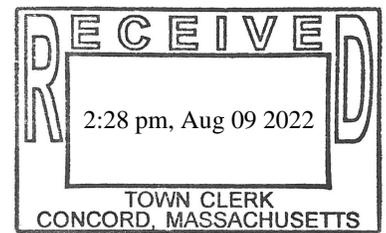


**Town of Concord
Select Board
Minutes
July 11, 2022**



Pursuant to a notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the Concord Select Board convened in a meeting in the Second Floor Meeting Room and via Zoom on July 11, 2022 at 6:30pm.

Present were Matthew Johnson; Chair, Terri Ackerman; Clerk; Henry Dane, Linda Escobedo, and Mary Hartman. Also present was Kerry Lafleur, Town Manager.

Call to Order

Chair Johnson called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m.

Consent Agenda

- Town Accountant Warrants: July 7, 2022
- Minutes: June 13, 2022
- Gift Acceptance:
 - \$75,000 from the Concord Free Public Library Corporation to the Archival Projects Gift Account
 - \$5,000 from the Susanna E Bedell Foundation to the Council on Aging
- Tour Guide Licenses:
 - Mary Beth Bass
 - Mary Bierman
 - Roni Olitsky
 - Trisha J Hunt
 - Courtney McInvale Reardon
 - Maureen Byrnes
 - Andrew Hill
 - Caryn Mickle
 - Evan Brown
 - Tom Rogers

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

Town Manager's Report

Ms. Lafleur reviewed the Town Manager's reports included as part of the Select Board meeting packet. Ms. Lafleur highlighted the formation of an Internal Risk Committee and that the Police Department had recently had its first all-female shift on July 6th. Ms. Escobedo asked Ms. Lafleur asked about a health department report included as part of the Town Manager's report, regarding food borne illness. Ms. Lafleur stated that the food borne illness was the result of a retirement party held by the Town staff. Ms. Hartman asked Ms. Lafleur when data regarding the new Trolley/Shuttle service would be available, and Ms. Lafleur stated that she would try to get the data included in an upcoming Town Manager's Report.

Chair's Report

Chair Johnson reported that the Select Board had held a swearing in ceremony for the new Town

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Manager on June 30, 2022, per the Town Charter. Chair Johnson also stated that the Middle School Building Committee decided to wait until the 60% construction document phase to consider any cuts or changes in scope to the Middle School building project. He added that the School Committee would be meeting on July 14 to discuss recommendations to the Middle School Building Committee. Chair Johnson also stated that he had invited the Co-Chairs of the Middle School Building Committee to attend the Select Board meeting of August 29th to discuss their view of the project and next steps. Ms. Escobedo asked about the timeline regarding the 60% construction document phase, and whether it would accelerate or delay the project, and how the timeline may affect the project cost. Ms. Ackerman voiced her support of the discussion with the Co-Chairs of the Middle School Building Committee and asked when the 60% construction document phase would be completed, and Chair Johnson suggested it may be October. Ms. Hartman asked if the Town had done any estimates regarding a potential debt increase with the recent rise in interest rates and Chair Johnson that prior estimates were in line with current interest rates.

Public Hearing: Grant of Location Petition by National Grid to relay approximately 470 feet of 2- inch Coated Steel (1930) gas main with 470 feet of 2-inch Plastic in Davis Court from Bedford Street to end at #47 Davis Court

Chair Johnson introduced Steve Dookran, the Town Engineer, who explained why National Grid was again seeking a continuance of the four public hearings scheduled for that evening. Mr. Dookran stated that the Engineering Department reviewed the grant of location petitions submitted by National Grid and offered several conditions for the Select Board to impose should they approve the grant of location petitions. Mr. Dookran explained that his department was trying to protect the Town's best interest and was negotiating with National Grid to do so. Ms. Ackerman asked why the suggested conditions are opposed by National Grid. Mr. Dookran explained that the conditions have only been implemented in recent grant of location petitions, and that National Grid did not appear to recognize them on previously granted petitions. Chair Johnson asked Mr. Dookran when he believed the Board could reasonably expect to hear the petitions. Mr. Dookran explained that he had discussed the petitions with Michael Gibbons, the Senior Administrative Assistant in the Town Manager's Office, and they suggested continuing the public hearings to August 29, 2022.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED: to, at the request of National Grid, continue the public hearing scheduled for 6:40pm on its application for work between Bedford Street and #47 Davis Court until August 29, 2022.

Discussion with the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee on Junction Park Conceptual Redesign

Richard Fahlander and Nathaniel Welch, Co-Chairs of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee (BFRTAC) reviewed a presentation included as part of the Select Board meeting packet with the Board. Mr. Welch reviewed:

- the charge of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee
- How the BFRTAC engaged the public and carried out the work described in their charge
- Recommendations and reasoning for the short- and long-term design ideas
- Suggested next steps for the Select Board

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The Board thanked the Committee and Sub-Committee for their hard work, and asked several questions regarding the design suggestions, the differences between the short- and long-term solutions, possible grant funding available, and the potential for a needs assessment of the projects in the future.

Sabrina Haber, of 308 Oak Hill Circle and Vice President of the West Concord Green Thumbs, thanked the Board and the BFRAC for their work on the Junction Park conceptual redesign. Ms. Haber addressed the short-term plan presented and stated that the Green Thumbs were primarily concerned with safety in the short term. Ms. Haber stated that the Green Thumbs have been stewards of Junction Park since its opening in 2013 and that they would like to see tactical urbanism implemented in Junction Park in the short term. Ms. Haber explained that tactical urbanism employs low cost, temporary changes to the built environment which advocates different types of inexpensive, temporary, and easily installed impediments to slow down different means of transportation to allow for safe and welcoming use of the park. Chair Johnson asked if tactical urbanism had been reviewed as part of the work done by the BFRAC. Mr. Welch explained that the Committee had considered a form of tactical urbanism, but that the Committee chose to rely more on personal accountability as opposed to installing impediments.

Stephen Irza, of 39 Cottage Street, stated that once the bridge over Route 2 is connected and open, that E-Bikes (electronic bikes) may become an issue that will need to be addressed. Mr. Irza also supported the proposed long-term solution.

Jean Goldsberry, of 1832 Main Street and Chair of the Concord Commission on Disabilities, voiced her concerns regarding bicycle traffic. Ms. Goldsberry stated that park users with a disability may not be able to see or hear cyclists, and an accident could occur. Ms. Goldsberry urged the Board to explore the installation of traffic calming devices, to encourage cyclists to dismount when going through the park. Ms. Goldsberry stated that the Commission on Disabilities unanimously supports the installation of traffic calming devices.

Chair Johnson stated that he recognized that the BFRAC would not be the group that implements the short term or long-term changes to Junction Park. He asked that Town Staff explore how the short-term suggestions could be implemented, within current budget constraints. Marcia Rasmussen, the Town's Director of Planning and Land Management explained that there was no budget currently for implementation but noted that Town Meeting had recently approved \$30,000 as part of the work to be done on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Ms. Rasmussen added that she would have to work with Concord Public Works regarding any impediments, as they would need to be considered for snow removal. Ms. Rasmussen stated that she would beginning working on the proposed implementations and report back to the Select Board in 60 days.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED: to accept the report of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Committee and the improvements to be made to Junction Park.

Departmental Update from Concord Police Chief Joseph O'Connor

Joseph O'Connor, Concord's Chief of Police, introduced his command staff, Captain Thomas Mulcahy, Lieutenant Kevin Monahan, and Lieutenant Brian Goldman. Chief O'Connor thanked all

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the Town's police officers for their work, especially throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. Chief O'Connor explained that 2022 marked the 150th anniversary of the formation of the Town of Concord's Police Department, and that he understood how involved the Police Department was with every department in Town. Chief O'Connor stated that Capt. Mulcahy would be presenting on the Town's Police Reform efforts, Lt. Monahan would be discussing patrols and the work of the uniformed officers, and Lt. Goldman would explain the special services unit and his work as the Accreditation Officer.

Chief O'Connor briefly reviewed the history of the Concord Police Department, the work conducted by the department throughout the pandemic, and some of the initiatives the department has undertaken like the Youth Police Academy. Chief O'Connor and the Board also discussed the staffing of the department, the recent all female shift, the hiring of Licensed Social Worker Emily Black, the upcoming 250th celebrations, and the Police Departments recent Accreditation by the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission.

Captain Tom Mulcahy described the work of the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) Commission and noted that Massachusetts had recently passed legislation which established certification standards for Police Officers. Captain Mulcahy reviewed various trainings that the Town's officers had undergone and stated that the Department had begun to interview its officers to ensure that the Town's officers would meet certification standards. Chief O'Connor added that the department was one of the first ten departments in the state to implement body worn cameras, and he thanked Jason Bulger and the Information Technology team for their help in the implementation.

Lieutenant Kevin Monahan reviewed the policies and work of the town's patrol officers. Lieutenant Monahan also reviewed crime statistics over the past year, traffic enforcement procedures, and some of the training the officers received to handle certain crimes, specifically domestic violence.

Lieutenant Brian Goldman explained that he oversees the special services division for the Police Department which incorporates dispatchers, detectives, records, and school resource officers. Lt. Goldman reviewed the capabilities of the Town's dispatch operations, which he noted was as technologically advanced as it had ever been. He also discussed the work of the detective division in the Police Department and highlighted some of the financial fraud scams they had recently investigated. Lt. Goldman also went into detail regarding the Town's recent accreditation the department had received from the Massachusetts Police Accreditation Commission. Lt. Goldman noted that only 104 police departments out of the 351 departments in Massachusetts were accredited, and that it was through the hard work of the department and its officers, with support from the Town, that they were able to achieve that accomplishment.

Ms. Ackerman asked how the upcoming regionalization of the dispatch services was perceived by the Department. Chief O'Connor stated that while it would be a change, he believed it would be very helpful to the department.

Ms. Hartman asked if the Chief believed the COVID-19 pandemic affected the Town's officers, particularly their morale and mental health. Chief O'Connor noted the difficulties, especially at the beginning of the pandemic, faced by the officers. He noted that many officers were infected and had to isolate away from their families for weeks. He noted the efforts taken by the Department

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during that difficult time, including sanitization of the Police Station and offering hotel rooms to officers who were infected to avoid exposing their families.

Ms. Escobedo asked Chief O'Connor if he anticipated what kinds of services may be needed when the new Landmark Recovery facility opens. Chief O'Connor stated that there was a need for the service, and that he was recently notified that the number of beds offered in the facility had increased. He also stated that open communication with the operators of the facility would help address any additional needs following their opening. Ms. Escobedo also asked about the role the Department's licensed social worker Emily Black played in the Town's policing. Chief O'Connor explained that Ms. Black was in the station one day a week, and that when she's in the station, she goes on calls with the officers. Ms. Escobedo also asked about the amount of training undertaken by the police department, and Chief O'Connor shared his belief that he didn't think officers can ever have too much training.

Chair Johnson asked if the home location of officers was an impediment to the full staffing of the department. Chief O'Connor explained that all Town Officers lived within 20 miles of Concord.

The Board thanked Chief O'Connor, and the Police Department for their service and presentation.

Discussion of Fiscal Year 2023 Town Manager Goals

The Board reviewed the Fiscal Year 2023 Town Manager Goals document included as part of the Select Board meeting packet. Ms. Hartman asked that goal number 30, regarding economic vitality, be rephrased to reflect implementation versus research. The Board and Ms. Lafleur discussed the goals document and noted that some of the goals would be completed in fiscal year 2023 while others would be completed in phases over several years.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY **VOTED:** to approve the Fiscal Year 2023 Town Manager Goals as presented in the Select Board meeting packet with an amendment to goal number 30, replacing "Research" with "Implement".

Review of 2022 Special Town Meeting Calendar

Ms. Lafleur suggested that the Select Board continue the discussion of the Special Town Meeting Calendar to the Board's next meeting. Ms. Lafleur stated that the proposed calendar needed to be updated based on the Select Board meeting schedule. Ms. Ackerman asked if a Finance Committee report should be included as part of the calendar, which the Board confirmed. Ms. Escobedo also noted that the timelines included as part of the calendar may need to be revised.

**Correction of Liquor License Description of Premises for Concord
Brewery II d/b/a Rapsallion**

Mr. Gibbons explained that he had received a call from Thomas Taranto, the owner of the building occupied by Concord Brewery II d/b/a Rapsallion who requested a copy of their liquor license. Following Mr. Taranto's receipt of the application he noted that the license had not been updated following the request for a change of premises that had been approved by the Select Board and the

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Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission in July of 2019. Mr. Gibbons shared his belief that the license had not been updated by the Town's Senior Administrative Assistant in 2019, and that the proposed correction was administrative in nature. Chair Johnson asked if the establishment was still open and whether they could continue to hold a license if they were not. Mr. Gibbons stated that he was aware that the restaurant had recently closed, but that they had been granted a license renewal for calendar year 2022. Ms. Ackerman also asked about description of the patio, and its location, and Mr. Gibbons explained that he had taken the verbiage for the license from the minutes of the Select Board meeting minutes in 2019.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED: to approve the revised liquor license for Concord Brewery II d/b/a Rapscallion, dated July 11, 2022, as presented in the Select Board Meeting Packet.

Public Hearing: Grant of Location Petition by National Grid to relay approximately 250 feet of 4- inch Plastic main in Lowell Road with approximately 250-feet of 8-inch Plastic main from the existing 8-inch plastic main to house #925 Lowell Road

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED: to, at the request of National Grid, continue the public hearing scheduled for 6:50pm on its application for work in Lowell Road to the House at #925 until August 29, 2022.

Public Hearing: Grant of Location Petition by National Grid to extend its existing 2-inch plastic main in Simon Willard Road approximately 480 feet to serve an existing residence located at #398 Simon Willard Road

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED: to, at the request of National Grid, continue the public hearing scheduled for 7:00pm on its application for work relating to the residence at #398 Simon Willard Road until August 29, 2022.

Public Hearing: Grant of Location Petition by National Grid to relay approximately 805 feet of 2- inch, coated steel (1930) and approximately 150 feet of 2-inch, plastic (2013) with approximately 955 feet of 2-inch, plastic in Crescent Rd from #42 Crescent Rd to the end of main at #138 Crescent Rd; and to relay approximately 735 feet of 2- inch, coated steel (1930) with approximately 735 feet of 2-inch, plastic in Hosmer Rd from Nashoba Rd to Crescent Rd; and to relay approximately 710 feet of 2-inch, coated steel (1930) with approximately 710 feet of 2-inch, plastic in Garland Rd from Crescent Rd to Nashoba Rd; and to relay approximately 465 feet of 2-inch, coated steel (1957) with approximately 465 feet of 2-inch, plastic in Wilson Rd from Nashoba Rd to end of main at #59 Wilson Rd; and to relay of approximately 860 feet of 2- inch, coated steel (1957) with approximately 860 feet of 2- inch, plastic in Nashoba Rd from Hosmer Rd to end of main at #321 Nashoba Rd; and to relay of approximately

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480 feet of 2- inch, coated steel (1930) with approximately 480 feet of 2- inch, plastic in Nashoba Rd from Garland Rd to the existing 2- inch, coated steel at #144 Nashoba Rd.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to, at the request of National Grid, continue the public hearing scheduled for 7:10pm on its application for work in Crescent Road, Hosmer Road, Garland Road, Wilson Road, and Nashoba Road until August 29, 2022.

Committee Nominations

Mark Gailus, of 62 Prescott Road, to the Transportation Advisory Committee

Committee Appointments

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: to appoint Joshua Lee, of 65 Everett Street, to the Diversity, Equity, & Inclusion Commission for a term to expire April 30, 2025; Anita Tekle, of 260 Virginia Road, to the Concord Local Cultural Council for a term to expire April 30, 2025; Pauline C. Reeve of 429 Williams Road to the Concord 2025 Executive Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2026; Frederick Ryan of 211 Park Lane to the Concord 2025 Executive Committee for a term to expire December 31, 2026; Melissa Saalfield, of 7 Concord Greene Unit 7, to the Historical Commission for a term to expire May 31, 2023; Rebecca Lemaitre, of 3 Abbott Lane Unit 7, to the Historical Commission for a term to expire May 31, 2025; Francesca Cataldo, of 40 Hosmer Road, to the Historical Commission-Associate Member, for a term to expire May 31, 2023

Select Board Liaison Reports

Mr. Dane reported that the Board of Health had cancelled its two summer meetings.

Ms. Ackerman reported that the PEG Access Committee was negotiating a contract with Comcast and had selected a consultant to aid with the negotiations. She also reported that the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail Advisory Committee (BFRTAC) had elected to new co-chairs, Nathaniel Welch, and Adrienne Boardman. She added that the BFRTAC would be holding a multi-town meeting to discuss the use of e-bikes on the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail. Ms. Ackerman also reported that the Personnel Study Task Force would be holding several meetings with the Personnel Board, Town Staff, and finally a public forum, before coming before the Select Board. She also stated that the Personnel Study Task Force would be seeking assistance in coming up with a new Personnel Board charge.

Ms. Hartman reported that the Recreation Commission met and discussed the revenue surplus of the Beede Center, which will be used for deferred maintenance on the building. Ms. Hartman also reported that she attended a ribbon cutting for Target Painting and that the owner of the business stated that they found the permitting process in Town to be a smooth one.

Ms. Escobedo reported that the Concord Municipal Affordable Housing Trust met and was still conducting follow up on the Assabet River Bluff project. She added that the Town may be 8-20

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units short of the 10% SHI goal based on the findings of the housing production forum. Ms. Escobedo also reported that the Concord Housing Development Corporation met and that they had entered into an agreement with the Concord Housing Authority for the short-term management for the existing house at Assabet River Bluff. Ms. Escobedo also reported that the Concord Commission on Disabilities met and were pleased with the adaptive bikes installed in Town but had concerns about the accessibility of the bikes based on their placement.

Mr. Johnson stated that he had covered his liaison report during his Chair remarks.

Correspondence

Chair Johnson stated that there was a letter from Natasha Heimrath, of Concord Park, who wished to share her views on Junction Park.

Public Comment

Stuart Weeks, of 100 Newbury Court and founder of American Studies, gave a report on an event held on July 4th, and shared his views regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. Mr. Weeks invited the Board and residents to a future event.

Adjourn

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

Meeting Materials: <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/37305/Select-Board-Meeting-Packet-July-11-2022>

Minuteman Media Network Coverage: https://youtu.be/_AKPM9--bxc