



Town of Hamilton
Select Board
Meeting Minutes of August 5, 2024

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, MGL Chapter 30 A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk delivered to all Select Board members, a meeting of the Hamilton Select Board was posted for August 5, 2024 at 7:00pm. This meeting was held at the Hamilton Wenham Library at 14 Union Street.

The Select Board functions as the Chief Executive body of the Town. Its five members are elected to three-year terms with one or two seats up for election each year. The Board acts as the chief policy making body of the Town and directly supervises the activities of the Town Manager. The Select Board typically meets the first and third Monday evening at 7:00 p.m.
Select Board: Caroline Beaulieu (2025); Thomas Myers(2025); Bill Wilson(2026); William Olson(2027); Rosemary Kennedy(2027)

Call to order: *With a quorum present, Vice-Chair Wilson called the meeting to order at 7:03pm and identified the meeting was being recorded.*
Present: B. Wilson, Vice-Chair; T. Myers, Clerk; R. Kennedy; W. Olsen. Not present: C. Beaulieu, Chair.
Also present: Joseph J. Domelowicz Jr., Town Manager; and others as noted.

The Chair announced Board and Committee openings as displayed on the agenda:

- Conservation Commission – 2 openings
- Council on Aging - 2 associate openings
- Cultural Council – 1 opening
- Finance and Advisory Committee – 1 associate opening
- Hamilton Development Corporation – 1 opening for a 3-year term
- Historic District Commission - 2 openings for 3 year terms, 2 openings for 2 year terms
- Human Rights Commission - 1 opening

Public Comment – Three (3) minutes per person on items not already on the agenda

➤ **Lisa Terranova, Woodland Mead**, asked how much the Town is planning to pay Utile (consultants) to do form-based code and have Hamilton comply with 3A. She stated her recollection of the history of the funding, totaling \$140k. She also quoted from recent meetings and recognized Chair Beaulieu for her strong language about Wenham's plans regarding 3A. She questioned what happens next, and how to protect Hamilton and Wenham from 3A.

Select Board Member Reports:

R.Kennedy provided an update on the Conservation Commission and their review of the Bridge St. properties and continued efforts to bring them into compliance.

B.Wilson provided an update on the Select Board workshop that took place and briefly summarized the topics that were discussed. He also provided brief updates on the Community Preservation Committee and the Planning Board/Master Plan.

Consent Agenda:

- **Approve Minutes of Select Board for July 15, 2024 meeting**

Vote: The Board voted unanimously to approve the consent agenda.

Agenda:

- **Appoint Denise Kelly to the Conservation Commission – Discuss and Vote**

Vote: The Board voted unanimously to appoint Denise Kelly to the Conservation Committee.

- **Review final report from CTPS regarding Goodhue & Waldingfield roads traffic mitigation – Discuss & Vote**

The Board discussed some of the findings of the report: R.Kennedy questioned whether large trucks could be banned from these narrow roads and W.Olson questioned the idea of creating a one-way street as a low-cost solution to solve a number of the issues on these roadways. The consultant stated that they believed changing the geometry would be more effective, such as narrowing the intersections to slow the speeds. He also stated that scenario testing was not part of the study. W.Olson reiterated the simplicity of creating a one way street and eliminating the left hand turn. There was also discussion of lowering the speed limit to 25 mph.

The meeting as open for public comment.

- **Nancy Baker**, Goodhue St, did some analysis of her own based on available data, and spoke to her understanding that a company will be relocating to Ipswich, which would potentially add a lot of commuters to the area by 2028.
- **Steve Chamberlin**, Goodhue St, opined making the street one way would double the size of the road space for pedestrians.
- **Trip Reylard**, Waldingfield Rd, noted the volume of traffic on Waldingfield, and the speeding that takes place there and how dangerous it is and stated he is not in favor of the one-way road as it adds to the volume of traffic on Waldingfield and suggested both Goodhue and Waldingfield be one-way streets. He also observed the Waldingfield / Highland Ave intersection is also problematic.
- **Jack Whittier**, Waldingfield Rd, advocated for the traffic island or jersey barriers and other improvements and mentioned the dangerous nature of the road.
- **Beth Howell**, Waldingfield Rd, was happy to hear the discussion regarding mitigation and was in favor of restricting commercial vehicles and speed, and expressed concern with any solutions that worsen the problem on Waldingfield.
- **Mike McGinn**, Goodhue St, requested to approve the 25mph speed limit, to increase enforcement, consider truck restrictions, and also make proposed changes to the intersection and “see what happens”. He advised that the one-way street idea would require the cooperation of Ipswich and suggested this would complicate matters.
- **Bruce Howell**, Waldingfield Rd, noted that the road is not designed for large vehicles traveling both directions, particularly in the winter.

Vice-Chair Wilson summarized the discussion stating the way forward as implementing the short-term solutions, while also considering restricting truck traffic, adding jersey barriers, and increasing enforcement.

Vote: The Board voted unanimously to approve the short-term solutions as enumerated.

- **Review proposed changes to EV charging fee structure with Energy Manager V. Masone – Discuss & Vote**

Vote: The Board voted unanimously to approve the new EV charging rates.

- **Review Draft Amicus Brief in case Attorney General versus Town of Milton – Discuss & Vote**

Attorney Jonathan Murray of KP Law spoke regarding the draft Amicus Brief that he prepared at the request of the Select Board. He has been working for communities on the MBTA zoning for three years and noted the Milton brief is due on August 19, and oral arguments on the case will be heard in October. The court put out an announcement asking for input on the case, including specifically on three issues: whether, and to what extent, towns have to comply with 3A, whether the Attorney General has independent enforcement authority, and whether towns have to comply with the guidelines promulgated by the state. The Hamilton draft is structured to address those three topics. Attorney Murray noted that he has also drafted a brief in support of Milton for the Town of Middleboro. A discussion ensued on whether to include local concerns of Hamilton in the brief, i.e. comments from the Select Board and Planning Board members. The next draft will be reviewed at the August 19th meeting.

- **Sandy Fisher**, Greenbrook Rd, expressed concerns about infrastructure and particularly water resources, and thanked the Board for their work on this issue.
- **Steven McQuirter**, Cunningham Drive, thanked the Board and expressed his concern about water resources.

- **Special Town Meeting fall 2024**

○ **Discuss & Vote on proposed Warrant articles** - J.Domelowicz explained that there is a gap in funding the Town Hall renovation project, and that requires a vote at Town Meeting, the funding options are explained in the Finance Department memo in the packet, and the Fincom is currently weighing the options and will proceed with a recommendation. The High School auditorium is available for use on Monday, September 23rd, that is the proposed date and is recommended by the Town Clerk. Included in the packet is a schedule for meeting dates leading up to the Special Town Meeting. Attorney Tom McEnaney of KP Law described the process of constructing the warrant.

○ **Vote to Open Warrant:** *The Board voted unanimously to open the warrant for the Town Meeting in September.*

○ **Vote to schedule Fall 2024 Special Town Meeting**

○ **Vote to Close Warrant**

There was discussion regarding the sequencing of events and decision-making that needs to happen including with the Finance Committee and the Community Preservation Committee.

Vote: The Board voted unanimously schedule the Town Meeting for September 23, 2024 at 7:00PM and to close the warrant.

- **Review new Financial Policies with Finance Director Wendy Markiewicz – Discuss & Vote**

W.Markiewicz explained there are three policies to adopt that were suggested by Hamilton’s auditors in order to continue to promote fiscal responsibility, financial management, and internal controls. The three policies are grant management policy,

procurement conflict of interest, and comprehensive public records and technology policy. The policies have been approved by the Finance Committee. One edit was proposed, and accepted, on page 34 of the conflict-of-interest policy.

Vote: *The Board voted unanimously to amend the conflict-of-interest policy, sentence one paragraph one to add "other prohibited interests."*

Vote: *The Board voted unanimously to approve the three financial policies as presented.*

- **Discuss Facility Use policy – Review Draft & Discuss Changes**

The Board discussed who has typically requested to use the Council on Aging space for what purpose, and who might be interested. There was also discussion about fees, access to the space, keeping it safe, and possibly limiting it to use by Hamilton residents. It was suggested to state what activities and/or groups are allowed to access the space. Discussion continued around examples of what the policy could include and not include. J.Domelowicz will take the comments from the meeting and construct the next draft for review.

- **New Business:**

J.Domelowicz received an email from Superintendent Eric Tracy asking about the possibility of using the flat part of the fields at Patton Homestead on a temporary basis for football practice, Monday-Thursday from 3:30-5:15. The state of the field needs to be looked at closely to ensure safety. Other considerations include bathroom facilities, parking/vehicles only in the parking lot, and general care and consideration of the facility.

Adjournment Vote: *The Select Board voted unanimously to adjourn the meeting at approximately 9:26PM.*

Meeting Packet Enclosures:

- Select Board meeting minutes of July 15, 2024
- Letter of support from Conservation Commission for Denise Kelly appointment.
- Denise Kelly application for Board/ Committees and resume
- Technical Memorandum from Metropolitan Planning Organization regarding Traffic calming in Hamilton and Ipswich
- Vehicle speed data for Goodhue and Highland Streets
- Community Transportation Technical Assistance Presentation – Traffic Calming on Goodhue St
- Email from Vikky Masone, energy manager, and memorandum regarding EV charging rates
- Draft Town of Hamilton Amicus Brief on 3A Zoning
- Town Manager proposal for Special Town Meeting and warrant articles
- Finance Department memo regarding Town Hall renovation project funding
- Finance Department memo regarding Policies for Review and Adoption
- Town of Hamilton Council on Aging Room Use Policy

Respectfully submitted by D. Pierotti, Recording Secretary, 8/25/24.

The minutes were prepared from video.

Respectfully submitted as approved at ²¹ 10/8/24 meeting.



Thomas Myers, Clerk