

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Monday, July 1, 2019
Ipswich Town Hall | 25 Green Street

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 Monday, July 1, 2019 at 7:00pm in Meeting Room A.

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

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

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

Abbreviations used: SWOT, Strengths Weaknesses Opportunities Threats; DPW, Department of Public Works

Public Information: Agenda

Welcome/Announcements

SCHOOL COMMITTEE VACANCY

There is one vacancy available on the School Committee. Applications will be accepted through Friday, July 19. The Select Board and School Committee will hold a Bi-board meeting to appoint one applicant.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SURVEY

The Community Development Survey is currently open. Residents can participate by going to BridgingIpswich.com.

MUSIC TOWN IPSWICH

The Ipswich Chamber of Commerce will host an event across several businesses from 6:00pm to 10:00pm on July 12. More information can be found at IpswichChamber.org.

RED TIDE

All shellfish beds are closed for harvesting until further notice due to red tide. Per the Shellfish Constable, recent samples tested exceeded the federal count of 80, and the beds will be closed for a minimum of three weeks. Reopening will be determined by the Department of Marine Fisheries. It was noted that because clams on the market right now are sourced from open areas, there is no reason for consumers to be concerned. Updated information can be found by calling the Shellfish recording at (978) 356-6671.

GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

There are currently four vacancies on the Government Study Committee.

Citizen Queries

None.

Board and Committee Appointments/Reappointments

- a. James R. Engel – Reappointment – Water Subcommittee, Waste Water Subcommittee and Electric Subcommittee

Mr. Mootafian stated that he has served with Mr. Engel for many years on several boards, and his dedication to the Town should be commended. He stated that Mr. Engel's support and knowledge of each Board is unmatched.

Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to reappoint Mr. Engel to the Water Subcommittee, Waste Water Subcommittee, and Electric Subcommittee. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- b. Marie Mancinelli – reappointment – Ipswich Cultural Council

Vote: Dr. Jones moved to reappoint Marie Mancinelli to the Ipswich Cultural Council, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- c. Ruth Strachan – Alternate to Regular Member – APD
- d. Henri J. Bourneauf – Regular Member to Alternate – APD

Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to appoint Ruth Strachan as a regular member and Henri Bourneauf as an alternate member, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

- e. James Maloney – Reappointment – ICAM

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to reappointment James Maloney to ICAM, and Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Review FY20 Select Board Agenda

JULY 15

Mr. Marino would like to update last year's SWOT Analysis and discuss progress to date.

Mr. Whitmore asked if there was any interest in discussing Ms. Alexson's proposed building moratorium so as to conduct research on the impact of building on various Town resources. Ms. Mackin stated that she would also like to have it put on the agenda.

AUGUST 5

The Special Town Meeting Warrant will be opened, and remain open until August 19.

AUGUST 13

The Tri-board meeting, that will also serve as the Finance Committee's only August meeting, will start at 7:30pm. Mr. Marino stated that the Dude Solutions initial assessment should be ready for presentation.

Kevin Merz, Treasurer/Collector, Vote and Sign Work Agreement

Mr. Marino stated that Mr. Merz's written work agreement outlines salary, percentage raises, leave, and days off. It also requires Mr. Merz to give the Town at least 90 days' notice if he chooses to resign. Mr. Marino noted that Mr. Merz has negotiated well with banks on behalf of the Town, manages an excellent staff, and serves as a member of the Essex Regional Retirement Board. He recommended that the Board appoint Mr. Merz as Treasurer/Collector for another three years.

Vote: Dr. Jones moved to reappoint Kevin Merz and Treasurer/Collector for three years, ending on June 30, 2022. Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Review/Vote Board and Committee Appointments

GOVERNMENT STUDY COMMITTEE

Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to appoint Dr. Jones to the Government Study Committee, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

AUDIT COMMITTEE

Mr. Marino stated that the Audit Committee meets three or four times a year. Mr. Whitmore volunteered to be the Select Board representative for the Committee.

Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to appoint Mr. Whitmore to the Audit Committee, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

MBTA ADVISORY BOARD

Ms. Alexson stated that the Board meets in Boston, but she would be willing to attend whenever feasible.

SHADE TREE AND BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Previously, Mr. Whitmore and Edward Rauscher (former Selectperson) served on the Committee. The Board agreed that only one representative would be necessary going forward. Mr. Whitmore will remain on the Committee.

IPSWICH RIVER WATERSHED DISTRICT ADVISORY BOARD

Ms. Mackin stated that the Board was formed by an act of legislature in the 1960s, but has gradually faded. She will contact Wayne Castonguay (Ipswich River Watershed Association) for an update.

DOWNTOWN PARKING TASK FORCE

Mr. Whitmore and Ms. Alexson will remain as Select Board representatives.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

Dr. Jones stated that she would be interested in joining the Committee as the Select Board representative.

MOSQUITO CONTROL ADVISORY BOARD

Mr. Marino will investigate to see if the Mosquito Control Advisory Board is still in existence.

PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE

Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to appoint Dr. Jones and Ms. Alexson to the Public Safety Facilities Committee. Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Approval of Minutes

- a. June 10, 2019
- b. June 17, 2019

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to approve the minutes as amended, and Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- a. One Day Liquor License Applications
 - i. Wine and Malt from Monarch and Rose Foods for Chamber of Commerce Music Night on 7/12 at Cellar Door, 1 North Main Street
 - ii. Wine and Malt from Old Planters for Friday Farm Dinners at Appleton Farms on 7/26
 - iii. All Alcohol from Ipswich Masonic Temple for Weddings on 7/13 and 7/20 and a Company Event on 7/19
- b. Over 70 Shellfish Permit Application
 - i. Joanne Ewing, 126 County Road

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

Town Manager Report

JULY 15 MEETING

Mr. Marino would like to discuss Symes water main work, after the Water and Wastewater Subcommittees meet.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST BOARD

Mr. Marino informed the Board that 20 years ago, the Town put a mortgage on 49 Washington Street. \$80,000 was given to the homeowners by the federal government for repairs, and the home has since been sold to the Monroe family. The affordability restriction previously in place has expired, and Mr. Marino is currently working with Ethan Parsons (Director of Planning and Development) to make sure there are no repayment obligations required. More information will be available at the next Select Board meeting.

HOT AIR BALLOON

The Trustees of Reservations has reached out to the Town Clerk for a permit to host their hot air balloon event on July 15. They report that only 200 to 300 tickets have been sold thus far.

Ms. Alexson noted that she has recently heard about a new 200-vehicle lot at Crane Beach. Mr. Marino confirmed that the Trustees have used some of their property to expand parking, but that it does not infringe upon Town property. He will reach out to Peter Pinciario for more details.

PAVILION BEACH PARKING

An incident occurred in which a vehicle was blocked into their parking space by another vehicle. Mr. Marino has spoken with Police Chief Paul Nikas. Patrols at the beach have been increased.

NEW HIRES

There are two final candidates being considered for the position of Senior Planner.

There are two finalists being considered for the position of Conservation Agent. Mr. Marino hopes to interview them by the second week of July. Around 20 applicants applied for the position, and five were interviewed.

New Business

PLANNING BOARD

Ms. Alexson would like to address the possibility of eliminating “payments in lieu” to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund, and instead forcing developers to build affordable units within their housing projects. She noted that although money is coming into the fund, it is not being used to build affordable units. Mr. Marino responded that the Planning Board will hold a meeting on July 11 to discuss potential zoning articles for Special Town Meeting.

IPSWICH MILLS DAM

Ms. Mackin informed the Board that a feasibility study was conducted, and she believes that there will be a proposal to the Board to remove the Ipswich Mills Dam soon. She stated that the dam’s removal has been identified as having more ecological benefits than any other project in New England at this time.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Marino drafted a letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals on behalf of the Select Board discussing concerns about water conservation measures. Ms. Mackin asked that he consider adding “low fixtures and appliances” to the letter.

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to send the letter to the Zoning Board of Appeals on behalf of the Select Board making recommendations about water use at the Essex Pastures property, and that a similar letter be sent to the Planning Board regarding Linebrook Road development. Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Old Business

PONY EXPRESS IRRIGATION POND

Ms. Alexson asked for an update regarding the fencing around the Irrigation Pond at the Pony Express fields. Mr. Marino stated that the Cemetery and Parks department was waiting on a price for the fencing, however Jeff Putur (Superintendent of Cemetery and Parks) and Chief Nikas expressed concerns that there are several bodies of water in town that are not fenced, and worry that a fence will attract more attention to the pond. They also noted that because Ipswich is a coastal community, residents are familiar with bodies of water. Ms. Alexson argued that shorelines gradually deepen, and the Irrigation Pond is a 25’ deep pond with steep sides, similar to a swimming pool, and should be fenced as such.

300 HIGH STREET

Ms. Mackin asked for an update regarding the licensing agreement at 300 High Street that would allow an abutter to graze horses on Town land. Mr. Marino stated that the applicant has pushed back on the \$1,000 per year rent amount set by the Board, and so it will have to be discussed further.

Miscellaneous and Correspondence

None.

DPW Department Update

Rick Clarke (Director of Public Works) appeared before the Board to provide a department update.

FINISHED PROJECTS

The department recently completed a sidewalk extension along Linebrook Road to the baseball fields. Mr. Clarke stated that they could have expanded further, but doing so would have required extensive tree removal. The department has also installed concrete for the Hydration Stations, and is waiting for a plumber to hook the stations to the piping. The Hydration Stations are expected to be up and running by July 12.

CURRENT PROJECTS

The department is currently working with Kerrie Bates (Director of ReCreation and Culture) on The Switch Rideable Artscape. Phase 1 of the project is expected to be completed within the next few days. The DPW also plans to have a generator installed at Town Hall by the end of next week.

STAFF CHANGES

Mr. Clarke is currently seeking a Mechanic for the department, as the current employee will be retiring in August, and the Assistant Mechanic recently gave his notice. He noted that both positions will leave “big shoes to fill.” He is planning on interviewing a local resident tomorrow who he believes may be a good fit.

UPCOMING PROJECTS

- This summer, Argilla Road and Spillers Lane will receive pavement touch-ups.
- Line painting is currently behind schedule, but should be caught up within a few weeks.
- Mr. Clarke recently submitted a Storm Water Plan to the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection. Ms. Mackin asked for an electronic copy for review.
- A “No Parking Here to Corner” sign will be installed on Mile Lane by the church. The rule has always been in effect, but has never had a sign posted. Mr. Clarke reported that Chief Nikas has determined installation of the sign will not require the Town to go through traffic regulations.

Ms. Mackin asked that the DPW address pollution issues on Jutland Way. She noted that the Conservation Commission does have the authority to do “after the fact” enforcement in regards to buffer zones, but she has not heard back from them regarding the issue.

Ms. Alexson suggested that the stop sign at the end of Argilla Road be moved to the right side of the sidewalk at the end of the road where cars are required to stop, instead of its current placement across the street.

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

The Select Board adjourned at 8:24pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
07.06.19*