

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday, May 2, 2022 - 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Meeting Room A15
535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA

Select Board Members Present: Chair Steven Marantz, Joshua Levine, Mark Gold, Thomas Lachiusa
Staff Present: Lyn Simmons, Corrin Meise-Munns, Michael Barbieri, Erica Brunell.
Also Present: Town Moderator - Rebecca Townsend, Tim Casey, Kaitlyn Brosseau.

Chair Marantz called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. LCTV was also utilized to broadcast and record the meeting.

Chair Marantz confirmed that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda were present and could hear and be heard throughout the meeting. Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless law requires such participation. This meeting allowed for public comment.

Announcements

Town of Longmeadow Electronic Voting Demonstration- A demonstration of the new electronic voting system will take place on Tuesday, May 3, 2022 at 6:00 PM, at the Longmeadow Adult Center, 211 Maple Road, Longmeadow, MA. All are welcome to attend! For more information, please visit www.longmeadow.org/ElectronicVoting, where you will also find a video prepared by the Town Moderator, Rebecca Townsend, explaining the role of Town Meeting, how to participate, and Electronic Voting.

2022 Annual Town Meeting - The Annual Town Meeting is scheduled to take place at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2022, at Longmeadow High School. Registered voters in Longmeadow are eligible to vote at Town Meeting. To view the Warrant and other information pertaining to Town Meeting, please visit www.longmeadow.org/TownMeeting. Voter education videos on specific articles have been posted to this page and will also be available on the Town's social media accounts.

Earth Day Clean-Up Thank You - Thank you to all of the Earth Day Clean-Up Event organizers, team leads, and volunteers for your hard work and commitment in making our town cleaner and healthier! The teams collected an impressive 1.23 tons (or 2,460 pounds of garbage) and roughly 800 pounds of recyclables. Look out for information on www.longmeadow.org/EarthDay for future Earth Day Clean-up Events in Town

Resident Comments - None

Select Board Comments

Mr. Gold commented that he attended the Metropolitan Planning Organization Meeting (MPO) for the PVPC. Mr. Gold stated that the MPO has followed up on TIP programs and other state and federally funded programs. The Blueberry Hill School road area is still on the agenda for 2024 according to Mr. Gold. Mr. Gold went on to say that, the Route 5 project will be in 2025, but they are having discussions to see if the project could come back into the 2024 schedule. Mr. Gold also commented that we are making progress in the Hampden County Regional Retirement Board issues. Mr. Gold commented that the former chairperson has paid a fine, and information was sent to our Town Attorney to see how that will help the Town's request for recovery of funds from the insurance company. Town Counsel will get back to us as soon as they process all of the information.

Mr. Lachiusa commented that when we look in the news and see what is happening in Ukraine, we take for

granted the privileges that we have in this country. Mr. Lachiusa commented that when the Pledge of Allegiance is recited in the boardroom, everyone should stand up out of respect for all of the people who put their lives on the line to keep our country safe.

Mr. Marantz stated that on the Town's website you could find the Town's responses to Eversource's dockets to the state. The information is located under the "community tab, Eversource Pipeline Project." Mr. Marantz went on to say that, Eversource has yet to file with the state to have this project approved.

Town Manager's Report

COVID-19 Update The Board of Health is currently tracking 71 cases. The positivity rate in Longmeadow is 4.99%, the positivity rate statewide is 4.39%, Hampden County is 5.25% (April 28, 2022 data). These numbers are up from my last report when Hampden County was 3.17%. Flu cases have also been on the rise and seasonal allergies are prevalent now. Both present symptoms similar to COVID-19 so people with symptoms are strongly encouraged to rapid test and report positive results to the Board of Health.

Proposed Outdoor Water Use Bylaw The Town Manager's Office has received questions regarding the proposed outdoor water use bylaw that is on the May 10, 2022 Town Meeting warrant. Attached to this report is a FAQ document that includes the answers to the questions we have been receiving. These FAQs have been posted to the website www.longmeadow.org/WaterUseBylaw

Adult Center Medical Loan Equipment Program The medical loan equipment program is back after hard work and creative thinking by the Adult Center staff, a partnership with JGS Lifecare has been formed to offer the Medical Loan Equipment Program for older adults in the Longmeadow community. JGS Lifecare will store and loan the equipment out of their location at 780 Converse Street, Longmeadow. If you are in need of medical equipment or want to donate gently used walkers, canes, or wheelchairs, please contact Mary-Anne Schelb at JGS Lifecare: at 413-310-4693 for further program information.

Bulky Waste Disposal With the closing of CEP and the Town's new contract with Republic for solid waste disposal, we had to find a new location for bulky waste disposal. Unfortunately, this also means that the cost is going up. We are now contracting with K&W transfer station in West Springfield. The cost per ton is \$108 until the end of 2022 (up from \$83.25).

Mr. Lachiusa stated that as representative to the COA, he knows they are very happy that a solution was found to the medical equipment, and that people can now get it at JGS. Mr. Lachiusa commented that this is a great asset, and thanked Ms. Simmons for working on this.

Mr. Gold pointed out that the bulk waste disposal is the 20 or 40 yard dumpsters coming out of the DPW recycling center mostly for wood or recycled metals, and not really for anything coming people's homes. Mr. Gold went on to say that, the volume is relatively small, about one hundred totes a year. Mr. Gold stated that he has received inquiries about some of the equipment left down at the old DPW site. Ms. Simmons commented that there is still a lot of equipment down there, and the Grounds Department is continuing to operate down there as of now for the time being. Ms. Simmons stated that there are plans for the equipment to be moved soon. Mr. Marantz questioned if there is a schedule for demolition of the old DPW to take place at this stage in the game. Ms. Simmons stated that there is no schedule for demolition at this point, but that is still part of the plan. Mr. Levine questioned if there was progress with the trash-hauling contract. Ms. Simmons stated that the Town now has a contract for Waste Management to bring all of the curbside pickup to Republic Services and there was a cost increase associated.

Old Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the April 4, 2022 Select Board regular meeting minutes. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passes by a vote of 4-0.

B. Letter of Commitment – MVP Action Grant

Assistant Town Manager and Director of Planning and Community Development, Corrin Meise-Munns, attended to discuss the MVP action grant as well as the letter of commitment from the Select Board. Ms. Meise-Munns indicated that she came before the Select Board at a previous meeting to discuss the project idea for the MVP Action Grant, which was the update of Longmeadow's Long-Range Plan. Ms. Meise-Munns stated that we are in the final stages of drafting the narrative for the grant, which is due this week. Ms. Meise-Munns went on to present additional information about the MVP Action Grant process. To view the full presentation please watch [here](#) (13:00 -). Mr. Lachiusa questioned if there would be any funding available through this grant for people looking to set up Electric Vehicle charging stations. Ms. Meise-Munns commented that this would not be included in the planning process, but this strategy could be identified in the planning process and end up in the plan. For example, there could be a goal developed in the plan to reduce carbon emissions, which would lead to a strategy to set up EV chargers in the future. Mr. Levine questioned if going through this process allows the Town to be in a better position to apply for later MVP Grants. Ms. Meise-Munns stated that the Town did not identify many climate resilient solutions in past grant submissions, and was not awarded any since becoming certified in 2019. Ms. Meise-Munns stated that there is up to 3 million dollars available per project. Ms. Levine questioned how far out would this plan be made out. Ms. Meise-Munns stated that a reasonable scope would be 10-15 years. Mr. Gold questioned how we could keep to our long-range plans. Mr. Gold asked if this applies any rigorous method to sticking to the plan, or if it is just is developing the plan. Ms. Meise-Munns responded by saying the long-range plan in an ideal world will act as a guidance document for voters at Town Meeting, and we would have to assume that the voters would familiarize themselves with the plan. Ms. Meise-Munns stated that if we have a unified planning document that there is buy-in to from a portion of residents, and Department Heads and Boards and Commissions; it should act as a blueprint or guidance for all decisions made by the Town. Ms. Meise-Munns stated that it is unclear how the original 2004 plan was developed. It is not a surprise that little was implemented from the current plan if there was no buy-in from the community, Ms. Meise-Munns stated. Mr. Gold asked if this plan would be submitted to the Town for formal acceptance. Ms. Meise-Munns stated that the Planning Board would have to hold a public hearing as part of the legal process. It could also go to Town Meeting if determined this is the right step. Mr. Marantz commended Ms. Meise-Munns for her work on the MVP Action Grant process. Mr. Marantz feels that updating the plan is a great idea and indicated that the Energy and Sustainability Committee has endorsed the project as well.

Mr. Levine made the motion to sign the letter of commitment for the MVP Action Grant. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. This motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

C. Quarterly Investment Report

Erica Brunell was present to discuss the quarterly investment report. Ms. Brunell stated that the Town held no long-term investments that exceeded the five-year limit. The individual bank balances were under the eight million dollar provision except for Adams Community Savings and Monson Savings, which are the bond proceeds accounts. Ms. Brunell indicated that all banks received the highest safety rating of green from bear bank and all of the Town's accounts are fully insured or secured. To close out the third quarter of FY22, we again saw some interest rate drops with Monson Savings Bank and Adams Community Savings; Ms. Brunell went on to say. Otherwise, interest rates remain consistent other than those two significant drops, according to Ms. Brunell. The OPEB pension reserve fund took a loss in January and February losing approximately \$157,000 and \$61,000 respectively due to market volatility. In March, a significant rebound was seen at around \$94,000, and Ms. Brunell is hopeful that April will be an uphill swing. Mr. Gold asked if we should be, consolidating loans or borrowing now based on authorizations we have currently to take advantage of interest rates before they go up. Ms. Brunell stated that this a piece for the CFO to weigh in on. Mr. Gold also questioned, because of the market and inflation going up are there any regulations imposed on the Town that

hampers the ability to maximize the benefits for the Town of Longmeadow. Ms. Brunell stated that she has had many conversations about the eight million dollar limit investment policy and looking to raise this. Mr. Gold suggested bringing this to the Finance Committee for their attention, and then back to the Select Board to review and approve. Mr. Lachiusa questioned if Town's look at the percentage of total investments as opposed to a dollar limit. Part of the recommendation of the Finance Committee was 11 million and a cap of 43 percent for investment percentage, Ms. Brunell commented.

D. Update – The Town of Longmeadow and LCTV Operating Agreement

Ms. Simmons brought a section of the proposed operating agreement to the board for their review. The section up for discussion is Section 12: Board and Directors. Mr. Marantz felt that since the board is the issuing authority, we should have the right to appoint or have someone sit on the LCTV Board of Directors. Mr. Gold stated that having a seat on the board would be because we have a financial or operational interest in the board. Mr. Gold is unsure that the Select Board has this interest once the money is given over to LCTV. Mr. Gold agrees that there is no problem with having this right to have someone sit on the board, but is not sure that it is a high enough priority at this time. Mr. Marantz stated that the board would not have to do this on an annual basis, but will have the option to appoint a seat on the board. Mr. Lachiusa agreed that having someone sit on the board is appropriate. Mr. Gold questioned if we do not appoint someone at the beginning of the year, do we then forgo the right to do so for that given year. Mr. Gold felt that there should be no maybe, and if we are going to implement this, then we should always do it. A discussion then ensued about the overlap between the LCTV Board of Directors and the Cable Advisory Committee. The board discussed the commitment to changing that overlap. Mr. Lachiusa also questioned if there were term limits on the LCTV board. Ms. Simmons stated that she would look into this.

Mr. Levine made the motion to send the Select Board's approval to the Town Manager and LCTV on this section of the agreement. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-1. Mr. Gold – NO.

New Business

A. Longmeadow Country Club Liquor License Amendment – Change in Manager

Mr. Gold stated that he is going to make a motion to approve this. This is a very standard process and there has been no issue in the past with LCC and their liquor license. Kaitlyn Brosseau, the proposed new manager, attended along with the LCC Board President. Mr. Gold reminded LCC to make every caution in following the laws of the commonwealth and the Town in terms of no underage drinking. Mr. Levine questioned if there is any enforcement for the Town and the ABCC to enforce at a private club. The board responded yes.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the Liquor License Amendment Application for Change in Manager submitted by Longmeadow Country Club. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

B. Town Moderator – Town Meeting Discussion

Rebecca Townsend, Town Moderator, attended to discuss Town Meeting on May 10. Ms. Townsend urged folks to use their discretion, but it is advised for attendants to wear masks in attendance. Ms. Townsend discussed the big change that will be occurring at Town Meeting is the new electronic voting mechanism. Ms. Townsend went on to describe the process and research that took place by the Rules Committee and Electronic Voting Task Force in determining the feasibility of electronic voting systems. Ms. Townsend went on to say that, the task force determined that the Meridia EZ Vote system was most feasible to the Town of Longmeadow. There have been multiple demonstrations in the community about the new voting devices and there will be another demonstration tomorrow (May 3) at the Longmeadow Adult Center at 6 p.m. Ms. Townsend demonstrated the new voting devices for the board and detailed the process of how this will be implemented at Town Meeting this year. Mr. Gold stated that the system is capable of showing votes as part

of a test to ensure that people know their vote is being captured. Mr. Gold felt that the insurance of people knowing their votes were counted is important, and requested that we capture this for future challenges that may occur. Mr. Gold also suggested having visitors wear different color lanyards to determine who is a registered voter and who is not. Mr. Levine agreed with capturing the vote in a test to ease resident concerns about the new system. Ms. Townsend will explore audit features that can happen in the moment during the meeting. Ms. Townsend stated that we do not plan to keep the record of the votes through the system. The official record will be the meeting minutes of the Town Clerk. Mr. Levine questioned if you accidentally click the wrong button, do you have the opportunity to change this within the timeframe. Ms. Townsend responded, yes. Mr. Lachiusa felt that if we make a change to the voting system, that the Select Board should have been involved in the decision making process. Mr. Lachiusa stated that this was the biggest change made to Town Meeting since we began the process. Mr. Lachiusa felt that the Rules Committee should not have just vetted the change of this nature. Mr. Lachiusa indicated that he was in no rush to see the form of voting at Town Meeting changed, as he believes it will speed up the process and not allow residents to interact with each other as much. Mr. Levine commented that the number one complaint he receives from friends who have kids is that, Town Meeting is too long and it is tough to find childcare. This could attract more people to attend, Mr. Levine stated. Ms. Townsend stated that every vote on any motion would be made using this system. Ms. Townsend stated that many things have changed since 1744, including woman now having the opportunity to vote, which was a bigger change. Mr. Lachiusa responded by stating he is unsure how this would affect woman voting at Town Meeting. Mr. Lachiusa commented that the Rules Committee could have separate rooms for men and woman if they felt it would make it easier for them to vote. Mr. Marantz felt the discussion was wandering off to places where it should not go and cut off debate. Mr. Marantz is hopeful that this new Electronic Voting System will be a huge success. Mr. Gold questioned if the Moderator is looking into consent agendas and possible consolidated motions for long articles. Mr. Gold also mentioned the proposed Water Use Bylaw, article 39, and stated that he has received many inquiries about it. Ms. Townsend stated that the Town Manager's office is currently working on the consent agendas and motions. Ms. Townsend stated that "moving in terms of the article" could be done with any article that does not have a dollar sign in it. Ms. Townsend stated that if an article was voted unanimously to be included in the warrant, then a consent agenda could be considered. Mr. Gold felt that with 39 articles, we should have 39 votes. There was a discussion about putting Community Preservation Articles into a consent agenda and if this was in fact allowed. Mr. Gold asked Ms. Townsend what she would consider as acceptable amendments to Article 39. Ms. Townsend stated that she would have to be presented with a possible motion in order to comment. Mr. Gold asked if it was in the scope for a motion to be made to remove certain sections of the proposed bylaw as an amendment. Ms. Townsend responded that this was in scope. Mr. Marantz thanked Ms. Townsend for attending to discuss Town Meeting.

C. Historic District Concern #012222A

Tim Casey, Chair of the Historic District Commission, was present to discuss a concern in the Historic District. Mr. Casey explained that residents of these houses were requested to sign a certificate of appropriateness for gas work being done in this area. Most of these residents had probably assumed that Columbia Gas had already worked with the HDC to get a certificate of appropriateness, even though they had not, Mr. Casey indicated upon further conversation. There was one property that did not sign the certificate out of the nine that were in this situation. Mr. Casey suggested a \$10 fine per day to this property since the date that they were originally notified. Mr. Gold calculated that this would be roughly a \$6,000 fine if going back to the date the letter was sent out. Mr. Gold questioned if a registered certified letter was sent out on behalf of the HDC. Mr. Casey confirmed that these were not registered letters. Mr. Gold suggested that a registered letter be sent out to the resident requesting that they sign the letter, and then a fine should be imposed if the letter is still not signed. The registered letter is the only proof that the resident receives the

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letter. Mr. Marantz agreed with Mr. Gold's suggestion on this matter. Mr. Levine stated that a registered letter that is certified for the property owner to receive is standard practice for this situation. Mr. Levine questioned if Columbia Gas/Eversource could be fined in this scenario for causing this issue. Mr. Casey responded by saying that in this situation it is the residents responsibility.

Mr. Gold made the motion to ask the Historic District to send certified mail to this resident requesting a signature on the certificate, and if the signature is not received within five business days, then we impose a fine of thirty dollars per day, until it is returned. Mr. Levine seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

Correspondence

Mass Association of Conservation Commissions Letter.PDF

To view all correspondence material, please view the Select Board agenda packer linked under "documents" at the end of these minutes.

Mr. Marantz congratulated Partick Carnahan for his studies in the Mass Association of Conservation Commissions.

Adjourn

Mr. Gold made the motion to adjourn the Select Board Regular Meeting at 8:38 p.m. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 4-0.

Documents

[Select Board Agenda Packet – May 2, 2022](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Barbieri