

**TOWN OF CONCORD
SELECT BOARD
MINUTES
AUGUST 31, 2020
4:00PM
VIDEO CONFERENCE CALL**

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the Concord Select Board convened in a meeting via video conference call on August 31, 2020 at 4:00pm.

Present were Michael Lawson, Chair; Linda Escobedo, Clerk; Terri Ackerman, Susan Bates, and Jane Hotchkiss. Also present were Stephen Crane, Town Manager; Kerry Lafleur, Finance Director; and Deputy Town Manager, Kate Hodges.

Call to Order

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

Town Manager's Update

The deadline for submitting ZBA appeals was September 1st, and is now extended to Friday, September 4th.

The White Pond Advisory Committee (WPAC) met and discussed overuse of the pond. The Town's primary short-term goals for the property are improving storm water management and ADA accessibility. Ms. Hodges added that in response to many concerns about overuse of Sachem's Cove a Recreation weekend supervisor has been assigned to oversee this area along with Estabrook Woods.

The micro-grants for small businesses are available and should be out this week.

The Town successfully completed early voting for the state election last Friday. Mr. Crane commended the hard work of the Town Clerk's Office.

Mr. Crane reported that the on-premise liquor licensees are deciding whether they want a credit for the 2021 license fee, or a rebate for the missed revenue during the months they were closed in 2020. The Town will be issuing the rebates in September.

Chair's Remarks

Mr. Lawson congratulated Superintendent Dr. Hunter and the schools for their reopening efforts.

The State Primary is on September 1.

The Select Board will be meeting on Tuesday, September 8 at 4:00pm instead of Monday in order to accommodate the holiday.

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Town Meeting will take place at 1:00pm on September 13th at Doug White Field. Mr. Lawson encouraged residents to review the Town Meeting materials online ahead of the meeting, as there will be no public presentations

Ag Day Update

Happy Goethert of the Ag Committee reported that 7 farms will participate in Ag Week instead of Ag Day starting on Tuesday, September 8th.

There will be an Instagram raffle contest where participants can post a selfie of themselves at Ag Week to receive a prize. Users should tag @farmsofconcord to be considered for the raffle.

Committee Liaison Assignments

Ms. Escobedo drafted the full roster of committees and asked Select Board members to send her their top four choices from the existing list. The Select Board will finalize FY21 committee liaison assignments at a future meeting.

Correspondence Policy

Select Board Elect Matthew Johnson drafted a policy detailing protocols for posting resident correspondence for the Select Board to consider. Mr. Johnson noted that he contacted MMA and the Attorney General's Division of Open Government and they noted that no other community they are aware of has a policy for posting correspondence.

Ms. Hotchkiss noted that the Select Board should also develop a response policy to maintain consistency if the board were to have a policy for posting correspondence.

Ms. Escobedo noted that this policy would just be for the Select Board and not other Town boards and committees. The board agreed that Mr. Johnson would incorporate the feedback discussed into the draft policy, and it would be revisited at a future meeting.

Parking Meter Enforcement Through the Remainder of the Year

Police Chief Joseph O'Connor is preparing an analysis on the revenue impact of not collecting parking meter fees. Chief O'Connor will send this to the Select Board and Town Manager for their consideration once complete. Mr. Crane noted that due to the revenue losses caused by not collecting fees, the Town's Meter Officer position is vacant, and will not be filled at this

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time. Mr. Lawson asked if not collecting the meter fees could be sustained through the end of the year, which the Town Manager confirmed that it could be.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to extend the non-enforcement of parking meters through the remainder of the calendar year.

Roll call vote

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

Reconsideration of 2020 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article 16: Approval of Tax Incentive Financing Agreement

Town Counsel will review the MOA agreement that was discussed at the public hearing on August 17th. Walter Ohanian of Grantham Group agreed to reduce the cap on the TIF from \$2.65 million to \$2 million. The consequence of this is that the amount paid in taxes to the Town would go up by \$14,866 per year. This is a reduction in the TIF from 77% to 69.21%. The exact amount paid in the end will depend on the valuation of the project upon completion.

Ms. Ackerman thanked Mr. Ohanian for his willingness to reduce the cap, however she indicated that she would not vote to approve until after review by Town Counsel, and the insertion of language stipulating that Grantham Group would not seek any future financial assistance from the Town.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was

VOTED: to approve the amendments to the TIF that were included in the August 31, 2020 Select Board packet along with minor edits noted today.

Roll call vote

Mr. Lawson: Aye
Ms. Ackerman: Nay
Ms. Hotchkiss: Aye
Ms. Escobedo: Aye
Ms. Bates: Aye

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Discussion and Positions on Amendment to Article 16

Karlen Reed is withdrawing her amendment on Article 16, therefore no discussion or vote is required by the Select Board.

Election Officer Appointments

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, the Select Board UNANIMOUSLY:

VOTED: to appoint election officers as stated in the memo dated August 31, 2020 from the Town Clerk to the Select Board.

Roll call vote

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

Committee Nominations

There were no committee nominations.

Committee Appointments

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to appoint Karle Packard of 86 Butternut Circle to the Capital Planning Task Force for a term effective at the conclusion of the 2020 Annual Town Meeting, and to expire June 30, 2021.

Roll call vote

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

Committee Reappointments:

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Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to reappoint David Karr of 82 Laws Brook Road and Bill Kemeza of 28 Davis Court to the Tax Fairness Committee for terms to expire April 30, 2023. Nancy Cronin of 216 Garfield Road, Walter Birge of 109 Stone Root Lane, Jonathan Keyes of 91 Liberty Street, and Reinier Beeuwkes of 1360 Monument Street to the Tax Fairness Committee for terms to expire April 30, 2021.

Roll call vote

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

Committee Liaison Reports

Ms. Escobedo attended the Affordable Housing Trust Study Committee, where they have been taking positions on warrant articles related to affordable housing.

Ms. Bates attended the Planning Board, where they reviewed MAPC's latest Thoreau Depot Zoning Plan. There will be upcoming public forums on this issue. The Planning Board voted to support affirmative action on Article 41 and Article 42 at Town Meeting. Ms. Bates also attended Trails Committee, where she noted there is a new trails guide book that will be coming out.

Ms. Hotchkiss attended the Climate Action Advisory Board, where they discussed warrant articles ahead of Town Meeting.

Ms. Ackerman attended the Sustainable Energy Committee, where they unanimously voted to support Article 30 Healthy Buses at Town Meeting. The Library Corporation is sponsoring two public meetings to discuss accessible parking at the library. The first meeting was already held, and the second meeting will take place on September 14 on Zoom.

Mr. Lawson attended the Tax Fairness Committee, where they are preparing a narrative description for Article 15 ahead of Town Meeting. Mr. Lawson also attended the School Committee, where they discussed the reopening plan for the schools.

Miscellaneous Correspondence

There was no correspondence to report.

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Public Comments

Tanya Gailus of 62 Prescott Road stated that she believes that the Junction Village project will stay in town whether or not Article 16 is voted in the affirmative at Town Meeting, which she hopes it will not be voted in the affirmative.

Mark Gailus of 62 Prescott Road commented that it is problematic to hear that Town Counsel has not been involved in the creation of the TIF proposal.

Adjourn

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

Roll call vote

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

Minuteman Media Network Coverage: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AQR-czTpzOU&t=1163s>

Meeting Documents: <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/25945/August-31-SB-Packet>