

Remote- Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday, December 20, 2021 - 7:00 p.m.
Remote

Select Board Members Present via Zoom: Chair Marc Strange, Steven Marantz, Joshua Levine, Mark Gold, Thomas Lachiusa.

Staff Present via Zoom: Lyn Simmons, Michael Barbieri, Jennifer Leydon.

Also, present Tanya Campbell, Melanson (Audit Report), Matthew Schoen

Chair Strange called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Due to COVID-19 concerns and the Governor's executive order, and changes to Open Meeting Law remote participation, this meeting was held remotely with residents having the option of calling in or sending in their comments. All votes were taken by roll call. LCTV was also utilized to broadcast and record the meeting.

Chair Strange confirmed that all members and persons anticipated on the agenda were present and could hear and be heard throughout the meeting. Ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless law requires such participation. This meeting allowed for public comment.

Announcements

2021 Holiday Waste Amnesty: On March 27, 2006, the Select Board adopted a "Waste Reduction Policy" limiting each household to one (1) 36-gallon barrel or bag, up to 40lbs per week. This policy was implemented in July 2006. In addition, this policy gave the Select Board the authority to "grant amnesty for certain specified periods where unusual amounts of waste is generated." For the 2021 holiday season, the Select Board with recommendation from the Town Manager and Department of Public Works approved the granting of waste amnesty from December 27, 2021 through January 8, 2022 of one extra bag per household/per week.

Christmas Tree Pick Up: Christmas tree pick up will commence January 3, 2022 and continue through January 14, 2022. Trees should be placed at the curb for pick up, with no stands, ornaments, or lights attached.

Emergency Notification Test: On Sunday January 16, 2021 we will be running a test of the Town's Emergency Notification system starting at 5:00 pm. The test will consist of two messages. The first will be sent to all residents registered in the system. They will receive a message stating this is Longmeadow Emergency Management with a test of the Longmeadow Emergency Notification system. If you received this test you are registered for the system. If you wish to modify your registration please go to Longmeadow.org and click on Emergency notifications. We use this system to broadcast important information in the case of an emergency. Sincerely, Chief Dearborn, Longmeadow Emergency Management. The second test will follow a few minutes later. This message will state, This is Longmeadow Emergency Management, if this is the second message you are receiving tonight you are registered for the Town of Longmeadow Emergency notification system. If this is the first test you have received we would ask you to go to Longmeadow.org and click on emergency notifications to register for the Town's Emergency notification system. We use this system to broadcast important information in the case of an emergency. Sincerely, Chief Dearborn, Longmeadow Emergency Management. This test will take approximately an hour to conduct due to the number of contacts we will be pursuing. It is our hope that this will help us gain more contacts in our base system. The second test will reach contacts that are registered and not registered from the global database. After the test we will do a database clean up on numbers and addresses not deliverable. This will help to speed up our message delivery going forward. We will publicize the test the week before.

Board and Committee Interviews

Council on Aging Board of Directors – Mr. Stephan Platzer was present to interview for the open vacancy on the Council on Aging Board of Directors. The board asked Mr. Platzer questions concerning his interest in the Council on Aging, and what he believed his role would be.

Marie Angelides' interview was postponed to the January 3, 2021 meeting.

Resident Comments

Jim Moran, of 48 Avondale Road, spoke about his concern over masking and covid-19 guidelines at the new Adult Center. Mr. Moran explained that he feels masking and covid-19 protocols should be implemented at the new center to ensure the safety of its participants. Mr. Moran urged the Board of Health to discuss these measures at an upcoming meeting.

Marjorie Burns, of 39 Hazardville Road, was present to discuss her concern over the new proposed pipeline reliability project by Eversource. Ms. Burns urged residents to check out the metering station facility on Shaker Road in East Longmeadow to get a good idea of what this type of project would look like. Ms. Burns commented that the proposed location in Longmeadow is a thickly settled area and that the sights and smells would leave a negative impact on the area.

Select Board Comments

Mr. Gold urged the Board of Health to take action at their next meeting to protect the vulnerable residents from Covid-19. Mr. Gold also updated the Board on the ongoing issues and status of the Hampden County Regional Retirement Board (HCRRB). Mr. Gold explained that a new chair was elected to the board. Mr. Gold expressed that he believes it is the same board and same deficiencies as before. Mr. Gold stated that PERAC has no authority to implement changes at this point. Mr. Gold will continue to update the Select Board on this topic.

Mr. Lachiusa thanked the Town for implementing additional signage to the speed bump on Williams Street to address safety concerns. Mr. Lachiusa also stated that he attended a COA Board meeting and the topic of masks came up.

Mr. Marantz expressed his feeling that there should be a vaccination requirement for attendees of the new adult center and other Town facilities. Mr. Marantz also spoke about the Eversource proposed pipeline project and its impacts it may have further in the Town.

Town Manager's Report

COVID-19 Update At the time of the publication of this memo, there are 62 COVID-19 cases in town, 61% are breakthrough case.

Eastern Hampden Shared Public Health Services (EHSPHS) A Health Inspector has been hired, Anthony Albano will be joining the team in early January. Anthony is currently an Environmental Health Inspector for the City of Springfield Public Health Department.

Fire at Shaker Road Shopping Plaza After several conversations with Town Counsel and Town staff, we have determined that Armata's use of the Greenwood Center kitchen falls under the Town/Parks & Recreation rental use form and policy. This is the same form and process that has been used in the past for rentals of the Community House auditorium and kitchen. The use of the kitchen will began on Monday, December 13 and will conclude on December 31. A deposit for the use of the space will be collected and staying consistent with the rental form, the fee to use the kitchen is \$70/day (\$1,050 for the time period needed). There will be no walk-in sales or in-person transactions at the site. Orders all need to be placed in advance, the kitchen is only being used as a prep space. On December 22, 23 and 24 Armata's will distribute pre-ordered meals from the parking lot in the same manner that was done for the Thanksgiving orders.

DER Grant We recently received news that Longmeadow was selected for participation in the Massachusetts Division of Ecological Restoration (DER) Preliminary Design Services for Dam Removal competitive grant program. This grant application was prepared by the Assistant Town Manager and applied for design services for the removal of the derelict reservoir infrastructure located in Cooley Brook near the western boundary of Laurel Park, between Laurel Pond Dam and Longmeadow Street. This project was identified by a broad coalition of Longmeadow stakeholders, including Save Our Parks, Connecticut River Conservancy, and the Town of Longmeadow Engineering Department and Parks and Recreation Department. Because of Cooley Brook's eventual drainage to the Meadows, the US Fish and Wildlife Service Silvio O. Conte National Fish and

Approved: Pending

Wildlife Refuge has also been engaging in conversations regarding this project. USFWS has committed to working with the Town and CRC to remove the old dam, including providing funding and staff resources for the construction phase of the project. This project was catalyzed in the conceptual master plan for Bliss and Laurel Parks, entitled “Two Visions for Bliss and Laurel Parks” (2020, The Conway School), a CPA-funded document. “Two Visions...” identifies the abandoned water reservoir infrastructure as burying the stream for a distance before it reemerges, therefore possibly contributing to water quality concerns and barriers to fish and wildlife passage. Because of broad stakeholder interest in Cooley Brook, studying the removal of the decrepit reservoir infrastructure emerged from “Two Visions” as a high priority strategy to pursue. The DER program services are valued at \$30,000. DER and their engineering consultants will meet our team on site to develop the full scope of the project.

Old Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve the December 6, 2021 Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Mr. Gold seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Strange- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Levine- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Lachiusa- YES

New Business

A. FY21 Audit Report

Tanya Campbell of Melanson Audit Group was present to discuss the FY21 Audit report with the Select Board. Ms. Campbell gave a presentation to the board and the board was able to ask questions about the report throughout. Mr. Matthew Schoen, chair of the Audit Committee, was also present to discuss the report and give the recommendation of the Audit Committee. For the full discussion on the Audit Report for FY21, please click [here](#) (0:44 – 1:35). The complete Audit Report Presentation to the Select Board is available in the Agenda Packet linked under “documents” at the end of these minutes.

Mr. Gold made the motion to accept the FY21 Audit Report. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Strange- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Levine- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Lachiusa- YES

B. ARPA Funding Prioritization

Ms. Simmons and Ms. Leydon presented the ARPA funding prioritizing list to the Select Board. Ms. Simmons explained that a spreadsheet was linked in the agenda packet that detailed all of the eligible submission requests. Ms. Simmons and Ms. Leydon stated that the majority of the projects could be funded under the loss revenue eligibility category. A discussion ensued regarding the submission process before the ARPA prioritization list was created. Members of the board discussed some of the projects listed in this spreadsheet. You can view the full memo and spreadsheet linked in the agenda packet under “documents” at the end of these minutes. Please click [here](#) (1:35 – 2:01) to listen to the full discussion on this topic from the meeting.

C. Facility Rentals

Ms. Simmons explained that rentals of Town buildings were paused during the pandemic due to lack of custodial services and the impacts of Covid-19. The Adult Center, Parks and Rec, Town CFO, and Town Manager have been meeting to discuss strategies behind facility usage policies and requests. Ms. Simmons explained that a similar rental usage policy takes place at the Schools and the Library. In order to support night programs at the Adult Center and other events, implementing the rental usage policy will be important to sustain these programs and buildings. Ms. Simmons stated that the Town is looking to finalize the facility rental and usage policy sometime at the end of January.

D. Library Operating Agreement – No Action Taken

E. Energy and Sustainability Recommendation – No Action Taken

F. Adult Center Community Fund – One Day Liquor License Application

Ms. Marybeth Bergeron was present to discuss the application submitted for a one day liquor license at the New Adult Center for an event this week. Ms. Bergeron explained that this same event was hosted during the day and it was quickly sold out. The vendor agreed to a night performance because of the high interest in the event. The event is proposed to take place from 6-730 p.m. on Tuesday, December 21. Some members of the board felt that masking should be required and/or vaccination status due to the impacts Covid-19 could have on this population.

Mr. Gold Made the motion to approve the Adult Center Community Fund Application for an event to be held on December 21, 2021. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

Mr. Marantz made the motion to amend the current motion to include proof of vaccination status required in order to attend the event. Mr. Gold seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Strange- NO, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Levine- NO, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Lachiusa- NO.

The amended motion fails 3-2.

Mr. Levine and Mr. Lachiusa agreed that the amended motion was not a recommendation the Select Board should take at this time. Ms. Bergeron expressed that masks would be available and assured the board that the event would follow social distancing guidelines and expectations.

Vote on original motion - Mr. Gold Made the motion to approve the Adult Center Community Fund Application for an event to be held on December 21, 2021. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Strange- YES, Mr. Marantz- NO, Mr. Levine- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Lachiusa- YES

G. Special Request – Library and Planter Box: Greenmeadow Drive

Mr. John Msyck, of Greenmeadow Drive, applied to the Select Board for a special request to add a small library and planter box to the grass circle (cul-de-sac) on Greenmeadow Drive. Mr. Msyck explained that he would construct this planter box and library and complete all maintenance required. Members of the board felt this was an excellent idea and addition to the neighborhood. Being that this is a request for an object on the tree-belt, it fall under the Select Board policy for objects/signs on the treebelt.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the special request for a library and planter box at the circle on Greenmeadow Drive. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Strange- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Levine- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Lachiusa- YES

Correspondence (All correspondence material can be found in the agenda packet linked under “documents” at the end of these minutes.

2021-12-08 TAX CEILING TF MINUTES.PDF

ANNUAL REPORT 1ST NOTICE CY-2021 SEND DEC. 10 2021 (1).PDF

Adjourn

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to adjourn the Select Board Regular Meeting at 9:33 p.m. Mr. Gold seconded the motion.

Roll Call Vote: Mr. Strange- YES, Mr. Marantz- YES, Mr. Levine- YES, Mr. Gold- YES, Mr. Lachiusa- YES

12.20.21 Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Approved: Pending

Documents



SB 12 20 21 Agenda
Packet.pdf

Select Board 12_20_12 Agenda Packet

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Barbieri

12.20.21 Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes
Approved: Pending