

SELECT BOARD  
TOWN OF NATICK

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MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Conducted in the Edward H. Dlott

Meeting Room and via Zoom

September 21, 2022

6:00pm

PRESENT: Paul R. Joseph, Chair; Michael J. Hickey, Jr., Vice-Chair, Bruce T. Evans, Clerk, Kathryn M. Coughlin, Richard Sidney

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator, James Errickson, Deputy Town Administrator-Operations, Jon Marshall, Amanda Loomis, Director of Community and Economic Development; William McDowell, Town Engineer; Art Goodhind, Tree Warden; Jillian Wilson-Martin, Sustainability Director; Executive Assistant, Joan McNamara

**ABSENT: None**

Chair Joseph called the meeting to order at 6:00PM

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited and a Moment of Silence was observed for those who serve our country.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Mr. Joseph announced that the Board continues to receive many, many emails regarding the South Natick Dam. Mr. Joseph would like for the public to know that he responds to each email individually and because the emails have come to us in bulk, there may be a delayed response to your email at this time.

**SELECT BOARD UPDATES**

None

**PUBLIC SPEAK**

Donna McKenzie, a School Committee member, spoke and wanted the Board and the public to know that Carol Eisenmenger, Bob Eisenmenger's wife passed away this morning. During her last interaction with Ms. McKenzie she mentioned that she loved the Town of Natick and was so glad that she was at MaryAnne Morse.

**DISCUSSION and DECISION**

A. Cannabis HCA/State Legislative Changes update

Taken off the agenda.

B. Approve appointment of new Special Counsel for Assessors' Office

Mr. Henderson, Director of Assessing, was before the Board this evening and has attached a memorandum and resume of special counsel James Sullivan. Mr. Henderson is looking to have counsel approved for the Assessor's office.

On a motion by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve appointment of Special Counsel for the Assessors' Office

C. Consider 2022 FATM Articles

The Select Board and Town Administrator reviewed the following Articles on the 2022 Fall Annual Town Meeting Warrant for consideration this evening:

Article 14 - Create a Natick Town Bylaw to provide for Tax Payment Agreements

John Townsend, Deputy Town Administrator-Finance, presented a small presentation which is attached to our agenda this evening and outlined Article 14 which is looking to create a By-law pursuant to M.G.L.c 60 sec. 62A to provide for Tax Title Payment agreements.

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Coughlin, the Board voted 5-0-0 to recommend favorable action for Article 14.

Article 16 - Town Clerk from Elected to Appointed Position

Town Administration will be bringing this back to the Board. The final language is still being worked on and this Article will be brought back to the Board on September 28, 2022.

Article 24 - East Central/Union Street Intersection (southern side)

Ms. Loomis, Director of Community and Economic Development was before the Board this evening to discuss Article 24. Attached to this evening's agenda is a small presentation that Ms. Loomis made this evening. She is not looking for a recommendation this evening but wanted to start the conversation tonight.

Article 26 – 246 N. Main St.

Randy Johnson, Chair of the Natick Affordable Housing Trust, was present this evening to discuss Article 26. Mr. Johnson stated that Article 26 is a fairly straightforward Article that is actually a request for the transfer of the 246 N. Main Street property from the Treasurer to the Select Board for future conveyance to the Trust. Mr. Errickson prepared a memorandum for this Article to the Select Board and to the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board which outlined the Town's perspective on the project.

Article 28 – The Brave Act

Officer Thomas Butler was before the Board this evening and spoke about Article 28, the Brave Act, which is attached to this evening's agenda. Mr. Henderson, Director of Assessing, also spoke to the tax portion of the Act. On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board voted 5-0-0 to recommend favorable action for Article 28.

Consider any other warrant articles to discuss for the 2022 Fall Annual Town Meeting

D. Appeal regarding Public Shade Tree Removal located at 21 Moore St., Natick, MA

Arthur Goodhind, Tree Warden was present before the Board this evening to speak about the Public Shade Tree at 21 Moore St. Attached to this evening's agenda is a packet entitled 21 Moore St. Public Shade Tree Appeal Packet which contains all documents relative to the tree and notices of appeal with photographs.

Ms. Hutchins has removed her objection to remove the tree.

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Evans, the Board voted 5-0-0 to remove the tree by following the orders of Mr. Goodhind, Tree Warden, as he has so outlined.

E. Charles River Dam Committee Report

Attached to this evening's agenda are the following documents:

1. Charles River Dam – Deliberation Process Overview dated 2.23.21
2. Charles River Dam – Committee Report – Final – approved 9.7.22
3. Charles River Dam Presentation to the Select Board dated 9.21.22

Mr. Errickson gave an overview of the timeline and background of the Dam. Mr. McDowell, the Town Engineer noted that this has been an 18-month process of the Charles River Dam Advisory Committee. Ms. Jeannine Furrer, Charles River Dam Committee Advisory member, addressed the Board and discussed the recommendation itself as well as the rationale behind the decision. The members were driven by a deep responsibility to protect this place and the Charles River for future generations while taking into consideration the environment, social, cultural and economic impacts. Other committee speakers included Rebekah Stendahl, Michael Balcom and Jillian Wilson-Martin.

Ms. Coughlin possessed a copy of the dam inspection from 2017 and the one from 2022 and inquired as to why none of the items on that list had been completed since 2017. Mr. Errickson noted that design work began after the Town meeting appropriation in 2017. Mr. McDowell stated that he was not the Town Engineer at the Time but the then Town Engineer had quite an amount of correspondence with the Office of Dam Safety which is a relatively new body. Questions were posed as to how to acquire proper permitting and to what end.

Other members of the public that addressed the Board were: Candy Hulton, Mike Trinidad, Saul Beaumont, Tracy Ainsworth, David Jocelyn, Steve Dannon, and Lenny Bernheimer who represents a group who state that they have a group that have put together 1800 signatures to Save the Dam.

## **CONSENT AGENDA**

A. Procurement Officer Award Contract

1. Award: Charles River Environmental Engineering Services (Phase III)
2. Approve Meeting Minutes
  1. June 29, 2022
3. Approve Erin Cummins' Request to film a scene at Natick Police Department as part of a senior thesis project for New York University on October 15, 2022
4. Approve Donna Murphy's Request for Block Party on October 8 2022, on Franconia Avenue
5. Approve Request from Becky Williams to hold block party on September 24, 2022

September 21, 2022

6. Approve Request for a One Day Liquor License for Natick Athletic Hall of Fame for an event at the Senior Center on October 22, 2022 and Request to Waive the Application Fee
7. Approve One Day Entertainment Licenses for Sons and Daughters of Italy, Natick
8. Weekly Warrant Review

Item A. was removed from the agenda as Mr. Saul Beaumont asked questions to Ms. Wilson-Martin and Ms. Rundelli

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board voted 5-0-0 to approve items B-H on the Consent Agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Sidney, seconded by Mr. Evans, the Board voted 5-0-0 approve Item A on the consent agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Ms. Coughlin, the Board voted 5-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:40pm.

  
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Bruce T. Evans, Clerk

September 21, 2022, Select Board Meeting Minutes Approved by the Select Board on November 30, 2022.

All documents used at this Select Board meeting are available at:

<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=1057&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agend>