

**TOWN OF NEWBURY  
SELECT BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**DATE:** May 23, 2023

**PRESENT:** **Select Board:** Chair Alicia Greco; Geof Walker; Clerk Dana Packer; Bill DiMaio; Leslie Matthews

**Staff:**

Tracy Blais, Town Administrator  
Julie O'Brien, Executive Administrator  
Martha Taylor, Town Planner  
Patty Fisher, Police Chief

**Speakers:**

Robert Roseen, Waterstone Engineering  
Chris LaPointe, Greenbelt, Essex County Land Trust

**Call to Order:**

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

**Motion:** L. Matthews moved to open the meeting, seconded D. Packer and voted unanimously

Discussion: None

**Public Comment**

Mike Doyle, Morgan Ave., commented regarding concerns he has about parking at Plum Island Center. Mr. Doyle stated feels a clerk needs to be there, asked the Board along with the police chief to restore that position

Steve Mangion, 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Spoke to the IMA Conservation Agent Agreement on tonight's Agenda. Stated he is against the Agreement and feels there needs to be a full time agent. Spoke to matters on Plum Island. Commented 25 hours a week are not enough. Recommends Board tables or votes down tonight so there can be more discussion

Fred Thurlow, Marsh Ave. , stated Bob Connors mentioned the Old Town Hall was infested with rats and mice. Asked why nothing has been done. Feels this can be easily taken care of. Would like to see action taken.

John Matthews, 252 High Road, requested that the Municipal Building Committee be dissolved. Stated Town Hall needs to have fresh look. Welcomed the new Board members.

Bernie Field, Forrest St., mentioned a Memorial Day parade on Monday, May 29th at 10:00 a.m.

Evelyn Noyes, Downfall Rd., spoke of a Memorial Day parade also. Stated have two local veterans who will take part in the service and two Triton students will take part. Also, a George Washington University student who chose a local WWII veteran who did not return and did a project on this individual will be in attendance. Service will take place at memorial site after the parade.

## **Board and Committee Reports**

Report of Chair Greco:

Signed PR23-21, Select Board

Signed PR23-21, Julie O'Brien

Signed PR23-22, Julie O'Brien

## **Grants, Gifts & Donations**

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

COA donation - Central Congregational Church - \$500

**Motion:** B. DiMaio moved to accept the donation, seconded G. Walker and voted unanimously

Discussion: Discussion ensued

Motion: B. DiMaio moved to send a thank you note to the Church seconded, G. Walker and voted unanimously

COA donation - Alba Gouldthorpe - \$20

**Motion:** B. DiMaio moved to accept the donation seconded, G. Walker and voted unanimously

Discussion: None

COA donation - Dave Winters - \$25

**Motion:** B. DiMaio moved to accept the donation seconded, G. Walker and voted unanimously

Discussion: None

Police donation - Alfred&Sandra Bellows - \$100

**Motion:** L. Matthews moved to accept the donation seconded, G. Walker and voted unanimously

Discussion: None

National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Grant - \$341,000

**Motion:** G. Walker moved to accept the donation seconded, L. Matthews and voted unanimously

Discussion: Tracy Blais spoke to the Grant

**Public Hearings:** None

## **New Business:**

Reorganization of Select Board – Chair, Vice Chair, Clerk

**Motion:** G. Walker nominated A. Greco for chair seconded, B. DiMaio

**Motion:** D. Packer nominated himself for Chair seconded, L. Matthews  
Vote for A. Greco as Chair:

G. Walker; B. DiMaio; A. Greco voted in favor  
D. Packer; Leslie Matthews voted against

Vote for D. Packer as Chair:

D. Packer and Leslie Mathews voted in favor  
G. Walker; B. DiMaio; A. Greco voted against

The nomination of Chair goes to A. Greco

**Motion:** A. Greco nominated B. DiMaio for Vice Chair seconded, G. Walker

**Motion:** L. Matthews nominated D. Packer for Vice Chair seconded, D. Packer

Vote for B. DiMaio as Vice Chair

A. Greco; G. Walker; B. DiMaio voted in favor  
D. Packer and L. Matthews voted against

Vote for D. Packer as Vice Chair

D. Packer and L. Matthews voted in favor  
A. Greco; G. Walker; B. DiMaio voted against

The nomination for Vice Chair goes to Bill DiMaio

**Motion:** A. Greco nominated L. Matthews for Clerk seconded, G. Walker and voted unanimously

CRA Amendment approval, 140R Main Street, Newbury MA - Robert Roseen, Waterstone Engineering

**Motion:** G. Walker moved to approve the Amendment seconded, L. Matthews

A. Greco recused herself due to being a direct abutter

Discussion: Mr. Roseen and Chris Lapointe, Essex County Green Belt spoke to the Amendment and gave a history and amendment project and answered questions from the Board. Martha Taylor Planning Board director and Leslie Matthews former planning board member spoke to the project also

Vote: A.Greco recused; G. Walker; B. DiMaio; L. Matthews voted in favor: D. Packer voted against

The Motion passes

Conservation Agent Intermunicipal Agreement

**Motion:** A. Greco moved to approve and have the Town Administrator sign the IMA seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: Tracy Blais spoke to the agreement, provided a history and answered questions from the Board. Samantha Holt, Conservation Agent, spoke to the Agreement and answered questions from the Board.

A. Greco; G. Walker; B. DiMaio; L. Matthews vote in favor: D. Packer vote against

The Motion passes

NPD Lahey Clinician Partnership update - Chief Fisher

Discussion: Chief Fisher spoke to the Lahey clinician role, read a presentation and answered questions from the Board

Approve New Business License - Christopher Foley dba Foley Stoneworks, 6A Fatherland Dr., Byfield, MA, General Business - Masonry

**Motion:** B. DiMaio moved to approve the new business license seconded G. Walker

Discussion: None

Voted unanimously in favor

Approve Commercial Clam Permit Application renewal - Nathan Walker, 173 High Road

**Motion:** B. DiMaio moved to approve the clam permit renewal seconded, L. Matthews

Discussion: None

G. Walker recused: A. Greco; B. DiMaio; D. Packer; L. Matthews voted in favor

Approve Public Property Use Request - Harmony Natural Learning Center, Lower Green, end of school year celebration, June 14 (rain date June 15)

**Motion:** B. DiMaio moved to approve the Public Property Use seconded, D. Packer

Discussion: Amy, Director of the Harmony Learning Center, spoke to the event and answered questions from the Board. Chief Fisher Patty spoke to the parking arrangements

Voted unanimously in favor

Approve Public Property Use Request - Loco Races, LLC & Ventures Endurance, half marathon and 5K, November 12, 2023

**Motion:** L. Matthews moved to approve the Public Property Use seconded, D. Packer

Discussion: None

Voted unanimously in favor

Approve Public Property Use Request - Brenna Banister, Wedding Ceremony, Newbury Beach, October 7, 2023

**Motion:** L. Matthews moved to approve the Public Property Use seconded, G. Walker

Discussion: Discussion ensued

Voted unanimously in favor

Approve One Day Liquor License, Mercury Brewing, vintage baseball, Spencer Peirce Little Farm, June 4, 18 2023; July 9, 16, 23, 30, 2023.

**Motion:** G. Walker moved to approve the One Day Liquor Licenses seconded, D. Packer

Discussion: None

Voted unanimously in favor

Approve One Day Liquor License, Alyssa Kendall Castine, BCAC, Birthday Party, June 10, 2023

**Motion:** B. DiMaio moved to approve the One Day Liquor License seconded G. Walker

Discussion: None

Voted unanimously in favor

Approve One Day Liquor License, Governors Academy, Annual Reunion, June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>

**Motion:** G. Walker moved to approve the One Day Liquor License seconded, B. DiMaio

Discussion: None

Voted unanimously in favor

Approve Entertainment License, Ould Newbury Golf Club, Music/Band, June thru September 2023, 5:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

**Motion:** G. Walker moved to approve the Entertainment License seconded, L. Matthews

Discussion: None

Voted unanimously in favor

Approve Entertainment License, Plum Island Beachcoma, small speaker, Saturday's 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m., May 2023 to May 2024

**Motion:** G. Walker moved to approve the Entertainment License seconded, L. Matthews

Discussion: Discussion ensued

Voted unanimously in favor

**Town Administrators Report**

## **DPW**

- Orchard St will be going out to bid soon – estimated project cost is \$700,000
- Main St Bridge Railing – July
- Central St Bridge – currently being engineered, 2 years until construction
- River St – applying for grant funding for the engineering
- Paving PI Turnpike and the main roadways have been completed
- Expect that the public bathrooms will be completed this season as well

NPD is hiring a Full Time Emergency Communication DispatchersWelcome Wilma McDonald – The Town Clerk has chosen Wilma McDonald the Asst. Town Clerk position

## **Plovers**

- Attended a meeting last week with representatives from Mass Audubon, MA Wildlife, US Fish and Wildlife, National Heritage Endangered Species Program, MA EPOs and Chief Fisher regarding the issues relating to plovers that they have identified as occurring on the Plum Island Beach:
  - Primarily related to dogs off leash and signage
  - The signage issue seems as though it will be solved soon; and includes both removing old outdated signs with inaccurate information and adding signs that communicate in a friendly manner that dogs off leash may create state and federal liability for their owners in case they take a protected bird.
  - For dogs off leash, we clarified that when the Town receives reports of potential takes,
    - step one is to contact the Mass Environmental Police and
    - step two is to contact MassWildlife
  - For proactive management, the bylaw currently does not allow dogs on the public beach from May 15-September 15 between the hours of 8:30am-5:00pm
  - Chief Fisher updated the group that NPD's patrols frequently check for dogs
  - Limiting dogs on the public beach outside of those hours/seasons would obviously require a change to the Town's bylaw—while that would certainly decrease dogs overall across both the public and private beaches, it is something that Town Meeting participants have been hesitant to do.
  - In summation, both the state and federal agencies in attendance stressed that adding a leash bylaw or excluding dogs on the public beach altogether would decrease the odds of a take and thus the liability for the town.
  - I would like to work with Atty Clemens to understand the full extent of the Town's exposure.

DHCD Notification that our MBTA Action Plan has been approved and Newbury has achieved Interim Compliance

Martha Taylor, Planning Director, spoke to the next steps

## **Old Business**

None

## **Correspondence**

A. Greco read letters received from Comcast regarding changes to service

### **Meeting Updates**

Select Board Summer Meeting Schedule

Discussion: For the months of July, August and September the Select Board Scheduled meetings will be held on the fourth Tuesday of the month

Select Board training session with Town Counsel. A date to be determined

Municipal Building Committee to provide their update at June 27th Select Board meeting

D. Packer spoke to the appreciation of the Veteran's budget that was approved which has allowed a full time second person to help Karen out. Also participated in a meeting at Plum Island

G. Walker spoke of a UNH visit, in regards to the placement of the sand at Reservation Terrace. Erosion at Terrace is minimal on outside edge of the river and a sand build up where spur use to be

A. Greco spoke of a Fiscal Policy Committee MMA meeting she attended. Reported revenues down for the Commonwealth in April. Mid May revenues did go up compared to 2022

B. DiMaio spoke of the COA having lunch for Newbury Veterans Thursday, May 25th at 12:00 p.m.

### **Review of Meeting Minutes**

Draft Meeting Minutes April 11 and April 15, 2023

**Motion:** G. Walker moved to approve the meeting minutes seconded, L. Matthews

Discussion: None

Voted unanimously in favor

### **Warrants:**

VW2322

PRVW2322

PR2321

PRVW2321

VW2321

RefMar23

VW2323

**Motion:** G. Walker moved to sign the Warrants seconded, D. Packer

Discussion: None

Voted unanimously in favor

### **Executive Session:**

None

**Adjourn**

**Motion:** At 8:30 p.m. G. Walker moved to adjourn, seconded, B. DiMaio and voted unanimously

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie O'Brien  
Executive Administrator