

**TOWN OF NEWBURY
SELECT BOARD**

MINUTES

DATE: February 27, 2024

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

Staff:

Tracy Blais, Town Administrator
David Broll, Chair of Recreational Committee

Speakers:

Brett Eldger
Leslie Curran
Myk Crouch
Ryan Cox & Noah Goldstein - Bob Lobster
Madeline Sherwood - Circle Salon
David Powell

Call to Order:

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

Public Comment

Brett Eldger, 71 Pearson Drive Byfield. Speaks about Cricket Lane and how he believes that the citizens deserve more transparency on the project going on. Also speaks to the housing needs for elderly not just in the town but the region as well and hopes that it can be worked into the development. Makes a statement that the line items that are being looked at being cut from funding are basic services that towns should provide now and moving forward, including that of Triton.

- A. Greco states that once the school budget has been voted on and passed it is presented to the towns.

Leslie Curran, 68 Pearson Drive, Byfield. Speaks on her view of the Triton Budget and advocates on increasing public spending on public services including the schools, library, COA, and public safety.

Myk Crouch, 127 High Street. He speaks on supporting the schools and the continued funding of recreation services.

Grants, Gifts & Donations

COA Donation - Dennis & Deb Kondracki - \$25.00

Motion: B. DiMaio moves to accept the COA donation, L. Matthews seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted Unanimously

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

Public Hearings

New Business

Master Plan - Central St. Recreation Field

- David Broll, Chair of Recreation Committee
 - Five soccer fields, field house, basketball courts (already put-in)
 - Tot lot what they want to work on next
 - Want to create a walking path
 - Bring in more sports
 - Board previously approved \$240,000 of ARPA Funds
 - Priority/first focus will be playground.

Motion: A. Greco entertains a motion to adopt the plan as presented
L. Matthews moved, B. DiMaio seconded.

Discussion: G. Walker asks for clarification on which section of the plan that they voted on. A. Greco states they are voting on adopting the whole master plan and top lot is what they would like to start picking away on.
Discussion Ensued.

Vote: Voted Unanimously.

Town of Newbury Business License Renewals 2024:

Anthony Mendez, dba: Zeus Performance LLC at 86 Newburyport Turnpike. General Business: Auto/Marine, Automotive Repair

Motion: L. Matthews moved to approve, B. DiMaio seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted Unanimously.

Ryan Cox & Noah Goldstein, dba: Bob Lobster at 49 Plum Island Turnpike. Common Victualler

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

Discussion: Ryan Cox & Noah Goldstein speak on being the new owners. Hoping to open by end of March.

Vote: Voted Unanimously

Elizabeth/Michael Houlihan, dba: Roots to Wings at 76 Newburyport Turnpike. General Business: Heath & Wellness

Motion: G. Walker moved to approve, B. DiMaio seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted Unanimously

Ralph Johnson, Jr. - President, dba: Pert Lowell Co., Inc at Lanes End. Boat Restoration.

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

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted Unanimously

Elise Guay, dba: Boston Born Ink at 65 Newburyport Turnpike. Tattoo Shop

Motion: D. Packer moved to approve, L. Matthews seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted Unanimously

Elizabeth Moulton-Cowie/Martha Moulton, dba: Surfand Bait and Tackle LLC, at 30 Plum Island Boulevard.
General Business: Boat Shop

Motion: D. Packer moved to approve, L. Matthews seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted Unanimously

Madeline Sherwood, dba: Circle Salon at 65 Newburyport Turnpike. General Business - Beauty Shop.

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

Discussion: Madeline Sherwood speaks on her experience and the business.

Vote: Voted Unanimously.

Appointments

Appointment - David Powell - Open Space Committee

Motion: G. Walker moved to accept the appointment of David Powell to the Open Space Committee, L. Matthews seconded.

Discussion: L. Matthews thanks him for the interest in participating. David Powell thanks the Board and discusses Upper and Lower Greens. Discussion Ensued.

Vote: Voted Unanimously.

Appointment - Christina Hoffman - Open Space Committee

Motion: G. Walker moved to accept the appointment of Christine Hoffman to the Open Space Committee, L. Matthews seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted Unanimously.

Appointment - William Hoffman - Open Space Committee

Motion: G. Walker moved to accept the appointment of William Hoffman to the Open Space Committee, L. Matthews seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted Unanimously.

Appointment - Whittier Task Force

- Member communities have had conversations surrounding the agreement, the age of the agreement, some updating.
- Task force, each community would send either the town manager/finance director and a member of the Selectboard.

Motion: A. Greco makes a motion to appoint B. DiMaio to the Whittier Task Force, G. Walker seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted Unanimously.

Appointment - Chris Czernick - Election Worker

Motion: B. DiMaio moved to approve, G. Walker seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted Unanimously.

Town Administrators Report

Welcoming Haley Hart, Library Director.

Served as an Assistant Library Director + Head of Circulation, and Team Librarian in other communities

Welcoming David Fields, Assistant Town Administrator

Community Development Director in Gloucester, Director of Planning and Economic Development in Lexington and a GIS analyst.

Orchard Street Culvert

Received a \$200,000 State Fiscal Recovery Fund Grant.

Engineering complete, estimated project cost of \$680,000, with it expected to be going to bid in mid to late March.

Motion: G. Walker moved to accept \$200,000 from the State Fiscal Recovery Fund Grant, B. DiMaio seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted Unanimously.

Awarded Municipal Cyber Security Awareness Grant

Participated in this in the past. Not a financial grant

Green Communities Designations Application has been submitted.

Still waiting for some questions to be addressed.

Accepted Resignation of Assistant Treasurer/Collector

Library playground Equipment has been delivered

Collective Bargaining Negotiations

The Police Collective Bargaining Agreement has been settled. Will be requesting an executive session next meeting to put it up for consideration.

Fire and Library Negotiations are still ongoing.

Old Business

Appointment - Triton Facilities Subcommittee

- Superintendent has asked each community to appoint someone to this task force.
 - The Committee will be evaluating all of the facilities on a more in-depth basis.
- A. Greco volunteers to sit on the committee.

Motion: B. DiMaio moved to appoint A. Greco to the Triton Facilities Subcommittee, L. Matthews seconded.

Discussion: Discussion Ensued.

Vote: Voted Unanimously.

Correspondence

Xfinity - Form 500 & Annual Notice Filing

Discussion: None

Discussion of Meal Tax

Motion: G. Walker makes a motion to accept the Local Option Meals Tax, L. Matthews seconded.

Discussion: B. DiMaio did research on Local Meals Tax. Discussion Ensued.

Vote: Voted Unanimously.

Whittier - Excess & Deficiency

Discussion: None

Meeting Updates

L. Matthews watched the Planning Board Meeting about the MBTA Communities

D. Packer hoping to vote on budget on Thursday, February 29th.

A. Greco attended the MMA - The Fiscal Policy Committee, Chapter 70 discussed.

B. DiMaio says no papers have been pulled for elected slots: Constable, Fish Commissioner, Library Trustee, and School Committee

Review of Meeting Minutes

Draft Meeting Minutes 2.13.24

Motion: L. Matthews moved to accept, B. DiMaio seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted Unanimously.

Warrants

Rfd Jan 20

VW2416A

PR2416

PR2415

VW2417

PR2417

Motion: B. DiMaio makes a motion to sign the warrants, G. Walker seconded.

Discussion: None

Vote: Voted Unanimously

Executive Session

None

Adjourn

Motion: At 8:30 p.m. G. Walker moved to adjourn, L. Matthews seconded. seconded