

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Tuesday, June 21, 2022

Pursuant to Open Meeting Law M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Select Board was held on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 6:00 PM in Meeting Room A.

Board Members present: William Whitmore, Chair; Sarah Player, Vice Chair; Linda Alexson; Dr. Tammy Jones; Kerry Mackin

Also present: Mary Gallivan, Interim Town Manager.

Mr. Whitmore called the meeting to order at 6:00 PM.

Executive Session

To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the government's bargaining or litigating position. Also, to conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel; to actually conduct collective bargaining and contract negotiations with non-union personnel pertaining to police chief contract and police union contract.

- *Vote: [_____] moved to enter Executive Session. [_____] seconded. The motion carried 5-0 via roll call.*

The Select Board entered Executive Session at 6:00 PM.

The Select Board returned from Executive Session at 7:00 PM.

Welcome/Announcements

Mr. Whitmore noted that tonight's bi-board discussion with the Planning Board will not be a Public Hearing regarding the Ora project on Waldingfield Road.

All clam flats are closed until further notice due to Red Tide.

Citizen Queries

Elizabeth Massey (920 Highland) stated that residents should be allowed to make comments, as the Board has previously expressed support for the Ora project. Mr. Whitmore clarified that he was speaking as an individual in his previous comments.

Sheila Taylor (Director of Senior Services) and several senior citizens spoke in favor of locations for outdoor pickleball courts. She reported that she has been working with Jeff Putur (Director of Cemetery and Parks) and Tom Gallagher (Athletic Director) to identify areas in town that may be appropriate.

PUBLIC HEARING: Pole Petition, Poplar and Payne Street

"Residents of the Town of Ipswich, please note that the Select Board will hold a hearing on Tuesday, June 21, 2022, at 7:15 p.m. to act on the petition from Ipswich Electric Light Department and Verizon New England Inc. requesting permission to locate poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys, and other such sustaining and protecting fixtures to be owned and used in common by said petitioners. Along Poplar Street, poles 2, 3, 4, and 5 to be relocated and a stub pole added across the street from pole 4; along Payne Ave., pole 1 to be added and pole 2 replaced. Petitioners also request permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cable and wire in the above or intersecting public ways for purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes." – William Whitmore, Chair

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved to open the Public Hearing. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Mr. Whitmore recused himself as an abutter of the property.

Jon Blair (Electric Manager) reported that under the petition, an existing pole at 5 Poplar Street will be moved about 20'.

Cameron Surette (5-7 Poplar Street) stated that the pole's relocation will situate it directly in front of his house. Mr. Blair responded that the Town investigated alternatives, and stated that the Board could approve the project with the omission of the pole at 5 Poplar Street, and he would meet with residents to find an alternative solution for that particular pole.

Joanne Delaney (12 Kinsman Court) spoke in support of her neighbors at 5 Poplar Street.

Ms. Player asked if the work could address the singular problem pole, versus the entire street. Mr. Blair responded that that was not possible, due to the fact that in order to address the problem pole at 10 Poplar Street, all other poles need to be adjusted to equalize force.

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to close the Public Hearing. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*
- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved to move and install poles as proposed by the ELD department, including stump poles, with the exception of pole changes in front of 5 Poplar Street, and with consideration given to the vegetation in the area and in coordination with DPW traffic flow patterns. Ms. Mackin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Peabody Street Options Review

Ms. Gallivan reported that the cheapest option for addressing Peabody street is to install a manual gate.

Louis Vlahos (ValMac Construction) stated that the gate will be cumbersome, especially in the summertime when business is busier, when it is utilized constantly throughout the course of the day.

Ms. Alexson asked how the gate will be funded. Ms. Gallivan responded that if funding is not available in the DPW budget, she would speak with the Finance department about other options. Ms. Alexson reiterated her concerns about the precedent of creating a dead-end to the street that was not originally designed for such.

Paul Surpitski (Meadow Road) asked if it is legal to create a dead end without a turnaround. Ms. Gallivan responded that so long as Peabody Street becomes a gated road, it is not a dead end.

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved to install a manual gate, so long as there are sufficient funds within the Town budget, as well as sufficient signage alerting drivers to the status. Ms. Player seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Heart & Soul Outdoor Service Area Review

Ms. Gallivan stated that now that construction has been completed on Market Street, the Board will need to review the setup of outdoor dining for Heart & Soul Café. She reported that the owner of Zabaglione would also like to

utilize outdoor dining, and suggested that because they have alternating business hours, they could easily share the space.

Dr. Jones stated that she would like dining tables removed from either side of the bench on the sidewalk, noting that the bench was donated in memory of Rebecca Gibbs and is not a part of the restaurant.

Ms. Alexson added that the Adirondack chairs should also be removed, as permission was never given for those. She also reported that the Café recently added unapproved trash receptacles.

Ms. Gallivan reported that she had set up a conversation with the owners to discuss redesign and re-permitting.

Planning Board Discussion About Planning, Land Use, Issues and Goals

Carolyn Britt (Planning Board Chair) reported that it has been a challenging year for the Board, with many complex projects that have generated public involvement. Ms. Britt stated that the Planning Board would like to have more collaboration with the Select Board on projects such as improvements to Market Street.

Mitchell Lowe (Planning Board) also noted contradictions in the Town's water plans, noting that there is currently a temporary Water Use Mitigation Plan (WUMP) in place, but the Board has also received communication from the Water Department that there is plenty of water available for new developments.

Mr. Whitmore noted that the Planning Board can often feel more reactive versus proactive, and commended the work they do to address issues in a timely, thorough manner. Toni Mooradd (Planning Board) stated that often, the Board finds themselves in the weeds of a project, and noted that the process can often feel messy when the Board is working to make it the best it can be. She stated that the Board currently has a major focus on affordable housing. Mr. Whitmore acknowledged that various Boards regularly acknowledge the lack of affordable housing as an issue, but have not taken concrete steps to address it. Ms. Player informed the Bi-Boards that the Affordable Housing Trust Board would be meeting with developers in the coming weeks to discuss the issue. Ms. Alexson suggested requiring both a payment and the building of affordable units, instead of a standalone payment in lieu.

Ms. Alexson noted that a building moratorium has been discussed several times in an effort to address the lack of a master plan for future growth and development in Ipswich. She stated that it can often feel as though developments pop up on any available parcel of land, and while the Community Development Plan (CDP) provides a vision, it does not provide specific data about what each district can handle in terms of development over the next 20-30 years. Ethan Parsons (Planning Director) stated that a build-out analysis would be possible, and cautioned the Board that with the abundance of undeveloped land in Ipswich, there is still potential for thousands of units to be developed.

Select Board Consider Letter in Support of Planning Board

The Board had previously asked Ms. Gallivan to investigate the appropriateness of drafting a letter of support of the Planning Board regarding the Ora project on Waldingfield Road. Ms. Gallivan reported that Town Counsel had advised the Board is indeed able to take a public position, but if they wished to remain publicly neutral, the best course of action would be to draft a letter thanking the Planning Board for continuing their due diligence.

Ms. Alexson stated that if the Board were going to take the time to write a letter, it would be more prudent to take a formal position either in favor or against the project in question.

Ms. Player agreed, noting that the Board does not take such action for other Boards and Committees. She added that the Planning Board understands the Board's appreciation, as it was just addressed in a public Bi-Board meeting.

Mr. Whitmore stated that he did not believe a letter in support of the Planning Board was necessary.

Net Zero Energy Plan Presentation

Postponed.

Town Manager Screening Committee

The Board formed a screening committee to evaluate candidates for Town Manager. After the Committees screens all applicants, they will recommend candidates to the Board. Finalists will be invited for public interviews.

The following list was established:

- Select Board participants: Linda Alexson and Kerry Mackin
- Finance Committee participant: Walter Hartford
- School Committee participants: Dr. Brian Blake (Superintendent) and Jen Donohue
- Town Staff: Amy Akell (Town Clerk); Kendall Buhl (Firefighter); Rick Clarke (DPW Director)
- Citizens: Diane Young
- Business Owner: Carla Villa
- *Motion: Dr. Jones moved to approve the list. Ms. Player seconded.*

Ms. Mackin stated that she would oppose the list without Jim Engel as a member of the screening committee. Mr. Whitmore responded that while Mr. Engel is very experienced, he is already very involved in Town Boards and Committees, and the screening committee is a good opportunity for other residents to be involved.

- *Vote: The motion carried unanimously.*

Select Board Discuss/Vote Special Town Meeting Date

- *Dr. Jones moved to schedule fall Town Meeting for October 18, with October 19 as an overflow date. Ms. Player seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Consent Agenda

- I. One Day Wine and Malt License Applications
 - a. Raymond Pickup for Rockport Brewing Company for Farm House Wood-Fired Pizza Picnics at Appleton Farm on July 1, 8, 15, 22, 29 August 5, 12, 19, 26 September 4, 11, 18, 25 October 7, 14, 21 and 28, 2022.
 - b. Robert Barossi of the Trustees of Reservations for Guided Hikes and Craft Beer at Appleton Farms on July 9, 16, 23 August 6, 13, 20 September 3, 16 and 24, 2022.
 - c. Dan Clapp of the 1634 Meadery all events at Castle Hill for Picnic Concerts on July 7, 14, 21, 28, August 4, 11, 18, 25, 2022 and for Roaring Twenties Lawn Party on August 6 and 7, 2022 and Vintage Car Climb on October 16, 2022.
- II. One Day All Alcohol License Application
 - a. Andrew Skillman for Ipswich Masonic Temple for a Banquet on June 23, 2022

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

Select Board Member Subcommittee Update

SHELLFISH ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Red Tide has closed the flats until further notice.

The Committee met on June 7 to continue their ongoing discussion definitions of “resident” and “summer resident”. They tabled a discussion on increasing permit fees for a number of reasons, most notably due to the current economic situation, as well as commercial clambers being out of work for the next several weeks due to Red Tide. Another consideration is accounting for the town’s annual \$15,000 donation to the green crab trapping program as a line item expense in the Shellfish Department without accounting for revenues, making the budget appear expense-heavy. Once a new town manager and permanent finance director are in place, we can look at accounting for this.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST BOARD

The Board met with Oak Hill Apartments to discuss solutions for completing maintenance and upgrades that keep the units affordable.

ELECTRIC LIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE

The Subcommittee met to discuss a sustainability program for residents who upgrade to “green” appliances. The ELD would like to hold a Bi-Board meeting with the Electric Commissioners in July.

WATER/WASTEWATER SUBCOMMITTEE

The Subcommittee discussed whether the water treatment plant should be upgraded or rebuilt entirely. The Subcommittee unanimously voted to recommend that a new treatment plant be built, and the plan ends up being less expensive than conducting repairs and upgrades. The Subcommittee will formally present their recommendation to the Board in July.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY COMMITTEE

The application for the Climate Resiliency Manager is available on the Town website. The position will carry a one-year contract.

WASTE REDUCTION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

The Committee discussed regionalizing their Styrofoam recycling day in an effort to bring down costs.

A water bottle refill station will be installed at Bialek Park.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

The Committee will meet with the building designer to finalize their contract this week.

PUBLIC SAFETY REUSE WORKING GROUP

There is one (1) opening on the Working Group for a citizen member.

New Business

MMA

On July 23, the Massachusetts Municipal Association (MMA) will hold an event for newly elected Select Board members.

GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

The Select Board will discuss their appointment to the Government Study Committee at a meeting in July.

TERM LIMITS

Mr. Whitmore suggested that the Board discuss implementing term limits on Committees and Subcommittees in an effort to generate new involvement and prevent burnout. He noted that a citizens' petition was brought forward several years ago addressing the issue.

Old Business

The Hart House has withdrawn their application for an alteration of premises.

Miscellaneous and Correspondence

None.

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved to adjourn. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
07.26.22*