

**TOWN OF NEWBURY  
SELECT BOARD**

**MINUTES**

**DATE:** July 26, 2022

**PRESENT:** **Select Board:** Chair Alicia Greco; Geof Walker;  
Gerry Heavey; Clerk Dana Packer

**Staff:**

Tracy Blais, Town Administrator  
Julie O'Brien, Executive Administrator  
Martha Taylor, Town Planning Director  
Patty Fisher, Deputy Chief of Police

**Call to Order:**

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

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

Discussion: None

**Public Comment:**

Brian Colleran, 293 High Road, mentioned he expects that he is done as the Chair of the Concom. Discussed his tenure with the Commission, his education and professional experience. Discussed he enjoyed his service, felt he genuinely helped people and thought he brought a lot to the table. Reviewed why he was speaking at the Select Board meeting tonight. Read emails exchanges he had with Select Board chair, Town Administrator and Conservation Agent. Mentioned no one has brought to his attention if there was a problem with his service. Asked for someone to give him an explanation at some point, as to why he was not re appointed.

A.Greco, stated she would respond to Brian. Stated the fact he had not been reappointed in early June was an oversight for which she apologized. Mentioned she had not realized there were so many outstanding items on the Conservation Committee. When she realized the effect of Brian not being reappointed by June 30<sup>th</sup>, she asked Tracy Blais to reach out to Town Counsel to find out if there was a way. Explained Commonwealth does have a bridge, Brian would have to accept to continue in role until the Board could re appoint but Brian declined that reappointment.

G Heavey asked if he would like to continue to serve.

Brian replied felt would run into conflict with the current candidate on tonight's agenda

Brian offered some advice that the Commission is new and to keep their eye on them

Bill DiMaio, 12 Orchard Street, a reminder a proclamation was signed to make Newbury a purple heart town. Part of the proclamation stated we would commemorate Aug 7<sup>th</sup> as purple heart day which is a national recognition. Select Board granted permission to use the Upper Green. Mr. DiMaio confirmed there will be a ceremony at the Upper Green at 4:00 p.m., August 7<sup>th</sup>.

### **Board and Committee Reports:**

- Report of Chair Greco

Signed PR22-26, Julie O'Brien  
Signed PR22-27, Julie O'Brien  
Signed PR23-02, Julie O'Brien  
Signed PR23-02, Select Board  
Signed VW22-17, Amazon

A. Greco reported, Newbury Town Day committee is pulling together a cook book and needs more recipes. Alicia passed out forms if persons would like to contribute a recipe to the book

### **Grants, Gifts & Donations:**

COA Donation – Lee and Mary Fisk - \$4.00

Motion: G. Walker moved to accept the donation seconded, D Packer and voted unanimously

Discussion: None

COA Donation – June Brogan - \$30.00

Motion: G. Walker moved to accept the donation seconded, D. Packer and voted unanimously

Discussion: None

COA Donation – Friends of the NCOA - \$16,000

Motion: G. Walker moved to accept the donation seconded, D. Packer and voted unanimously

Discussion: Cindy Currier, COA Director spoke to the donation

COA Donation – Fred Thurlow, Billiard Table

Motion: G. Walker moved to accept the donation seconded D. Packer, and voted unanimously

Discussion: Cindy Currier, COA Director spoke to the donation. Discussion ensued. Ms. Currier answered questions from the Board members

Police Department Anonymous Donation - \$3,000

Motion: G. Walker moved to accept the donation seconded, A. Greco, three votes in favor, one opposed, the motion passed

Discussion: Discussion amongst the Board members ensued

**Motion:** G. Heavey moved to not accept anonymous donations for the Police department seconded, D. Packer  
Two votes in favor, two votes opposed, the motion did not pass

Discussion: Discussion ensued

**Public Hearing:** None

**New Business:**

- New Business License, Amy Venio Flowers, 72 Turnpike Rd., Newbury, MA, Florist

Motion: G. Walker moved to approve the new business license request seconded D. Packer, and voted unanimously

Discussion: None

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

Motion: G. Walker moved to approve the Public Property Use request seconded, D. Packer and voted unanimously

Discussion: Jane Rummel with the ECG, spoke regarding the event

- Request for Public Property Use – First Parish Newbury Food Pantry – Back Stop

Motion: G. Walker moved to approve the Public Property Use request seconded, D. Packer and voted unanimously

Discussion: None

- Review, approve, and sign – FY23 Appointments
  - Conservation Committee – Brad Duffin

Motion: G. Walker moved to approve the Conservation Committee appointment seconded D. Packer, 3 votes in favor 1 vote opposed, the motion passed

Discussion: Discussion ensued

- Election Workers: Michele Augeri, Jane Boyer, Bart Bracken, Claire Siebert

Motion: G. Walker moved to approve the appointment of the Election Workers as listed seconded, G. Heavey and voted unanimously

Discussion: Discussion ensued

- Sign Warrant for 2022 State Primary

Motion: G. Walker moved to approve the signing of the 2022 State Primary Warrant seconded, D. Packer and voted unanimously

Discussion: Discussion ensued

- The Votes Act

Motion: D. Packer moved to give the duty and responsibility of assigning Constables and ensuring that any detail officers assigned, upon request to, and after discussion with the Chief of Police, to the Chief Elections Official (Town Clerk) seconded, G. Walker and voted unanimously

Discussion: A. Greco read the letter Town Clerk provided

- Approve a letter of recognition for Eagle Scout Mason A. Mysliwy

Motion: G. Heavey moved to approve the letter of recognition request seconded, D. Packer and voted unanimously

Discussion: A. Greco read the letter provided by the Troop leader. Discussion ensued

**Old Business:** None

**Town Administrator Report:**

- Hired Zach Mysliwy to the DPW Laborer position

**Grants**

- Received \$70,000 from the Department of Fish and Game, Division of Ecological Restoration
  - engineering and permitting for the Larkin Road Dam Removal Project
  - already received \$50,000 for this project
  - \$190,000 through bid documents
- Newbury received Winter Recovery Assistance Program Grant funds in the amount of \$176,973.66 for the rehabilitation, reconstruction, resurfacing and preservation of roadways, repair or replacement of traffic control devices, signage, guardrails and storm grates and road striping – will be used for paving Sunset Blvd and Old Point Road
- MassDOT has notified us that our Municipal Small Bridge Program grant for \$100,000 was also approved. This will provide us with the funding to complete Phase I of the Central Street Bridge project; the design and engineering to replace the metal arch culvert originally built in 1968.
  - As you can see, the existing arch is showing signs of rot at the waterline which will undermine the culvert and eventually compromise the roadway if it is not addressed
  - We hope to continue working with Bayside Engineering

**Motion:** A.Greco moved to accept the Grant money seconded, G. Walker and voted unanimously

- In closing of FY 2022, reviewed total grant receipts:
  - Human Services                      \$ 74,877 - COA
  - Culture & Recreation              585,500 – Rail Trail
  - Public Safety                          186,675 – Turn Out Gear
  - DPW                                      755,196 – Roads, Bridges
  - General Government              15,000
  - IT    250,000 – Fiber

### **Economic Bond Bill**

- Senator Tarr notified us today that the Economic Bond Bill includes funding for two of Newbury's projects:
  - \$50,000 for the Main Street Bridge Railing Project
  - \$333,334 for the Larkin Dam Removal Project

### **COA**

- COA has been very busy getting their new center in order
- The space looks amazing—even better than we imagined
- Plans are underway for an open house on 10/18 from 2-6pm

### **Jean Ackerley Garden Party**

- Wednesday 7/27 from 5-7pm

### **ARPA Fund Requests**

#### **1. COA Van - \$112,000**

- The COA is looking to replace the current van with an updated model with a lower chassis with ramp access in lieu of stairs and a wheelchair lift in the back.

**Motion:** G. Walker moved to approve using \$112,000 of ARPA Grant Funds towards the purchase of the new COA van seconded, D. Packer and voted unanimously

Discussion: Discussion ensued

### **Correspondence:**

- Letter from the Commonwealth of Mass, Open Meeting Law Complaint, no violation found
- Letter from Xfinity regarding changes to service

### **Meeting Updates:**

D. Packer reported he continues to work with Karen Tyler, Veterans Services and also discussed with Tracy Blais regarding trying to increase the property tax credit for disabled veterans. Found out the Town has the capability to double the amount of money that veterans receive. It's a work in progress, may have to go to Town Meeting not certain yet

A.Greco reported attended MMA fiscal policy committee meeting today, hybrid meeting mandate was the topic. Stated probably will not happen as too costly with the need for such things as additional staff to cover the meetings

Mentioned many grant programs coming from the state. Bond bills for infrastructure

Fiscal Policy Association had a discussion regarding Mass school building association. How has not been updated lately. Will be revamped and a focus of the committee in the Fall

### **Review of Meeting Minutes**

- Approve Draft Meeting Minutes 6.28.22

**Motion:** G. Walker moved to approve the draft meeting minutes seconded, D. Packer and voted unanimously

Discussion: None

- Approve Draft Meeting Minutes 7.14.22

**Motion:** G. Walker moved to approve the draft minutes seconded, D. Packer and voted unanimously

**Warrants**

VW2227

VW2301

PR2227

PRVW2301

PRVW2226

PR2226

**Motion:** G. Heavey moved to sign the warrants seconded, G. Walker and voted unanimously

Discussion: None

**Executive Session:**

None

**Adjourn**

**Motion:** At 8:14 p.m. G. Walker moved to adjourn seconded G. Heavey, and voted unanimously

Discussion: None

Respectfully submitted,  
Julie O'Brien  
Executive Administrator