



Town of Swampscott Select Board Meeting Minutes

February 2, 2022
Virtual

SELECT BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT

Polly Titcomb (Chair), Neal Duffy, David Grishman, Peter Spellios

MEMBERS ABSENT

Don Hause

OTHER TOWN OFFICIALS PRESENTS

Sean Fitzgerald, Town Administrator; Allie Fiske, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives; Marzie Galazka, Director of Community & Economic Development; Patrick Luddy, Treasurer/Collector; Amy Sarro, Director of Finance & Administration;

PUBLIC COMMENT

None

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- COVID Update
- Finance Committee update and bonding for new school
- ARPA Funding – anticipated the Town will get \$4.5 million
- The FY23 Budget process is underway and the Town Administrator indicated that this will be a challenging budget to balance due to retirement pension payment increase

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

Resident Ralph Edwards joined the meeting to read a Black History Month proclamation.

On **VOTE** (Spellios) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to endorse the proclamation as read by Ralph Edwards. All in favor

Select Board Member Peter Spellios called out the Racial Action Justice Group for the work they're doing to help the Town lean-in to important topics involving race and justice.

TRAFFIC STUDY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Linda Hayes, Chair of the Traffic Study Advisory Committee presented two recommendations from the committee for the Select Board's review and approval.

1. Temporarily Install 3 stop signs at the intersection of Stetson and Norfolk
2. Install no parking signs on Middlesex near Clark School between crosswalks

Chairperson Polly Titcomb asked what measures could be taken to address the speed issues, particularly along Middlesex, such as speed tables.

The Select Board encouraged the Chair of the TSAC to feel comfortable making recommendations. The TSAC will put together a list of what has been discussed, items they've attended to, items that intend to act on.

The Select Board does not want #1 (Stetson and Norfolk) to be temporary.

On **MOTION** (Spellios) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** by roll call to approve recommendations from the Traffic Study Advisory Committee to install a 3-way stop sign at the intersection of Stetson Ave. and Norfolk Ave. and to install "No Parking" signs on Middlesex Ave. near Clark School between the crosswalks. Roll call: Spellios (YES) Grishman (YES) Titcomb (YES) Duffy (Abstain)

The Select Board asked if they could receive a monthly report of the Traffic Study Advisory Committee and that they remain a routine part of meetings rather than stockpile items for quarterly review. The Town Administrator will give a status report on ongoing pedestrian safety initiatives.

UPDATE ON FOSTER RD. / ARCHER ST.

Director of Economic & Community Development Marzie Galazka provided an update on the Foster Rd. 40B Development proposal. MassHousing asked the development team to revise their proposal and did not issue an eligibility letter. Marzie reported that the development team is re-evaluating their proposal and determining next steps. If they submit an application, the process will reset and the Select Board will be invited to make comments on the project to MassHousing.

GROUND LEASE ESTOPPEL AGREEMENT

This is a construction loan that is being converted into a mortgage. The Town of Swampscott is the land owner. The Select Board opted to do only one reading for this item.

On **MOTION** (Spellios) and **SECONDED** (Grishman) it was **VOTED** to approve the Ground Lease Estoppel Agreement between the Town of Swampscott and Silicon Valley Bank as presented in the packet. Duffy (YES), Grishman (YES), Spellios (YES)

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT CONTINUED

- Building Inspector Rich Baldacci has been offered a position with the state and will be leaving his position at the Town of Swampscott
- TA will set up first non-Civil Service interviews for the Police Department next week
- Update about Swampscott Community Power Program
- Mattress Recycling, Styrofoam drop-off, and metal recycling have been delayed to Saturday, February 5
- Senior Center offers temporary loan of medical equipment

Sean was asked to provide additional information about the Swampscott Community Power Program. The agreement was signed by the Town Administrator. Neal provided some more information.

HOUSING AUTHORITY APPOINTMENT

Polly provided background information regarding the Housing Authority Board's recent vote to appoint a member to the Housing Authority Board, as well as a clarification about the entire process, which requires a Select Board vote as well. The Chair suggested that the Select Board not take action on this appointment at this time and let the voters decide in the election in April. Member David Grishman expressed concern that by taking no action it could do the residents of the Housing Authority a disservice. Member Peter Spellios agreed that an appointment should be made and a vote should be taken at the next meeting.

Mr. Spellios asked if the Town could send a memo to the Housing Authority to either record their meetings or coming to the High School to make sure their meetings are taped in an ADA welcoming environment. Member Neal Duffy stated that he doesn't believe that making an appointment right now is going to fix current issues with the Housing Authority and the Town's relationship with the board.

Mr. Grishman and Mr. Spellios proposed filling the seat with a member who is not going to run for Housing Authority to avoid conflict with the April election and recommended David Grishman to serve in the position until April.

LIQUOR COMPLIANCE CHECK

Several establishments did not pass an under-age drinking compliance check in September. The Town Administrator recommended that the Board hold show cause hearings.

On **MOTION** (Spellios) and **SECONDED** (Duffy) it was **VOTED** by roll call to hold showcase hearings to address liquor license violations. Spellios (YES) Duffy (YES) Grishman (NO) Titcomb (YES)

FY22 BUDGET UPDATE

Director of Finance & Administration Amy Sarro provided a presentation on expenditures through 12/31/21 and pointed out some areas of concern, including public safety overtime, snow and ice. Ms. Sarro reviewed the next steps and timeline to prepare for Town Meeting.

The final vote for the Select Board to vote on recommendations for Capital Plan and close warrant is April 20.

Patrick Luddy provided an update on FY22 capital projects and planning.

2022 SELECT BOARD GOALS

The Select Board discussed next steps for putting together goals. There was a recommendation that alongside goals there be Town Administrator-recommended actions that help keep the board on track and assess if a goal has been achieved.

CONSENT AGENDA

On MOTION (Duffy) and SECONDED (Grishman) it was VOTED by roll call to approve the consent agenda and approve staff to affix electronic signature to Common Victualler Licenses and Liquor Licenses.

Meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM

SELECT BOARD TIME

None.

True Attest,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Allie Fiske". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Allie Fiske, Director of Communications & Strategic Initiatives

Minutes approved by Select Board in vote at meeting on 2/16/22