

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES – September 23, 2019**

7:00 p.m. - Selectmen's Meeting Room, 63 Main Street, Northborough, MA

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Perreault, Chairman
Dawn Rand, Vice Chairman
Timothy Kaelin, Clerk
Leslie Rutan
Julianne Hirsh

*Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – SEPTEMBER 9, 2019 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to approve the meeting minutes of the September 9, 2019 regular meeting as submitted; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:00 p.m. - HEARING

Set Fees for Plowing/Sanding Private Ways for the upcoming 2019-2020 winter season.

DPW Director Scott Charpentier proposed to the Board that the base charge for plowing and treatment services of private ways and unaccepted streets which are 100% complete be increased by \$5 or 2.5% from last year to cover the increased costs of labor, fuel and materials.

Residents of the private ways that received plowing and treatment services during the last Winter Season were notified of tonight's hearing to increase the fees. None were present.

Selectman Hirsh moved the Board vote to set the fees for plowing and treatment of private ways less than 3,000 feet for the 2019/2020 winter season as follows:

\$205.00 per storm per private way for plowing
\$205.00 per storm per private way for treatment

Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

**7:05 p.m. - FRAN BAKSTRAN, CHAIR
MASTER PLAN STEERING COMMITTEE**
Presentation Update regarding Master Plan.

Master Plan Steering Committee (MPSC) Chair Fran Bakstran acknowledged the members of the MPSC and Town Planner Kathy Joubert and thanked everyone for their efforts thus far.

Ms. Bakstran briefly reviewed the efforts of the MPSC to date. Over the last 15 months, the MPSC has held 16 meetings, 3 public hearings and conducted 3 different surveys.

PRESENTATION UPDATE REGARDING MASTER PLAN CONT. . .

Ms. Joubert reviewed the goals and objectives, as well as the recommendations for the Master Plan. The Master Plan is broken up into the following chapters:

1. Land Use
2. Natural, Cultural and Historic Resources
3. Housing
4. Economic Development
5. Open Space and Recreation
6. Public Facilities and Services
7. Transportation (becoming a bicycle and pedestrian-friendly community)
8. Implementation plan

Ms. Joubert summarized the specific recommendations developed within each of the chapters. She indicated that the timing for implementation of the recommendations are assigned as short-term (1-5 years), mid-term (5-10 years) and long-term (10-15 years). A rough cost estimate for each recommendation is included as follows: low cost \$ = \$25,000 or less, moderate cost \$\$ = \$25,000 to \$100,000 and high cost \$\$\$ = \$100,000 or more.

Ms. Joubert announced that the Planning Board will be holding a public hearing on October 24, 2019 at 7pm at the Northborough Library, at which time the Master Plan Steering Committee and the consultants will make a full presentation on the proposed Master Plan. Various Boards and Committees, as well as the public, will be invited to attend to provide additional input if anyone wishes to do so. At their meeting on November 5, 2019, the Planning Board will officially adopt the Master Plan.

Ms. Bakstran stated that the MPSC strongly recommends that the Board of Selectmen establish a Master Plan Implementation Committee that would consist of members from the various Boards and Committees and Town Staff, including someone from the finance team.

Chairman Perreault thanked Ms. Bakstran and MPSC Vice Chair Rick Leif for their efforts in leading this project. He also thanked all of the members who serve on the MPSC, Town Planner Kathy Joubert, the consultants and the public who participated in the surveys and informational sessions.

Following the presentation, questions and comments were heard by members of the Board. Selectman Kaelin suggested that following the Planning Board's October 24, 2019 meeting, the Board of Selectmen schedule an in-depth discussion on the implementation and action phase of the Master Plan.

REPORTS

Julianne Hirsh

- Noted that the next meeting of the White Cliffs Committee is on September 25th at 10am.
- Thanked the Applefest Committee and all of the many volunteers who continue to make the annual Applefest event possible.

Leslie Rutan

- Thanked the Applefest Committee for doing a fabulous job planning all of the Applefest events. Also, thanked the Police, Fire and DPW Departments for their efforts.
- Noted that the High School Principal's Report is on the School's website. Highlighted some of the programs and events that are happening.
- Reminded residents to be mindful of the many crosswalks throughout Town. In answer to her question, DPW Director Scott Charpentier reported that the crosswalks are scheduled to be re-painted within the next couple of weeks.

Tim Kaelin, Clerk

- Thanked the Applefest Committee for their efforts in planning this annual event.
- Thanked the public for their understanding when the fireworks had to be cancelled due to the EEE threat.

Dawn Rand, Vice Chair

- Thanked the Applefest Committee for another successful Applefest. Also thanked the Police, Fire and DPW Departments and Town Hall staff for their efforts.

Jason Perreault, Chair

- Thanked the Applefest Committee and the many other organizations that planned the various Applefest events. Also thanked the Fire, Police and DPW Departments for their efforts.
- Noted that a Memorial Ride in honor of Army Specialist Brian Arsenault will be held on Saturday, September 28th at the American Legion. Funds will benefit the Brian Arsenault Memorial Fund.
- Noted that a ribbon cutting ceremony will take place on October 4th at 3pm to mark the grand opening of the Boroughs Loop Trail. On October 5th a guided hike kickoff celebration will begin at 9am.
- Thanked School Superintendent Greg Martineau for scheduling a tour of the K-8 schools in preparation of the upcoming budget cycle. Thanked Maintenance Supervisor Tom Maedler for leading the tour.

John Coderre

- No report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None.

HOMEcoming DAY NORTHBOROUGH HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ASSOC.

Chairman Rand informed the Board that the 147th Annual Homecoming Day for the Northborough High School Alumni Association will be held on Saturday, September 28, 2019. Members of the Board were invited to attend the homecoming celebration at the Haven Country Club in Boylston from 12pm to 5pm.

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to proclaim September 28, 2019 as Homecoming Day for the Northborough High School Alumni Association in recognition of its 147th Reunion Homecoming; Selectman Kaelin seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

TOWN TESTIMONY RE: SENATE BILL 435 – AN ACT REGARDING AGRICULTURAL COMPOSTING PROGRAMS

Chairman Perreault stated that an amended agenda was posted this morning to include a discussion regarding testimony on Senate Bill 435 – An Act Regarding Agricultural Composting Programs.

At the September 9, 2019 Selectmen's Meeting, Mr. Coderre reviewed the events leading up to the Department of Agricultural Resources (DAR's) proposed amendments to Agricultural Composting Program regulations 330 CMR 25.00. He indicated that the latest version of the proposed amendments is substantially the same in substance as the version proposed in 2018, at which time the Town and residents testified at a public hearing, followed by written testimony submitted by the Town.

Mr. Coderre reviewed the Town's recent testimony, which he submitted prior to the September 3, 2019 deadline on behalf of the Town. The Town maintains the same position as it did in 2018 in that the regulations, as proposed, lean in favor of commercial composting operations at the expense of local communities and their citizens. As in 2018, the Town is requesting that DAR pursue a course of regulation which recognizes the substantial burden composting operations place on communities and allows for meaningful local input when these facilities are seeking approval to operate under the approval of DAR.

Mr. Coderre stressed the fact that commercial composting facilities on agricultural land should not be exempt from local zoning and land use regulations simply by virtue of being located on a farm. DAR's proposed amendments provide absolutely no local authority or input in any way and lack meaningful setbacks, buffers or other standards to mitigate impacts on neighboring properties. This is exactly why the Town has asked our legislative delegation to file legislation that inserts some kind of local authority and oversight for these operations.

In addition to the two DAR hearings that were held unbeknownst to the Town or the residents, Mr. Coderre expressed his frustration and disappointment that he was just notified on Sunday that the Joint Committee on Environment, Natural Resources and Agriculture will be holding a hearing on Tuesday, September 24th regarding Senate Bill 435 – An Act Regarding Agricultural Composting Programs. Again, while it is unclear

TOWN TESTIMONY CONT. . .

why he was only just informed, it is critical that the Town provide testimony at this hearing. The Town of Berlin and the Massachusetts Municipal Association will both submit testimony in favor of the Town's proposed legislation.

For the benefit of the Board and the public, Mr. Coderre read the written testimony in its entirety.

Following some further discussion amongst members of the Board, Mr. Coderre announced that anyone who wants to testify can attend the hearing at the State House in person on September 24th.

Selectman Hirsh recused herself and did not participate in the discussion as she one of the neighborhood residents.

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve the Town's testimony regarding Senate Bill 435 – An Act regarding Agricultural Composting Programs as drafted and to authorize the Chair to make edits if necessary and to sign on behalf of the Board; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

Selectman Hirsh inquired if a dedication or opening ceremony has been scheduled for the Town Common? Mr. Coderre responded that a dedication ceremony will take place, but that a date has not yet been determined.

8:15 p.m. - EXECUTIVE SESSION

Selectman Kaelin moved the Board vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Subsection 3 (Collective Bargaining re: Northborough Municipal Employees Association; and Litigation re: Town vs. Santo Anza) due to the Chair's determination that a discussion regarding these matters in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the position of the Board; Selectman Rand seconded the motion; the roll call was taken as follows:

Hirsh	"aye"	Rand	"aye"
Rutan	"aye"	Perreault	"aye"
Kaelin	"aye"		

Chairman Perreault announced that the Board would return from Executive Session only to adjourn.

8:45 p.m. – RETURN TO OPEN MEETING

ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Rand moved the Board vote to adjourn; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant to the
Board of Selectmen

Documents used during meeting:

1. September 23, 2019 Meeting Agenda
2. September 9, 2019 Meeting Minutes
3. Information packet – Fees for Plowing/Sanding Private Ways
4. Memorandum – Master Plan Presentation
5. Northborough High School Alumni Association Proclamation
6. Information packet – Town Testimony Re: Senate Bill 435