

**TOWN OF NEWBURY
SELECT BOARD**

MINUTES

DATE: July 27, 2021

PRESENT: Select Board: Chairwoman Alicia Greco; Vice Chair JR Colby; Clerk Geof Walker; Mike Doyle (participated remotely); Gerry Heavey

Staff:

Tracy Blais, Town Administrator
Julie O'Brien, Executive Administrator
Martha Taylor, Town Planner
Matt Cooper, IT Director
Cindy Currier, COA Director

Speakers:

Alex Castro, Mead, Talerman and Costa, LLC

Call to Order:

At 7:00 p.m. Chairwoman Alicia Greco called the meeting to order with a salute to the flag

Motion: JR Colby moved to open the meeting, seconded G. Walker

Discussion: None

Oral Communications From Citizens

Bob Ross, 48 Central Street, spoke regarding not being aware that Larkin road had been previously open. Talked about the road being a cut through to route 95. Did some measurements from Larkin to Central to Parish to Jackman noted same distance as down Central, down Elm down to Jackman to Parish, one and a half mile either way. Understands more than 300 signatures on Petition. Seems to him the persons who do not want road opened overwhelming outnumber the persons who want to open.

David Maida, 61 Larkin Road, spoke regarding the petition. Mentioned has experienced both the bridge being opened and closed and the traffic being significantly different. Discussed the road being used as a cut through if opened. Asked about a gate with a lock as option for emergency vehicles. Discussed many small children and pets on the road. Stated the will of the people has spoken, we want a gate.

Justin Londergan, 38 Larkin Road, stated 315 people have signed the petition and spoke about the bridge in relation as to why Georgetown wants bridge opened. Asked what is the benefit to Newbury regarding opening the bridge? Understand the benefit to Georgetown but does not care. Feels there is a way out of the promise made to Georgetown 5 years ago. Asked for clarification as to how this is in Newbury residents' best interest.

Catherine Londergan, 38 Larkin Road, requested to be put on an Agenda

A. Greco requested of Julie to place the Larkin Road bridge project on the August 24th Agenda

Bob McKenna, 16 Parish Road, measured width of Parish Road and stated is consistently under 20 feet. His concern is safety. Encourage Board to take a walk down there. All the Board members acknowledged have been down the road

Board and Committee Reports

Report of Chairwoman Greco:

Grants, Gifts & Donations

(Chapter 44: Section 53A Grants and gifts; acceptance and expenditure)

COA Donation – Linda Jackson - \$20.00

Motion: JR Colby moved to accept the donation seconded, G Walker

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey - Yes

COA Donation – Ginny Nichols - \$9.00

Motion: JR Colby moved to accept the donation seconded, G Walker

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey - Yes

COA Donation – Hendrik Tans – \$5.00

Motion: JR Colby moved to accept donation seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes

Gerry Heavey - Yes

COA Donation – Joyce Machiros - \$20.00

Motion: JR Colby moved to accept donation seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes

JR Colby – Yes

Geof Walker – Yes

Mike Doyle – Yes

Gerry Heavey - Yes

COA Donation – Norma McKay - \$25.00

Motion: JR Colby moved to accept donation seconded, M. Doyle

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes

JR Colby – Yes

Geof Walker – Yes

Mike Doyle – Yes

Gerry Heavey - Yes

Jane D. Moore Fund – William Adams - \$250.00

Motion: JR Colby moved to accept the donation seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: A. Greco provided information regarding the fund

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes

JR Colby – Yes

Geof Walker – Yes

Mike Doyle – Yes

Gerry Heavey - Yes

WWII Memorial Site Grant – Newburyport Bank Charitable Foundation, Inc. - \$2,152.00, to erect a sign at the WWII Memorial site in Newbury

Motion: JR Colby moved to accept the donation seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: Discussion ensued

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey – Yes

Motion: M. Doyle moved to send thank you letter to Newburyport Bank seconded, G. Heavey

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey – Yes

Public Hearings:

Notice of Intent to Sell For Other Use – 68 Green Street

In accordance with the provisions of M.G.L. CH. 61A on the "Notice of Intent to Sell" 68 Green Street, Newbury, MA for other than agricultural use, specifically for residential use. The area in Chapter 61A lot consists of 15.110 acres, more or less and is shown as Lot 21 on Assessors Map 32, parcel R35 0 21

G. Walker read the Public Hearing notice

Motion: G. Walker moved to not exercise our right of first refusal or assign the 61A property seconded, M. Doyle

Discussion: Eva Jackman spoke regarding selling of the land

A.Greco polled the Board for comments:

JR Colby – No comment
Geof Walker – No comment
M. Doyle – No comment
G. Heavey – No comment
A. Greco – No comment

It was noted that the Town of Newbury Assessors office and Planning Board provided correspondence indicating there is not a municipal use for the land

G. Heavey inquired what the final project will be

Eva Jackman provided a brief overview

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes

Gerry Heavey - Yes

Motion: JR Colby moved to close public hearing seconded, G. Walker

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes

JR Colby – Yes

Geof Walker – Yes

Mike Doyle – Yes

Gerry Heavey - Yes

New Business:

Request for Public Property Use – First Parish Newbury Food Pantry – Banner

Motion: JR Colby moved to approve seconded, M. Doyle

Discussion: none

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes

JR Colby – Yes

Geof Walker – Yes

Mike Doyle – Yes

Gerry Heavey - Yes

Request for Public Property Use – YuKan Sports, 5K Road Race

Motion: JR Colby moved to approve seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: Board asked Julie to Inform Yukan no spray painting the road

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes

JR Colby – Yes

Geof Walker – Yes

Mike Doyle – Yes

Gerry Heavey - Yes

Request for Public Property Use – Essex County Greenbelt, Tour de Greenbelt, water stop

Motion: M. Doyle moved to approve seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes

JR Colby – Recused

Geof Walker – Yes

Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey - Yes

Request for Public Property Use – Coast to the Cure Neurofibromatosis, Bike Ride

Motion: JR Colby moved to approve seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: none

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey - Yes

Business License – Schneller BMW Performance, dba Michael Morris, 26 Middle Road Unit 1, General Business/Automotive

Motion: JR Colby moved to approve seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey - Yes

1 Day Liquor License – Byfield Community Arts Center, Liz Frame Concert

Motion: JR Colby moved to approve seconded G. Walker

Discussion: none

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey - Yes

1 Day Liquor License – Byfield Community Arts Center, Mike Vitale Concert

Motion: M. Doyle moved to approve seconded, JR Colby

Discussion: none

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey - Yes

COA Space Needs Report

Discussion: Bill DiMaio spoke and gave information regarding the COA space needs assessment by Context and provided handouts to the Board

Meeting Broadcast Discussion

Discussion: A. Greco spoke about issues with the live broadcast. Matt Cooper, IT Director, spoke regarding the matter and provided solution options. Discussion amongst the Board members and IT Director ensued.

Motion: JR Colby moved for Matt Cooper to provide a report to the Select Board listing options and cost to address the issues seconded, G. Heavey

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey - Yes

Town Administrators Report

Plum Island Turnpike

- massDOT has announced the temporary closure of the Plum Island Turnpike Drawbridge over the Plum Island River
- It will be occurring nightly, Monday August 2nd through Friday, August 6th from 9pm to 5am
- The closure is necessary for crews to safely rehabilitate the bridge deck
- Signage and messaging boards will be put in place
- Drivers should expect delays, reduce speed and use caution as the drawbridge will be intermittently closed holding up traffic for up to 12 minutes at a time
- Work is weather dependent and may be impacted by emergencies
- Additional information may be found at www.mass511.com

Fiscal Year End Close

- 6/30 is the official close of our fiscal year and the Finance Department is working on closing the books.

ACO

- The Town received correspondence from Plum Island resident Nancy Silva regarding a situation that occurred at her property involving a coyote
- Our ACO, Carol LaRoque, corralled the animal under the property owner's deck, crawled under with her choke collar tool, harnessed the animal, carried it out over her shoulders, deposited it into the animal crate and loaded it onto the Environmental Police Officer's truck
- As always, she handled the situation in a professional manner. She is quite brave!

New Hires

- **Welcoming:**
 - Samantha Holt as our new Conservation Agent
 - Christine Beaupre as the new Inspectional Services Administrator
 - Annette Fotino as Assistant Accountant/Clerk
 - Kathleen Zaremba as COA Program Coordinator
- MMA launched MassTown Careers Campaign aimed at attracting a new generation of worker to municipal careers as we confront a growing challenge in filling a diverse range of jobs in the face of retirements and a highly competitive job market.

Upper Green Pond Frogs

- On June 24th a resident noted that there were a large number of deceased frogs in the Upper Green Pond so I asked Jonathon Higgins take a look
- he noted the water quality of the entire pond through sampling and all was relatively normal with the exception of the water temperature (87 degrees F) – not typical for that time of year
- He also noted that there was a small bloom of cyanobacteria which may have been an added stressor
- He suggested that the town consider adding a well to pump fresh water into the pond to achieve a more sustainable water quality picture. James Sarette will be looking into pricing
- the geese continue to be a challenge

Larkin Mill Dam Removal Grant was submitted on May 18th

- A group of reviewers from MA Fish & Game were on site yesterday further evaluating our grant application
- Understanding the role that the DPW will play in the Dam's removal and the project support as voted by the SB, the reviewers were enthusiastic about our application

19 Independence Way Update (\$420,000)

- The property closed on Friday 6/25

Old Business

Request to plant tree, Lower Green, in memory of Peter Hollis

Motion: G. Walker moved to move the tree 10 feet closer to dirt road then Tim Lamprey had staked out seconded, JR Colby

Discussion: Tim Lamprey, Tree Warden, spoke regarding the project. Discussion amongst the Board ensued

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey - Yes

Discussion regarding recognition plaque for Police Station Building Committee

Discussion: A.Greco explained where the bench was located and asked if anyone had any ideas as to what plaque would say.

In recognition, of the dedication and hard work of the Municipal Building Committee consisting of Bob Connors Jon Kellar and Eric Svahn, was suggested

Ask Chief Lucey to measure the slates on the bench

Board asked Julie to create a mockup of the plaque

Correspondence

Correspondence from Commonwealth of Mass Division of Marine Fisheries regarding Shellfishing Closures, June 23rd; July 1st; July 4th; July 16th

Email from Carol Rice regarding the COA and Town Hall facilities

Email from Dana Packer regarding COA appointments

Email from Fred Thurlow regarding Senior Center and Town Hall

Email from Mike Bowling regarding proposed complex on Morgan Ave

Email from Blair Mehan regarding Larkin Road Bridge

Email from Jen Porter regarding Larkin Road Bridge

Emails from Justin Londergan regarding Larkin Road Bridge dated June 21st, June 24th, and July 1st, 2021

Email from Alina Mauritz regarding Larkin Road Bridge

Email from Robert Ross regarding Larkin Road Bridge

Meeting Updates

M. Doyle asked for a moment of silence in memory of Rowley Police officer Stephen Levesque

M. Doyle also reported on a meeting of the Eastern Essex Veteran board

Review of Meeting Minutes

April 20th Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion: Jr Colby moved to approve seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes

JR Colby – Yes

Geof Walker – Yes

Mike Doyle – Yes

Gerry Heavey - Yes

June 22nd Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion: JR Colby moved to approve seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes

JR Colby – Yes

Geof Walker – Yes

Mike Doyle – Yes

Gerry Heavey - Yes

June 29th Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion: JR Colby moved to approve seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes

JR Colby – Yes

Geof Walker – Yes

Mike Doyle – Yes

Gerry Heavey - Abstained

July 6th Draft Meeting Minutes

Motion: JR Colby moved to approve seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes

JR Colby – Yes

Geof Walker – Yes

Mike Doyle – Yes

Gerry Heavey - Yes

Warrants

Motion: JR Colby moved to sign the Warrants seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes

JR Colby – Yes

Geof Walker – Yes

Mike Doyle – Yes

Gerry Heavey - Yes

Executive Session:

Pursuant to Massachusetts General Law, Chapter 30A, § 21 (a)(3) to review, discuss, and consider the Board's response to the Open Meeting Law complaint against It dated July 12, 2021, filed by Jack Rybicki, and on file with the Town Clerk, whereas discussion of this matter in open session would have a detrimental effect on the Board's litigating position (and the Chair so declares It) and to reconvene in open session to vote to approve the same.

Motion: JR Colby moved to enter into Executive Session seconded, G. Heavey

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey - Yes

Motion: JR Colby moved to reconvene to open session seconded, A. Greco

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey - Yes

Motion: JR Colby moved to approve the response seconded, G. Walker

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey - Yes

Adjourn

Motion: At 9:09 p.m. A. Greco moved to adjourn, seconded JR Colby

Discussion: None

Roll Call Vote:

Alicia Greco – Yes
JR Colby – Yes
Geof Walker – Yes
Mike Doyle – Yes
Gerry Heavey - Yes

Respectfully submitted,
Julie O'Brien
Executive Administrator