



Select Board Meeting Minutes

Date: December 6, 2021

Time: 7:15PM

Location: Conducted by Remote Participation

Present: Mr. DeCoursey, Chair, Mrs. Mahon, Vice Chair, Mr. Hurd, Mr. Diggins, Mr. Helmuth

Also Present: Mr. Pooler, Mr. Heim, Ms. Maher

1. Executive Order on Remote Participation

Mr. DeCoursey opened the meeting by stating the Commonwealth passed on June 16, 2021, an act relative to extending certain COVID-19 measures adopted during the state of emergency, which among other things, allows public meetings to be conducted remotely until April of 2022. Tonight's meeting is being conducted via Zoom, is being recorded and is also being simultaneously broadcasted on ACMI. As such, all business will be conducted by roll call vote. Persons wishing to join the meeting by Zoom may find information on how to do so on the Town's website. Persons participating by Zoom are reminded that they may be visible to others and then if you wish to participate, you are asked to provide your full name in the interest of developing a record of the meeting. Further, all participants are advised that people may be listening who do not provide comment, and those persons are not required to identify themselves. Finally, both zoom participants and people watching on ACMI can follow the posted agenda materials, also found on the Town's website using the Novus agenda platform.

CONSENT AGENDA

2. Minutes of Meeting: November 22, 2021; November 29, 2021

3. Vote: Chapter 268A, Section 20(b)(3) Certification

a. David Gera

Michael Rademacher, Director of Public Works

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Heim.

Mr. Hurd: yes

Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes

Mrs. Mahon: yes

Mr. DeCoursey: yes

SO VOTED (5-0)

OPEN FORUM

John Leone, spoke on behalf of Mr. Megerditchian the property owner at 635 Massachusetts Avenue which borders the Railroad Parking Lot. Mr. Leone explained that the relocation of the Blue Bikes is a public nuisance, that it is in the way of people trying to traverse that stretch of sidewalk. Mr. Leone explained that when the inclement weather arrives this will turn into a sheet of ice and will be hard to navigate around. This is a heavily trafficked sidewalk and request the Board reopen the hearing on this matter and relocate this bike rack.

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS / OTHER BUSINESS

4. Discussion & Endorsement: ARPA Investment in Parks & Open Spaces Proposed Expenditure Plan

Adam W. Chapdelaine, Town Manager

Joseph Connelly, Director of Recreation

Mr. Connelly appeared before the Board and proposed a once in a lifetime opportunity to upgrade some of the Town's playgrounds to a safe and useable standard through ARPA monies. Mr. Connelly stated that in 2019 the Town had a playground audit and the results of that came back with several of our playgrounds being classified as a level one hazard, at that time they made some minor repairs to make the playgrounds less hazardous. This fall the Recreation Department conducted a round of safety audits that were done by an outside playground inspector. Those results came back, and we had to close several of the Towns playgrounds two of them being our school playgrounds and removing one. Mr. Connelly noted that with the use of this funding the Town can make significant improvements to the playgrounds and bring them up to a usable safe standard. Mr. Connelly noted that the first round of phase one improvements is approximately \$4 million which includes all 8 parks.

Mr. Pooler noted that in the memorandum that was presented to the Board they are looking for the Board's endorsement of going forward on the phase one projects listed. The Board noted that the \$4 million is the total of all those projects and that does fall within the amount of ARPA money that was approved for parks. The Board thanked Mr. Connelly in his efforts and support the investment in the Town's Playgrounds.

Mr. Hurd moved to approval.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Heim.

Mr. Hurd: yes

Mr. Diggins: yes

Mr. Helmuth: yes

Mrs. Mahon: yes

Mr. DeCoursey: yes

SO VOTED (5-0)

5. For Approval: Declaration of Trust for the Arlington Affordable Housing Trust Fund
Kelly Lynema, Assistant Director, Department of Planning and Community Development

Karen Kelleher, Chair, Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Mr. DeCoursey stated that this follows the vote that the Board took earlier this year to approve the trustees to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund. Title II of the Town's Bylaws states that a declaration of trust needs to be approved by the Select Board and then recorded at the Middlesex Registry of Deeds.

Ms. Kelleher appeared before the Board and stated that this vote is administrative, the declaration of trust is similar to the bylaw that was approved by Town Meeting. The changes that are were made were mostly administrative, mechanics of officer elections and timing, and process of terminating the trust in the distant future. Ms. Lynema stated that the next major step for the trust is the development of the action plan, and that will guide the trust for several years of operations. This will set forth the goals, priorities, and initiatives that the trust will pursue before advancing its purpose of preserving and creating low- and moderate-income housing for individuals and families.

The Board thanked Ms. Kelleher and Ms. Lynema for their hard work in bringing this forward. The Board had some question regarding appointments and the staggering terms and the length. Ms. Kelleher confirmed that the maximum is a two year term as set forth in the bylaw.

Mr. Helmuth moved approval.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Heim.

Mr. Hurd: yes
Mr. Diggins: yes
Mr. Helmuth: yes
Mrs. Mahon: yes
Mr. DeCoursey: yes

SO VOTED (5-0)

CORRESPONDENCE RECEIVED

6. Blue Bikes Rack and Pedestrian Safety at Railroad Parking Lot
John D. Leone

Mr. Diggins moved receipt and referred to Town Manager for report back at a future meeting.

A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Heim.

Mr. Hurd: yes
Mr. Diggins: yes
Mr. Helmuth: yes
Mrs. Mahon: yes
Mr. DeCoursey: yes

SO VOTED (5-0)

NEW BUSINESS

Mr. Helmuth shared his point of view regarding the Boards role with ARPA and his understanding of the process whereas the Board's legal role was to accept the funds. Mr. Helmuth shared his appreciation for the Town Manager and his transparency.

Mr. Diggins reelected as the chair for his third term on the Regional Transportation Advisory Council and stated that this advisory is great, and he really enjoys being apart of it. Mr. Diggins stated that he left the last Board meeting early to be a part of the Youth and Young Adult Study Group. Mr. Diggins stated that the representatives from the high school are great and energized and feels they are making great progress. Mr. Diggins would like to note that the civic engagement group along with Envision Arlington is doing something new in respect to their annual town survey. Mr. Diggins stated that they are going to collect questions and if you would like to submit, please do so through the Google Form.

Mr. Hurd stated that the Town implemented the Appleton and Mass Ave improvements a month ago and would like to note the difference it has made.

Mrs. Mahon noted that she would like to have the formula that the Town is using to determine the ARPA money for the premium pay for essential workers at the Board's next meeting. Mrs. Mahon expressed her frustration regarding the ARPA money and the distribution. Mrs. Mahon would like to place a concern regarding Alewife NPDES and the combined sewer overflows and flooding on a future agenda. Mrs. Mahon also questioned that in the future there will be booster vaccine clinics at the Town Hall.

Mr. DeCoursey stated that the Long Range Planning Committee is going to have a meeting on December 17th. Mr. DeCoursey noted that he will speak with Ms. Anderson regarding the NPDES and it will be placed on the December 20th Select Board agenda. Mr. DeCoursey spoke regarding an event he went to for the Housing Corporation of Arlington and stated that it was a great event where they will be opening the Downing square Broadway initiative buildings. Mr. DeCoursey also noted the publics continued patience with JRM. Mr. DeCoursey stated that the Town is working with them on the yard waste pickup and not to contact them directly.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

- A. To conduct a strategy session in preparation for contract negotiations with nonunion personnel, the Town Manager, and/or conduct contract negotiations with same.
- B. To comply with, or act under the authority of, any general or special law or federal grant-in-aid requirements: Approval of Executive Session Minutes of: November 1, 2021, and November 8, 2021
- C. To discuss the Open Meeting Law complaint of Mr. Patrick Higgins pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A sec.21 (a)(1).

Mrs. Mahon moved to enter executive session and to adjourn at 8:26 p.m.
A roll call vote was taken on the motion by Mr. Heim.

Mr. Hurd: yes
Mr. Diggins: yes
Mr. Helmuth: yes
Mrs. Mahon: yes
Mr. DeCoursey: yes

SO VOTED (5-0)

Next Scheduled Meeting of Select Board December 20, 2021

A true record attest

Ashley Maher
Office Manager

12/6/2021

| Agenda Item | Documents Used |
|-------------|---|
| 1 | Open Meeting Law Requirements Post State of Emergency |
| 2 | Draft minutes 11.22.2021 Draft minutes 11.29.2021 |
| 3 | D. Gera Reference |
| 4 | Memo from Recreation |
| 5 | Declaration of Trust Reference |
| 6 | CR Blue Bike Railroad Lot Reference |