and the Town will commit to sustaining the program at its own expense, which was planned prior to receiving the grant award.

Only four businesses have applied for the CBDG/Microenterprise grants so far. The first round of grants (in the amount of \$10,000 each) was distributed last fall. Three additional rounds have been processed since then without participation by additional Concord businesses. The fifth round will open Monday, March 1 and the 23 towns participating in the program agreed to allow repeat applications for additional funding (up to an additional \$10,000). Concord still has approximately \$170,000 available for distribution.

Chapter 90 Grant: MassDOT has informed the Town that pending its' bond authorization, the Town will receive \$681,191 of Chapter 90 funds for Fiscal Year 2021. This amount is this year's apportionment of the 10-year Chapter 90 contract with the State. CPW will use these funds in conjunction with debt capital to implement the annual Roads Program.

Chair's Remarks

Ms. Escobedo reminded the community that any warrant articles from last year's Town Meeting that were postponed or sent for further committee review need to be resubmitted if they are intended to be included in the 2021 Town Meeting Warrant. If residents have any questions, they can contact the Town Moderator, Carmin Reiss, at moderator@concordma.gov

Review amendments to the Junction Village Open Space Task Force Charge

Ms. Escobedo proposed [draft changes](#) to the charge of the Junction Village Open Space Task Force, as the charge was created two years and the committee is just now starting their work. Ms. Escobedo incorporated comments that she received when this was initially discussed at the February 22nd meeting.

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Mr. Johnson recused himself from the discussion and vote.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to approve the amendments to the Junction Village Open Space Task Force as presented.

Roll call vote

Ms. Escobedo: Aye

Ms. Ackerman: Aye

Ms. Bates: Aye

Ms. Hotchkiss: Aye

Mr. Johnson: Abstained

Climate Action Advisory Board Draft Warrant Article: Authorizing the Town of Concord to Adopt and Enforce Local Regulations Restricting New Fossil Fuel Infrastructure in Certain Conditions

Sustainability Director Kate Hanley and Climate Action Advisory Board member Jake Swenson attended to explain that they would like the Select Board to sponsor this warrant article. Ms. Hanley explained that the electrification of buildings is critical to achieving the Town's climate goals of 80% greenhouse gas emissions reduction by 2050 and the Commonwealth's goal of net zero emissions by 2050, and is one of 22 priority actions identified in Sustainable Concord. This warrant article would regulate the use of fossil fuels in new construction under certain conditions. This article stands in contrast to Article 40 at the 2020 Town Meeting, which was a blanket ban on fossil fuel infrastructure in new construction. This article was not moved because in the summer of 2020 the Attorney General decided that a similar article in Brookline was not allowable by state law.

Ms. Hanley and the Climate Action Advisory Board are looking for the Select Board to sponsor this article ahead of the 2021 Town Meeting. After discussion, the Select Board asked that the sponsors have the Town Moderator and Town Counsel review the language in the article, and then come back to the Select Board at a future meeting with the finalized language.

Select Board FY21 Goal: ATM Housing Appropriation

Ms. Escobedo noted that a housing appropriation was in the Select Board's FY21 goals, and the Select Board needs to make a decision whether or not to sponsor a warrant article to this effect.

The Select Board recognized that the need for affordable housing in the community is high and continues to increase. The Select Board members cited the relatively low amount of CPC funds dedicated to affordable housing, the increasing amount of residents struggling to pay their bills, and the need for diversity in housing stock as reasons for a housing appropriation at the 2021

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Town Meeting. The Select Board members voiced their support for a housing appropriation, but didn't come to full agreement on a dollar amount at this meeting. The Select Board will continue the discussion on the details of this article at their March 8 meeting.

Status of ATM 2020 Article Neonicotinoids Prohibition

Article 48 Neonicotinoids Prohibition on the 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant was postponed until 2021. Mark Hanson of the Pollinator Health Advisory Committee was invited to attend on behalf of the committee but was not present.

Mr. Hanson voiced his support for carrying this article into the 2021 Town Meeting over email. Ms. Escobedo and Ms. Hotchkiss will touch base with Mr. Hanson to re-engage the Pollinator Health Advisory Committee on this article's status for the 2021 Town Meeting, and will continue the discussion of this article at a future meeting.

Committee Nominations

There were no committee nominations.

Committee Appointments

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to appoint: Peter Fischelis of 35 Longfellow Road to the Middle School Building Committee for a term to expire at the completion of the project. Carlene Hempel of 50 Highland Street to the Junction Village Open Space Task Force for a term to expire September 30, 2023. Extend the terms of Christa Collins of 55 Highland Street, Sue Felshin of 19 Sunnyside Lane, Robert Hartman of 16 Concord Greene, and Harry Bartlett of 95 Conant Street on the Junction Village Open Space Task Force to expire on September 30, 2023.

Roll call vote

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

Committee Liaison Reports

Ms. Ackerman attended the CMLP Board meeting, where they are applying for a grant for another charging station. CMLP will installing smart meters for all customers in 2023, and there

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will be an opt-out policy for individuals who prefer analog meters. The Public Works Commission held a solid waste rate hearing. Rates have gone up 10%, which is about \$40.00/year. The Agriculture Committee discussed the Spring Forum, where some of the farms in town will be having tours and demos in May, in addition to videos on MMN. The Cultural Council awarded 19 grants to artists, totaling \$8,400.00. The Cultural Council is planning a reception in the fall for all the recipients.

Ms. Bates attended the Board of Assessors, where they are continuing the review of abatement application. The Council on Aging Board is looking for one full and two associate members. The Economic Vitality Committee met and discussed the warrant article that the committee recommended to the Planning Board, which would eliminate the requirement that ties the amount of parking spaces to the amount of seats specifically for restaurants with outdoor dining. The goal of this is to allow outdoor dining to continue seamlessly beyond the end of the COVID-19 State of Emergency. The Economic Vitality Committee is also creating a subcommittee to identify the barriers to opening a business in Concord.

Ms. Hotchkiss attended the Natural Resources Commission, where they continue to review the 50-foot no-build policy, which is not yet finalized. The Historic Districts Commission discussed the Jenny Dugan Historic District concept, and the Main Street Historic District extension, which will be a warrant article at the 2021 Town Meeting. The Commission on Disability is reviewing funding requests coming before the commission. The Commission on Disability is discussing the needs of individuals with cognitive disabilities at Town Meeting and at Town facilities. The White Pond Advisory Committee is reviewing and suggesting changes to the 2015 document A Shared Future: A Comprehensive Vision for White Pond and its Watersheds.

Mr. Johnson attended a public forum of the Concord Middle School Building Committee, where they discussed sustainability and upcoming design issues. After the meeting, there were many emails regarding the desire for two full sized basketball courts in the new building. The current plan includes one. The Recreation Commission reviewed the planned enhancements to White Pond, the 2021 summer camp plans, and ways to help the Beede Center which has suffered reductions in membership. The Public Ceremonies and Celebrations Committee has been discussing plans for Patriots' Day, and reviewing the nominees for the Honored Citizen award. The Community Preservation Committee will be meeting to review their warrant article for the 2021 Town Meeting.

Ms. Escobedo attended the Middle School Building Committee public forum, where she noted it was well attended. The committee is still looking at a base construction cost of \$80 million, and a total project cost of \$100 million. The Hanscom Area Towns Selectmen invited a licensed social worker with the Massachusetts Coalition of Suicide Prevention to speak to the group, due to the increased stress and mental health challenges facing community members.

Miscellaneous Correspondence

Meeting correspondence was included in the [meeting materials](#).

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Public Comments

There were no public comments.

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=l86t9sazwDk>

Meeting Materials: <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/28195/March-1-SB-Packet>