

Select Board Regular Meeting  
Monday, August 16, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.  
Longmeadow High School, Meeting Room A15  
535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, Massachusetts  
Remote Participation Was Available

**Select Board Members Present:** Chair Marc Strange, Steve Marantz, Joshua Levine, Mark Gold, Tom Lachiusa

**Also Present:** Michael Barbieri

Chair Strange called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. This was a Hybrid meeting between in person and remote participation. Members of the Select Board were present in person. Due to COVID-19 concerns and the Governor's executive order, and changes to Open Meeting Law remote participation, this meeting also offered remote participation for residents, having the option of calling in or sending in their comments. LCTV was also utilized to broadcast and record the meeting.

Chair Strange 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 such participation is required by law. This meeting allowed for public comment.

**Announcements**

First Responder Night: It was a fun time at First Responder Night! Thank you to everyone who made this event possible. Big thanks to the first responders for their amazing service to the community. We are extremely fortunate to have these devoted individuals working in our town! Also, thank you to everyone who donated to help the Longmeadow Food Bank. We look forward to seeing this event take place again in the near future.  
Citizen Petition Articles for the Fall Special Town Meeting: are due in the Select Board's office no later than 12:00 p.m. on September 17, 2021. In order for a petition to be guaranteed placement on the Special Town Meeting warrant, 100 names/signatures/addresses of registered Town voters are required, and must be certified by the Town Clerk. Forms and instructions to be used for petition articles are available on the homepage of longmeadow.org and on the Select Board's page. Petition articles will be printed in the warrant verbatim, so citizens are asked to review the forms and instructions carefully. You can view the full article submission memo and warrant schedule on the newsflash of the homepage. Please contact the Select Board's office or email [adminassistant@longmeadow.org](mailto:adminassistant@longmeadow.org) if you have any questions.

Planning Board Vacancy: Applications are still needed to fill this vacancy! The Town of Longmeadow is seeking a resident to fill a vacancy on the Planning Board. Any Longmeadow resident interested in being considered for appointment to fill this vacancy is required to submit an application, cover letter, and resume to the Select Board's office, 20 Williams Street, Longmeadow, MA, 01106 by Tuesday, August 31. Applications are available on the Boards and Commissions page of the town website. Please submit a cover letter and current resume with your application to [adminassistant@longmeadow.org](mailto:adminassistant@longmeadow.org). This appointment will be for a term ending in June 2022, which is the next Annual Town Election. The Planning Board operates under the provisions of Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 40A and Chapter 41 and has the responsibility to guide the development of the Town in the best interests of all its residents. The Board has very specific responsibilities and authorities as granted by Massachusetts General Laws and the Zoning Bylaws of the Town of Longmeadow. Applicants will be required to attend an interview conducted jointly by the Select Board and Planning Board on Tuesday, September 7, at 7:00 p.m. at the Longmeadow High School, meeting room A15.

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KRT Appraisal: KRT Appraisal will have two data collectors in Longmeadow this month. They will be in the area for several weeks to complete building permit and cyclical inspections. For any questions, please contact the Assessor's Office at 413-565-4115.

### **Board and Committee Appointments**

*Mr. Gold made the motion to appoint Benjamin Tansky to the Cable Advisory Committee for a one-year associate term expiring June 30, 2022. Mr. Marantz seconded this motion.*

*The vote passed five in favor, 0 opposed.*

*Mr. Gold made the motion to appoint Marybeth Bergeron to the Council on Aging Board of Director's for a three-year term expiring on June 30, 2024. Mr. Marantz seconded this motion.*

*The vote passed five in favor, 0 opposed.*

### **Resident Comments**

James Tourtelotte, of 64 Prynwood Road, spoke about clean energy and resilience. Mr. Tourtelotte spoke about heat pumps and the importance of implementing them into homes and town buildings. Mr. Tourtelotte stated that heat pumps are efficient and less expensive than fossil fuels. The heat pumps are available and being commercially used in homes, and would make a great deal of sense in public buildings according to Mr. Tourtelotte. He mentioned the green community grant program in Massachusetts and that it is worth the town looking in to. Mr. Tourtelotte also spoke about older trees and the danger behind lines going down and residents experiencing power outages due to the high intense storms. Mr. Tourtelotte suggested that the town look into the tree work that could be done to make us more resilient in cases of those types of storms.

### **Select Board Comments**

Mr. Gold stated that he attended the presentation by the skate park siting committee. Mr. Gold stated that the siting group's work so far has been done in accordance with our Town by-laws through a citizen petition that went through the Community Preservation Committee, who then recommended a study. A study is all that has taken place to this point. This recommendation for the study was approved and funded through Town Meeting. Mr. Gold encouraged people who believe this is not consistent with an open space-meeting plan, or have other concerns, to attend a future Town Meeting where this issue will come up for funding and approval of the final site.

Mr. Lachiusa touched upon Mr. Gold's talking points. Mr. Lachiusa suggested looking into the level of use for the clay courts at Bliss Park as part feasibility study of a skate park in this location.

Mr. Marantz stated that because of this form of government, and open town meeting, these are the decisions that are ultimately voted on at Town Meeting. Mr. Marantz also spoke on the Adult Center Building Project. Mr. Marantz questioned if the Town should pursue charges on the contractor in terms of damages of the parking lot and delay of opening. Mr. Marantz also stated that although these new buildings do not currently have alternative energy concepts implemented, they could still be retrofitted in the future. Mr. Marantz stated that if the buildings implemented electric heat pumps for cooling and heating would be a major savings to the Town. It will also environmentally correct to add solar power as well.

Mr. Gold stated that at the last Building Committee Meeting, they discussed the issues with the Adult Center building project. Mr. Gold relayed that there have been demand letters sent to the contractor. Mr. Gold stated that the samples given for materials to be used for the parking lot paving was not the same material that was constructed. Mr. Gold stated that the work related to the landscaping will proceed and it is included in the contract. Mr. Gold ensured residents and the board that the Town will not allow this project to be delayed long-term.

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Mr. Levine commented on the Covid-19 pandemic. Longmeadow is a well-vaccinated town, but we are starting to see an uptick in cases. Mr. Levine urged every resident in town to stay the safe to protect kids and our most vulnerable. Mr. Levine commented that the Board of Health was meeting tonight as well.

### **Town Manager's Report**

Mr. Strange read the report submitted by Ms. Simmons.

**COVID-19 Update** At the time of the publication of this memo, there are 21 COVID-19 cases in town. With the increase in cases lately, we have brought back the COVID-19 coordinator we previously had on staff. Additionally, we have hired a full time Public Health Nurse who will be joining the town at the end of the month. The Board of Health is holding a meeting the same night as the August 16 Select Board meeting. Below is snapshot of our town vaccination data, updated info is published by DPH every Thursday at 5pm. By the time this memo was prepared the new data had not been released. Visit Mass.gov for updated info.

**Open Meeting Law Training** A town board and committee Open Meeting Law training has been scheduled for Wednesday, September 29 from 1pm – 2:30pm and Thursday, September 30 from 6pm – 7:30pm (it is the same training each session). A representative from each board or committee will be asked to attend, as well as any town staff that are responsible for posting meetings and taking minutes. The location is still being worked out. The Town's Attorney Jesse Belcher-Timme will give the training and answer questions. Topics include meeting agendas, minutes, posting requirements and executive session. An email will be sent to all boards and committees once the location is confirmed.

**DPW 21E Lawsuit & Eminent Domain Lawsuit Interrogatories** on behalf of the Town were signed on Friday, July 30. The discovery phase continues. Ms. Simmons is awaiting an update on the eminent domain matter, as soon as I have that I will pass it along.

**Staffing Updates** An organizational structure change has been implemented at the Adult Center in anticipation of the new facility opening. An Assistant Director position has been created, it has absorbed the duties of the program coordinator with added responsibilities in overseeing the day-to-day operation of the new center. Lindsay Gill will remain with the town in this new role. Critical positions for the Eastern Hampden Shared Health Services group are close to being filled – a public health nurse and a health inspector. A new clerk at the DPW will start on August 23; this will replace one of the two administrative positions that are vacant.

**Skate Park Stakeholder Meeting** a skate park stakeholder meeting was held virtually on August 10 @ 7pm. Pillar Design gave a presentation that is now available on the town website, linked here. A public meeting will be held in mid-September. Background – the funding for this study was via a citizen group submitting an application to the Community Preservation Committee in 2019. The CPC approved the application to fund a study and the project was included on the Annual Town Meeting warrant in June 2020 where the voters approved it.

Mr. Lachiusa commented on the report submitted from the Police Department and stated that there were four officers who were given letters of commendation for their extraordinary performance. Mr. Lachiusa congratulated Officers Amanda VanBuskirk, Paul Barry, Mathew Chaplin, and Brandon Mahoney for their diligent work.

Mr. Marantz echoed Mr. Lachiusa's points about the commendation letters. Mr. Marantz also commented car thefts in the area and possibly hearing an update from the Chief in the future. Mr. Marantz spoke about the coordination between departments on how to remedy this issue.

Mr. Levine reminded residents not to keep the keys in their car and to remember to lock their doors. Mr. Levine hopes that collectively we can do more to prevent this issue.

### **Old Business**

A. *Approve Meeting Minutes*

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*Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the meeting minutes from the August 2, 2021 regular Meeting as submitted. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.*

*The vote passed four in favor, one abstain (Mr. Lachiusa)*

### *B. Draft Letter to Ethics Regarding the HCRRB*

Mr. Gold stated that some officials from several towns in the area, whose retirees make up the Hampden County Regional Retirement System, have been meeting informally to come up with a plan to implement change in the HCRRB. The group has come up with three directives that they are working on according to Mr. Gold. The first one are efforts to direct or recover ill-spent funds, and hold the management team accountable. The second would be to secure the resignation of the current board members, who are believed to be continuing the same practices that led to the problems identified in the audit from 2014-2017. This is the last audit that we have to this point. The third area is to reform the organization, which includes modifying policies and procedures, and getting a new board of directors elected. Mr. Gold stated that this draft letter to state ethics identifies the audit findings PERAC discovered are unethical and in violation of Massachusetts state ethics laws. Mr. Gold presented the letter to the board and stated that these draft letters are in the process of going to other boards in different municipalities that are impacted. Mr. Gold stated some of the funds spent by the HCRRB, which included funds that were deemed ill spent. There were also some funds that were deemed unreasonable and unethical which were returned according to Mr. Gold. Mr. Gold stated the PERAC would start an audit detailing 2018-present later in the year.

*Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the letter as presented. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.*

*The vote passed five in favor, 0 opposed.*

## **New Business**

### *A. Block Party Requests*

Amy Anderlonis, of 47 Normandy Road, has submitted a Block Party Application to the Select Board for a party to be held on September 19 from 3-6 p.m.

*Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the block party request for East Greenwich / Normandy Road on September 19. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.*

*The vote passed five in favor, 0 opposed.*

### *B. Center School Street Closure Request*

Center School PTO, has submitted a street closure request to the Select Board office. This pertains to a carnival to be held from 4:30 - 7 p.m. on September 24. They are requesting that the area right in front of Center School on Longmeadow Street East of the Green be closed for this period.

*Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the street closure request from Center School PTO on September 24 with a rain date of October 1, from 3:30 p.m. – 7:00 p.m. as recommended and approved by the Chief of Police. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.*

*The vote passed five in favor, 0 opposed.*

Mr. Marantz reminded everyone to keep safe especially since this request involves schoolchildren.

### *C. Select Board Liaison Assignments*

Mr. Strange stated that the intent of liaison assignments are for Select Board members to be available to attend some meetings or give support to boards and committees. The following liaison assignments were discussed and chosen: Board of Assessors- Mr. Levine, Audit Committee- Mr. Gold, Board of Health- Mr. Lachiusa, Building Committee- Mr. Gold, Building Demolition Committee- Mr. Levine, Cable Advisory Committee- Mr. Gold. Capital Planning Committee- Mr. Strange, Community Preservation Committee- Mr. Strange, Conservation Commission- Mr. Strange, Council on Aging Board of Director's- Mr. Lachiusa, Cultural Council- Mr. Lachiusa, Energy and Sustainability Committee- Mr. Marantz, Finance Committee- Mr. Gold, Historical Commission- Mr. Levine, Historic District Committee- Mr. Levine, MMA- Mr. Strange, MSBA- Mr. Lachiusa, Parks and Recreation Commission- Mr. Strange, Planning Board- Mr. Levine, PVTA and Recycling

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Commission- Mr. Gold, Registrar of Voters- Mr. Marantz, School Committee- Mr. Marantz, Tax Ceiling Task Force- Mr. Gold and Mr. Marantz, Tree Committee- Mr. Strange, Zoning Board of Appeals, Mr. Strange.

## **Correspondence**

## **Adjourn**

*Mr. Marantz made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The vote passed five in favor, 0 opposed.*

## **Documents**

8/16/21 Agenda Packet



SB Agenda Packet  
8\_16\_21.pdf

Respectfully submitted,  
Michael Barbieri