

HAMILTON BOARD OF SELECTMEN

MINUTES OF MEETING

Town Hall Memorial Room, 577 Bay Road

May 6, 2019

Selectmen Present:

Chair Jeffrey Hubbard, Shawn Farrell, William Olson, Darcy Dale, and Rosemary Kennedy

Town Manager:

Joe Domelowicz

Chair Jeff Hubbard called the Board of Selectmen (BOS) meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. The Pledge of Allegiance was recited.

ANNOUNCEMENTS & BOARD OPENINGS

- Board and Committee Openings included one for the Board of Health, two for the Town Hall Building Committee, one for the Finance and Advisory Committee (FinCom), one for the Hamilton Affordable Housing Trust, and one for the Capital Committee.
- Announcements: The Discount Rain Barrel Program is available again through TGARB and the Town website. Deadline for orders is May 12 at midnight with pickup at the DPW Yard on May 18 from 8 to 12.
- Downtown merchants are holding a Street Fair on Sunday, May 19. Railroad Avenue from Bay Road to Willow Street will be blocked off.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Jeanne Maurand, 21 Garfield Ave., founder of Sundays in Patton Park along with Beth Meyers, announced the start of the summer concert season. She thanked Hamilton-Wenham residents for supporting the program. Her committee has existed for 20 years as an independent, all-volunteer group, which started in the Parks and Recreation Committee and then gravitated to The Community House. The group is now considering exploring the idea of returning to the Recreation Department as their umbrella organization. Another possibility she mentioned is as a liaison with the Selectmen. Concerts start June 23, 5 to 7 p.m. each Sunday. When it rains, they hold the concerts in the Tabernacle at Asbury Grove.

Carin Kale, 36 Rock Maple Ave., president of Patton Homestead, Inc., thanked the Town for its Town Meeting vote. This is the eighth time in a row the Town has voted favorably. The

Homestead has a major event coming up June 6, the 75th anniversary of DDay, a Town-wide event over the course of seven days, including a lecture on General Patton as "the reluctant decoy" on June 1. Funding has been received from a Mass Cultural Council grant.

Selectmen Reports

William Olson said the Master Plan session held at the Library last week was well-attended. Mr. Domelowicz added the Planning Board has reopened the survey and copies are available through Director of Planning & Inspections Patrick Reffett or at the Council on Aging.

Rosemary Kennedy said she has started holding weekly sessions with citizens on Monday mornings from 10 to 11 a.m.

Shawn Farrell reported the Recreation Department is meeting this evening. He asked Ms. Kennedy if she would consider holding meetings other than Monday mornings. She said yes and people may email her if interested in meeting with her.

Darcy Dale said she and Ms. Kennedy have signed up for a Selectmen training. She is meeting with Vicky Masone on Friday to talk about solar opportunities. She is wondering if the Town would be interested in utilizing the services of a professional mediator who has volunteered to come to Town Hall to help the Town move away from litigation toward negotiation. Mr. Domelowicz said he's never seen a town institute something like that as a policy, but he is always in favor of negotiation as opposed to litigation and asked for the contact. She also wants the Town to begin the process for reinstituting Hamilton's ambulance transport for two reasons: most importantly, to improve the service to the Townspeople to provide faster transport to the hospital and secondly, to increase revenues that would flow from having this enhanced service.

Mr. Hubbard said he attended the housing forum, as well. The questions were insightful and there was great attendance. He said the Town Hall Building Committee met and the architects need to know the direction the building will take soon. The issue is how do they make sure they've had enough input from the community about how important preserving the staircase is, as well as the dome ceiling in the old auditorium upstairs, which will make a huge difference in the direction of the project. One public hearing has been held. He'd like everyone to help get the word out that they need input.

Mr. Farrell asked if they had any issues with things they can't touch inside the building. Mr. Domelowicz said not on the inside. They've talked with the Historic District Commission and Historical Society. Ms. Dale asked if the public hearings will be posted. Mr. Hubbard said yes. Mr. Farrell added that per BOS policy, he would encourage the Selectmen to let Mr. Hubbard know if they're planning to attend a meeting because if three or more show up at a meeting they need to post it.

add wheelchair access, etc., and would bear a huge expense. They'd also have to test the water (at a couple hundred dollars every time they test). Mr. Domelowicz is going to look at getting better messaging there and will get a price.

Combining Memorial Day Activities with Wenham

Mr. Farrell said a handful of years ago they started looking at this because there is declining enrollment in the American Legion and it is a lot for the veterans to participate in two parades.

Greg McKenna, 30 Tally Ho Drive, said the changes being discussed won't affect anything for this year. The American Legion post in Wenham closed a couple of years back. Mr. McKenna organizes the parade and gets people to participate. Over the years the veteran population has dwindled. There will come a time that they need to make decisions and there is no easy solution. One idea might be to alternate the towns each year, but that might stop the momentum. They could shorten or change the parade route. All total, they have about 250 members at the Legion.

Ms. Dale said it would be awful if they were to skip the very moving ceremony in the cemetery. She sees that as the main event. Mr. McKenna agreed. Both the ceremony at Patton Park and the Hamilton Cemetery are special events, he said.

Mr. Hubbard asked what he would suggest. Mr. McKenna said they are going to continue on with what they have been doing, although it will be challenging. The point of him appearing tonight was just to open up the discussion.

Letters to Political Parties for Registrars and Poll Workers—Update

Mr. Domelowicz gave an update saying that the letters were sent asking for recommendations for poll workers and registrars and recommendations will be coming in due course. The BOS had authorized him to send the letter on behalf of the BOS.

Town Manager Report

Mr. Domelowicz reported Town Clerk Andrea Dello Russo tendered her resignation last Friday. She will work through the end of the fiscal year. Retired Clerk Wilma Mahoney has offered to work on part-time basis starting in July. She can work for a couple or few days a week through the fall. She believes there are other retired clerks in the area who can also help to keep the office open and running. Mr. Farrell gave his opinion that they might discuss appointment of the vacancy at an upcoming meeting instead of calling for a special election. Also, he mentioned the discussion initiated by former Selectman Allison Jenkins about making the Town Clerk an appointed vs. elected position. Mr. Olson said the BOS could learn from having someone come in who had held this position in another town.

Information on Police Memorial Week

This event, which pays respect to fallen safety officers, is being held May 19 at 9 a.m. at the cemetery. This is on the same day as the Street Fair downtown. Mr. Domelowicz will get the announcement up on the website.

Discuss and Approve the BOS Meeting Schedule for the Next Six Months

Meeting dates were previously set for May and June. This schedule starts in July.

Decision:

Mr. Farrell made a motion to approve the meeting schedule. Mr. Olson seconded the motion. The BOS voted unanimously in favor (5-0) of approving the schedule.

Budget and Town Meeting Calendar

Last year Special Town Meeting was held in October. It's been based on the availability of the High School and Winthrop School. Mr. Hubbard suggested Oct. 12 or 19 or perhaps the weekend before Columbus Day. They decided Oct. 19 sounded best. Mr. Domelowicz suggested Oct. 19 or Oct 26 so as to allow more time for getting the warrant articles in place.

Announcement of BOS Liaison Appointments

Mr. Hubbard passed out copies of the liaison roles. Everyone has six different roles. He tried to divide it up according to the amount of time the roles required and included the input he'd received. The liaison appointments are as follows:

Mr. Farrell: Community Preservation Committee, Open Space Committee, Hamilton Wenham Recreation Board, Historic District Commission, Historical Society, Waste Reduction, and Chebacco Trail Group.

Mr. Hubbard: Hamilton Development Corporation, Hamilton Wenham Community Access Board, MBTA, North Shore Technical High School, Veterans Services, Zoning Board of Appeals, and Town Hall Building Committee.

Ms. Dale: Board of Health, Council on Aging, Finance and Advisory Committee, Hamilton Wenham Cultural Council Committee, MAPC [Metro Area Planning Council], and Capital Committee.

Ms. Kennedy: Agricultural Commission, Chebacco Woods Management Committee, Conservation Commission, Hamilton Affordable Housing Trust, Hamilton Foundation Committee, and Patton Homestead, Inc.

Mr. Olson: Board of Assessors, Hamilton Housing Authority, Hamilton Wenham Public Library Trustees, Hamilton Wenham School Committee, Planning Board, and Town Hall Building Committee.

Mr. Domelowicz: MAPC.

Bill Lannon: North Shore Technical High School.

New Business

Consideration of Topics for Discussion at Future BOS Meetings

- Town Clerk appointment.
- Vote on Feb. 20 joint minutes with FinCom.
- STM Calendar.
- Budget Calendar for the BOS.
- Mr. Olson suggested a joint BOS meeting with Wenham and inviting Gretel Clark for an update on waste reduction.
- Mr. Farrell suggested having an update on the 86 Meyer Road issue.
- CapCom [Capital Committee]
- Ms. Kennedy would like to discuss getting an enhanced Wetlands Protection bylaw ready for STM. Mr. Farrell suggested talking with Brian Stein and the Planning Board because they would have to sponsor it. Ms. Kennedy said no, it was a general bylaw not a zoning bylaw so it can be sponsored by the BOS.

Annual flushing of the fire hydrants is happening now. It was posted on the website.

Mr. Olson reminded them they had agreed that they would funnel all questions to employees through Mr. Hubbard and Mr. Domelowicz.

Ms. Kennedy mentioned a program for the trees in the downtown.

Ms. Dale reminded them about the mediator and having him come in to talk with them. Mr. Domelowicz said he'd like to meet with him first.

Mr. Hubbard said he would like to rotate the other BOS members in to participate in the agenda meetings. He asked Ms. Kennedy if she'd like to participate on Monday.

Adjournment

Mr. Farrell made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Mr. Olson seconded the motion. The BOS voted unanimously (5-0) to adjourn the meeting.

Prepared by:

Mary Alice Cookson 6-3-19
Mary Alice Cookson Date
Minutes Secretary

Attest:

Darcy Dale 06-03-19
Darcy Dale Date
Board of Selectmen Clerk