

Remote- Select Board Regular Meeting and Joint Meeting with Planning Board
Monday, September 20, 2021 - 7:00 p.m
Remote

Select Board Members Present via Zoom: Chair Marc Strange, Steve Marantz, Joshua Levine, Mark Gold, Thomas Lachiusa.

Staff Present via Zoom: Lyn Simmons, Jim Leyden, Jennifer Leydon

Also Present: Don Holland, Walter Gunn, Bruce Colton, Karl Petrick, Cheryl Thibodeau, Karla Cacho, Jason Tsitso, Zachary Schwartz.

Chair Strange called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Due to COVID-19 concerns and the Governor's executive order, and changes to Open Meeting Law remote participation, this meeting was held remotely with residents having the option of calling in or sending in their comments. All votes were taken by roll call. 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 law requires such participation. This meeting allowed for public comment.

Announcements

Water, Sewer and Stormwater Billing The biannual water, sewer and stormwater bill was mailed out this weekend. This covers the billing period of February – July. This will be the last biannual bill as we switch to a quarterly billing cycle. An insert explaining this change is included in the upcoming bill. The bill that will be due in December will only contain 2 months of usage as we transition to the new quarterly system. The schedule moving forward is linked in the newsflash on the Town Website, and will be included in the next bills being mailed out.

Update on Status of Construction of the Longmeadow Adult Center An update on the status of construction of the new Adult Center is being distributed in the Council on Aging Newsletter "The Voice" and is also being provided on the newsflash of the Town Website. We are all anxiously awaiting the completion of the new center and once we know the opening date it will be announced far and wide for all to attend the grand opening celebration! In the meantime the Adult Center continues to offer Meals on Wheels services, Food Pantry, and remote SHINE appointments. The Center will be scheduling some small programs in the old Adult Center, located in the Greenwood Center at 231 Maple Road, those programs will be limited to smaller groups, and participants are required to wear masks and maintain social distancing of 3 feet minimum at all times in the Adult Center, as is the current requirement in buildings within Longmeadow. Please see the homepage of the website for a complete update on the status of construction of the new center.

LONGMEADOW CULTURAL COUNCIL SEEKS GRANT APPLICATIONS The 2022 Local Cultural Council grant application cycle opens September 1, 2021 and runs through October 15, 2021. Online applications are accepted for cultural projects and programs related to the arts, sciences, and humanities to include grants for operating support, ticket subsidies, field trips, artist residencies, public art, fellowships, community events/programs, site-specific projects, and other activities, based on local priorities The Longmeadow Cultural Council gives highest priority to programs which occur in the Town of Longmeadow and are submitted by Longmeadow residents or organizations and with dates and venues already secured. Due to the unpredictability of the COVID19 situation, the Council will consider the difficulty in securing a venue. If your project or performance has the potential to be offered virtually, please let us know in your application. We are encouraging applicants to think of new ways to enrich the cultural lives of our community. The Longmeadow Cultural Council is part of a network of 329 Local Cultural Councils serving all 351

9/20/21 Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved- 10/18/21

Massachusetts cities and towns. Each year, the state legislature allocates funding to the Massachusetts Cultural Council, which then apportions funds to each Massachusetts community thereby helping to provide enriching programs and activities for the benefit of all Massachusetts residents. For online grant applications, and/or additional information, please go to: www.mass-culture.org for questions, please email Peg Landon, LCC Chair at peglandon@comcast.net

Planning Board Vacancy Interview

The Planning Board has a vacancy on the board for a term expiring at the next Annual Town Election in June of 2022. Members of the Planning Board were present for a Special Joint Meeting with the Select Board to interview candidates to fill this vacancy. Karl Petrick was first to interview. Mr. Strange opened up questions by asking Mr. Petrick what motivated him to apply for the Planning Board. Mr. Petrick stated that he has lived in Longmeadow for about a decade, and was looking forward to finding new ways to get involved in Town governance. Mr. Gunn stated that Longmeadow is a built out town but does have some undeveloped land. Mr. Gunn then asked Mr. Petrick if he is aware of potential projects that could enhance revenue for the Town. Mr. Petrick stated that he was aware of a few projects in the past and that these are important issues. Mr. Holland stated that Mr. Petrick's background could be an asset for the board in relation to economic issues. Mr. Holland discussed the zoning issue with the church on Williams Street concerning the zoning change from residential to business. Mr. Holland questioned Mr. Petrick on what he thinks the church could be redeveloped to. Mr. Petrick stated that it makes sense for the zone change to be business due to the close proximity to the shops lot. At the same time, Mr. Petrick believes that there should be a decent conversation with the developers on what the plans of the project would look like. Mr. Gold asked Mr. Petrick if he prefers to see growth in the Town, or prefer to see the character of Longmeadow maintained. Mr. Petrick stated that growth is important, but growth at the cost of the character is not as attractive. People are attracted to live in Longmeadow because of its character Mr. Petrick stated. Mr. Gunn asked Mr. Petrick if he attends Town Meetings. Mr. Petrick responded that he has attended a few, but some he could not attend due to a conflicting schedule. Mr. Lachiusa stated that the most important step is looking at the long-term effect and asked Mr. Petrick what kinds of ideas would influence his thinking on the Planning Board. Mr. Petrick then experienced some technical difficulties, which resulted in him being unable to hear or be heard for the remainder of interview.

Public Hearings

1. No Malt Extract, LLC d/b/a One Way Brewing Public Hearing

Under Chapter 138 of the Massachusetts General Laws that No Malt Extract LLC, d/b/a One Way Brewing has applied to the Longmeadow Select Board for a Farmer Series Pouring Permit for on premise consumption of products made at the brewery located at 807 Maple Road, Longmeadow, MA 01106.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to enter the public hearing at 7:30 p.m. Mr. Gold seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Marantz – YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Levine- YES, Mr. Strange- YES.

Mr. Strange opened up by asking Mr. Jason Tsitso of One Way Brewing to describe the business and to explain the reason for applying for the pouring permit. Mr. Tsitso stated that Mr. Zachary Swartz and himself both live in Town, and in May opened up a brewery through a state farmer's license for take away can sale only. They have applied to the Select Board as the liquor license authority to open an on premise taproom for customers to taste and sample their products as requested by customers. Mr. Ryan O'Hara, Attorney from Bacon and Wilson, was present to answer questions from the board as well. Mr. O'Hara explained to the board the details of a farmer's series pouring permit. Mr. O'Hara stated that this license would allow One Way Brewing to sell only the products that they brew for onsite consumption and take away sale. Mr. O'Hara stated that One Way Brewing has gone through the ZBA for the project approval as well. Mr. Gold asked what the alcohol content is in the beer that they plan to brew. Mr. Tsitso explained that this varies between recipes but could range from

five to seven percent. Mr. Gold asked if servers would be trained in TIPS and Servsafe. Mr. Tsitso responded by stating Mr. Schwartz and himself are both currently taking these trainings and are scheduling future trainings for possible servers. Mr. Gold then questioned if people will be able to bring food to eat at the brewery. Mr. Tsitso stated that they do not plan to have a restaurant or serve food. Mr. Tsitso noted that there are many restaurants in the surrounding area and explained that many taprooms allow customers to bring outside food in and that this idea could be explored in the future. Mr. Gold reminded One Way Brewing to be cognizant of Town by-laws specifically with illegal signage on the town tree belt. Mr. Schwartz stated that signs located on the tree belt were removed and signage will be posted in the parking lot. Mr. Tsitso stated that One Way Brewing hopes to be a fabric in the community and continue to make their customers and the town happy. Mr. Lachiusa asked what the hours of operations intend to be. Mr. Tsitso responded by saying as of now the hours intend to be Thursday and Friday 4-9, and Saturday 11-9. Mr. Lachiusa also questioned how many times a week beer is brewed and if One Way Brewing intends to sell full pints. Mr. Tsitso explained that they would sell pints for consumption as well as offer flights. The brewing process typically occurs twice a week. Mr. Levine asked if there were any plans for entertainment. Mr. Tsitso explained that to space is small, so if there were to be entertainment it could possibly be a person playing guitar or something similar. Mr. Levine also reminded One Way Brewing that the ABCC might ask for bank statements to show adequate funds for developing this project. Mr. Marantz questioned if there is a separate license through the state to brew the beer and if One Way Brewing distributes beer to stores for wholesale. Mr. O'Hara explained that the Farmer's Brewers License is a state license filed with the ABCC, in which One Way Brewing was approved for in 2020 and holds now. Mr. Schwartz explained that selling the beer for wholesale in liquor stores could be a possibility down the road, but is not part of the current business model. Mr. Lachiusa expressed that forming a relationship with the restaurants nearby will be important. Mr. Schwartz explained that they will continue to build relationships with the surrounding restaurants and would allow customers to bring in food from the outside. Both parties want each other to succeed according to Mr. Schwartz. Mr. Gold reminded One Way Brewing to be responsible in their sales specifically concerning making sure customers are of legal age. Chair Strange now opened up the meeting for public comment: None.

Mr. Gold made the motion to close the public hearing. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Levine- YES, Mr. Strange- YES.

Mr. Marantz made the motion to approve the application. Mr. Gold seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Levine- YES, Mr. Strange- YES.

2. Eversource Petition for Pole and Wire Locations

Eversource requests permission to locate a line of poles, wires, cables, and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures along and across the following public way: 161 Forest Glen Road.

Mr. Gold made the motion to enter the public hearing at 8:09 p.m. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Levine- YES, Mr. Strange- YES.

Karla Cacho, representing Eversource, was present for the hearing. Ms. Cacho explained the details of the proposed project in requesting permission to install a 35-foot pole on the town right of way at 161 Forest Glen Road. Ms. Cacho explained that Eversource is looking to bring overhead secondary's over from the existing pole on the north side of the street. From the new pole, the customer would then have their wires fed underground. Mr. Gold asked where the wires are coming from to feed the pole currently. Ms. Cacho explained that presently there is an overhead service that runs from Laurel Street through Roseland Terrace that feeds service to the property mentioned. Mr. Gold questioned why Eversource requests to implement overhead wires in this area rather than going underground. Ms. Cacho stated that the current location is difficult to access for utility work at this time and it could present a problem in trying to restore power. The goal is to minimize outage time and damage to property according to Ms. Cacho. Ms. Cacho stated that they are updating service at this property and updating the cable size needs to occur. Mr. Gold questioned why Eversource could not begin

9/20/21 Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved- 10/18/21

the feed at the existing pole on Forest Glen and run it underground. The pole location is requested to be located the driveway for accessing utility work. Mr. Lachiusa expressed his opposition for this request, explaining that adding a pole in this location would set precedent for other poles to be built, harming the aesthetics of this area. Mr. Marantz asked for clarification if this pole is intended to be for one customer. Ms. Cacho explained that the customer covers the fees that are associated with this request. The customer pays for the pole and a span of overhead secondaries, according to Ms. Cacho. In this particular case, the pole that feeds this Forest Glen property is not easily accessible. Mr. Levine questioned if it would be possible to table this hearing for an upcoming site visit to view the area. Ms. Cacho explained that a walkthrough with the customer could be beneficial. Mr. Gold stated that Eversource should take into consideration an alternative route that does not include overhead wires and agrees with Mr. Lachiusa's points made earlier.

Mr. Levine made the motion to continue the hearing to allow for an in person site visit at the location. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Levine- YES, Mr. Strange- YES.

Resident Comments

Gary Levine, of 207 Williams Street, was present to give public comment during the comment period. Mr. Levine spoke about the proposed pipeline project by Eversource in the Town of Longmeadow. Mr. Levine stated that this proposal goes against state efforts in being less dependent on fossil fuels. Gas main expansions can commit pollutions and have the chances of exploding. Mr. Levine explained that placing a pipeline in this area would be unconscionable. Mr. Levine discussed some instances of Tennessee Gas and their safety mishaps in the past. Mr. Levine spoke on the public hearings for Eversource with Springfield and Longmeadow, and hopes that citizens are heard in a public forum manner. Mr. Levine thanked the board for their consideration on this matter.

Planning Board Vacancy Interview #2

Cheryl Thibodeau was present for an interview with the Select Board and Planning Board for the open vacancy. Mr. Strange opened up the interview by asking Ms. Thibodeau what compelled her to submit an application. Ms. Thibodeau is looking to help shape decisions about long-term visions and plans and believes the Planning Board provides a great opportunity to do so. Mr. Holland asked Ms. Thibodeau about how her background would be beneficial to the Planning Board. Ms. Thibodeau has a background in negotiating alternative dispute resolution. Ms. Thibodeau, in her career has to make many decisions that she feels would translate well to being a member on the board. Mr. Gunn stated that a real interest in the Town's growth for the future is an important part of being a member on the Planning Board. Ms. Thibodeau echoed Mr. Gunn's sentiment and stated that the idea of possibly being able to help guide decisions is a unique opportunity. Mr. Gold asked Ms. Thibodeau on her thoughts about growth versus character for the town. Ms. Thibodeau stated that thinking critically in developing open space, while remaining mindful of the Town's character is crucial. Mr. Lachiusa thanked Ms. Thibodeau for applying and asked what she believes she brings to the board to enhance it. Ms. Thibodeau hoped to bring a female voice and perspective to the town. Mr. Lachiusa asked Ms. Thibodeau what would influence her thinking in decision making. Ms. Thibodeau stated that envisioning the character of the town as a whole would influence different ideas and thoughts for decision-making. Mr. Gold asked Ms. Thibodeau if she would intend to run for election for the Planning Board if appointed to this vacancy. Ms. Thibodeau replied that she would. Mr. Levine asked Ms. Thibodeau if she is aware of how the process works for by-law changes or recommendations and if she is familiar with Town Meeting. Ms. Thibodeau stated that she has attended town meetings, and has read minutes from past Planning Board meetings to become familiar with certain areas. Mr. Strange thanked Ms. Thibodeau for attending the interview. The decision on appointment for the two applicants will be made at the October 4 meeting.

9/20/21 Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved- 10/18/21

Mr. Gunn made the motion to adjourn the Planning Board's joint portion of the meeting. Mr. Holland seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Gunn- Yes, Mr. Holland- YES, Mr. Colton- YES.

Select Board Comments

Mr. Gold stated that he attended a meeting of the Recycling Committee this past week where they asked that he pass some comments along to the board and residents. Mr. Gold stated that before the pandemic hit, the major source of recycling, particularly paper and cardboard were schools and commercial property. The whole economics of recycling flip-flopped and there was an uptick in demand for cardboard and recycling. Mr. Gold described how during the midst of the pandemic the market for recycled goods was low. Mr. Gold expressed that today; recycling goods provide a net revenue to the town of \$38.71 a ton. The town makes money off recycling and Mr. Gold reiterated the message of the Recycling Committee to encourage residents to aggressively recycle because for the near future the market is up.

Mr. Strange and Mr. Marantz echoed Mr. Gold's comments stating that it is important information for residents to know. Mr. Marantz commented on Clairmont Street and hopes that Eversource addresses the issues with repairing the trench work. Mr. Marantz also requested that we hold off on inviting Eversource to a hearing on October 4. Mr. Marantz suggested that we reach out to Eversource to hold a public hearing concerning the pipeline expansion project after we receive more details in the future.

Board and Committee Appointments

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to appoint Jerold Duquette to the Parks and Recreation Commission for a three-year term expiring in June of 2023. Mr. Marantz seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Levine- YES, Mr. Strange- YES.

Town Manager's Report

COVID-19 Update At the time of the publication of this memo, there are 23 COVID-19 cases in town. Of those 23 cases, 13 of them are vaccinated individuals equating to 56.56% of cases. The Board of Health will be meeting on September 27 to review data, current cases and assess the current state of the town regarding the virus.

Flu and COVID Vaccine Clinics We have contracted with Big Y to run our town flu clinics. The schedule is being developed and will be announced soon. We are also exploring offering mobile COVID-19 vaccine clinics, including possibly holding one at the Fall Town Meeting.

Fall Town Meeting Plans for the fall Town Meeting are being developed. The Town Moderator attended the August 16 Board of Health meeting to talk with them on plans for the meeting. The Board of Health ranked preferences for the meeting location, the first is to hold the meeting outdoors, second is to hold it at the DPW, and third is to hold it at the High School. At the September 20 Select Board meeting when the SB discusses the warrant, I will ask that you not set the location of the meeting until October 18. We are within the required time frame to do that and we will know a lot more about the virus transmission in the community and the weather. The warrant has to be posted 14 days before the meeting, October 19 is 14 days.

Cable License Agreement In follow up conversations with Attorney Epstein since the last Select Board meeting, Attorney Epstein did not see the need for the Select Board to take a separate vote on Comcast's proposed Competitive Equity Language. Negotiations on the license continue and further updates will be provided in October.

Street Line Painting The street line painting contract was awarded to Pro Finish Lines Co, in the amount of \$14,915.55. Work is expected to begin soon.

9/20/21 Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved- 10/18/21

Pondside Road Resurfacing – FLAP grant The Pondside Road street resurfacing and culvert replacement contract was awarded to Mass-West Construction in the amount of \$462,860. Work will begin soon to be completed by the end of October.

Street Paving The street paving contract was awarded to Palmer Paving in the amount of \$1,371,136.55. The paving schedule is being finalized and the list of streets to be done will be posted on the town website.

Board of Registrars House Bill 94 was signed by the Governor officially revoking Longmeadow's acceptance of MGL Ch. 51 section 16A establishing a Board of Election Commissioners and re-establishes a Board of Registrars under Ch. 51 section 15 of the Massachusetts General Laws.

Mr. Lachiusa stated that it was exciting for Parks and Recreation to be opening up Day-Care operations in the near future. Mr. Lachiusa also spoke about the use of foam to put out petroleum fires, detailed in the Fire Department's monthly report. Mr. Lachiusa commended Chief Dearborn for finding an alternative from PFAS due to the hazardous impact it can leave on residents.

Mr. Marantz spoke about the Finance report. The water usage was up eight percent more than budgeted according to the report. Mr. Marantz spoke about water usage being a concern and that is something that we should look at in the future.

Old Business

1. Charter Review Update

After review of prior meeting minutes, it has been determined there are outstanding recommendations that have not been voted on to go to Town Meeting. Mr. Strange shared on the screen the list of outstanding recommendations by the Carter Review Committee. Mr. Strange questioned the board if they would like to see these recommendations included onto the Special Fall Town Meeting Warrant. The board decided to create new warrant articles for the outstanding charter recommendations on this upcoming warrant. Ms. Simmons recommended that the recommendations that deal with Finance and Administration should be held off until the new Finance Director reviews the details. Mr. Gold suggested that we add section 2-10(b) to be added to the warrant because it is a minimal change concerning one word (financial changed to fiscal). Mr. Strange agreed with the plan to add these articles to the upcoming warrant.

New Business

1. Senior Tax Abatement Program – Application Review

Jim Leyden, Council on Aging Director was present to give an update on the Senior Tax Abatement Program application. Mr. Leyden described how successful this program has been in years past and was hopeful to continue the program in the future. Mr. Lachiusa questioned if the program faced any problems given the pandemic. Mr. Leyden stated that adjustments were made during the pandemic and is hopeful that the department will not run into those issues in 2022. No remote opportunities have been discussed at this point but Mr. Leyden will reach out to other departments to field interest if remote options are necessary.

Mr. Gold made the motion to extend the Senior Tax Abatement Program through the Fiscal Year. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Levine- YES, Mr. Strange- YES.

2. Special Fall Town Meeting Draft Warrant for Review

Ms. Simmons explained that the high school gymnasium is reserved for the time being, but the consensus is that the DPW garage is the preferred location due to airflow from the garage doors and more space given the concern for Covid-19. Ms. Simmons suggested that the board set the location at a meeting in October when more information is available. A detailed conversation ensued where Ms. Simmons and Ms. Leyden briefed the board on the details of the proposed warrant articles. Members of the board asked questions concerning the

9/20/21 Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved- 10/18/21

proposed articles and offered input on details to be added to the articles / descriptions. You can view the full detailed draft warrant conversation for the Fall Special Town Meeting [here](#) at the 2:30 mark of the meeting. The first draft of the warrant submitted to the board is also linked at the end of these minutes under “documents.” The Select Board will vote at the October 4 meeting on the newly submitted articles for the warrant before signing on October 18.

3. Cable Advisory Committee

Ms. Simmons explained to the board that when the Cable Advisory Committee was meeting to reorganize, none of the members of the committee desired to be chair or clerk, according to former chair, Dr. Wolman.

According to bylaws and Town Counsel, the town does require a vote to reorganize so that the committee has a chair. Mr. Strange explained that the committee has one function to negotiate with Comcast on the contract renewal every ten years. Mr. Strange stated that if no one wants to be a chair, maybe the useful life of the committee has ended since the next contract renewal will not be for another ten years. Mr. Lachiusa suggested running this by Atty. Epstein to get his view on the situation. Mr. Gold also explained that the committee has lines of communication with Comcast, and suggested that the Assistant Town Manager or Procurement Manager have some vendor interface with Comcast. Mr. Marantz suggested asking the Cable Committee to go back to a meeting and try to reevaluate and reorganize again. Mr. Levine echoed Mr. Marantz’s comments and stated that there may still be a purpose for the committee in a capacity of researching a municipal fiber and broad banding system. Ms. Simmons will go back to the committee to relay the Select Board’s suggestion.

Correspondence - None

Adjourn

Mr. Gold made the motion to adjourn the regular session at 10:06 p.m. and to reconvene in executive session for the purpose of contract negotiations not to resume in open session. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Lachiusa- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Levine- YES, Mr. Strange- YES.

Documents



9_20_21 Agenda
Packet.pdf

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Barbieri