

**Select Board Regular Meeting**  
**Monday, April 3, 2023- 7:00 p.m.**  
**Longmeadow High School, Meeting Room A15**  
**535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA**  
**Hybrid Meeting**

**Select Board Members Present:** Chair Josh Levine, Mark Gold, Dan Zwirko, Thomas Lachusua, Vineeth Hemavathi.

**Staff Present:** Corrin Meise-Munns, Michael Barbieri

**Also, Present** Senator Jake Oliveira, Jennifer Pickering

Chair, Joshua Levine, called this meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. The meeting opened with the Pledge of Allegiance. LCTV was also utilized to broadcast and record the meeting.

Chair Levine 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. To view the full recording of the Select Board meeting, please click [here](#).

**Announcements**

**Citizen of the Year and Citizen Commendation Awards:** Nominations are now open for the Citizen of the Year and Citizen Commendation Awards. The nomination deadline is April 19, 2023. The Citizen of the Year Award is given to recognize a Longmeadow citizen who, through their personal involvement, leadership abilities, and selfless giving of their time and talent over the previous 12 months, has positively affected Longmeadow and the lives of its citizens. The Citizen of the Year Award is presented to a citizen who exemplifies a lifetime of distinguished volunteer service to the Town of Longmeadow and the community. The Citizen Commendation Award is awarded to individuals who perform an exceptional act or service wherein their contributions, performance and achievements provided exceptional benefits to the Town of Longmeadow in a given year. Multiple Citizen Commendation Awards may be presented. For additional information about the awards and to submit a nomination, please visit [www.longmeadowma.gov/CivicAlerts](http://www.longmeadowma.gov/CivicAlerts)

**2023 Annual Town Meeting:** The Annual Town Meeting is set for Tuesday, May 9, 2023 at 7 PM in the Longmeadow High School Gymnasium.

The final version of the warrant insert will be available at [www.longmeadowma.gov/TownMeeting](http://www.longmeadowma.gov/TownMeeting) on Tuesday, April 11, 2023. The warrant will also be delivered via the Reminder to all Longmeadow households on April 20, 2023. Stay tuned during the next few weeks for additional information and education videos on some of the warrant articles in anticipation of the May 9 meeting.

**Presentations / Guest Speakers**

**A. Senator Oliveira Legislative Visit**

Senator Jake Oliveira attended the meeting to give an annual legislative update to the Select Board. The Senator began by thanking the Select Board for having him at the meeting tonight. Senator Oliveira spoke about the newly configured district that has added three new communities. The district name was changed to the Hampden, Hampshire and Worcester State Senate District. Senator Oliveira discussed involvement with

the MSBA project in Town, chairing the Municipalities and Regional Government Committee, representing on the Joint Committee on Public Health and on Tourism Arts and Culture. Oliveira spoke about his involvement in election procedures and prioritizing regional equity in the legislature. He went on to explain collaborating with the School Committee Association and with Mass Municipal Association on things to help alleviate tax burden and the burden of paying for services particularly education of communities. One of the major cost drivers that is rising is special education and out of district tuition costs. Oliveira stated that he has worked with the Superintendents and School Committee Association to file a bill that would up the special education circuit breaker to raise the threshold from 75 to 90 percent. Mr. Levine questioned if prop 2 ½ would be in the scope of the Municipalities and Regional Government Committee. The Senator explained that there are many stops for this topic but the committee would dive into some facets of the process. Mr. Levine also asked if there is any updated information on the proposed pipeline. Oliveira stated that he has a strong opposition to this project and hopes to see more hearings and site visits for public engagement to encourage residents to learn about the project and have their voices heard. Mr. Levine also spoke about the bill on Crumbling Concrete and Foundations and asked if there was any update on this. Oliveira stated the group is working on speaking as one voice as a delegation to create a pot of funds in order to have residents access this resource for new foundations or replacements if impacted by this issue. Mr. Lachiusa questioned if any of these losses would be able to be deducted from resident taxes. Oliveira stated that he has not heard of this at this point but would follow up on the suggestion. Mr. Lachiusa also spoke about domestic violence and wondered if there was anything progressing in the senate to increase violence reduction treatment opportunities. Oliveira stated that the Senate has been focused on putting more dollars towards mental health initiatives, as there was a larger mental health bill last session, and will be revisiting some of the challenges again. Mr. Gold spoke about state aid and that the increase to cities and towns being pedestrian could be problematic. Mr. Gold also mentioned the split of educational funds and the fourth year of new formulas. Mr. Gold indicated that for Longmeadow, it seems woefully inadequate in terms of meeting the needs and there was large increase this year. Mr. Gold also made Senator Oliveira aware of the ongoing issues with the HCRRB and stated that it was important to look out for the benefits of retirees and current employees. Mr. Gold also mentioned the budget deficit for the PVRTA, which could affect the region, and called for state aid to assist public transportation. The Senator stated that he is a member of the regional transportation caucus in the legislature working with colleagues to increase funding for regional transportation authorities. Oliveira commented on the Chapter 70 funding formula and many contributing factors to the changes and a detailed discussion ensued. Mr. Zwirko thanked the Senator for everything the team has been doing in the first few months. Mr. Zwirko asked for some feedback on remote participation. Oliveira spoke about the bill that was just signed to extend this ability through 2025. The Senator spoke about allowing this change to become permanent will allow Western Mass to be better represented in many areas. Mr. Zwirko spoke about Chapter 90 funding and the inequity with what our region receives in comparison to the rest of the State. Mr. Hemavathi spoke about teacher shortages and the trouble of finding new staff. He went on to talk about student mental health and that trickling up to the staff as well. The Senator stated that this is an ongoing issue and varying education models and challenges with the last few years could have definitely attributed to this. The Board thanked Senator Oliveira for joining their meeting tonight.

### **Cooley Brook Core Team Resident Advisor Appointment**

Mr. Hemavathi stated that we have two very qualified candidates and questioned if it would be possible to expand this group to include two resident advisors. Mr. Levine asked Ms. Meise-Munns if this was feasible. Ms. Meise-Munns commented that the resident advisor brings a unique perspective to the group. The goal is

to develop public engagement around Cooley Brook, so from that regard, two resident advisors makes sense. Mr. Levine stated that both of these candidates would bring different perspectives and he sees value in that. Mr. Zwirko stated that it is a valid point and idea but was concerned that with a process people may have backed out because they felt other candidates were more qualified. Mr. Gold stated that he feels that the approach of these two candidates is different and that many contributions could be made to the group as a whole in diverse areas. Mr. Lachiusa stated that we have very qualified people that apply for committees and we are grateful for that.

Mr. Hemavathi made the motion to appoint David Marinelli and Kristen Carnahan to the Cooley Brook Core Team as a resident advisor. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

### **Resident Comments – NONE**

### **Select Board Comments**

Mr. Levine stated that the first meeting of the newly formed DEI Committee was last week and he attended. Mr. Levine commented that it was a well-run meeting and there seems to be a lot of passion on the group. Mr. Levine mentioned that AnnMarie Martinez was nominated and selected as Chair.

Mr. Gold reported that the PVTA approved the budget for next year and used four million dollars of one-time federal carryover funds to balance the budget. Mr. Gold commented that although Longmeadow only has one route, but this could be very problematic to the region in general. Mr. Gold also spoke about the Scantic Valley Regional Health Trust (SVRHT), and explained that we are very lucky to be involved with their services. Mr. Gold stated that out of all the places we could be utilizing for providing medical benefits to retirements and employees, the SVRHT is regional and do a phenomenal job. Mr. Gold also attended the Recycling Commission Meeting and stated that the Town is being hit with spurious costs from trash collection. The Commission has asked Waste Management to enforce these regulations and not taking things that are not recyclable. Mr. Gold urged residents to follow these regulations. Mr. Gold also reported that the Metropolitan Planning Organization of the PVPC met and discussed projects going forward. Mr. Gold stated that the project timeline is subject to changing but the intersection improvements to Converse Street and Route 5 is now slated for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2025. The paving of route five is scheduled for FFY 2028; Mr. Gold went on to say.

Mr. Levine stated that there are many resources on the DPW Trash and Recycling page on longmeadowma.gov to help with recycling questions about regulations.

Mr. Zwirko stated that he attended the Conservation Commission meeting last week and the Finance Committee meeting as well. Mr. Zwirko reported that the FC voted not to recommend Article 3, which was the IT study implementation, as well as Article 8, the specifically did not recommend the playgrounds upgrades as part of the Capital Plan. Mr. Zwirko also attended the Long Range Plan Steering Committee meeting and reported that Cheryl Thibodeau was named Chair. Mr. Zwirko spoke about the Western Mass and Rural Conference for the MMA in which he attended this past Saturday.

### **Town Manager's Report**

Assistant Town Manager, Corrin Meise-Munns presented the April 3, 2023, Town Manager's Report.

Ecode Project Update On March 30, the Town Clerk received approval from the Attorney General's Office regarding Warrant Articles 24 and 25 from the October 25 Special Town Meeting, which pertained to the reformatting of our Zoning Bylaws for the eCode360 project. General Code will complete the final touches to

the bylaws in the eCode platform, which primarily involves updating all the “amendment pending” footnotes in the text to indicate the article number and date of Special Town Meeting adoption. General Code will also prepare the Code for the final publication steps, where it will be indexed, printed, bound, and shipped. The Town’s eCode360 site will be uploaded during this time. General Code is scheduled to complete the final editorial work by April 12. From there, final publication depends on the printing queue, but the Codebooks should ship well before the end of April and the Town’s eCode site will be publicly available a few days before you receive the books.

Wolf Swamp Fields Wolf Swamp Fields were opened today (April 3). We are implementing a soft opening from April-June with a grand opening planned for late August or early September. The primary user groups for this area for the spring season are girl’s lacrosse, boy’s lacrosse, Little League and soccer. Building renovations are ongoing and bathrooms may not be available the first week. There is a portable ADA unit on the east side of the park. Dugouts are being built and the flagpole is ordered with install estimated in June. We had only one applicant for facility attendant, so we are working on coverage for bathrooms and the concession stand. Lastly, the company who won the maintenance bid has yet to sign and return the contract. They will get a reminder then we will move to the next bidder. This contract will cover mowing and the various applications.

Greenwood Pool Update Only Greenwood pool will open this year, due to ongoing structural concerns with Reynolds Pool. We have begun selling pool passes. To date, we have one applicant for manager, 0 for pool supervisor and 12 lifeguards. We would like to fill 16 positions for lifeguards and the Parks and Recreation Director is confident that we will have more applications trickle in over the next few months. We have 13 applicants for gatekeeper and need only two. Most of these applicants are under age 16 so cannot be lifeguards. We plan to open June 17.

Rain Barrel Program As has been previously reported, the Town is participating in the Great American Rain Barrel program this year, which makes rain barrels and accessories available to Longmeadow residents at a discounted rate. The Town strongly encourages the use of rain barrels as part of its town-wide water conservation program. Collected rainwater aids in controlling stormwater runoff during heavy rains, and helps during times of drought reduce municipal water demand during times of drought. Collected rainwater can be used for watering gardens, lawns, washing cars, and many other non-potable purposes. Through the Great American Rain Barrel, we are offered three types of rain barrels and several accessories to make installation easy and convenient. As of March 27, 90, rain barrels have been sold to date. The deadline to order through this program is April 12, with pick up at the DPW on Earth Day, Saturday April 22 from 9am-12pm. We are putting a final push out on social media and hope to have 100 or more rain barrels ordered through this program by the deadline.

Mr. Levine questioned if Pool Supervisor was a necessary position and if the pool can open if there are no applicants. Mr. Meise-Munns stated that she would follow up on this question.

## **Old Business**

### **A. Approval of Meeting Minutes**

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the March 13, 2023 Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes with corrections. Mr. Lachiusa seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

### **B. Extension of Open Meeting Law Temporary Provisions / Draft Remote Meeting Policy**

Mr. Gold spoke about the proposed policy and setting requirements to have some applicants attend in person if deemed necessary. The adoption of this policy by other boards and committees was part of this proposal as well. A discussion ensued about the requirements for in person attendance for hearings, poll petitions, new

liquor licenses, etc., at the Boards discretion. The extension of open meeting law temporary provisions to allow for remote participation was signed through March of 2025. The Select Board will discuss further and vote on the policy at a future meeting after Town Counsel review.

C. Electric Vehicle Charging Update

Mr. Levine spoke about a meeting with Eversource last week to discuss this topic and rate tariff. Mr. Levine spoke about the proxy rate not being useful and after many questions a suggestion was made to bring in a third party to run this. Otherwise, we will be guessing or estimating the rate and it would have to be changed based on usage, Mr. Levine explained. He also stated that a third party provider could also get a better rate than we could. Mr. Levine was concerned that we do not have a feasible and smooth way of doing this. Mr. Gold spoke about how an arrangement would work with the third party for payments and operation with leasing these sites to them. A discussion ensued further about keeping the chargers at DPW for Town use only for potential additional electric vehicles in the future. Mr. Hemavathi questioned if there was a range in rates that was provided. Mr. Levine and Ms. Meise-Munns stated that it depends on usage, past practice, how many are charging at a time and within a billing period, and would change monthly. Mr. Gold stated that this proposal to bring in a third party could open up other opportunities as well. Mr. Zwirko spoke about the EV Charging session at the MMA conference and suggested that we connect with those resources. Mr. Gold commented that the Town Manager has reached out to them and hopefully would have an update soon. The Select Board will continue to monitor this and provide updates as necessary.

D. Sign Final 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

No vote was needed. The Select Board voted to accept and approve the Warrant on March 20. The Select Board signed the final 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant before going out to print at the end of this week.

**New Business**

A. Draft Zoning Bylaw Petition Referral Policy

Ms. Meise-Munns presented a draft policy for zoning bylaw petition referrals. Mr. Levine recommended that we put this policy in place to make sure that there is little confusion when these types of scenarios come in front of future boards. It is required by State Law that the Select Board refer any zoning bylaw change petition to the Planning Board within 14 days of receipt of the petition. A discussion ensued about why this policy is necessary if the law would triumph it. Mr. Levine clarified that that State Law only states that the Board shall refer but does not say shall vote. Town Counsel has informed us that the Select Board has to vote on this within 14 days and it is important to make clear that there is no other option for the Board when it comes to these petitions.

Mr. Gold made the motion to adopt this policy. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

**Correspondence** (All Correspondence material can be found in the SB agenda packet linked under "documents" at the end of these minutes)

COMCAST ANNUAL NOTICE FILING FEE.PDF

AMTRAK 2023 VEGETATION CONTROL PROGRAM CC. SELECT BOARD.PDF

**Adjourn**

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to adjourn the Select Board Regular Meeting at 8:51 p.m. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

04.03.23 Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes

Approved: PENDING

**Documents**

[\*Select Board April 3 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda Packet\*](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Barbieri