

IN BOARD OF SUDBURY SELECTMEN
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 3, 2013

Present: Chairman John C. Drobinski, Vice-Chairman Charles C. Woodard, Selectman Lawrence W. O'Brien, Selectman Robert C. Haarde, Selectman Leonard A. Simon, and Town Manager Maureen G. Valente

The statutory requirements as to notice having been complied with, the meeting was convened at 7:31 p.m. in the Lower Town Hall, 322 Concord Road.

Opening Remarks

At 7:31 p.m., Chairman Drobinski opened the meeting. He reminded the community to be mindful of more pedestrian and vehicular traffic now that schools are in session. He also announced construction continues on Landham Road, and the work would likely be completed the week of September 9, 2013. Chairman Drobinski announced mosquito spraying is scheduled for certain roads later tonight, and additional information is available from the E. Middlesex Mosquito Control Association. He thanked citizens for sharing their thoughts about the Board's Citizens' Comment procedures. Chairman Drobinski stated he and other Board members were contacted by Lincoln-Sudbury Regional High School regarding coordination of a joint meeting with Lincoln's Board of Selectmen.

Reports from the Town Manager

Town Manager Valente stated Police Chief Nix provided an update today regarding the impact of the Landham Road construction project on Loring School and other Town traffic. While some delays were experienced, residents have been appreciative of the police detail and temporary arrangements.

Town Manager Valente updated the Board on a meeting held in August for the 16 Town Managers of the Minuteman Regional Technical High School District. She stated the outstanding issues may need to be resolved this year to ensure receipt of the potential Massachusetts School Building Authority grant. Ms. Valente stated that, if an agreement cannot be reached which is acceptable to all 16 members, it is possible the grant could be lost, and that a bond for the project might not be able to be issued. The result of these potential circumstances could be that member towns would need to fund capital expenses on a cash basis. Ms. Valente stated a draft revised regional agreement is being worked on. She also stated the concept is being discussed (and it will be reviewed by the State) to ask non-member towns to sign an agreement to contribute towards capital costs in order to have their students attend the School. Town Manager Valente stated Sudbury's Minuteman representative David Manjarrez has requested a meeting with her and Selectmen Haarde and Simon to further discuss relevant Minuteman issues, which she will coordinate.

Town Manager Valente stated the Board had a preliminary goal setting meeting in late August, which will likely be one of several goal-setting sessions. Further goal-setting discussion may be on the Board's next meeting agenda, and there will be some follow up discussion later tonight as a result of the August meeting.

Reports from the Board of Selectmen

Selectman Simon and Chairman Drobinski stated they both have recently returned from vacation.

Selectman O'Brien stated he met with two members of the Council on Aging, and that the Council is beginning work on its budget.

Selectman Haarde stated the Fairbank Community Center Committee is scheduled to meet tomorrow and the Route 20 Sewer Steering Committee will meet in a few weeks.

Vice-Chairman Woodard stated he plans to attend the Fairbank Community Center Committee meeting tomorrow. He also spoke with L-SRHS representatives regarding a joint meeting with Lincoln's Board. Vice-Chairman Woodard also attended a Permanent Building Committee meeting regarding ideas for Town Hall proposed by architects.

Goodnow Library Board of Trustees – Joint Meeting – Appoint Interim New Member

Present: Goodnow Library Trustees Lily Gordon, Carol Hull, Robert Iuliano, Barbara Pryor, Sarah Sogigian and candidates Gregory P. Hamill, Edward Feldman, Nancy Vetstein Hershfield

At 7:42 p.m., Chairman Drobinski opened a joint meeting with the Goodnow Library Board of Trustees regarding appointing an interim new member. He thanked the three candidates for their interest in the position, stating it is a tribute to the Library and the great Town resource it is that it has drawn the interest of so many qualified candidates. The Board was previously in receipt of copies of resumes for the three candidates, Gregory Hamill, Edward Feldman, and Nancy Hershfield.

Town Manager Valente explained the process for this appointment, noting the vote would be a joint election of both boards.

Edward Feldman stated he has lived in Town 22 years, and he summarized his prior professional and board experiences. Mr. Feldman stated he has a long-standing love of books and for the Library, which he views as the epicenter of the Town's culture. He believes it would be an honor to help sustain the Library's purpose.

Gregory Hamill also provided the Board with a summary of his professional and board experience, noting he has lived in Sudbury since 1979. Mr. Hamill has always enjoyed libraries, and as a teenager worked as a page at the Brookline Public Library. He has continually frequented the Library with his children and now is introducing his grandchildren to the facility. Mr. Feldman is interested in helping the Library use technology resources more in the future and providing more interactive options for children.

Nancy Vetstein Hershfield has lived in Town for 14 years. Ms. Hershfield stated she went to the Library when she moved to Town and she met many new people there. She is a writer who frequents the Library often with her children. Ms. Hershfield wanted to become more involved with the Library and she participated in the 150th anniversary planning for the Library. She believes her prior public relations experience could be helpful for the Library, as it makes the transition to the digital age. Ms. Hershfield would like to help support the relevance of the Library to the Town, and she exhibited a t-shirt noting the Library was "good then - good now."

Board members asked each candidate several questions related to challenges they foresee for the Library, their visions for the Library and their opinions regarding hardcover books versus digital/electronic books and media. Each candidate stated they believe there will always be a need for both types in the near future. They also stated involving the Town's youth is critical to the sustainability of the Library as a community gathering place. Each of the candidates also mentioned addressing the changing needs of the Library, and obtaining more e-books which are expensive, will be difficult with limited resources. They also stated they see the first year in this position as an opportunity to learn from current Trustees, personnel, and users what is important for the Library.

Board members emphasized how great it is to have such talented people want to volunteer their services for such a worthy resource, and they encouraged the candidates to remain involved in some way with other Town groups if they are not selected tonight.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To elect by roll call vote Nancy Hershfield, 88 Butler Road, as a new member of the Goodnow Library Trustees to serve until the effective date of the next Town Election, in accordance with General Laws Chapter 41, Section 11, as amended, to fill a vacancy created by a Trustee resignation, Chairman John C. Drobinski, Hershfield; Vice-Chairman Charles C. Woodard, Feldman; Selectman Robert C. Haarde, Hamill; Selectman Lawrence W. O'Brien, Hershfield; Selectman Leonard A. Simon, Feldman; Lily Gordon, Hershfield; Carol Hull, Hershfield; Robert Iuliano, Hershfield; Barbara Pryor, Hershfield; and Sarah Sogigian, Hershfield.

Trustee Barbara Pryor stated the Board is grateful for the interest of all the candidates and it is a tribute to the services provided by the Library.

Minutes

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the regular session minutes of August 20, 2013.

Selectman Simon commended Recording Secretary Ellen Bicoules for composing the thorough meeting minutes.

Colonial Fair and Muster of Fifes and Drums – Special Permit

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve a Special Permit to Harold Cutler for the Colonial Fair and Muster of Fifes and Drums to be held on the Wayside Inn grounds from 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. on Saturday, September 28, 2013, subject to conditions and permits required by the Fire and Police Departments and the Board of Health.

Sudbury Celebrates 375/Sudbury Day Committee – Appointment

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To approve the appointment of Jane Kline, 153 Woodside Road, as a member of the Sudbury Celebrates 375/Sudbury Day Committee for a term to expire November 30, 2014, as requested by Hal Cutler, Committee Co-Chair.

Bullfinch's Restaurant - Sunday Entertainment License Renewal

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To renew the current Sunday Entertainment License for Bullfinch's Inc., d/b/a Bullfinch's Restaurant, 730 Boston Post Road, for a live jazz trio from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m., for the period of September 8, 2013 to August 31, 2014.

Legal Services – Establish Working Group

Chairman Drobinski stated this agenda item and the three which follow were as a result of the Board's FY14 preliminary goal-setting meeting. The Board was previously in receipt of copies of a draft "Town Counsel Review Committee Charge/Mission and Suggested Membership."

Town Manager Valente reviewed the charge to develop a statement of need for legal services based on input from frequent users of this office, and the suggested membership for the working group.

As a lawyer, Selectman Simon stated he is interested in participating in the process, noting municipal legal services are a specific subspecialty in law.

Selectman O'Brien stated he endorses having a lawyer as a member of the group, and he supports the draft charge and membership. He questioned if the process can be completed by December 31, 2013 and whether the Board should consider extending the term of the current Town Counsel to ensure a smooth transition.

Selectman Haarde asked if the working group would be conducting interviews with finalists. Town Manager Valente stated she envisioned the working group would rank and recommend candidates to the Board, and possibly conduct first-round interviews, but the Board would conduct final interviews. Chairman Drobinski stated he supports this process. Selectman Haarde stated he would expect the Board would also have the option to be able to consider all the applications and choose to interview someone perhaps not recommended by the working group.

It was noted the working group could decide its own chair and whether it wished to interview candidates as part of its process. Town Manager Valente stated Assistant Town Manager Bilodeau would be the lead staff person assisting the group.

It was on motion unanimously

VOTED: To establish a working group to handle tasks associated with helping the Board make a Town Counsel decision, and to approve the "Town Counsel Review Committee Charge/Mission and Suggested Membership" reviewed tonight, subject to including a timetable to accomplish the tasks, and noting Chairman Drobinski and Selectman Simon will represent the Board as members of the working group.

Other Post-Employment Benefits – Establish a Committee

The Board was previously in receipt of copies of a "Draft Mission Statement for OPEB Working Group," and Town Manager Valente reviewed its content.

Selectman Simon stated this is a big project for a major problem, which will likely involve all Board members.

Selectman O'Brien stated he is willing to represent the Board on this committee and also on the committee to be suggested in the next agenda item. He suggested adding a citizen-at-large member.

Selectman Haarde stated he is pleased a committee will be established because the consequences of this problem have already hit other countries and cities in the United States, and it is likely in the Town's future, if it is not addressed. He further stated the draft framework looked good.

Vice-Chairman Woodard stated this committee and the one suggested in the next agenda item are related in that they focus on the Town's debt obligations, and he volunteered to represent the Board on both committees. He supports the idea of adding a citizen-at-large member, if the person has specific skill sets to aid the process.

Town Manager Valente noted this agenda item was not publicized to be voted tonight, but it can be brought back for a vote at the Board's next meeting. In the interim, she suggested, and the Board concurred, that she notifies the two School Superintendents of the Board's intention to establish the committee, asking for their own membership input. Town Manager Valente also suggested, and the Board concurred, that she would work with Vice-Chairman Woodard and Selectman O'Brien to prepare a draft of skills preferred for the citizen-at-large member for review and vote at the Board's next meeting.

Vice-Chairman Woodard reiterated that the intention is for the citizen-at-large member to be someone who can bring additional expertise to the committee.

Strategic Planning - Capital Finance - Establish Working Group

The Board was previously in receipt of copies of a "Draft Mission Statement for Capital Financing Working Group," and Town Manager Valente reviewed its content.

Selectman Simon stated this is an ambitious project and he is willing to help represent the Board if he is needed.

Selectman O'Brien reiterated his belief that this agenda and the previous agenda item are related, and he offered to represent the Board on both committees. He suggested adding a citizen-at-large member to this committee and adding a charge to investigate other revenue centers.

Selectman Haarde supports adding a citizen-at-large member with proper skills to assist the committee.

Vice-Chairman Woodard reiterated his interest in representing the Board on this committee and the one suggested in the previous agenda item.

Town Manager Valente noted this agenda item was not publicized to be voted tonight, but it can be brought back for a vote at the Board's next meeting. In the interim, she suggested, and the Board concurred, that she reaches out to Town groups regarding their membership representation, and Selectman O'Brien and Selectman Simon should further discuss who will join Vice-Chairman Woodard to represent the Board.

Town Forum – Discussion of Bylaw

At 8:53 p.m., Chairman Drobinski opened a discussion regarding the Town Forum Bylaw, noting the Board supports proceeding with this Forum. The Board was previously in receipt of copies of a memorandum from Town Manager Valente dated August 21, 2013.

Town Manager Valente reviewed items for consideration mentioned in her August 21, 2013 memo, including possible formats for the forum, posted agendas, coordination, and lack of a budget.

Chairman Drobinski asked Dan DePompei, proponent of this bylaw at this year's Town Meeting, for feedback, including timing for the Forum, stating the Board wants to satisfy his intent as much as possible.

Sudbury citizen Dan DePompei, 35 Haynes Road, stated his intent was to create a constructive conversation format to solicit citizen input on Town issues. He referenced Town Manager Valente's memo, noting it includes many excellent suggestions. Mr. DePompei stated timing could be flexible, but he suggested it be held a few months before Town Meeting.

Selectman O'Brien noted the bylaw includes a time limit for the session of two and one-half hours. He and Mr. DePompei also suggested it would be good if representatives from the two School systems could attend, since the Schools account for 75% of the Town's budget. Vice-Chairman Woodard added 50% of households utilize School services.

Timing for the Forum was briefly discussed, noting it would be helpful to coordinate it with the publication of the Town Warrant, or at the end of January/early February.

Selectman O'Brien emphasized the Forum should not become a political event. Selectman Haarde agreed that the Forum should not be political or become a "shouting match." He stated the discussion should be interactive and not front-ended with lots of reports from Town Departments.

Chairman Drobinski suggested, and the Board concurred, that he and Vice-Chairman Woodard work with Mr. DePompei to establish the process and timing for the Forum.

Selectman O'Brien suggested consideration of the Curtis Middle School Auditorium as a venue.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Attest: _____
Maureen G. Valente
Town Manager-Clerk