

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN
MEETING MINUTES – March 9, 2020**

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

MEMBERS PRESENT: Jason Perreault, Chair
Timothy Kaelin, Clerk
Leslie Rutan
Julianne Hirsh

MEMBERS ABSENT: Dawn Rand, Vice Chair

*Pledge of Allegiance

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – FEBRUARY 24, 2020 REGULAR MEETING

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve the minutes of the February 24, 2020 meeting as submitted; Selectman Kaelin seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:00 p.m. - **SENATOR JAMES B. ELDRIDGE**
SENATOR HARRIETTE L. CHANDLER
STATE REPRESENTATIVE DANIELLE W. GREGOIRE
STATE REPRESENTATIVE HAROLD P. NAUGHTON
Discussion of Legislative Priorities.

In preparation for tonight's meeting, the State Delegation was advised of Northborough's legislative priorities. At the request of the Board, Senators Chandler and Eldridge and Representatives Naughton and Gregoire were present. School Superintendent Greg Martineau was also present in the audience.

Mr. Coderre reviewed the top two legislative priorities, including Chapter 90 Roadway Repair Funding and Local State Aid Increases needed to support the following:

- Student Opportunity Act and Minimum Aid
- Special Education Circuit Breaker
- Regional Transportation Reimbursements
- Unrestricted General Government Aid

Mr. Coderre also asked for support of the following secondary issues and initiatives:

- Funding for environmental and climate-related infrastructure needs
- Ensure sustainable OPEB costs for cities and towns
- Oppose unfunded mandates
- Modernize Procurement and Public Construction Laws

Discussion of Legislative Priorities Cont. . .

Mr. Coderre thanked the Senators and Representatives for their ongoing support of Senate Bill No. 435 – An Act regarding agricultural composting programs.

Senator Chandler thanked Mr. Coderre for his efforts in continuing this annual process. Senators Chandler and Eldridge and Representatives Gregoire and Naughton spoke to the priorities presented. Each offered their support and their commitment to continue to advocate on behalf of the Town and the School District. Updates were given from each on their individual and collective efforts to develop or improve programs and/or increase funding for public transportation, climate resiliency and unfunded mandates.

School Superintendent Greg Martineau briefly reviewed the legislative priorities relating to the School Department, specifically the Student Opportunity Act, Minimum Aid, Special Education Circuit Breaker program and reimbursement for regional transportation. Lastly, Superintendent Martineau asked that the legislators advocate for a State-wide solution to change the morning start time for high school students.

Following several questions and comments from members of the Board, a discussion ensued about what more can be done to push for Senate Bill No. 435 – An Act regarding Agricultural Composting Programs. It was suggested that the Board send another letter to the Legislators in support of the Bill.

Members of the Board thanked the Legislators for attending the meeting.

7:25 p.m. - HEARING

To consider an application for a Change of Manager as submitted by Aurelio Metohu of Casta Diva, Inc. for the All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License for premises located at 35 Solomon Pond Road.

Aurelio Metohu, owner of Casta Diva was present to request that the manager of record for the All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License for premises located at 35 Solomon Pond Road be changed from Diana Gallant to himself.

Mr. Metohu has been the owner and chef of Casta Diva since the restaurant first opened in 2018. Prior to opening Casta Diva, Mr. Metohu was the owner and chef of Café Espresso Trattoria in Worcester for 13 years. Mr. Metohu is TIPS certified. His personal information has been reviewed by Detective Sergeant Brian Griffin, who has indicated that he has no concerns to report.

Selectman Hirsh moved the Board vote to approve the application as submitted by Casta Diva, Inc. to change the manager of record for the All Alcoholic Beverages Restaurant License for premises located at 35 Solomon Pond Road from Diana Gallant to Aurelio Metohu; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:30 p.m. - PUBLIC HEARING

To consider Petition #28013385 as submitted by Massachusetts Electric (NGrid) Company and Verizon New England, Inc. for a new pole on Crawford Street and underground conduit along Franklin Circle.

Al Galvin was present on behalf of National Grid. He indicated that this petition is for the installation of a new jointly owned Pole 31-50 on Crawford Street and new underground conduit in Franklin Circle. The work is being undertaken in order to provide better service to the residents of Franklin Circle.

In anticipation of questions by residents in the audience, DPW Director Scott Charpentier assured the residents that appropriate conditions to protect the properties of those affected by the project will be in place as part of the road opening permit that is issued by the DPW Department.

Selectman Hirsh moved the Board vote to approve and execute Petition No. 28013385 as submitted by Massachusetts Electric (NGrid) Company and Verizon New England, Inc.; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

7:35 p.m. - PUBLIC HEARING

To consider placing an article on the Annual Town Meeting warrant that would change the start and end time of Annual Town Meeting from 7pm-11pm to 6pm-10pm.

Chairman Perreault reported that following last year's Annual Town Meeting, and as a follow-up to comments made by many parents about the lateness of the meetings, Selectman Kaelin requested that the Board consider changing the start and end time of the Annual Town Meeting at the September 9, 2019 Selectmen's Meeting.

Selectman Kaelin reviewed what was reported at the September 9, 2019 Selectmen's Meeting, when the Board discussed moving the time for Town Meeting from 7-11PM to 6-10PM. The discussion at the time was that this would benefit most residents, as the older residents would not have to stay up as late, and younger families with children would more easily be able to obtain childcare on a school night.

Selectman Rutan expressed her support of the earlier time to see if it will help to attract more people to attend Town Meeting.

Selectman Hirsh indicated that she would be in favor of conducting a survey and requested more time to do research on the matter. Selectman Kaelin reminded the Board that this matter was raised back in September with the stated intention of placing the proposal on a future Selectmen's agenda to take public input prior to Town Meeting. He expressed concern about delaying this given the time that Board members had to review the matter. Selectman Rutan stated that residents should be given the option to vote on this at Town Meeting, as this is the best way to survey what the residents want.

PUBLIC HEARING CONT. . .

Chairman Perreault expressed his support in trying to see if the earlier start and end time would be advantageous to residents. He asked Mr. Coderre to speak to the question about the 10PM end time. Mr. Coderre stated that not having the ability to extend the 10PM end time could create a difficult situation with being able to reach a quorum the next evening if only one or two articles remained. Chairman Perreault reiterated that the duration of Town Meeting is not being changed.

Chairman Perreault invited comments from the public. Henry Squillante of 72 Crestwood Drive shared his concern with a past Town Meeting, when a significant warrant article was voted on beyond the 11PM ending time when many residents had already left. Ceylan Rowe of 347 Green Street spoke in favor of the earlier start time in order to allow the younger generation an opportunity to learn about the Town Meeting process.

Following some further discussion amongst members of the Board surrounding the stop time of Town Meeting, Selectman Hirsh reiterated that she is not comfortable moving forward with this warrant article without more information.

Chairman Perreault closed the public hearing.

Mr. Coderre indicated that this item is already included in the Town Meeting Warrant. There is no further action needed by the Board. He added that tonight's public hearing was to provide an opportunity for public input.

REPORTS**Julianne Hirsh**

- Attended the 2nd Annual Cultural Council Grantee Reception at the Library. Thanked the Council for all they do for the community. Questioned how a Board or Committee would go about submitting a request for funding? Mr. Coderre indicated that Boards and Committees should submit any budget requests to his office as part of the preliminary budget process which begins in the late fall.

Leslie Rutan

- Thanked Town Clerk Andrew Dowd and Assistant Town Clerk Karen Wilber, the Election Workers and all other Town staff who was involved in the Presidential Primary election. Also thanked the residents for coming out to vote.
- Reminded the public to pay close attention to crosswalks throughout Town.
- Reminded the public that the hands-free driving law is now in effect.
- Announced that the Northborough Food Pantry was recently restocked by the Zeh School students and faculty. Thanked the elementary schools and their students for their continued efforts in supporting the Food Pantry.

Tim Kaelin, Clerk

- Thanked Town Clerk Andrew Dowd and all others that were involved in the Presidential Primary election.
- Encouraged residents to get out and vote at the Town Election on May 12th.

Tim Kaelin Report Cont. . .

- Thanked the School Superintendent for his proactive efforts and communication regarding the Corona Virus.
- Reminded residents to keep their dogs on a leash, in light of a young boy who was recently bitten by a dog at the Lincoln Street School.

Jason Perreault, Chair

- On behalf of the Town Clerk, announced information and upcoming events regarding the U.S. Census. Information about the U.S. Census can be found on the Town website or by calling the Town Clerk's Office or the Library.
- Attended the Cultural Council Grantee reception at the Library. Thanked the Council for their efforts.
- Noted that the Planning Board voted to accept the Master Plan with their revisions at their meeting on March 5th. Copies will soon be available on-line and in print. The next step will be to create an Implementation Committee.
- Noted that the Planning Board will hold a public hearing on their proposed zoning articles on March 5th.

John Coderre

- No report.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Fire Chief Parenti asked that residents use caution during the current burning season considering how dry the conditions are.

CLOSE TOWN MEETING WARRANT

Prior to closing the Town Meeting Warrant, Mr. Coderre reminded the Board that although the intent of the articles contained on the warrant cannot be changed, there remains some incomplete information, as well as minor editing to be done by Town Counsel prior to its final posting on March 23rd.

Selectman Kaelin moved the Board vote to close the April 27, 2020 Town Meeting Warrant; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

INTERVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONSCommunity Affairs Committee

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to appoint Tricia Olival to the Community Affairs Committee for a partial three-year term to expire on April 30, 2022, as recommended by the Interview Subcommittee; Selectman Kaelin seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

Council on Aging

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to appoint Muriel Swenor to the Council on Aging for a partial two-year term to expire on April 30, 2021, as recommended by the Interview Subcommittee; Selectman Kaelin seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEED 1094

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to execute Cemetery Deed 1094; Selectman Kaelin seconded the motion; all members voted in favor.

OTHER BUSINESS

None.

8:50 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 (Litigation – City of Marlborough Westerly Sewer Treatment Plan) due to the Chair's determination that a discussion regarding this matter in an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the position of the Board; Selectman Rutan 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.

9:20 p.m. – RETURN TO OPEN MEETING**ADJOURNMENT**

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

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell
Executive Assistant to the
Board of Selectmen

Documents used during meeting:

1. March 9, 2020 Meeting Agenda
2. February 24, 2020 Meeting Minutes
3. Draft Legislative Priorities Letter
4. Information packet – Change of Manager
5. Information packet – NGrid Petition
6. Memorandum – Annual Town Meeting Start/End Time
7. Interview Subcommittee Recommendation for appointments
8. Cemetery Deed 1094