

TOWN OF CONCORD  
SELECT BOARD  
JUNE 15, 2020  
MINUTES

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the Concord Select Board convened in a meeting via video conference call on June 15, 2020 at 4:00pm.

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

**Call to order**

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

**Consent Agenda**

- Minutes to approve: April 16, 2020 Executive Session (not to be released); April 23, 2020; April 30, 2020; May 7, 2020; May 14, 2020; May 25, 2020 Open Session; May 25, 2020 Executive Session (not to be released)
- Approval of Town Accountant Warrants
- Certificate of recognition for Eugene Chang

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**

The Town is working on a new custodial services plan for Town buildings in order to keep employees and residents safe in light of the COVID-19 Pandemic.

The Town is communicating with the business community on the best ways to support their needs. Mr. Crane cited the organization Concord Together, which is doing a survey of local business' needs.

TOWN OF CONCORD  
SELECT BOARD  
JUNE 15, 2020  
MINUTES

Many recreational spaces in town have reopened. Mr. Crane commended the community for their patience and for continuing to practice social distancing and wearing facial coverings when distancing is not possible.

**Chair's Remarks**

Mr. Lawson noted the passing of longtime Concord resident Arthur Stevenson, who served on the Select Board, Planning Board, as Town Counsel, as Town Moderator, and was the Honored Citizen of 2009.

Mr. Lawson stated that the draft Climate Action Plan is now public and is accepting public feedback and comments.

Mr. Lawson congratulated the winners of the Town Election. Matthew Johnson was elected to the Select Board, Carmin Reiss was re-elected Moderator, and Fatima Mezdad and Alexa Anderson were elected to the School Committee.

The Junction Village Christopher Heights project was awarded \$7,500,000 in tax credits.

Two members of the Select Board, the Town Manager, and Town Counsel met with the defendants and their counsel in the Estabrook Road litigation to discuss reopening the road.

**Recognition of CCHS Merit Scholarships**

The Select Board recognized the high school students who received National Merit Scholarships from the National Merit Scholars program. The students who received this recognition were Elise Dohoney, Carson Detwelier, Sarah Hoover, Madeline Mueller, and Emma Sabin.

**Authorize the Town Manager to approve Outdoor Dining Applications**

In the current state of Phase II of the Massachusetts Reopening Plan, restaurants cannot yet serve indoors, but can serve outdoor patrons. The Select Board currently is the body that approves these applications, but in the interest of quick turnaround time, the Select Board will vote for the Town Manager to be able to provide final approval. Other communities have taken a similar approach, and Town Counsel has confirmed that this is allowed. The application needs approval from the Public Works, Police, Fire, Health, and Building Departments before being approved.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

**VOTED:** that the Board authorize the Town Manager to approve applications from licensees that serve alcohol for on-premises consumption to extend said

TOWN OF CONCORD  
SELECT BOARD  
JUNE 15, 2020  
MINUTES

licensees' premises to include outdoor premises, consistent with the Governor's COVID-19 Orders #35 and #37, the Alcohol Beverage and Control Commission's Guidelines for Extension of Premises to Patio and Outdoor Areas, and other applicable state and laws that may not be waived pursuant to either of the foregoing. This authorization, and all applications approved by the Town Manager under this authorization, shall expire no later than November 1, 2020 or when said Order 35 is rescinded, whichever is sooner, at which point the applicant's licensed premises will revert to the licensed premises in effect prior to such approval.

**Roll call vote**

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

**Letter to The Board of Building Regulations and Standards**

Bouzha Cookman of 94 Hubbard Street of Mothers Out Front explained that this letter to the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulation and Standards would advocate for the state to adopt a Net Zero stretch code, which would align with Concord's climate action goals. Ms. Cookman pointed out that several other communities in the state are advocating for this as well. The Select Board members spoke in support of sending this letter to the state.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

**VOTED:** to authorize the chair of send a letter to the Massachusetts Board of Building Regulation and Standards urging them to update the current Massachusetts stretch energy code to a Net Zero stretch code with the EZ Code as its basis.

**Roll call vote**

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

**Letter of Support for the Transfer Fee Legislation**

TOWN OF CONCORD  
SELECT BOARD  
JUNE 15, 2020  
MINUTES

Ms. Escobedo explained that June 16 was the deadline for report out from committees on this issue. Making progress on this is one of the Select Board's stated goals. Ms. Escobedo and Mr. Lawson testified on this issue at the State House a few months previously. This legislation addresses bills from several communities, and the objective in this legislation is to provide maximum flexibility for each community instead of going through individual Home Rule Petitions. Mr. Lawson noted there is a considerable coalition of organizations around the state advocating for this legislation.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

**VOTED:** to send a letter in support of the transfer fee enabling legislation (H1769, H2457, and H2552) as drafted in our packets.

**Roll call vote**

Mike Lawson: Aye

Terri Ackerman: Aye

Jane Hotchkiss: Aye

Linda Escobedo: Aye

Susan Bates: Aye

**Committee Nominations:** Richard Fahlander of 399 Old Bedford Road to the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Committee for a term to expire April 30, 2023.

**Committee Liaison Reports**

Mr. Lawson attended the Hugh Cargill Trust, where they continue to provide financial assistance to residents in need.

Ms. Bates noted the Planning Board elected new officers, with Kristen Ferguson as the new chair, since Matthew Johnson's term will be ending. The Economic Vitality Committee applied for \$300,000 of micro grants, where \$10,000 could be allotted to individual businesses with five or less full-time employees. According to their research, there were 800 businesses in Concord.

Ms. Escobedo met with the Concord Housing Authority, where they are working on their budget within the confines of evolving state and federal guidelines. The NMI-Starmet Reuse Committee is continuing to discuss how to perform public outreach on their final report. The committee plans to release a survey in coming weeks.

Ms. Ackerman noted the progress that the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee is making on Phase 2, stating that they may have a culvert under Route 2

TOWN OF CONCORD  
SELECT BOARD  
JUNE 15, 2020  
MINUTES

completed this summer. The MBTA Advisory Board is working on a one-year capital improvement plan in response to COVID-19.

Ms. Hotchkiss reported that the Climate Action Advisory Board has completed the draft Climate Action Resiliency Plan. The final draft will be completed towards the end of June. The Natural Resources Commission reported that in recreational areas around Town, individuals have been making alterations to the spaces such as bike ramps near the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. The NRC is encouraging residents to preserve the Town's natural areas.

### **Miscellaneous Correspondence**

Mr. Lawson noted correspondence regarding input from residents on whether or not Concord Police should wear body cameras.

### **Public Comments**

There were no public comments.

### **Adjourn**

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

#### **Roll call vote**

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

#### **Minuteman Media Network:**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=W1VlsyoOJH0&t=2091s>

**Meeting Materials:** <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/25011/June-15-SB-Packet>