

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES – February 22, 2021**

7:00 p.m. - Chairman's Introduction to Remote Meeting

Chairman Perreault stated that this Open Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Virus.

Chairman Perreault added that in order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, the Town has been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspended the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible *physical* location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

Chairman Perreault noted that the Order allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. He added that ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. Chairman Perreault noted that this meeting will allow for Public Comment only under the Public Comment portion of the agenda. He indicated the various ways that the public may view or participate in this meeting as listed on the posted agenda.

Meeting Business Ground Rules

Chairman Perreault covered the ground rules for effective and clear conduct of the business. He asked members of the Board to mute their phone or computer when not speaking and to speak clearly and in a way that helps generate accurate meeting minutes. He will go through the items on the agenda. Following presentations, Board members will be offered an opportunity to speak, followed by staff members answering any questions, if necessary. Those responding were asked to wait until the floor was yielded to them. Members were asked if they wish to respond to the comments of others, to do so through the Chair, taking care to identify themselves.

Chairman Perreault noted that the those who wish to speak under Public Comment will be admitted to the meeting as an attendee and will be asked to provide their full name and address for the record.

Any votes taken this evening will be done by roll call to ensure that the records of the vote are clear and accurate to the members attending the meeting remotely.

Chairman Perreault confirmed that the following members and persons anticipated on the agenda were remotely present and could be heard.

Board of Selectmen

Jason Perreault, Chair
Timothy Kaelin, Vice Chair
Leslie Rutan, Clerk
Julianne Hirsh
T. Scott Rogers

Town Staff

John Coderre, Town Administrator
Rebecca Meekins, Assistant Town Administrator
David Parenti, Fire Chief
William Lyver, Police Chief
Scott Charpentier, DPW Director

7:00 p.m. - AMAZON REPRESENTATIVES
Discussion Regarding Turning Restrictions and Truck Traffic on
Bartlett Street.

Amazon Representatives Remotely Present

Brad Griggs, Senior Manager, Economic Development

Jeff Cleland, Manager, Transportation Policy

Muhammad Kasim, Site Lead, OWD5/9

Mr. Coderre indicated that the above representatives from Amazon were present at the Board's invitation to provide details on how Amazon plans to enforce the conditions listed in the Planning Board decisions for their facilities located on Bartlett Street. He thanked Amazon for their responsiveness with the measures they have already taken, or plan to take, to ensure compliance with these conditions. Mr. Coderre reviewed the following questions which were distributed to the above representatives prior to tonight's meeting. Answers were provided by the Amazon representatives as detailed below:

Question:

In coordination with the Town, Amazon installed permanent directional signage for drivers at the exit to 330/350 Bartlett Street to direct drivers to turn right for access to Route 20, I-495, I-290 and I-90. The signage is appreciated and if paired with appropriate and consistent driver training should greatly assist in keeping trucks on the appropriate routes and away from residential neighborhoods. Please provide an update regarding ongoing training of drivers to ensure that they are complying with the conditions included in the Planning Board's decision.

Answer and Further Discussion:

Mr. Briggs indicated that the Amazon facilities on Bartlett Street are part of the company's middle-mile network, which is a transition point where only trucks and personal vehicles come in and out, unlike a last-mile facility where there are multiple types of trucks, including many van deliveries that bring about more negative experiences with operations and driver behavior. Mr. Kasim added that the third-party independent contractors who drive the trucks have been given pamphlets at the time they are checking out to direct them how to exit the driveway.

Question:

After bringing to Amazon's attention that trucks were missing the turn into 330/350 Bartlett Street and then turning around on neighborhood streets, temporary signage was installed at the driveway entrance. Based upon conversations with the owner of the property, it is the Town's understanding that permanent signage is approved and will be installed at the entrance to eliminate missed turns. Please provide an update and timeline for installation of the permanent signage?

Answer:

Mr. Kasim reported that the temporary signage as requested has been installed. Additional permanent signage that is similar to the lighted FedEx signage has been ordered and will be installed sometime in April.

Question:

Through ongoing discussions with public safety staff, the Town is aware of a geofencing technology that will be implemented and utilized in all vehicles of Amazon drivers which will

prevent drivers from entering residential areas unless a delivery is being made there. Any additional information you can provide on this technology and how it relates to the Northborough facility is appreciated.

Answer and Further Discussion:

Mr. Cleland reviewed how the geofencing app (Relay) works, adding that although independent contractors have access to this app, they are not required by law to use it. It is now mandated that truck drivers use an electronic logging device, which they tend to use because it tracks their hours of service which they have to report.

Mr. Coderre noted that although he appreciates the signage and Amazon's efforts to date, truck drivers continue to ignore the site plan condition when leaving the facility. The Town and residents need a stronger commitment and understanding from Amazon as to what Amazon will do to effectively stop this from happening.

Answer:

Mr. Griggs will bring this concern back to the team and will work on providing better data to the Town on the number of truck drivers that utilize the Relay App, and will present potential solutions.

Question:

Please provide an update as to when the facility will be fully operational. There is significant traffic buildup at the Algonquin High School around the area of 79 Bartlett Street, including the Route 20/Bartlett Street intersection during student drop off and pick-up schedules between 6:30am and 7:00am and again between 1:30pm and 2:00pm? Have scheduling considerations been made to coordinate traffic from the Amazon facility around the High School's drop off and pick-up times?

Answer:

Mr. Griggs indicated that the site is at about 80% of its full operation, with the anticipation that it will be fully operational in the near future. Employees at this site are evenly dispersed and are working steadily throughout the day and night with arriving and departing trucks. He does not believe, and will confirm, that employee shift changes occur during the morning and afternoon school hours that Mr. Coderre mentioned. He also does not expect to see a peak in trucks entering and leaving the site during these hours. Amazon operates 24/7 and allows for a more flexible work experience to approximately 1300 part-time employees. Mr. Kasim explained how the shifts are scheduled, adding that not all 1300 employees will be working at the facility at the same time. Each shift would have approximately 100 employees working at the same time in each of the two facilities with employees arriving and leaving in 15-minute increments.

Question:

At a recent Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Committee (CMRPC) presentation to the Town regarding traffic, it was suggested that Amazon conduct a Post Occupancy Monitoring Study after the facility is fully occupied and operational to gather data regarding how many trucks enter and exit the site, what times, and in what direction. It is our understanding that Amazon has agreed to similar studies elsewhere. Would Amazon be willing to conduct such a study in Northborough?

Answer:

Mr. Griggs indicated that he would work with the Town to implement this study process.

Question:

The Town has been in discussions with Amazon representatives regarding a list of suggested mitigation improvements along Bartlett Street for traffic safety, including bike lanes, crosswalks, pedestrian activated rapid flashing beacons, and school zone beacons. Amazon representatives have expressed an openness to potentially funding traffic mitigation along Bartlett Street, with a focus on the most heavily traversed areas around Algonquin High School. Can you provide an update on the requested mitigation?

Answer:

Mr. Griggs indicated that the team is working with the Town in regard to the requested mitigation. The internal review process, which began in mid-January, will take some time as some changes in the organizational structure have taken place. Although he does not have an update this evening on where the approval process is, he will follow up and get back to Mr. Coderre with an update.

Question:

Mr. Coderre asked how Amazon will improve its enforcement efforts for those independent truck drivers who are not following the conditions placed on the site?

Answer:

Mr. Griggs responded that the facility just recently opened and he expects as truck drivers get more familiar with the site, the wrong traffic turning will be corrected. He assured the Town that Amazon is committed to being a good corporate citizen and looks forward to continuing the open dialogue to address these issues.

Questions & Comments from Members of the Board:

Selectman Kaelin expressed his concern with the lack of any repercussions for those truck drivers that do not adhere to the directional signs. Mr. Cleland responded that it was just discovered that the geofencing app can track the truck drivers to see who is not adhering to the signs multiple times. He will gather this data over the next couple of weeks and report back to the Town. Mr. Coderre asked if Amazon would consider placing a security camera at the end of the driveway to monitor those truck drivers who are violating the turning restriction? Mr. Griggs will share this request with the team and get back to Mr. Coderre with an answer.

Selectman Rutan noted that Amazon and residents are both valuable members of our community. In response to her request for clarification, Mr. Coderre stated that all truck drivers should be taking a right when exiting the facility as none of them are assigned to home deliveries. She added that more truck drivers would be inclined to use the geofencing app if there was a way to incorporate the tracking of hours. Mr. Cleland responded that there is not an option to add this feature at this time.

Selectman Hirsh asked if the start and finish time for the flexible rotating shifts can be changed if the added traffic negatively impacts the drop off and pick up times at the High School? Mr. Griggs responded that it is his understanding that there are not any shift changes that will impact the high school drop off and pick up hours.

Selectman Rogers stressed the importance of a continued line of communication between Amazon and the Town to provide for further discussion of these issues and to work together to effectively provide solutions.

Chairman Perreault noted that written questions were submitted by the Bartlett Street residents, of which most have been answered this evening. He asked that the Amazon representatives provide answers to the following outstanding questions:

Question:

Is there an area for truck drivers to rest/sleep on your property so they do not do so in inappropriate/dangerous locations?

Answer:

Mr. Cleland stated that Amazon does not have any specific areas on the site, adding that truck drivers should not be stopping to rest as they have not reached their 11-hour shift limit after just leaving the facility. Mr. Coderre added that the Board of Selectmen has previously designated all of Bartlett as “no parking”, adding that signage will be installed soon weather permitting. He will forward this information to Mr. Kasim to share with the team and notify truck drivers.

Question:

Will this facility be using drone technology to deliver packages at any point in the foreseeable future?

Answer:

Mr. Griggs responded that there is no expectation at this time or in the foreseeable future that this site will convert to local delivery either by drone or trucks.

Question:

Would Amazon contribute to other Town improvement/beautification projects in Northborough?

Answer:

Mr. Griggs responded that Amazon may be able to work with the Town on potential efforts, but this request would have been more appropriately addressed as part of the approval process of what was required of Amazon to operate the facility.

Question:

Would Amazon contribute funding for upkeep of paving Bartlett St. and improving the quality of Cedar Hill Road in Marlborough, which most drivers use to get to Route 495?

Answer:

Mr. Griggs responded that such a request would have been considered as part of the approval process for the facility.

Question:

Is there a community affairs representative for Amazon? If so, what is the best way to reach this person?

Answer:

Chairman Perreault responded that the channel of communication is between the Town and Amazon. Concerns and questions from residents should be addressed to Town staff who will then convey them to Amazon for a response. Mr. Coderre added that the frustration from the residents, as well as Town staff is that complaints are being forwarded to Amazon without receiving any clear feedback as to whether or not the issue has been addressed. Mr. Griggs responded that Amazon has shown this evening that they are taking steps to address the number of issues surrounding the facility and will continue to work towards a solution. He assured Mr. Coderre that he and the public policy team will be responsive to any future communications.

Selectman Hirsh asked if it is expected that Amazon employees and truck drivers will frequent local businesses? Mr. Cleland responded that he doesn't expect the truck drivers to frequent local businesses, but that the employees may do so.

Chairman Perreault thanked the representatives from Amazon for attending tonight's meeting. Although this is not a public hearing, he indicated that Kristen Wixted of 2 Stirrup Brook Lane will be provided an opportunity to speak as a representative of the Bartlett Street neighborhood.

Ms. Wixted spoke on behalf of the residents of the Bartlett Street neighborhood. She reported that truck drivers are not only turning the wrong way, but are traveling too fast. She noted that the start time for the High School will be changing in the Fall. She will forward the updated drop off and pick up times to Mr. Coderre. She asked if Amazon could somehow shield the bright light located at the end of the facility that faces onto Bartlett Street? Mr. Kasim responded that he will look into what can be done to change the angle of the light. She asked if Amazon has any plans to locate a last-mile facility around here? Mr. Griggs responded that as of this evening, there is no plan to locate a last-mile facility in Northborough. She noted that the signs at the end of the driveway are great, but some residents are concerned they are too small. Mr. Coderre responded that the signs are the appropriate standard size and are consistent with what the Town requested. Ms. Wixted noted that she has a wildlife camera that captures truck drivers making the wrong turn more so during the night than in the daytime. She asked that Amazon share with truck drivers that they have received complaints about this. She agrees with Mr. Coderre's recommendation to place a security camera at the end of the driveway. Mr. Kasim noted again that each shift would have approximately 100 employees working at the same time in each of the two facilities. Because trucks are continuing to turn around on Stirrup Brook Lane, Ms. Wixted asked if Amazon can re-position the temporary signs and provide some additional lighting to ensure that truck drivers see them when exiting the facility? Mr. Kasim will work on providing better lighting on the temporary sign this week and moving forward will work with the general contractor to install outlets for permanent lighting of the signs.

Chairman Perreault thanked the representatives from Amazon for attending tonight's meeting and for constructively doing their part in working towards resolving these issues.

8:20 p.m. - KRISTIN BLACK, HEALTH AGENT
COVID-19 Update.

Health Agent Kristin Black provided a COVID-19 update on vaccination clinics as follows:

- The Town hosted two 100-dose vaccination clinics for residents aged 75 and older at the Northborough Senior Center on February 4th and 11th.
- A 100-dose clinic scheduled for February 18th was postponed due to shipping delays.
- Senior Center staff and volunteers called 690 residents over a week and a half and 70 residents were identified and registered for the February 26th clinic.
- The Town will begin to vaccinate homebound individuals in Town with the help of Fire Department Staff.
- The Department of Health (DPH) confirmed that 100 doses allocated to the Northborough Housing Authority will arrive the week of March 1st. This clinic will be held at the Northborough Senior Center on March 5th from 12:30-3:30pm.

Ms. Black indicated that as of March 1st, the State will no longer provide first dose vaccines for individual municipal clinics, except for the twenty disproportionately impacted communities, and established and approved regional collaboratives. Municipalities will receive second doses to ensure that all residents have been fully vaccinated by individual local Board of Health clinics.

Ms. Black added that municipalities may propose regional collaborations that meet specific geographic needs identified by the State and must meet specific requirements including:

- Have the capacity to vaccinate minimally 750 individuals per day, 5 days per week
- Serve unmet need geographically, as identified by the Department of Public Health
- Meet an administration rate threshold of 85% and report doses within 24 hours
- Serve all residents of the Commonwealth
- Provide public links for vaccine appointments on [Mass.gov/COVIDVaccine](https://www.mass.gov/COVIDVaccine)

Ms. Black reported that Town staff met with surrounding communities to discuss a Regional Collaboration proposal. If approved by DPH, this collaboration would provide additional vaccines to our region and allow early access to available appointments.

Mr. Coderre expressed his frustration with the State's decision to move to a different vaccination model. He shared letters that have been sent to the Governor from the Massachusetts Fire Chiefs Association and the Massachusetts Municipal Association that share the Town's frustration and concern over the State's decision to regionalize vaccination clinics. He added that no Mass vaccination site will be capable of providing the community-based service that local Boards of Health can. It's important that the Town has the ability to take care of its own community. He thanked Kristin Black and Fire Chief Parenti for leading the charge on this regional approach and assured the residents that the Town will continue to provide the highest level of service that we possibly can as allowed by the State.

COVID-19 UPDATE CONT. . .

Fire Chief Parenti shared how satisfying it has been for Town staff and volunteers who are working these vaccine clinics. To be able to provide such a personal service and to see how much the residents appreciate their efforts is very rewarding. He thanked the Town staff and all the volunteers who have dedicated their time.

Selectmen Kaelin asked if sending a letter of support for the local vaccination clinics would be of any help? Chief Parenti and Ms. Black agreed that a letter to the Legislative Delegation might be helpful. Ms. Black added that the power of local public health is needed and these local vaccination clinics go a long way in helping the community to come together and begin healing from the isolation and other effects this pandemic has had on the community. Mr. Coderre noted that the Legislative Delegation is in support of the Town's efforts. They will be at the March 8th Board meeting and he suggested that the Board share with them at that time how critical these local services are.

Kristin Black and Chief Parenti and everyone else involved were thanked for their efforts.

9:00 p.m. - SCOTT CHARPENTIER, DPW DIRECTOR

Update on Shared Winter Streets and Spaces Grant Program Applications.

Mr. Charpentier informed the Board that the Town submitted a grant funding application to MassDOT during round 3 of the Shared Winter Streets and Spaces Grant Program for construction of a wheelchair accessible trail around the Senior Center with connectivity to the Edmunds Hill trail network. The intent of the program is to safely get people outdoors focusing on the senior community, recreation and children. Although the application was strong with a lot of community support, the project was not awarded funding. He will move forward seeking other grant funds for this project.

Mr. Charpentier added that he plans to submit a funding application in the final round of grant awards. The scope of the project will be safety improvements for pedestrian access to the recreation facilities. The proposal is to install solar powered pedestrian activated rectangular rapid flashing beacons, additional signage, and new wheelchair ramps for the following crosswalks:

- South Street at Davis Avenue, Ellsworth MacAfee Park
- South Street at Longfellow Road, Ellsworth MacAfee Park
- South Street at Gale Street, Assabet Park
- East Main Street between Memorial Field and Casey Field

In addition to the crosswalk improvements, the project seeks funds for the installation of new bicycle racks at Ellsworth MacAfee Park, Memorial Field, and Casey Field. The goal is to continue the Town's effort of enhanced safety while promoting pedestrian and cyclist access to the recreational facilities. A project public notice will be placed through a variety of means to notify the public of the Town's intent to apply for this grant.

Mr. Coderre and members of the Board praised Mr. Charpentier for his efforts.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 25, 2021 MEETING

At the Board's February 8th meeting, the Board agreed to defer the approval of the January 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes to tonight's meeting in order to allow Board members an opportunity to review the recording of the meeting for clarification on the last paragraph of the Traffic Safety Hearing on Page 10.

Members of the Board, with the exception of Selectman Hirsh believed that the meeting minutes as presented captured the spirit and intent of the discussion by including the reference to the Master Plan Implementation Committee (MPIC) and its role as it relates to traffic safety. Selectman Hirsh stated that she agreed to the consensus of the Board with the understanding that the consensus referred to the traffic webpage only and with no reference being made to the earlier conversation about the role of the MPIC as it relates to traffic safety.

The Board agreed that Chairman Perreault will draft revised language for that portion of the meeting minutes (to include the reference to defer to the MPIC to proceed with its work, of which one of the items will be the planning of issues concerning traffic safety) for discussion and reconsideration at the Board's March 8th meeting.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 8, 2021 MEETING

Selectman Hirsh moved the Board vote to approve the February 8, 2021 meeting minutes as submitted, Selectman Rogers seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rogers	“aye”	Kaelin	“aye”
Hirsh	“aye”	Perreault	“aye”
Rutan	“aye”		

REPORTS

T. Scott Rogers

- Remotely attended the recent meeting of the Financial Planning Committee.

Julianne Hirsh

- Remotely attended recent meetings of the Historic District Commission, Water & Sewer Commission and the Northborough Cultural Council.
- Remotely attended the Planning Board meeting where the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) was present to discuss balancing traffic and economic development. Thanked the Planning Board for organizing this and for the invite.

Leslie Rutan, Clerk

- Noticed that the Holiday decorations are still up around the Town Common and asked if they could be removed soon? Mr. Charpentier stated that the residents who coordinated this effort have plans to remove the decorations in the next week or so, weather permitting.
- Asked for an update on the effectiveness of the traffic webpage. Mr. Charpentier responded that the traffic webpage has been up and running and is serving as a nice resource to point residents to prior questions and answers. He added that it's starting to gain some traction and will prove to be an effective resource for residents.

Tim Kaelin, Vice Chair

- Thanked Mr. Charpentier for his efforts in applying for the various grants and noted how pleased he was to see that all areas of Town were included, adding how important it is that all areas in Town are treated equally.
- Noted that the Diversity & Inclusion Committee met last week. Asked residents to look out for a diversity and inclusion survey that will attempt to gather information on diversity and inclusion in the community.

Jason Perreault, Chair

- Remotely attended the recent meeting of the Appropriations Committee. Noted that both the Appropriations Committee and the Financial Planning Committee will be meeting frequently in the upcoming weeks.
- Participated as the Board's representative on the Groundwater Advisory Committee (GWAC) at its February 18 meeting. In response to comments made at the January 19 and February 2 meetings of the Planning Board, the GWAC discussed misunderstandings that applicants and the special permit granting authorities (Planning Board or Zoning Board of Appeals) may have with respect to the weight of GWAC's recommendations and the scope of GWAC's review of an applicant's proposal. Going forward, the GWAC will clarify its communications. GWAC will emphasize to applicants that the GWAC's finding is a recommendation to the special permit granting authority, and not an approval of the applicant's proposal, as some applicants have mistakenly taken it. The special permit granting authorities will be advised of the scope of the GWAC's consideration, which historically has focused on the technical aspects of groundwater protection and less on whether, per the bylaw, a proposed use is allowed, prohibited, or eligible for an exception through the special permit granting authority. Ultimately, responsibility to consider all aspects of the bylaw rests with the permit granting authority.

John Coderre

- No report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chairman Perreault noted that the Public Comment portion of the agenda allows for the public to provide input, comments, questions, or concerns. The Board will not engage or deliberate in any detailed discussion, nor will it take action or make any commitments in real time in response to any public comment. If they are able, present Town staff may respond to any questions that can easily be answered. Those who wish to speak under Public Comment will be admitted to the meeting as an attendee and will be asked to provide their full name and address for the record. Public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person.

John Wixted of 2 Stirrup Brook Lane expressed his frustration with the Board's decision to defer traffic safety issues to the MIPC. He stressed the need for a Traffic Safety Committee. He requested additional signage at Bartlett Street that correctly points trucks toward the Amazon facility as trucks are turning right onto Bartlett Street coming from the center of Town.

PUBLIC COMMENTS CONT. . .

Terry Underwood of 40 Maple Street requested clarification on the status of the rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB) at the Main Street crosswalk at Maple Street and Route 20? Mr. Coderre responded that the Town's initial request to MassDOT to allow installation of RRFBs at Maple Street and Route 20 as additional safety measures was denied. A reconsideration request was made and again was denied. Mr. Coderre added that the string of correspondence between the Town and MassDOT can be viewed on the traffic page on the Town website, including a letter of support from the Town's Legislative Delegation. Ms. Underwood stressed her concern for the dangerousness of this intersection.

Kerri Martinek of 16 Hemlock Drive thanked those Board members who attended the February 16th Planning Board meeting to hear the Planning Board's discussion with the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission regarding traffic safety.

Suzanne Cieslica of 8 Emerson Road announced that the Community Affairs Committee is coordinating an event to be held in March in an effort to boost business for the restaurants in Town. Noted that she and her Bartlett Street neighbors do not feel that the traffic webpage should take the place of a Traffic Safety Committee. She also does not support asking the MPIC to deal with traffic safety.

Lisa Maselli of 13 Maple Street stated that she agrees with Terry Underwood about the dangerousness of the Main Street crosswalk at Maple Street and Route 20. She noted that she does not support the Board's decision to defer traffic safety issues to the MIPC.

Janeen Callaghan of 6 Stirrup Brook Lane noted that there is an issue with trucks turning right onto Bartlett Street coming from the center of Town, adding that the issue is 50% of trucks leaving the Amazon facility and 50% of trucks entering the facility. Questioned if the Town can ask Amazon if they can add this to their geofencing app in an effort to keep trucks from being on roads they are not supposed to be on? Chairman Perreault noted that earlier in the meeting it was said that not all drivers use the Amazon geofencing app.

Rachel Armstrong of Hemlock Drive thanked Mr. Coderre for doing a great job representing the concerns of the Bartlett Street neighborhood. She noted her frustration with how many residents called into the January 25th meeting asking for a Traffic Safety Committee, and to see how quickly the Board voted to defer traffic safety issues to the MIPC. She also shared her concern with trucks using Lyman Street and asked that they use Route 495 when traveling from Northborough to Westborough.

Chairman Perreault stated that the perception that the Board is deferring all traffic safety issues to the MPIC is not accurate. He clarified that immediate concerns with traffic safety should be addressed directly with Town staff, while long term and the broader traffic safety planning issues appropriately fall under the scope of the MPIC.

DISCUSSION AND APPROVAL OF MUNICIPAL JOINT COMMENTS TO THE RE: INTERIM CLEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE PLAN FOR 2030

Ms. Meekins stated that following the Board's last meeting, Town staff reached out to representatives from Natick and Westborough who are coordinating the joint comments to the State's CECP 2030 Plan. Town staff expressed the Board's hesitancy with agreeing to the request to align funding for public buildings with net zero goals, citing concerns with the emerging heat pump market and the lack of qualified contractors to perform this work on large scale building projects funded by MSBA. The authors of the comments noted that Northborough was not the only Town to communicate concern with this item, and as such, this comment has been revised to reflect the feedback from Northborough and other communities.

The updated comments have been modified to request that the Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs require all new public buildings that are funded by the Commonwealth be net zero ready starting in 2022 and to direct additional funding through such avenues to support the implementation of innovative clean energy and sustainability solutions in their construction. The slight change in language from "net zero" to "net zero ready" provides communities with more flexibility in the design of their new buildings. Net zero ready buildings are extremely efficient fossil fuel buildings that do not meet all the needs with onsite renewable energy, but by design, are ready to implement renewable sources on or offsite as funding becomes available. Net zero ready allows communities more flexibility in the design of their buildings and does not pigeonhole them into committing to one specific heating technology to reach net zero goals by 2050.

Ms. Meekins stated that with this change in language, Town staff recommends full support of the prepared Municipal Joint Comments on the Massachusetts Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2030.

Selectman Rutan thanked Ms. Meekins for her efforts and it was good to see that it wasn't just Northborough who had concerns with some of the comments.

Selectman Hirsh moved the Board vote to allow the Chair to sign the Joint Comments on CECP 2030 Plan as presented by Assistant Town Administrator Becca Meekins; Selectman Rogers seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rogers	"aye"	Kaelin	"aye"
Hirsh	"aye"	Perreault	"aye"
Rutan	"aye"		

REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY TOWN MEETING WARRANT SUMMARY

Mr. Coderre briefly reviewed the draft Town Meeting Warrant Summary. He noted that at this stage the initial draft of the Warrant often contains incomplete information and placeholders for articles that are still being developed. He noted that the Board will vote to close the Town Meeting Warrant at their March 8th meeting. It will then be reviewed and finalized by Town Counsel and posted prior to Town Meeting.

EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEED 1113

Chairman Perreault indicated that Cemetery Deed 1113 was previously executed at the Board's February 8th meeting and was left on the February 22nd agenda in error.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

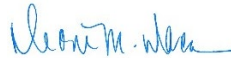
ADJOURNMENT

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to adjourn; Selectman Rogers seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rogers	"aye"	Kaelin	"aye"
Hirsh	"aye"	Perreault	"aye"
Rutan	"aye"		

The meeting adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant to the
Board of Selectmen

Documents used during meeting:

1. February 22, 2021 Meeting Agenda
2. January 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes
3. February 8, 2021 Meeting Minutes
4. Information Packet – Amazon
5. Memo – Covid-19 Update
6. Memo – Shared Winter Street Program
7. Memo – Municipal Joint Comments Clean Energy & Climate Plan 2030
8. Town Meeting Warrant Summary