

SELECT BOARD
TOWN OF NATICK

MEETING MINUTES

Meeting Conducted in the Edward H. Dlott
Meeting Room and via Zoom
October 3, 2022
6:00 pm

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

ALSO PRESENT: Town Administrator, James Errickson; Dr. Anna Nolin, Superintendent, Natick Public Schools; Deputy Town Administrator-Operations, Jon Marshall; William McDowell, Town Engineer; Claire Rundelli, Conservation Agent; Jillian Wilson-Martin, Sustainability Director; Executive Assistant, Joan McNamara

ABSENT: Kathryn M. Coughlin,

Chair Joseph called the meeting to order at 6:33 pm.

Chair Joseph stated that he will read the 2 item for Executive Session this evening and read the following:

A. Joint Executive Session with School Committee

Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; Local 1116 Facilities and Custodians

Execution Session/Select Board:

A. Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares; Natick Patrol Officers Association, Local 496, Massachusetts Coalition of Police

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Sidney, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 3-0-0 to enter into Executive Session. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Mr. Sidney	Yes
Mr. Evans	Yes
Mr. Joseph	Yes

Open Session was convened at 7:30 pm.

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- A. Approval of Collective Bargaining Agreements with:
1. Deputy Fire Chiefs Association;
 2. Local 1707, International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO;

Chair Joseph announced that the Town has successfully negotiated contracts with the Local 1707, International Association of Firefighters, AFL-CIO and the Deputy Fire Chiefs Association.

3. Local 1116 Facilities and Custodians

Dr. Anna Nolin announced the approval of the Collective Bargaining Agreement with Local 1116 Facilities and Custodians.

SELECT BOARD UPDATES

None

PUBLIC SPEAK

None

DISCUSSION and DECISION

- A. Charles River Dam Deliberation

Chair Joseph opened the discussion by stating that the Board would continue to hear from the public this evening. He also noted that there will be no decision on the dam by the Board this evening. Chair Joseph did state to the public that there is a lot of information on social media that has been given to the public that is very dated and some of which is incorrect. The Board will be meeting in Executive Session on October 12, 2022, to discuss some legal issues on this topic, so the earliest that the Board would consider making a would be October 19, 2022.

Many speakers have spoken extensively on very similar topics as to why the dam should be kept in its original state. For example: enjoyment, historical reasons, family gatherings, and recreation. If a speaker addressed the Board regarding a new or specific topic, it is listed below. It is also noted that there are mix of speakers – some in support of the decision made by the Charles River Dam Advisory Committee to remove the spillway, and some in support of repairing the dam.

New topics:

1. Michael Yeomans, Framingham, MA representing a conservation group called Trail Unlimited who are asking the Board to accept the recommendation of the Charles River Dam Advisory Committee.

2. Candy Hulton/removal of signs – representing a group of citizens in an area that may or may not extend outside the area of Natick, MA, to ask the Board to repair the dam. Ms. Hulton noted that signs in support of repairing that dam had been removed and that her group wished to address that concern. Mr. Evans noted that any and all signs that were situation on Town property were removed. He stated that the land next to the dam cannot be used to post election signs or any other signs because that is town property and they will be removed. That space belongs to everyone.

3. Larry Slotnik – addressing the Board about the status of the dam as a historic site. Chair Joseph read a statement from the Natick Historical Society which had been sent to the Select Board on September 20, 2022. This document is available as a matter of public record. Several members of the public had reached out to the historical society for a public comment. Chair Joseph stated that the document from the historical society stated “I want to make it clear to the Select Board and the general public that the historical society does not hold a position regarding the status of the dam. Our mission is to build community by inspiring connections to local history. That means we are committed to assisting all people with historical research including those with opinions on opposing sides of the dam proposal...”

4. Larry Schlesinger
5. Saul Beaumont
6. Anne Geissler
7. Michael Carr
8. Jay Turner
9. Diane Young
10. Robert Kearns, Charles River Watershed
11. Peter Ainsworth
12. Steve Dannon
13. Paul Keyes
14. Lenny Bernheimer
15. Treseanne Ainsworth

At the end of the discussion, Mr. Evans noted that there has been considerable discussion regarding the inability to “have Town Meeting weigh in once again”. Mr. Evans stated that there is an Article on the Fall Town Meeting Warrant that talks about spending the money that had been appropriated at a prior Town Meeting for repairs. This “opens the door” to a discussion about the remove or repair of the dam.

B. Consider 2022 FATM Articles (Fall Annual Town Meeting)

Article 2 - Fiscal Omnibus Budget

Town Administration is still working with Town Counsel for the final wording of the Motions prior to going to Town Meeting.

Article 11 - Collective Bargaining

Town Administration is still working with Counsel for the final wording of the Motions prior to going to Town Meeting.

Article 15 - Capital Equipment and Improvement

Deputy Town Administrator – Operations, Jon Marshall, gave a presentation before the Board this evening on Capital Equipment and Improvement. The presentation is attached to this evening’s agenda.

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board, by roll call vote, voted 4-0-0, for favorable action on Article 15- Capital Equipment and Improvement. The Roll Call Vote was as follows:

Mr. Hickey	Yes
Mr. Evans	Yes
Mr. Sidney	Yes
Mr. Joseph	Yes

Article 16 - Town Clerk from Elected to Appointed Position

Town Administration is still working on final language of the Motion for this Article prior to going to Town Meeting.

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

This is an ongoing item that is still being heard before the Planning Board and not ready for action.

CONSENT AGENDA

- A. Authorize Chair to send letter requesting graphic panels at the Natick Center MBTA Station
- B. Authorize chair to send letter to MMA (Mass. Municipal Association) encouraging its advocacy for Hybrid Representative Town Meeting
- C. Weekly Warrant Review
 - 1. September 27, 2022

On a motion by Mr. Evans, seconded by Mr. Hickey, the Board, by Roll Call vote, voted 4-0-0 to approve the Consent Agenda.

The Roll Call vote was as follows:

Mr. Hickey	Yes
Mr. Evans	Yes
Mr. Sidney	Yes
Mr. Joseph	Yes

On a motion by Mr. Hickey, seconded by Mr. Evans, the Board voted 4-0-0 to adjourn the meeting at 10:22 pm.

The Roll Call vote was as follows:

Mr. Hickey	Yes
Mr. Evans	Yes
Mr. Sidney	Yes
Mr. Joseph	Yes



Bruce T. Evans, Clerk

October 3, 2022, Select Board Meeting Minutes Approved by the Select Board on January 12, 2023.

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

<https://naticktown.novusagenda.com/agendapublic/MeetingView.aspx?MeetingID=1099&MinutesMeetingID=-1&doctype=Agend>