

Select Board Minutes
Monday, August 22, 2022 -6:00 PM

Meeting to be held as hybrid with both an in-person and with a remote participation option in accordance with Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022

Present: Scott C. Wrenn, Daniel S. Carpenter, Sara K. Rufli (Remote) and Steven Chambers

Also Present: Town Manager Julie A. Jacobson and CFO/Asst. Town Manager Ed Kazanovicz

The Chair called the meeting to order 6:00 P.M.

The Board led the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. Wrenn announced that this Open Meeting of the Town of Auburn Select Board was being operated as a hybrid model under Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022 with in-person and remote participation options. For the public to join the meeting remotely by telephone, 1-408-650-3123 and Access Code 235-235-861. Or, the public can join via computer at <https://global.gotomeeting.com/join/235-235-861>.

All supporting materials that have been provided to members of this body are available on the Town's website. The public is encouraged to follow along using the posted agenda.

Mr. Wrenn noted that the meeting was being recorded by Auburn Cable Television. He asked if anyone else was recording the meeting. No one so indicated.

The Chair confirmed that all members that were to be participating remotely were present and could hear him.

- Ms. Rufli - Yes
- Mr. Chambers, Mr. Carpenter and Mr. Wrenn were present in-person.

Each vote taken in this meeting will be conducted by roll call vote.

Vote on Selection of Vice Chair

Chair Scott Wrenn opened nominations for Vice Chair of the Select Board.

Mr. Chambers nominated Sara Rufli for Vice Chair. Mr. Carpenter seconded the nomination.

There being no further nominations, the Chair declared nominations closed and the Select Board voted on the selection of Sara Rufli for Vice Chair by roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Public Comments

Mr. Dan Largesse of Perry Street addressed the Select Board and encouraged consideration that the Board allocates ARPA funds for COVID premium pay for the Police and Fire/Rescue officers.

Public Hearings/Presentations

Presentation by Whitney Street Home Builders, LLC for a Local Initiative Project (LIP) for Housing Development at 16 Perry Place and Potential Vote to Set a Public Meeting Date.

Mr. Steve Venincasa and Mr. James Venincasa were in attendance. Steve Venincasa gave an overview of the 40B development project at 16 Perry Place proposed by Whitney Street Home Builders, LLC. He said that the firm was seeking to work cooperatively with the Town by the Local Initiative Program (LIP).

Mr. James Tetreault, Azimuth Land Design Engineer, gave a presentation describing the property that consists of 8.5 acres. He discussed design plans for the housing development project, information on sewer capacity and water supply to the development. Mr. Tetreault said that there have been discussions with the Auburn Water District about the construction of a permanent, metered interconnection with the City of Worcester water distribution system that would be needed to be able to provide adequate water supply. There have also been discussions about the developer assisting the Water District with the construction of a portion of the interconnection.

The developer's lawyer, Atty. Louis Levine, who was participating remotely, spoke on the project and plans for water connection to Worcester. He said that there could be a development agreement between the Town and the developer that they help with costs for the water interconnection to get sufficient water supply. Atty. Levine said that the developer wants to work cooperatively with the Town by the LIP process.

In response to a question on the private road, Mr. Steve Venincasa discussed the document regarding title insurance for 16 Perry Place.

Julie Jacobson spoke about wanting to work with the developer by LIP process. She said the Town would need more information on the impact on municipal services for police and fire, traffic, stormwater and drainage and the private road that Atty. Levine addressed somewhat tonight. Ms. Jacobson said that some information was given, but more would be needed. She said that, as with the last 40B development, there will probably be additional meetings for comments and questions to get all the issues out and questions answered.

The Chair advised those residents in attendance that this meeting was to hear the developer's presentation about the project. He said that the Board would set a public meeting date to hear public comments.

Steve Venincasa advised that a traffic study was in process.

The Select Board voted to set a public meeting on September 12, 2022 at 6:30 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

The Board then took a brief recess.

The meeting was reconvened at 6:37 P.M.

Petition by National Grid for Pole Locations on Tinker Hill Road – 6:30 P.M.

The Board voted to open the hearing (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: : Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Rob Greene representing National Grid was participating remotely and explained the petition that seeks permission to work on:

Tinker Hill Road – National Grid to install 1 SO Pole on Tinker Hill Road beginning at a point approximately 1200’ feet northwest of the centerline of the intersection of Blaker Street. Install one new 40ft. class 2 midspan pole, P18-50 on Tinker Hill Rd. with an anchored strut guy, with the purpose to serve overhead electric utility to the property of 92 Tinker Hill Road.

Mr. Chambers asked about the placement of the pole in connection with street and how far off pavement it would be.

Mr. Greene replied that it should be no more than 5 feet off the pavement.

Mr. Wrenn asked if there would be a streetlight on the pole. Mr. Greene replied no.

Mr. Chambers asked if the 5 feet off road was sufficient for future improvements to the street.

Rob Greene said that they couldn’t go too far off the pavement because of private property rights. If future road widenings or improvements were considered in the future, National Grid could address that issue as it comes up and move the pole if necessary.

The Chair asked if there were any abutters wishing to speak. There were no abutters in attendance or participating remotely that wished to comment or ask questions about the petition.

The Board voted to close the hearing at 6:41 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: : Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

The Select Board voted to approve the petition . (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: : Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Wagner Motorsports International, LLC – Applications for Motor Vehicle Class I, Motor Vehicle Class II, and Auto Repair Licenses at 460-480 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA. – 6:30 P.M.

At 6:42 P.M. the Board voted to open the hearing on the applications by Wagner Motorsports International, LLC for Motor Vehicle Class I, Motor Vehicle Class II, and Auto Repair Licenses at 460-480 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded

by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: : Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

The applicant explained that the business has gone to the Planning Board and Zoning Board and has met with the Development Coordinating Group (DCG). Mr. Wagner explained the applications and plans for the business.

The Board considered the applications and recommendations provided by the DCG:

- The applicant shall obtain all necessary permits and inspections from Town Departments, Boards, or Commissions;
- The applicant shall obtain any necessary approvals of State agencies;
- The applicant shall ensure there is adequate access on site for emergency vehicles.

There were no abutters wishing to speak on the applications.

The Board voted to close the hearing at 6:44 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: : Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

The Select Board voted to approve the licenses, provided that all applicable requirements of the state and town and any of its departments, boards and commissions have been fulfilled. Said licenses are subject to all the conditions stated upon them. Failure to comply with any and all the conditions shall invalidate the licenses and render them null and void, and that the conditions recommended by the Development Coordinating Group (DCG) are placed on the licenses (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: : Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Change of Manager, 99 Restaurants of Boston, LLC, 793 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA.

At 6:45 P.M. the Board voted to open the hearing (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Alexia Ronnau, the new manager, was present on behalf of the application and explained the change of manager request. The Chief of Police had written that he had no objections to the change of manager as requested.

At 6:47 P.M. the Board voted to close the hearing (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

The Select Board voted to approve the change of manager to Alexia Ronnau (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: : Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Communications

There were no items.

Select Board General Items

Interview and Potential Vote to Appoint Zoning Board of Appeals Associate Member

The Select Board interviewed Ryan Garabedian, who was participating remotely, for the Associate Member seat on the Zoning Board of Appeals.

The Select Board voted to appoint Mr. Garabedian as an Associate Member on the Zoning Board of Appeals for a term expiring June 30, 2024 (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Change of a Date on the Open Air License issued to the Friends of the Auburn Public Library for a Book Sale at the Library Parking Lot on August 20th to September 17, 2022.

The Friends of the Auburn Public Library are requesting that the last date on the Open Air License issued to them by the Board in April to be changed from August 20th to September 17, 2022. Cynthia Carey was participating remotely for the Friends of the Auburn Public Library.

The Select Board voted to approve the date change for the Friend's book sale to September 17, 2022 (Motion made by Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

The Board voted to move forward agenda item Update on Public Safety Facilities Advisory Committee Recommendation (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Town Manager Julie Jacobson summarized the vote of the Public Safety Facilities Advisory Committee to recommend a joint Police/Fire facility on West Street on town-owned land and to keep the current station as a sub-station.

Chair of the Public Safety Facilities Advisory Committee Kevin Kennedy and Fire Chief Stephen Coleman were present and further discussed plans to pursue an entrance /exit onto Southbridge Street through negotiations with a property owner to purchase land.

Following the discussion, the Select Board voted to authorize further negotiations (Motion made by Mr. Chambers; motion seconded by Ms. Rufli) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Abstain; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 3-0-1.

The Board voted to move forward agenda item 6g) Vote to Issue a Citation to R. Scott Roberts for his Heroic Efforts to assist two women who were attacked while working at the Shell Gas Station, 611 Southbridge Street (Motion made by Mr. Chambers; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Police Chief Todd Lemon was in attendance and presented the request to officially recognize Mr. Roberts for his heroic actions. The proclamation will be presented to Mr. Roberts at the next meeting.

The Select Board voted to issue a proclamation to Mr. R. Scott Roberts (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

The Board voted to move forward agenda item 6e) Potential Vote regarding Request by Sheila Conroy on Renaming a Portion of Water St. to Veterans' Way Street (Motion made by Mr. Chambers; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Sheila Conroy was present and explained her request for the Board to sponsor a town meeting warrant article to approve renaming a portion of Water St. to Veterans' Way.

Town Manager Jacobson summarized Town Counsel's research into the request and the resulting information as provided in his letter of July 12, 2022.

The Select Board voted to sponsor the warrant article for the next town meeting (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers)) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

The Board voted to move forward agenda items 7b) and then 7c) – Motion made by Mr. Chambers; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter and voted by roll call: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Discussion and Vote on Request to use \$1 Million Dollars in ARPA Funds for the Warren Road Pump Station.

Asst. DPW Director/Sewer Superintendent Nick Swartz was in attendance.

The Town Manager presented the item and the additional information as requested by the Board. She also said that she has confirmed that the Town could not go out for a bid without the funds being available.

The Select Board voted to approve \$1 Million dollars in ARPA funds for the Warren Road Pump Station (Motion made by Ms. Rufli; motion seconded by Mr. Carpenter) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

FY2023 Paving Plan - DPW

Town Manager Julie Jacobson introduced the item. DPW Director Joanna Paquin presented the paving plan for FY2023 and discussed the methodology for classification and prioritization of the roads. She also addressed questions that were raised about sidewalk rehabilitation during the road work reconstruction.

Request from Town Clerk to Change of Owner Name and Billing Address Information on the Flammable Storage Permit at 780 Washington Street, Auburn, MA.

The Board reviewed the Town Clerk's request.

The Select Board voted to change the owner's name and billing address information to:

GPI MA-F, Inc. dba Ira Ford Auburn
780 Washington Street
Auburn, MA. 01501

(Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Select Board Votes on Fall Special Town Meeting

Town Manager Julie Jacobson discussed the proposed date for the fall special town meeting.

The Select Board then voted the following:

- The Board voted to schedule the Fall Special Town Meeting on Tuesday October 18, 2022 at 6:00 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.
- The Board voted to open the warrant for the Fall Special Town Meeting (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.
- The Board voted to close the warrant for the Fall Special Town Meeting on Friday September 9, 2022 at 1:00 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Gift Acceptances in Accordance with MGL Chapter 44, Section 53A

The Board voted to approve with gratitude gift acceptances to the Fire/Rescue Department in the amounts of \$100.00 from Gerard Delongchamp and \$200.00 from Mastermans' (Total \$300.00) for the Fire Department Gift Account (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

The Board voted to approve, with gratitude and a letter signed by the Chair, a gift acceptance to the Police Department in the amount of \$5,000.00 from Paul Gedenberg, Baystate Riggers & Millwrights, for the K9 Gift Account (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Rufli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Town Manager Items

Vote to accept and expend \$27,000 from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to update the Town of Auburn's Hazard Mitigation Plan. The total project cost is \$30,000 with a \$3,000 in-kind local share.

Town Manager Julie Jacobson explained the grant program.

The Select Board voted to accept and expend \$27,000.00 from the Hazard Mitigation Grant Program (HMGP) to update the Town of Auburn's Hazard Mitigation Plan (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Ruffli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Discussion and Possible Vote on the Greater Worcester Land Trust request for a Conservation Restriction on a Small Parcel of Land it owns off of Pakachoag Street in Auburn and Ellie Way in Worcester as shown on a Plan entitled "Plan of Project Surveyed for Joseph F. Panarelli, Jr., Marie G. Panarelli, Ellie Way, Worcester, MA, prepared by Jarvis Land Survey, Inc. dated August 23, 2018".

Colin Novick of the Greater Worcester Land Trust was in attendance and presented and discussed the request.

The Select Board voted to approve the foregoing Conservation Restriction from the Greater Worcester Land Trust, Inc. to the East Quabbin Land Trust, Inc. in the public interest pursuant to Section 32 of Chapter 184 of the Massachusetts General Laws (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Ruffli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Update on National Opioid Litigation Settlement

Town Manager Jacobson gave an update on the national opioid litigation settlement and she explained the documents that were provided to the board.

Tabled Items

There were no items.

Select Board Member Items

Discussion on the Potential Creation of a Student Member of the Board of Selectmen (Mr. Carpenter)

Mr. Carpenter gave an update on his item. He said that he would provide information to the board for the next meeting.

Chair Scott Wrenn asked if there were any changes or concerns about the minutes of July 25, 2022.

There being none, Mr. Wrenn accepted the minutes of July 25, 2022.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:38 P.M. (Motion made by Mr. Carpenter; motion seconded by Mr. Chambers) roll call vote: Mr. Carpenter, Yes; Ms. Ruffli, Yes; Mr. Chambers, Yes; Mr. Wrenn, Yes – passed 4 to 0.

Submitted: Sharon A. Kwiatkowski,
Adm. Assistant to Town Manager

The following documents were part of the Select Board's meeting of August 22, 2022 and are retained in the Executive Office of Town Manager:

- August 22, 2022 Agenda
- Documents relating to Information presented by Whitney Street Home Builders, LLC for a Local Initiative Project (LIP) for Housing Development at 16 Perry Place
- Application Documents for Petition by National Grid for Pole Locations on Tinker Hill Road
- Application Documents for Wagner Motorsports International, LLC – Applications for Motor Vehicle Class I, Motor Vehicle Class II, and Auto Repair Licenses at 460-480 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA; Recommendations from Development Coordinating Group (DCG) dated
- Application Documents for Change of Manager Request by 99 Restaurants LLC to Alexia Rennau 793 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA; Recommendation by Chief of Police dated
- Application and Resume for Ryan Garabedian for the Open Position as Associate Member on the Zoning Board of Appeals
- Request for Change of a Date on the Open Air License issued to the Friends of the Auburn Public Library for a Book Sale at the Library Parking Lot on August 20th to September 17, 2022
- Request to Issue a Citation to R. Scott Roberts for his Heroic Efforts to assist two women who were attacked while working at the Shell Gas Station, 611 Southbridge Street, Auburn, MA.
- Request by Sheila Conroy on Renaming a Portion of Water St. to Veterans' Way Street; Opinion Letter from Town Counsel
- Letter from Town Manager – Information on Request to use \$1 Million Dollars in ARPA Funds for the Warren Road Pump Station
- FY2023 Paving Plan – DPW
- Request from Town Clerk to Change Owner Name and Billing Address Information on the Flammable Storage Permit at 780 Washington Street, Auburn, MA
- Gift Acceptances – Fire/Rescue Department and Police Department
- Greater Worcester Land Trust request for a Conservation Restriction on a Small Parcel of Land it owns off of Pakachoag Street in Auburn and Ellie Way in Worcester as shown on a Plan entitled "Plan of Project Surveyed for Joseph F. Panarelli, Jr., Marie G. Panarelli, Ellie Way, Worcester, MA, prepared by Jarvis Land Survey, Inc. dated August 23, 2018"
- Update on National Opioid Litigation Settlement