



**Chesterfield Select Board Minutes
Tuesday, October 11, 2022 at 4:00 p.m.
Town Office Building - 422 Main Road**

The Select Board meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m. by Mr. Fuller.

Select Board Members Present: Roger Fuller and Trish Colson-Montgomery

Select Board Members Participating Remotely:

Select Board Members Absent: Don Willard

Town Administrator Present: Brenda Lessard

Public Officials Present: Fred Drake, Planning Board

Public Officials Present Via ZOOM:

General Public Present: Bea von Hagke and Denise LeDuc, HCDC

General Public Present Via ZOOM: Emily Wright, WOLA; Dee Cinner

Recorder of Minutes: Brenda Lessard

Common Acronyms:

ACO-Animal Control Officer

COA: Council of Aging

CDBG: Community Development Block Grant

DEP: Department of Environmental Protection

DHCD: Department of Housing and Community Development

DOT: Department of Transportation

EMD: Emergency Management Director

FRCOG: Franklin County Council of Governments

HAEMS: Hilltown Ambulance Emergency Management Services

HCDC: Hilltown Community Development Corporation

IFB: Invitation for Bids

MassDOT: Massachusetts Department of Transportation

MLP: Municipal Light Plant

NHRES: New Hingham Regional Elementary School

OSRP: Open Space & Recreation Plan

PILOT: Payment in Lieu of Taxes

PVPC: Pioneer Valley Planning Commission

RFP: Request for Proposals

RFQ: Request for Quotes

ROW: Right of Way

WG&E: Westfield Gas & Electric

On July 16, 2022, Governor Baker signed into law An Act Relative to Extending Certain State of Emergency Accommodations, which, among other things, extends the expiration of the provisions pertaining to the Open Meeting Law to March 31, 2023. Specifically, this extension allows public bodies to continue holding meetings remotely without a quorum of the public body physically present at a meeting location, and to provide "adequate, alternative" access to remote meetings. The Act does not make any new changes to the Open Meeting Law other than extending the expiration date of the temporary provisions regarding remote meetings from July 15, 2022, to March 31, 2023

This meeting was conducted with ZOOM access for the public.

Ms. Cinner reported to the Select Board that she was recording the meeting.

4:00 pm: HCDC-Bea von Hagke & Denise LeDuc:

Ms. von Hagke reported that the HCDC would like to include two packets into the next CDBG grant which will be a two-year grant. The packets would include accessibility for town buildings through design barrier removal projects. The first packet would be for the Chesterfield Library. It would include: building an addition onto the back or side of the Library to accommodate an accessible bathroom, replace all grip style door handles with lever handles, widen doorways as needed, install ADA compliant signage, and create or upgrade ADA complaint second means of egress. Ms. Colson-Montgomery noted this would be a major redesign. Ms. LeDuc reported the first year of the grant would be the design phase and the second year of the grant would be the construction phase. Ms. von Hagke brought up the idea of using the new accessible bathroom for the Edwards Museum also. Mr. Fuller noted there would be minimal usage of the bathroom from the Edwards Museum. The second packet would include: Russell Park, to improve surface accessibility to the park, install benches as needed, replace grip style door handles with lever door handles on the bathroom door at the Snack Shack and install signage as needed; New Hingham School, to improve accessibility to the playground, benches if needed, install ADA signage, and replace current door handles with lever style door handles; Community Center, to install signage in numerous places, replace current door handles with lever style door handles, and install an ADA compliant second means of egress; Town Offices, to install signage in numerous places and replace all grip style door handles with lever type door handles. The other part of the packet would involve Pettingill Park in Cummington. There were also options to install signage and new lever type door handles at Town Hall.

Mr. Fuller opined that an ADA accessible bathroom at Russell Park is needed. The bathroom was locked when the study was done. Ms. von Hagke took note of the request to possibly include an accessible bathroom at Russell Park. Ms. Colson-Montgomery noted that most toilets in the municipal buildings are not ADA complaint. They are not the required height nor have handles on the transfer side of the toilet. Ms. Colson-Montgomery noted that the lack of benches at the park has been brought up before in the Walkability Audit that was done. She also opined that an accessible bathroom at the park should be a high priority.

Mr. Fuller and Ms. Colson-Montgomery pointed out that the New Hingham School is responsible for its own maintenance as it is a regionalized school. Ms. von Hagke noted that not much needs to be done there and Goshen is also included in their service area.

Mr. Fuller noted that no buildings have two ramps and he opined that the COA already has one ramp. Ms. von Hagke noted that the study showed a second ADA compliant egress is needed, especially as it

services an aging client. Mr. Fuller pointed out that the only location to put a ramp would put the ramp onto property that is owned by the church, not town property.

The Select Board agrees that all the proposed items in the two packets should be included into the grant to see if funding is available to do the proposed accessibility work Ms. von Hagke would like to get a committee together. She is proposing a Select Board member, school committee member, COA member, Library Trustee, the ADA Coordinator for the town, and a Recreation committee member. This would be a working group working toward a goal of making the town spaces more ADA compliant.

Ms. LeDuc brought up that the HCDC is also looking at vacant properties to possibly rehab and use for affordable housing. Ms. Colson-Montgomery noted that not all properties are necessarily vacant and was not in favor of this process. Any discussion of that should be with the property owner and the HCDC.

5:00 PM: Emily Wright from WOLA (Wright Ostermier Landscape Architects):

Emily Wright attended the meeting via ZOOM to give a synopsis of the proposed community engagement meeting that will be held on October 17th regarding the 6 North Road property. She presented her proposed power point and table top exercises she will do with the community members. No opinions will be shared at this engagement session. This will be an information gathering session of what the public would like to see on the property. The Select Board approved the content that will be shared at the session. The Select Board would like a CodeRed call go out about the public engagement session right away with another call as a reminder. They also would like to see it get on the town sign. Ms. Lessard will talk with Mr. Willard. There was also a suggestion that the sign be put up at the Highway garage. Ms. Lessard will reach out to Mike Samson, the foreman, as Matt Smith is out of town.

Minutes:

Ms. Colson-Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fuller and unanimously voted to accept the Minutes of 9/26/2022, as amended.

Warrants:

The Select Board reviewed and signed the warrants W23-08, WP23-08, WPH23-08 and WBB23-08.

Reports:

Edwards Museum Renovation Updates:

Mr. Fuller reported that he has just returned after being away for 15 days. Kent Hicks has been overseeing the work done by Royal Renovations and has been to the site several times. The work that needed to be done to allow the roof work to progress has been completed. Royal Renovations will return in the Spring to do the rest of the renovation work and the painting of the building. Mr. Fuller hopes the roof will get done soon. He has left a message for LaRoche Construction who is doing the re-roofing work that the building is ready for their work to begin.

Discussion with Fire Chief re: Underground Storage Tank:

Mr. Fuller reported that spoke with Chief Hewes and the Chief will do some research regarding the tank.

Town Administrators Report:

Phones:

The Highway phone issue has been fixed. The Town Clerk has requested that the fax number stay in place until after the election in November. Ms. Lessard tried to keep just the fax number active on the account with RingSquared but the circuit would need to stay active and would cost approximately \$160. /month to keep the fax line. Ms. Lessard is looking into getting virtual fax added to the towns account.

Alarm at COA:

The cellular monitoring for the alarm was installed on Tuesday, October 4th.

Fall Tree Removal Bids:

The bid advertisement has been sent out. The rotted tree by Russell Park is on the list for removal. The bids are due on 10/24/22 by 2 pm.

Police and Town Detail Work:

Ms. Lessard sent over the report showing the amount of work done for Chesterfield only detail work since 1/1/21. The Select Board would like this info going further back several more years and the flaggers separated out. This will be discussed at a future meeting.

WCPO Paint job:

Ms. Lessard reported she had spoken with the painter who painted the WCPO last fall and he will come repaint the front deck and the bulkhead which are bot peeling and missing paint. Ms. Lessard checked the work on 10/12 and the area had been pressure-washed but not repainted yet.

Boundary Agreement for 6 North Rd:

Ms. Lessard filed the agreement and map at the Hampshire County Registry of Deeds.

Bills:

Ms. Lessard has two bills to pay. The first is from the Treasurer to UFASI for Unibank Fiscal Advisory Fee. The Select Board agreed that should be paid from the Broadband line. The second bill was from Recreation for the Hilltown Junior Olympics. The Hilltown Junior Olympics bill may need to go back to the Recreation Committee and paid through a Reserve Fund Transfer.

Tennis Courts:

Ms. Lessard has left several messages at several companies to see if she can get a price for repair and reseal and obtaining an email to send the photos to so that someone will review them. Ms. Colson-Montgomery gave several suggestions to Ms. Lessard to follow-up on.

Fred Drake, Planning Board:

Fred Drake, who is a member of the Planning Board was in to inquire whether the Select Board was trying to exert their influence on the members of the Planning Board regarding the cannabis bylaw. Mr. Fuller and Ms. Colson-Montgomery opined that the Select Board did not try to influence anyone and simply want a bylaw written They have no say of what is included or excluded in a bylaw. The Select Board wants a bylaw written. That work is for the Planning Board to do by doing research and having public meetings. Mr. Fuller also stated that the Select Board has no jurisdiction over the Planning Board as they are an elected board. Mr. Drake stated that the Planning Board is divided on what should be in

the cannabis bylaw. Ms. Colson-Montgomery stated the Planning Board needs a bylaw the town can take to town meeting. Town meeting will decide if they accept or reject the bylaw as the Planning Board presents it.

Dee Cinner Complaint:

Dee Cinner sent a letter via email to the Planning Board, Select Board and Town Clerk regarding a complaint that she was on the Planning Board agenda in September to discuss her proposed bylaw amendment to the cell tower setback bylaw and then was told she could not speak at the meeting. Ms. Colson-Montgomery opined the chair of a committee does not have to allow anyone to speak or take any public comment. Ms. Cinner was also upset that the item was listed under “New Business” on the agenda. She wants to have her amendment to the cell setback bylaw included in the public hearing the Planning Board will be having regarding the cannabis bylaw. She has asked CJ to put her on the agenda again for their next meeting and also put on the agenda for the Public Hearing but was told no. The Select Board opined they had no oversight of the Planning Board. They agreed that the cannabis bylaw is a controversial bylaw and the amendment to the cell tower setback may be also. They advised that any public hearing should be held separately regarding the two bylaws.

Meeting Adjourned:

Ms. Colson Montgomery made a motion, seconded by Mr. Fuller to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. The vote was unanimous.