



OPEN SESSION MINUTES
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Monday, September 26, 2022

PETER SPAGONE JR., CHAIRMAN
CAROLE JULIUS, VICE CHAIRMAN
DAVID SHEEDY, CLERK

TOWN HALL, 1st FLOOR CONFERENCE ROOM
175 CENTRAL STREET
EAST BRIDGEWATER, MASS.

Members Present: Selectmen, Peter Spagone Jr., Carole Julius, and David Sheedy
Members Absent:
Others Present: Rebecca Johnson, Administrative Assistant

6:15 pm Selectman Spagone Jr. called the meeting to order.

Selectman Spagone Jr. led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Conservation Agent, Alex Welch and Conservation Commission Chair, Claire Yocum and other members of the commission were present to discuss and make recommendations on updated Wetlands Bylaw. Mr. Welch briefly went over proposed bylaw change. He stated these changes are standard across most communities in Massachusetts. The intent is to have a governing document established as to how the Conservation Commission functions. Ms. Yocum stated the purpose is for transparency. If the bylaw passes it allows Conservation to implement rules, regulations, and violations. Ms. Yocum stated Town Council reviewed bylaw change and made their recommendations and article will be ready for upcoming November Town Meeting. The Selectmen commended Conservation department for their works and efforts.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion that the Selectmen approve Part Seven (7) Town of East Bridgewater Wetlands Protection Bylaw as presented by Conservation. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

OPEN FORUM

Newly hired Library Director, Jessica Henderson and Library Trustee Chair, Anne Marek were present for Ms. Henderson contract signing. Ms. Henderson gave a brief background of her training and previous experience which gave more insight of how she would handle the department. The Selectmen look forward to working with her and thanked Interim Director / Technical Service Librarian, Janice Allman for her works and efforts during interim period. Ms. Henderson start date will be October 11, 2022.

Selectmen Sheedy made a motion the Selectmen sign a contract with new Library Director, Jessica Henderson effective September 26, 2022. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

ACTION ITEMS

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve minutes of the September 12, 2022, Board of Selectmen's Meeting. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve but not release minutes of the September 12, 2022, Board of Selectmen's Executive Session meeting. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to discuss complaint regarding a rooster located at 50 Spear Ave. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Animal Control Officer, Ed Gannon was present to give a brief background of his investigation. His recommendation was for the rooster to have a "crow collar" as a starting point. Rooster owner Ms. Patrice Crockett-Hicks and Andrew Hicks of 50 Spear Ave. were present to discuss their concerns on the complaint(s) made. Ms. Hicks briefly went over what they did to help alleviate rooster crowing and stated there were no other compliant(s) in the neighborhood about the chickens or rooster. An outside shutter was put on the window of coop, door to outside run is closed at night, outside security light of their home is shut off and Mr. Hicks stated he changed his schedule to let chickens out at 5:05 am. The owners stated they are willing to look into collar. Ms. Mandy Martin of 62 Spear Road was present to stress her concerns and stated she never had an issue in neighborhood with animals up until the rooster. She stated if the rooster matures and crows less within the year, she will manage. The Selectmen agreed any changes to Right to Farm Bylaw will have to go to Town Meeting. Grievance will be revisited if current solution(s) are not successful.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve request from the Town Clerk to reduce the Early voting hours for the 1st week of the Early Voting to not less than 50% of the regular business hours. This would be October 24th through Oct. 28th. The following week would be normal business hours. The vote must take place before October 2, 2022. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to appoint Sherri Bates to the Hazard Mitigation Committee effective September 26, 2022. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Director of Public Works, John Haines was present and gave a brief overview of the Hazard Mitigation Committee. He stated four communities (East Bridgewater, Abington, Easton and Stoughton) will evaluate risks, past hazard events / damages related to climate change and propose mitigation strategies.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion with regret to accept the resignation from Michele Ahern to the ARPA Committee effective September 26, 2022. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Selectman Sheedy made a motion with regret to accept the resignation from Lucia Longhurst to the Finance Committee effective September 26, 2022. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Selectman Sheedy made a motion with regret to accept the resignation from Kesey Holt to the Historical Commission effective September 26, 2022. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to discuss appointment of Fence Viewer. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Johnson stated the Town Administrator had an inquiry regarding a fence issue. She stated appointment is open and has never been fulfilled for some time. The Selectmen agreed to discuss further with Building Commissioner / Zoning Enforcement Officer, Patrick Franey.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to review and possibly vote on Proclamation for Family Court Awareness request from Heather Minicucci. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Domestic Violence Advocate / High Conflict Divorce Coach, Heather Minicucci of One Mom's Battle Organization was present to discuss proclamation. The organization would like to spread awareness. She stated that fifty-eight thousand (58,000) children a year who are ordered into unsupervised contact with abusive parents. The Selectmen agreed to approve proclamation once reviewed and recommended by Town Council.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to accept Street Lighting for Old Oak Street. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Johnson stated the Town Administrator's recommendation is for Town to take over the costs of streetlights on poles seventeen (17) & nineteen (19) and convert them to LED lights.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to discuss Crosswalks – Union Street/Route 18 – Flashing lights. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Director of Public Works, John Haines stated this area is under MADOT jurisdiction. The Town Administrator already reached out to MADOT and OCPC for review.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to discuss Traffic Study – Plymouth Street and Bridge Street. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Johnson stated guidance needed from the Board as to whether or not they would like the Town to pursue any action. The Selectmen agreed with Town Administrator continuance communication with OCPC will be sufficient.

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve the request from Carol Carver of Self Help Inc. for use of the Town Hall Parking Lot and Town Common for a "Gazebo Gathering" on October 12, 2022 from 10:30 am – 11:30 am. This event is a parent-child program, approximately 5 families. There will be playtime, songs, movement, story, art and parachute play. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve the Event Permit from Lizz Wilson of Pony Town Parties for Halloween Party at 1194 Plymouth Street on October 29, 2022 from 12 pm – 3 pm and 5 pm – 8 pm. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve the request from Sangria Lady for a One Day Liquor License for Pony Town Party event on October 29, 2022, pending payment. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve the request from Professional Bartending Services for a One Day Liquor License for The Center at Sachem Rock for a Baby Shower on October 15, 2022, from 1pm – 4pm pending payment. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to approve the request from Professional Bartending Services for a One Day Liquor License for The Center at Sachem Rock for a Baby Shower on November 12, 2022, from 11am – 3pm pending payment. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Selectman Sheedy made a motion to review and possibly approve the Event Permit Application from Nicole Garcia of Be; Where Your Feet Are for a small "Fall Fest" event at 626 Bedford Street on Sunday, October 16, 2022 from 11 am – 4 pm and a one day wine & malt from Black Hat Brewery contingent upon department approvals and payment. Seconded by Selectman Julius. All were in favor. 3-0

Ms. Johnson stated that paperwork was received today, and information was passed along to department heads for approvals. The Police Chief had concerns about event and will contact applicant. The Selectmen agreed to approve application pending Police Chief approval.

ANNOUNCEMENTS / STAFF REPORTS

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

BOARD DISCUSSIONS

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Monday, October 17, 2022, Board of Selectmen 6:30 pm

EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Selectmen were entering into executive session Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, § 21 (a)(2) To conduct strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or to conduct collective bargaining sessions or contract negotiations with nonunion personnel; Firefighters, Superior Officers, Clerical, DPW, Dispatchers, Patrol Officers.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, § 21 (a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to litigation, as the Chair has determined that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's litigating position in a matter involving Ridder Farm v. Town of East Bridgewater.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, § 21 (a)(3) To discuss strategy with respect to litigation, as the Chair has determined that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the Town's litigating position in a matter involving Haseotos appeal of Planning Board special permit decision.

Pursuant to MGL Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a)(6) To consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real property; Casa Roma property off Robbins Pond if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

Vote to adjourn Executive Session.

Mr. Sheedy made a motion to move into Executive Session and not return to open session, Ms. Julius seconded. Roll Call Vote: Mr. Sheedy: Aye, Ms. Julius: Aye, Mr. Spagone Jr.: Aye. All were in favor, 3-0

ADJOURN

Meeting adjourned at 7:25 pm

Board of Selectmen Clerk