

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Monday August, 8, 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 Monday, August 8, 2022, at 7:00 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 7:00 PM.

Welcome/Announcements

Mr. Whitmore opens with a reminder that there is a ban on outdoor watering. This includes businesses and individuals that use well water. There are a few limited exceptions, such as vegetable gardening.

Ipswich Public Schools have released a survey soliciting public thoughts on general concepts and principles regarding the future of elementary school buildings. The survey can be found on the Ipswich Public School website.

All warrant articles and citizen petitions must be submitted by August 12, 2022.

Ms. Alexson acknowledged the tragic drowning at Pavilion Beach on July 31, 2022. She extended her deepest sympathy to the friends and family of the victim and recognized the heroic efforts of retired Firefighter Jeffrey French and off duty Somerville Fire Captain Gregory French and recommended a public acknowledgement of at an upcoming meeting.

Upcoming meetings include:

Electric Light Dept. Subcommittee meeting on 08/10/2022 at 7:00 PM at the Utility Building.

Affordable Housing Trust meeting on 08/11/2022 at 7:30 AM at Ipswich Town Hall.

First meeting of Round 2 of Ipswich Public School Community listening session will be held on 9/27/2022.

Dr. Jones states that there is a heat wave in effect. If you need a place to cool off, please visit the Senior Center or Library.

Citizen Queries

Anne Carroll (33 Upper River Road), present on behalf of 4th Grade teachers, Martin Daignault and Kathryn Morris from Winthrop School. Letter was sent previously regarding water usage during the current water ban. There is a volunteer network that cares for and waters the two gardens at the

Winthrop School during the summer. Clarification is needed as to whether or not the blueberry shrubs may be added to the watering routines.

Historical Commission Proposal for Select Board to Adopt Indigenous Peoples' Day

Gordon Harris (17 Mill Road) and Joe Bourneuf (10 County Street), Town Historian and Chair of Ipswich Historical Commission, request that Indigenous People Day be added to official town and school calendars as the 2nd Monday of October.

Mr. Whitmore asked for a motion for Ipswich to adopt Indigenous People's Day as proposed and authored by the Historical Commission.

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion passes unanimously.*

Public Safety Property Re-Use Working Group Update

Gordon Harris (17 Mill Road) Public Safety Property Re-use Working Group Chair. Established by select board to determine a variety of potential uses for the existing police and fire station building following construction of new joint building. Use of town resources, reviewing history of re-use of town buildings and looking to find a new, suitable location for the Community Garden.

Due to a late start in March, requests to extend the deadline to allow time to review survey responses, that the group be recognized as Special Municipal Employees and seeking clarification on properties and lots.

Potential Use Statement of Interests can be submitted by the Public. A few serious proposals will be selected.

Sam Raymond, Chairman of Ipswich Partnership joins and explains that the Ipswich Partnership will help support the Re-Use Working Group.

Pony Express, 24 Candlewood Road Hay Fields License Agreement Renewal

Ethan Parsons presents the Royce Knowlton License Agreement Renewal. Mr. Knowlton hays the fields at Pony Express. This agreement would run through December 2025.

Mr. Whitmore asks for a motion to approve 24 Candlewood Road Hay Fields License Agreement Renewal.

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion passes unanimously.*

Public Discussion on Ipswich Mills Dam Removal Project

Neal Shea and Wayne Castonguay with Ipswich River Watershed Association are requesting final design and permitting for the Ipswich Mills Dam Removal Project.

Public Benefits include:

- 1. Provide Fish Passage*
- 2. Improve Water Quality & Habitat*
- 3. Improve Recreational Opportunities*
- 4. Restore River Processes*
- 5. Eliminate Risks (Public Safety /Infrastructure)*
- 6. Maintain or Improve Aesthetics*
- 7. Community Benefits*
- 8. Environmental Legacy*

Public Comments:

John Chmura (12 Peatfield Street). Retired from the Town of Ipswich. Opposes the Ipswich Mills Dam Removal Project as he believes it will detrimentally affect other Ipswich waterways.

*Cheryl Gorniewicz (14 Second Street) presents Citizens Petition opposing the Ipswich Mills Dam Removal Project. Suggests using the river as a hydropower source to support green energy.
Wayne Castonguay shares that there are several studies that show that the river is not suitable for hydropower.*

Carl Gardner (9 Woods Lane) Has concerns as to who makes the decisions after permitting has concluded. Feels as though the Dam serves as a buffer to the natural flow of the river and fish migration. Urges to have a discussion to review potential alternatives.

Bill McDavitt (6 Manning) Contractor at NOAA Fisheries. In support of the Ipswich Mills Dam Removal Project. Feels that hydropower would not be efficient due to low power and would not be economically feasible. Feels the benefits of the dam removal outweigh the issues that have been presented in opposition and that the dam is a liability.

Anne Carroll (33 Upper River Road) In support of the Ipswich dam removal and feels it no longer serves a purpose. Believes the dam removal will create a healthier ecological system.

Carla and Abby Villa (20 Masconomet Road) In support of the Ipswich Mills Dam removal. Feels it will bring more people in for recreational purposes and create a healthier environment for future generations.

Christine Sandulli (157 County Road) In support of the Ipswich Mills Dam removal. Believes the recreational purposes would be a major benefit for the town of Ipswich.

Erica Fuller (3 Jutland Way) In support of the Ipswich Mills Dam removal as it will improve water quality, reconnect habitats within the river, and reduce threats to public safety.

Mike Johnson (1 New Mill Place) Fishery Biologist of over 30 years. In support of the Ipswich Mills Dam removal. It will restore the natural flow of the river, restore ecosystems and will reduce flooding above the dam.

Tim Driscoll (31 Upper River Road) Opposes the Ipswich Mills Dam removal project as he believes the impact up river would be significant.

Paul Mason (11 Lanes End) States he is curious if there is a way to change the design of the Ipswich Mills Dam removal so that all parties are satisfied with the outcome.

Bill Stewart (7 Fourth Street) Opposes the Ipswich Mills Dam removal project. He believes it will negatively impact habitats in/along the river and that the river will be changed indefinitely.

Eric Krathwohl (8 Fifth Street) Opposes the Ipswich Mills Dam removal project. He feels it will adversely affect habitats and recreation, and that the benefits have been overstated.

Brian O'Neill (25 Upper River Road) Ecology background. Opposes the Ipswich Mills Dam removal project. States that he believes the benefits do not outweigh the risks.

Mr. Whitmore asks for a motion for the Town of Ipswich to support moving forward with completing grant requests for the federal and state permitting process for the Ipswich Mills Dam removal project.

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved. Ms. Player seconded. Motion passes 4 to 1 with Ms. Alexson opposed.*

Select Board Vote on VOTES Act of 2022

June 22 the election reform law a/k/a the VOTES act was signed into law by Governor Charlie Baker. This makes pandemic changes permanent, such as voting by mail or early in person voting. Assignment of police officers at polling places requires a vote by the Select Board.

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moves to support VOTES Act. Ms. Alexson seconded. Motion passes 4-0-1 (Ms. Player had stepped out).*

Vote & Sign State Primary Warrant

State Primary Election: To be held on Tuesday September 6, 2022.

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moves to sign the state primary Warrant. Dr. Jones seconded. Motion passes unanimously.*

Select Board Discussion of Potential Town Meeting Articles

George Hall to possibly work with Tom Murphy.

Mr. Whitmore states that Tom Murphy suggested an idea of consolidating items and moving multiple articles to the beginning.

Ms. Alexson proposes that a charter amendment eliminates the requirement that the annual town meeting be held on a Tuesday night. The annual town meeting should be no later than May 15 at a time specified by the Select Board. Not restricted to the 2nd Tuesday of the month.

Dr. Jones states there are other things to consider if an article would be moving forward. If this is pursued, it cannot violate any other aspect or charter.

Ms. Alexson proposes a charter amendment requiring that any and all employment contracts that Town Manager enters with town employees, get required approval from the Select Board in advance.

Ms. Player proposes supervision of the ELD Manager. The Commissioners currently monitor that position. However, this could potentially be a responsibility for the Town Manager.

Mr. Whitmore proposes term limits for board members. Dr. Jones states that this idea is premature and that further investigation is needed before moving forward. Ms. Player has concerns that there may be a lack of participation if term limits are set. Ms. Alexson agrees. Mr. Whitmore has concerns of lack of new participation in town committees.

Discussion of Town Wharf and Pavilion Beach Parking Challenges

Mr. Whitmore suggests that Town wharf is open. Once lots are full, they will be open only to the residents of Ipswich. There should also be a Lot Monitor on the premises. It is agreed that this will be discussed in another meeting.

Ken Purington (Linebrook Road) *Agrees that parking is going to be a challenge. Once the lot is full, it's first come, first serve. Unsure of how monitoring the lots will play out. States that there should not be overnight parking. Suggests that the Town of Ipswich has their own Harbor Master.*

Mr. Whitmore states that additional signage at Pavilion Beach may be a helpful deterrent to non-residents parking.

Dr. Jones expresses that a \$30 ticket may not deter non-residents and that it would be appropriate to raise the fee to at least \$100 with the possibility of being towed. Touch base with the Police chief to discuss.

Town Manager Screening Committee Update

Ms. Player states that interviews were conducted last week and finalists have been selected. Reference checks are underway and reports should be available by August 18. Meet and Greet and interviews will

be held on August 23, 2022 at 5:00 PM and August 24, 2022 at 6:00 PM, with a Special Select Board Meeting on August 29, 2022 at 7:00 PM.

Consent Agenda

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

i. Beth Donhauser for Essex County Brewing Co. for Farmhouse Picnics at Appleton Farms on August 14, 21, 28, October 2, 9, 16, 23, 30, 2022.

ii. Rob Martin for Ipswich Ale Brewery for Beer Garden at the Clam Box on August 13, 14, 20, 27, September 3, 4, 5, 10, 11, 17, 18, 24, 25, 2022.

iii. Request for licenses approved by the Select Board be applied to different dates to serve at Castle Hill Concerts rescheduled for August 10, 2022 and August 24, 2022 from Mill River Winery, True North Ale Company and 1634 Meadery.

b. One Day All Alcohol License Application(s)

i. Andrew Skillman for Ipswich Masonic Temple for a Reunion on August 26, 2022.

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to approve the consent agenda. Dr. Jones seconded. Motion passes unanimously.*

Approval of Minutes

a. June 21, 2022

b. July 13, 2022

c. July 25, 2022

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moves to approve. Ms. Player seconded. The motion passes unanimously.*

Town Manager Report

Ms. Gallivan states she is still working to finalize the public safety architectural contract and organize the documents in a location that is accessible to everyone involved. Heat advisory over the weekend required Town Hall to open. Warrant and Town report to be finalized soon.

Attended Climate Resiliency Committee subcommittee meeting last week to discuss geothermal estimates for High School/Middle School and town hall.

Attended school listening session.

Select Board Member Sub Committee Update

Ms. Alexson met with the Shellfish Subcommittee on August 2, 2022. Voted unanimously to recommend that commissioners approve an extension of the 300 lb temporary harvest limit for commercial permits. A public hearing to be scheduled.

With the help of Senator Tarr and Rep Belsito, the town was approved for \$12,500 for green crab trapping for the upcoming year. Chief Nikas worked with the Division of Marine Fisheries to secure funds and administering the grant for the trapping program.

Mr. Whitmore states that the Shade Tree and Beautification committee is having discussions about climate change impacts and droughts.

Cycle and Pedestrian Board have met but no update as of yet.

The Public Safety Committee is currently undergoing an in depth flow of the building and architectural structure.

New Business

Request from the Winthrop School Group

There are 2 Vegetable Gardens. 2 new Blueberry bushes and shrubs were added in May. Looking for approval to include the Blueberry bushes and shrubs in their watering routine.

Dr. Jones moves to approve this request based on the educational mission of the school, health and safety reasons and that these are newly planted shrubs.

Ms. Player, Ms. Alexson, and Ms. Mackin agreed that if this request were approved, it would be unfair to other groups that are currently experiencing the same problem and that there are other ways to work around this issue.

The request was not supported. Mr. Whitmore will notify the group.

Old Business

Temporary WUMP program. Ms. Alexson asked about the status to make this a permanent program. Ms. Player will ask to put this on the agenda for an upcoming Water Subcommittee meeting.

Red cobblestones on South Main Street and Central Street are coming apart. The plan is to repair/replace.

Ms. Alexson inquired on status of finance director/consultant. Informed by Ms. Gallivan that the Town Accountant is taking on those responsibilities until the Town Manager is replaced.

Miscellaneous and Correspondence

None.

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

Respectfully submitted by Ashley M. Boudreau 08/15/2022