

TOWN OF IPSWICH
Select Board Meeting
Monday, August 7, 2023 at 7:00 PM
Meeting Room A – Town Gall, 25 Green Street

Pursuant to Open Meeting Law M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, a written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Select Board was held on Monday, August 7, 2023 at Town Hall, 25 Green Street

Select Board members present: Sarah Player (Chair), Linda Alexson (Vice Chair), Michael Dougherty, Charles Surpitski, Carl Nysten

Also Present: Fire Chief/Acting Town Manager Paul Parisi, Sarah Johnson (Finance Director)

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Welcome/ Announcements – S. Player

- There will be an ELD subcommittee meeting on Wednesday, August 9 at 7PM in the utilities conference room.
- There will be an Affordable Housing Trust/ Ipswich Housing Partnership meeting on Thursday, August 10 at 7:30AM in the basement of Town Hall.
- The Select Board has a goal setting session next Monday, August 14 at 5PM at the EBSCO Hall.
- Harry Leno passed away. He was a lifelong Ipswich resident and was the Animal Control Officer for over 25 years. He was a caring, unique and much loved person. The board extends its sympathy to his family and friends.
- The Shellfish Subcommittee meets tomorrow night at 7PM in meeting room C to discuss regulation updates, including the annual review of the temporary 300 lb. commercial daily harvest limit.
- The Waste Reduction Advisory Committee will meet Wednesday at 6:30PM in the Town Manager's conference room.

3. Citizen Queries – S. Player

- KelleyJane Kloub, Mitchell Rd., said there have been no executive session meeting minutes since 2015. KelleyJane asked Sarah P. to provide the Open Meeting Law that discusses guidelines for how the Select Board can respond to emails because she is unable to find it. Sarah explained that she is allowed to respond to emails, but she is not able to copy the whole Board on the response. KelleyJane also followed up on the handicapped parking at the Clam Box. Sarah said she spoke to the Town Manager about it, and he was going to speak with the Police Chief. KelleyJane also asked about the broken turbine. Sarah said the pad that the functional turbine sits on was replaced and they need to connect the transformer to the new pad. It is in the process of being fixed, she does not have a date yet. KelleyJane asked who pays for that, Sarah said she doesn't know. Kelly asked if anyone knows what the parking fine is for Pavilion Beach for weekends and holidays. It's \$30, which costs less than any of the other beaches around. People are happy to pay the parking fine vs. going to Good Harbor Beach and pay for a day pass. Sarah P. said she spoke to Chief Nikas about this, and they are doing a redesign of parking as well as the boating and swimming area. They are planning to make a presentation in the fall. Lastly, KelleyJane asked about the men who presented about the dam removal project and she asked what the deadline was that was mentioned. Sarah said it was a rolling application to MEPA. KelleyJane asked if they will be coming prior to that date. Sarah said they are coming here for a Public Hearing sometime in September.
- Joanie Soffron, 18 Agawam Village, held up a sign that is being posted around town and said there are bylaws that regulate signs being posted on public property. The Town Manager said in a news report that it was him and the DPW that gave the okay for the signs to be put up. Joanie asked who the enforcer is. She said the sign is misleading regarding the dam removal. Sarah P. said it is an art installation to address climate change which was

approved in 2020. It is called Ipswich Remembrance Trail and was funded by two grants. At the completion of the installation there will be a sign explaining the installation. Joanie said this particular sign is confusing regarding the dam as it has not been approved yet. She asked, can those who oppose the dam removal also put signs up in the same spot? Sarah said she appreciates Joanie's comment and she has had other people comment on it today. They will put it on a future agenda. Sarah said perhaps that sign can be taken down if it is concerning to people. Linda said she was on the Board in 2020 and she knew nothing about those signs. She agrees that they should come down immediately. Those signs were not approved by the Select Board at the time. The signs are misleading and it makes it sound like the Town is endorsing the dam removal and that is not the case. They are inappropriate. The state's process isn't finished yet either so to have a date on the signs is misleading. Charlie said he agrees with Linda.

- Charlie moved for the Select Board to instruct the Town Manager or the Acting Town Manager to get in touch with the organization that put the signs up and ask them to take them down immediately. Seconded by Michael.
- Michael said even though this was approved a few years ago, it is not really an art installation.
- Carl said there are some other signs that seem to be accurate. Should we request for the entire installation to be removed, or just the sign about the dam?
- Charlie said when the people doing the art installation were here, they said the signs would be celebrating historical events that have happened here. Those are okay. In regards to the dam sign, they are assuming something that is not historical and has not happened yet. We should request the dam sign be removed immediately, and at the next meeting we can put it on the agenda to go over all of the signs.

→ *Motion passed unanimously, 5-0*

- Torii Bottomley, 60 Central Street, said that the Police Chief stated at the end of June that funds would be available in July for the purchase of buoys to secure the swim area at Pavilion Beach. In a communication today, Sarah P. said she spoke with Chief Nikas and was told that the buoys won't be available this summer. Torii suggested they could take the existing buoys in the center and move them to the vulnerable area. Even this past Sunday, boats were coming into the swimming area. This weekend it was very crowded in the parking lot. Other towns charge a \$100 ticket, not only in the beach area, but in the surrounding streets too. Torii said she would be happy to volunteer on any boating/swimming redesign committee that is formed after the presentation in the fall.
- Marlene Markos, Damon Ave, asked about voting for the removal of the dam. She was wondering if there should be a ballot vote, or if a vote should be on the agenda for the Special Town Meeting agenda in the fall. Sarah said a vote will not be on the agenda in the fall because it was on the agenda at the previous Town Meeting. Marlene said she thought that was to seek funding, not for the dam removal itself. Sarah said it was to get input from the town about the removal itself. The funding will be primarily state funded. Marlene said there were only 500 people at that Town Meeting, that is not representative of the town and is not sufficient enough for such a big project. Sarah said they have not discussed putting it on a ballot because they already had it on a Town Meeting agenda.

4. Boards and Committees – S. Player

a. Design Review Board New Appointment – Nathan (Jonathan) King

- Motion to appoint Dr. King to the Design Review Board made by Carl, seconded by Linda.

→ *Motion passed unanimously, 5-0*

b. Finance Committee New Appointment – S. Player

1. There were three applicants that applied to be on the Finance Committee. Michael recused himself from this vote because he knows some of the applicants personally and it is his seat that is being filled on the Finance Committee.

- Motion to appoint Lisa-Marie Cashman to the Finance Committee made by Linda. There was no second.

→ *Motion fails*

- Motion to appoint Robert Chambers to the Finance Committee made by Charlie, seconded by Carl.

- Charlie said Mr. Chambers brings a wealth of knowledge to the Finance Committee.

→ *Motion passed unanimously, 5-0*

c. Architectural Preservation District Commission Reappointment – Nancy Carlisle

- Michael moved to reappoint Nancy Carlisle to the Architectural Preservation District Commission, seconded by Linda.

→ *Motion passed unanimously, 5-0*

5. Mary P. Conley Awards – Gordon Harris

Gordon Harris, 17 Mill Road, Town Historian and member of the Historical Commission, joined by Laura Gresh, Vice-Chair of Historical Commission, and Steve Miles, long time member of the Historical Commission. Every year, the Historical Commission presents the Mary Conley Preservation Award, which is given for excellence in architectural preservation. Steve presented the first award to Brian Burkey and Mariana Ovnic for restoring Grant's Barn, 12 Woods Lane. Brian gave a presentation which showcased all of the updates made to Grants Barn. The second award was presented to the Isaac lord house, 83 High Street. Owner Katherine Dallos, Architect Tom Mayo, and Project Developer Mike Becker, Contractor/ Builder Arthur Allen. Laura gave a presentation on the Isaac Lord House renovations.

6. Public Safety Property ReUse Working Group Community Garden Location Recommendation – Gordon Harris

Gordon Harris, Town Historian, Janet Craft, member of Public Safety Property Reuse Working Group, and Carolyn Walfield, member of the public gardens. Gordon thanked Linda and Michael for their work on the working group this year. The group has been meeting for a year to give recommendations for future uses of the fire station and police station. Those deliberations are on hold for now, but they were also asked to make a recommendation for the new public garden. The group has chosen Bialek Park as the new location because it is centrally located in town, accessible to the public, safe and secure. There are 20 plots with potential to expand, access to water, enough sun, and it is owned by the town. Carolyn gave a number of recommendations for the gardens. Charlie asked how many gardens will there be, Carolyn said there are 20 existing memberships so at least 20 plots as of now, but they expect a waiting list soon.

Linda said this is the first time the Town has managed community gardens, and because of that we need to make sure we come up with a set of guidelines and practices to make sure it is managed well. Marlene Markos asked where the cost of this will be coming from. Linda suggested we ask the Town Manager to move forward with this and put it on an upcoming agenda. Michael said he doesn't think we need a new group, we should continue to work with the group we have so we can keep the ball rolling and be able to garden by 2024 season.

7. Goal Setting Review

Sarah P. sent around ideas for topics to include in the goal setting session. There will be a facilitator from the Collins Center at the meeting. Linda said they may also want to discuss how they respond to citizens queries, as was brought up by a citizen last week. Linda said in the past, the Chair would copy the rest of the Board in their response so

that everyone knows the question has been answered. Sarah said Stephen had some concerns about that, so they can discuss that next week. Carl and Charlie also suggested they discuss the Select Board procedures. Carl said he would be interested in talking about agendas so that we can make more time for bigger or more in-depth topics. Sarah agreed and said perhaps sometimes they need to add an additional meeting, with only one item on the agenda.

8. Special Town Meeting Article Placeholders: Zoning Articles, Water Borrowing (Dow Dam), Government Study Committee, Regional Animal Control, Public Safety Building Contingency Fund, Building Moratorium – S. Player

Sarah said these are placeholders for potential articles for Town Meeting, we do not have specifics on them. We are just making sure we have placeholders for these in the warrant in case we need them. Placeholders are for Zoning Articles, Water Borrowing (Dow Dam), Government Study Committee, Regional Animal Control, Public Safety Building Contingency Fund, and a Building Moratorium. Any citizens petitions will automatically be added. The warrant closes on August 11. Charlie said we have been discussing the ELD lately and would suggest they put a potential warrant article relating to governance at the ELD.

Sarah Johnson said state aid will be the first and second articles. There will be increases to state aid but the Governor has not voted the state budget yet. We have the Conference Committee numbers that they just voted. Right now, it looks like the schools would get a \$122k increase and the Town would get about \$135k. Michael said this administration has made a big push for education so he wouldn't be surprised if we continue to see an upward trend in funding. Usually when the state does increases to the school, they also usually try to do increases to UGGA as well. Michael asked what the water borrowing will look like for the Dow Dam. Sarah J. said the article is the same, the difference is in the motion because the language in the motion mentioned the Bamford Bylaw, and it should not have.

Michael asked how our accounts are looking for the year. Sarah J. said overall, we are doing well and we finished better than she thought we would. We brought in \$2,299,000 more than expected. Sarah P. said we should put Sarah J. on a future agenda to talk about this. Linda asked if Sarah J. would also give them a summary on the Finance Committee Reserve Account as well.

Gary Champion, 3 Palamino Way, Chair of the Government Study Committee, said he submitted a warrant article for the Government Study Committee to make a presentation. The GSC would like to submit it and discuss it with the Select Board before so they can get feedback. The GSC is also doing some research on ELDs in the area and are building a report and spreadsheet. They are not giving recommendations but just providing information. It should be finished at the August 30th meeting.

Jim Engel, 362 Linebrook Rd, Town Moderator, said he wanted to make comments about Town Meeting and some ideas to make some changes. First, Jim said he intends that motions will be made by the speaker, not read from an overhead slide. Jim is also requesting that the Planning Board split the article that is brought up. Jim also said he is aware of a citizen's petition with a significant number of signatures that has to do with transferring the appointing authority of the Planning Board from the Town Manager to the Select Board. This would be a charter change which would require a ballot vote. Jim will also split this if one if there are parts of the article that are possibly debatable, to make it easier to vote on. Carl asked Jim if he is going to assist citizens with petition articles to make sure the language is correct. Jim said he intends to offer his services, specifically trying to make sure the form of the article is clear. Jim's email is moderator@ipsiwchma.gov.

9. Annual Appointment of Election Poll Workers – S. Player

- Motion to appoint election Poll Workers, made by Carl, seconded by Michael.

→ *Motion passed unanimously, 5-0*

10. Approval of Minutes – S. Player

- Motion to approve minutes from July 10, 2023 and July 24, 2023 made by Linda, seconded by Charlie.

→ *Motion passed unanimously, 5-0*

11. Consent Agenda – S. Player

a. One Day Wine and Malt License Application(s)-

i. Bea Tiberii for Monarch and Rose Roods Inc. for Music Nights at 1 N. Main Street on August 29, 2023, and September 26, 2023.

b. One Day All Alcohol License Application(s)-

i. Andrew Skillman for Ipswich Masonic Temple, 70 Topsfield Road for a Company Event on September 15, 2023, and Class Reunion on September 16, 2023.

- Motion to approve the Consent Agenda made by Michael, seconded by Linda.

→ *Motion passed unanimously, 5-0*

12. Select Board Subcommittee Updates – S. Player

- Linda said the VSO is leaving, as mentioned at last meeting. Linda and the Veterans Board Chair from Essex met with Stephen to determine how Ipswich, as the host community, could help with the HR functions to solicit a new VSO. The board is going to meet on Thursday to finalize the job description and prepare for advertising.
- Michael said he is waiting on the first date for the water/wastewater meeting

13. New/ future Business

a. One Day Wine and Malt License Application(s) - Sarah Blackstone for Ipswich Ale Brewery for Ipswich Downtown Tuesday Events at the Riverwalk on August 15, 22 & 29, 2023.

- Motion to approve made by Carl, seconded by Michael

→ *Motion passed unanimously, 5-0*

- Michael said he has a new agenda item relating to Ipswich Youth Soccer regarding scheduling and other youth sports to look at how we are utilizing our sports fields and to make sure we are maximizing their use.
- Carl said he would like to discuss agenda items for the Tri-board agenda.
- There is an ELD subcommittee meeting on Wednesday and there is also going to be an executive session to discuss the details of the interim Electric Light Manager position.
- Linda said she would like to propose a decrease to the Crane's beach stickers for residents or perhaps give free stickers to residents over 70, and would like to add this to a future agenda. Charlie said we should take a look at the policy.
- Linda said on July 28 the Select Board was copied on an email from a resident asking for a water restriction waiver. We are not in a water ban right now, but Linda said she thinks the Commissioners need to take a stand and a set policy that we will not permit water restriction waivers during a water restriction.

14. Adjourn – S. Player

- Motion to adjourn made by Linda, seconded by Michael

→ *Motion passed unanimously,5-0*

Respectfully Submitted By
Alyson von der Esch
August 10, 2023