

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Monday, June 10, 2019
Ipswich Town Hall | 25 Green Street

Pursuant to Open Meeting Law M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, written noticed posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Select Board was held on Monday, June 10, 2019 at 7:00pm in Meeting Room A.

With a quorum present, Nishan Mootafian called the meeting to order at 7:00pm.

Board Members present: Nishan D. Mootafian, Chair; William D. Whitmore, Vice Chair; Linda D. Alexson; Kerry Mackin; Dr. Tammy Jones

Also present: Anthony Marino, Town Manager; Eileen Page, Recording Secretary

Abbreviations used: MMWEC, Massachusetts Municipal Wholesale Electric Company; ELD, Electric Light Department; MMA, Massachusetts Municipal Association; CATA, Cape Ann Transportation Authority

Public Information: Agenda

Welcome/Announcements

Mr. Mootafian welcomed the newly elected Dr. Tammy Jones to the Select Board.

Reorganization of Select Board

The Select Board selected a new Chair and Vice Chair to serve for the next twelve months.

Vote: Ms. Alexson nominated William Whitmore for Chair of the Select Board, and Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: Mr. Mootafian nominated Linda Alexson for Vice Chair of the Select Board, and Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Citizen Queries

None.

Board and Committee Appointments/Reappointments

A. Joe Bourque – New Appointment Interview – Finance Committee

Mr. Bourque appeared before the Board seeking appointment to the Finance Committee. Mr. Bourque stated that he has been an Ipswich resident since 1986, and had a forty-year career working as a sales representative, manager, and director for a pharmaceutical company. Mr. Bourque graduated with a Political Science degree from Salem State College, and worked on several local campaigns during college. Mr. Bourque feels he is well versed on Town issues and now has the time to commit to serving on the Finance Committee.

Dr. Jones noted that as a former Finance Committee member, the Committee is a lot of work, but very rewarding. She believes Mr. Bourque's broad background will be helpful to the Committee.

Ms. Alexson stated that she has seen Mr. Bourque attending many meetings, and think he will be a valuable member of the Finance Committee.

Mr. Bourque disclosed to the Board that two years ago, he worked for the Town Clerk at the polls on Election Day checking in voters. The Board did not believe that this would be a conflict of interest.

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to appoint Joe Bourque to the Finance Committee, and Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

B. James Warner – Reappointment – Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Ms. Alexson noted that Mr. Warner is a member of both the Affordable Housing Trust Fund and Ipswich Housing Authority Partnership, and feels that as these committees advise each other, his reappointment would be a conflict of interest. She believes regulation documentation for both committees needs to be reevaluated.

Mr. Mootafian stated that he does not believe Mr. Warner’s appointment would be a conflict of interest, as both serve as advisory committees and the Planning Board is ultimately responsible for making decisions on recommendations.

Glenn Gibbs (Outgoing Director of Planning and Development) stated that he believes this concern was addressed last year, and does not believe there is a conflict of interest, as the groups work “hand in hand.” He stated that he believes not appointing Mr. Warner would be “outrageous.”

Vote: Dr. Jones moves to reappoint James Warner to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried 4-1.

- C. Dwight W. Thompson – Reappointment – Architectural Preservation District Committee
- D. Ruth Strachan – Reappointment – Architectural Preservation District Committee
- E. Peter Bubriski – Reappointment – Architectural Preservation District Committee
- F. Lillian Reilly – Reappointment – Council on Aging
- G. Jennifer Norton – Reappointment Alternate – Library Board of Trustees
- H. Doug Stewart – Reappointment – Library Board of Trustees
- I. Marion Frost – Reappointment – Library Board of Trustees
- J. Dorothy Johnson – Reappointment – Library Board of Trustees
- K. Richard Fates – Reappointment – Trust Fund Commissioners
- L. Nicole Whitten – Reappointment – Waste Reduction Advisory Committee
- M. Norman Swanson – Reappointment – Agricultural Commission
- N. Benjamin Fierro – Reappointment – Zoning Board Appeals
- O. Confirmation of Town Manager Appointments
 - a. Sissy ffolliott – Reappointment – Conservation Commission
 - b. William G. Paulitz, P.E. – Reappointment – Conservation Commission
 - c. Catherine Carney-Feldman – Reappointment – Conservation Commission

Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to confirm the reappointments, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote on Special Town Meeting Vote

Mr. Marino announced that Pamela Carakatsane (Town Clerk) will be retiring in July. The date of Special Town Meeting will be subject to the availability of the new Town Clerk. Mr. Marino suggested Tuesday, October 29, 2019 at 7:00pm for a Special Town Meeting date.

Ms. Alexson asked the Board to consider a date of Saturday, November 2 or Saturday, November 9 for Special Town Meeting to allow students, seniors, and night workers a better opportunity to attend.

Ms. Mackin noted that the Town tried a Saturday meeting in the 1990s, and recalled strong attendance. She asked if there might be more research into why the practice was not continued.

Dr. Jones stated she is opposed, noting that Hamilton has tried a Saturday meeting date with low attendance.

Mr. Mootafian stated that he is opposed, and worries that a Saturday meeting date would ostracize the population of parents with children in sports. He also worried that a meeting may be more drawn out when held in the morning.

Ms. Alexson also asked if electronic voting will be used at Special Town Meeting. Dr. Jones stated that she saw a lot of potential for loss of keypads at Annual Town Meeting.

Ms. Mackin spoke in support of the keypads, and believes electronic voting allows for more freedom when voting on controversial issues.

Dr. Jones suggested that the Board wait until Mr. Marino confirms if the PAC and Town Moderator are available for a Saturday meeting before setting a definitive date. Mr. Mootafian asked that Mr. Marino reach out to the Hamilton Town Manager and get more information on a Saturday meeting.

PUBLIC HEARING: Parking Fees and Parking Restrictions

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to open the Public Hearing, and Mr. Mootafian agreed. The motion carried unanimously.

“Resident of the Town of Ipswich please note the Select Board will hold a public hearing in Meeting Room A of Town Hall on Monday, June 10, 2019 at 7:30 PM to make the following amendments to Ipswich’s Traffic Rules and Regulations:

1. Amend Article V. by:

a. Revising Section 5. Parking Time Limited in Designated Places, as follows:

i. in (a), delete paragraph (10) in its entirety, and renumber 11 to 27 sequentially; and

ii. in (c), add paragraph (9), to read as follows:

“(9) Depot Square Southerly side, from a point one-hundred twenty (120) feet westerly of the intersection of Market Street, thence westerly one hundred forty (140) feet”

b. Revising Section 9. Parking Restricted in the Municipal Parking Lot Off Topsfield Road, subsection (g), as shown below

(strikethrough = language to be deleted; bold italics = new language)

“Section 9. Parking Restricted in the Municipal Parking Lot Off Topsfield Road

(g) No person shall park a vehicle in the Municipal Parking Lot off Topsfield Road (commonly referred to as the commuter rail lot) unless the vehicle is registered in the name of an Ipswich resident.... as evidenced by display upon the vehicle of a Solid Waste Transfer Station sticker or a Crane Beach sticker issued by the Town of Ipswich; this “Ipswich only” parking restriction shall expire October 31,1998. This subsection shall not apply to any vehicle parked within an officially designated handicapped parking space.”

c. Adding a new Section 19, to read as follows:

“Section 19. Resident Only Parking

(a) Between the hours of 6:00 a.m. and 6:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, parking on Peatfield Street (from Kimball Street to the Ipswich River), First Street, Second Street, Fourth Street, Fifth Street, and Sixth Street shall be limited to vehicles registered in the name of an Ipswich resident, the principal address of which and the registration address of which are located in Ipswich, as evidenced by display upon the vehicle of a Solid Waste Transfer Station sticker or a Crane Beach sticker issued by the Town of Ipswich.”

a. Amend Article IX., Section 2. Penalties, subsection (a), by replacing the heading “Group A (\$15.00)” with “Group A (\$30.00)”.”

Mr. Gibbs stated that the purpose of the proposed changes is to limit use of the commuter parking lot to Ipswich residents. By limiting the lot to resident-only parking, an estimated thirty spaces will be free for Ipswich resident use.

Ms. Mackin asked how the Task Force decided on allowing side streets to be used for Ipswich resident vehicles versus limiting the streets to neighborhood residents only. Mr. Gibbs stated that the Ipswich Police Department has very little experience in enforcing neighborhood-specific parking. He believes that once the thirty commuter lot spaces are opened up, most Ipswich residents will be able to park in the lot, relieving congestion on surrounding side streets.

Dr. Jones asked what kind of demands will be placed on the Police Department with the new policy. Police Chief Paul Nikas stated that the patrol schedule will be redone to allow a single officer to be dedicated to the lot Monday through Friday, 6:00am to 2:00pm.

A second hearing will be held on Monday, July 8, following by a Select Board vote.

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to close the Public Hearing, and Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Update on Castle Event Relating to Traffic Concerns

On Sunday, July 21, the largest hot air balloon in North America will be on display and available for rides at the Crane Estate.

Michael Rodriguez (State-Wide Director of Events for Trustees of Reservation) explained to the Board that the balloon is traveling to Plymouth, Martha's Vineyard, Lincoln, Ipswich, Stockbridge, and Williamstown. Up to 150 ticketholders will be given a tethered ride in the balloon, and around 2,500 ticketholders will attend the lectures and performances on the Estate grounds.

Peter Pinciero (Director of Trustees of Reservation for Crane Estate) stated that ticketholders will be required to identify themselves to police details to obtain access to the grounds. The balloon will also be visible from Little Neck, Great Neck, Pavilion Beach, and Crane Beach. The Trustees will host an information session regarding traffic for Argilla Road residents, and offer complimentary tickets to the event.

Chief Nikas stated that there were no issues when the Boston Pops performed at the Crane Estate a few years ago, and this event is expected to be done on a smaller scale. The Trustees will be responsible for preventing non-ticketholders from walking onto the grounds from the beach, while the police will devote their resources to public safety issues. Officers will be stationed at Pavilion Beach to direct traffic from onlookers.

Ms. Alexson asked if the Trustees had considered holding the event on a weeknight instead of a Sunday, when traffic may inhibit Ipswich residents from reaching the beach. Mr. Rodriguez said this could not be done because of the balloon's availability schedule.

Mr. Whitmore asked what kind of traffic patterns should be expected for onlookers at Pavilion Beach. Chief Nikas said once the public parking area is filled, drivers will be directed to loop back around the Neck on their way out, instead of making U-turns.

Mr. Rodriguez stated he is not yet sure when the Trustees will be ready to apply for permits with the Town.

Update on New Construction Water Conservation Measures

Vicki Halmen (Water & Wastewater Director) appeared before the Board to answer questions regarding the impact of new construction on the Town's water supply. She reminded the Board that after the drought of 2016, the 2017 Annual Town Meeting saw the approval of a bylaw clarifying penalties and imposing restrictions on private well usage during a drought.

Mr. Mootafian asked if there is any potential for damage to the wells as the Bruni project on Linebrook Road enters phases two and three. Ms. Halmen responded that damage is a risk and concern, but there are bylaws in place that should prevent damage. She noted that developers would have to prove to the Town that they are not impairing the water supply.

Ms. Mackin stated that she would like to explore imposing cistern requirements and flow-trigger water systems for each unit.

Ms. Alexson asked what could be done while the recommendations for the current study are pending. Ms. Halmen responded that bylaw changes may take more time, but the Board could, in the meantime, prohibit irrigation systems and require cisterns.

Mr. Mootafian asked if a letter to the Planning Board from the Water Commissioners may help impose restrictions. Ms. Halmen responded that it would.

ELD Manager Annual Review

Jon Blair (Electric Manager) took over the management of the Electric department as the interim director in 2017, and became the permanent director later that spring. He stated that he has a "tremendous collaborative team, from

linemen to clerical staff.” Mr. Blair cited his top accomplishments as rejuvenating the department’s commitment to sustainability, and two awards awarded to the Town. Ipswich was recently given the Reliable Public Power Provider Award, and MMWEC’s Francis King Leadership Award.

Mr. Whitmore praised Mr. Blair’s planning, financial management, and communication skills. He noted that Mr. Blair utilizes all forms of media during emergencies to communicate with rate payers, and works well with his Subcommittee. He cautioned Mr. Blair in solving problems by hiring more personnel.

Ms. Mackin asked if Mr. Blair was aware of an issue with the Seabrook Nuclear Power concrete. Mr. Blair said that he is, and has sat through many technical briefs, and does not believe there will be any consequences for Ipswich at this time. Ms. Mackin asked for an update on the wind turbines. Mr. Blair stated that Wind 1 is owned by the ELD and Schools, and is performing very well. Wind 2 is a privately-owned asset based out of the South Shore, and has been out of commission for over six months following an electrical fire that burned for several hours undetected. The company has approached the Assessor for tax abatements and discussed bringing a lawsuit against the manufacturer. Mr. Blair does not believe the turbine will ever be restored.

Select Board Member Appointments to Boards and Committees

Mr. Whitmore has reached out to William Craft (Former Selectperson) and Edward Rauscher (Former Selectperson) to see if they would like to remain on their Utilities subcommittees as members at large. Mr. Craft is interested in staying on the Water and Electric Subcommittees, and Mr. Rauscher is interested in staying on the Electric Subcommittee. One Select Board representative will be added to each of these committees.

Mr. Mootafian stated that he would be happy to take on the Electric Subcommittee.

Ms. Alexson stated that the Eastern Essex Veterans District Board Chair has suggested that each Town follow Rowley’s suit and appoint an alternate member. Ms. Alexson stated that she is unsure this will be necessary for Ipswich, as the Board only meets quarterly and she has not missed a meeting in two years.

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to appoint Kerry Mackin to the Water and Wastewater Subcommittees, and Nishan Mootafian to the Electric Subcommittee. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to appoint Kerry Mackin to the Climate Resiliency Committee, and Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The rest of the Town’s Boards and Subcommittees will be discussed at a future meeting.

Consent Agenda

- a. One Day Wine & Malt License Applications
 - i. True North Ale for Father’s Day Bluegrass Bash at Appleton Farms, 219 County Road on Sunday, 6/16.
- b. Over 70 Shellfish Permit Applications
 - i. Stanley Elmer Allen III, 41 Skytop Road
- c. One Day Sunday Entertainment License Applications
 - i. Ipswich Ale Brewery at 2 Brewery Place, Live Music from 12:30pm to 6:00pm on 6/23

Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to approve the Consent Agenda, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- a. May 20, 2019
- b. June 4, 2019

A vote on the May 20, 2019 minutes was delayed so that a vote for Executive Session could be added.

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to approve the June 4, 2019 minutes, and Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried with 3 in favor, 2 abstaining.

Town Manager Report

JUNE 17, 2019 MEETING

Mr. Marino requested to hold an Executive Session at 6:30pm. He asked the Board to arrive at 6:25pm for a new group photo before Executive Session. He also noted that there would be a dog hearing.

SIGNATURE STAMP

A new stamp will be ordered for Select Board documents and correspondence. Mr. Marino requested signatures from each Selectperson for this purpose.

MMA CONFERENCE

Mr. Marino shared that he attended a MMA conference in Chatham last week that was very informative.

CATA

Mr. Marino was on the interview team to hire a new Transportation Director for the Cape Ann Transportation Authority, and Felicia Webb was selected.

Ant Bicycle

Mr. Marino stated that Ant Bicycle has not responded to any of his emails from last fall, and he assumes that the bicycles are still in the Public Works lot.

Old Business

SIGNAGE AT PAVILION BEACH UPDATE

Mr. Whitmore stated that there is an update from Lt. Jon Hubbard in the meeting packet, and any questions can be directed to Mr. Marino.

Ms. Alexson stated that she was at Pavilion Beach around 7:00pm on Friday night, and a family was walking with their dogs. She noted that it is clearly stated on the signs that dogs are not allowed on the beach after Memorial Day.

New Business

None.

Miscellaneous and Correspondence

None.

Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to adjourn, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Select Board adjourned at 9:10pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
06.19.19*