

Select Board Regular Meeting
Tuesday, April 18, 2023- 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Meeting Room A15
535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA
Hybrid Meeting

Select Board Members Present: Vice Chair -Mark Gold, Dan Zwirko, Thomas Lachiusa, Vineeth Hemavathi. Absent – Joshua Levine

Staff Present: Lyn Simmons, Corrin Meise-Munns, Michael Barbieri

Also, Present Joshua Rice, Bryan Meccariello.

Vice-Chair, Mark Gold, 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.

Mr. Gold 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

Outdoor Active Recreation Area Conditions Assessment: The Town of Longmeadow solicits public input and feedback regarding outdoor active recreation areas via a virtual survey. All Longmeadow residents, users of Longmeadow recreation areas and stakeholders are encouraged to fill out the survey, which is designed to support the Outdoor Active Recreation Area Conditions Assessment and Strategic Plan, a recreational initiative that will bring the public, municipal officials and staff, and private sporting organizations together to establish goals and priorities for maintaining and improving outdoor active recreation areas for future years. To learn more about the project and to complete the survey, please visit www.longmeadowma.gov/ActiveRecSurvey. **Citizen of the Year and Citizen Commendation Awards:** Reminder: Nominations are open for the Citizen of the Year and Citizen Commendation Awards. The nomination deadline is tomorrow, Tuesday, April 19, 2023. For additional information about the awards and to submit a nomination, please visit 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 Town Meeting Warrant can be found at www.longmeadowma.gov/TownMeeting and will be delivered via the Reminder to all Longmeadow households on April 20, 2023 (including opt-outs). The deadline to register to vote at Town Meeting (if not already a registered voter) is Saturday, April 29, 2023. Stay tuned for information on warrant info sessions, educational videos, and more in the next couple of weeks.

Shred and Recycle Earth Day Event: The Recycling Commission, in partnership with Valley Green Shredding, is hosting a free paper-shredding event on Saturday, April 29, 2023, from 9 - 11 am at the Longmeadow High School (LHS) student parking lot. The event is open to all residents, and no pre-registration required, and no businesses will be permitted to use this service. Visit www.longmeadowma.gov/CivicAlerts for more info.

Resident Comments – NONE

Select Board Comments

Mr. Zwirko stated that he helped organize another town-wide cleanup with the Sherriff's Department on April 8. There was over 30 residents and staff from the department. Bark Haul, Longmeadow Street and Wolf Swamp areas were touched in this cleanup. Mr. Zwirko thanked the Sherriff's Department and all of their volunteers for their work during the events.

Mr. Hemavathi thanked the Longmeadow Fire Department for their outstanding work this past weekend. They put out a house fire and rescued a dog in Laurel Park; all coming in a 24-hour period that Chief Dearborn said there was an increase in calls (over 17 calls to respond to). Mr. Hemavathi expressed his gratitude to the Department. Mr. Hemavathi spoke about the Commonwealth of Massachusetts settlement with Juul, and it remains to be seen if this settlement will be treated similarly to the opioid litigation.

Town Manager's Report

(Quarterly legal expense update and the full report can be found in the Select Board Agenda Packet, linked under "documents" at the end of these minutes).

Wolf Swamp Fields Maintenance A bid for maintenance of Wolf Swamp Fields was awarded to Specialized Turf Services, Inc., The contract will be for one year beginning on April 4, 2023 through March 25, 2024 for \$143,482. There will be up to two (2) consecutive annual renewal options at the Town's discretion. This scope of the maintenance work includes aeration, aeration deep tine, overseeding, top dressing, nutrition applications, plant protection, mowing etc... The maintenance will be overseen by the DPW. The Parks & Recreation Department is overseeing the remaining pieces of the renovation project. They are in the process of ordering temporary signs to encourage people to use the trash receptacles and not leave trash on the field. The water to the facility will be turned on soon, once that is done the concession stand, and the bathrooms will be opened. In the meantime, there is a portable restroom on the east side of the facility. Two facility attendants have been hired. Lastly, keeping the fields in pristine condition requires effort on everyone's part. This includes keeping dogs off the fields. Yard signs will be placed at the facility to remind people that dogs are not allowed on any athletic fields. These yard signs will be temporary until we install permanent signs.

State Budget Amendment State Representative Brian Ashe filed an amendment to the FY24 House budget to assist with maintenance of sports fields. The amendment was filed for \$100,000 - #549. The House debates the budget the last week of April. We will be updated after that debate to learn if the amendment made it through the process. This funding is not a guarantee and is subject to the amount being modified if it does make it through. Thank you to Representative Ashe and Chief of Staff Robin Frechette for approaching the town to ensure the Town needs were considered by filling this amendment. Fire Department Squad 4 Truck The rehab of Squad-4 was completed ahead of schedule. The vendor knew the importance of this piece of equipment especially due to the weather we are experiencing and worked quickly to complete it. The rehab work exceeded expectations. The Fire Department staff are working to getting the vehicle back into service. This apparatus is critical to fighting brush fires and was delivered just in time.

Eversource Gas Work Attached to this report is a fact sheet prepared and distributed by Eversource describing the cast-iron natural gas line replacement work proposed in Longmeadow over the coming construction season. It describes the important routine work that is underway to ensure the safe, reliable service to existing gas customers in Longmeadow. The Eversource crews working in town will be provided with a supply of these sheets with the instruction to share them with people who stop and ask them the nature of their work in Longmeadow. This work is not part of the proposed Western Mass Gas Reliability Project. Active Recreation

Area Conditions Assessment Survey The Active Recreation Area Conditions Assessment survey launched and as of this writing, Friday morning April 14, 360 surveys were completed. About 570 people have started the survey. The survey will be open until early May. This is a vital component of the Active Recreation Area Conditions Assessment. The Great American Rain Barrel Program The program closed on April 12, 2023. At the April 3 Select Board meeting, the Assistant Town Manager announced that we are making a push in the final weeks of the program to have 100 or more barrels ordered through the program. I am very happy to say that we reached that goal and 140 barrels were sold! Barrel pickup will be at the DPW on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22 from 9am – 12pm.

A. Department Monthly Reports – March *(Department Monthly Reports for March can be found in the Select Board Agenda Packet linked under “documents” at the end of these minutes.*

Mr. Hemavathi questioned if people are reaching out in confusion about this work being part of the reliability project. Ms. Simmons commented that anytime Eversource is in Town doing work the Fire Department and other department’s field questions and concerns about if this is part of the reliability project. Ms. Simmons was happy to see that they have resources in place to explain to residents the purpose of the other work they are completing.

Mr. Zwirko questioned the irrigation at Wolf Swamp Fields or if they are not turned on yet. He also asked when field’s maintenance would begin. Ms. Simmons stated that the actual schedule is being worked on with the contractor currently. Ms. Simmons stated that irrigation takes place late dusk early dawn when the field is not being used. Mr. Gold questioned the work at Glenbrook fields. Ms. Simmons stated that DPW in correlation with Parks and Rec have ordered a hydro-seeder and this project began in early April. The rehab of the field is should be complete in late April.

Old Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve the March 20, 2023 Select Board Regular Meeting Minutes with corrections. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0.

B. Select Board Remote Meeting Participation Policy

Ms. Simmons explained that there are some areas of this policy that conflict with other areas of state law. Town Counsel’s suggestion was to take some time with this if there is no pressing need and to hone in on what the policy should say, now that the extension has been signed. Ms. Simmons went on to say, concerning applicants attending meetings in person for certain scenarios, the Select Board can request the Admin to reach out to applicants verbally to request they attend in person ahead of a specific meeting. Mr. Gold stated that this conversation started before the extension was signed. He suggested putting something permanent in place down the road. Mr. Lachiusa agreed with having something in place permanently. A discussion ensued about the policy moving forward and narrowing down what it should detail. Mr. Hemavathi agreed with pushing it back because of no pressing need at this time.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to defer this policy until September 2023 for further review. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0.

New Business

A. Draft Grant Letters of Support

Ms. Meise-Munns explained the scope and timeline on each of the grants. The first grant on the agenda is the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) Action Grant. This is to help communities adapt to climate changes and both of these grants are around Cooley Brook. This grant would look specifically into Bliss and

Laurel Parks to develop up to 60 percent design to restoration along the stream banks. It would be in coordination with the hydrology study, Ms. Meise-Munns added. The grant would cover FY24 and FY25 and would be a total of \$340,000 with a 25% match. The next grant is the Long Island Sound Future Fund, which is put out by the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Ms. Meise-Munns went on to explain. This would cover water quality issues in the brook leading into the Connecticut River. This is bigger in scale and focuses on the neighborhoods and stormwater outfalls feeding into the brook. It is a budget of around \$240,000 to \$280,000, and the scope is being wrapped up. The match is also 25% for this grant and Ms. Meise-Munns is hopeful that if we get both grants, they can be used as match for each other. Mr. Lachiusa questioned what the matching amounts are. Ms. Meise-Munns stated that it would be around \$85,000 and explained the public engagement that is involved with this grant that is built into the budget. Mr. Lachiusa questioned if we could mention the fishing derbies and need for review of this area in the letters. Ms. Meise-Munns indicated that this would be included in the grant itself. Mr. Zwirko indicated his support for these grants and stated that it would be a great resource to assist in restoration of these areas. This will come back to the Select Board at their May 1, 2023 meeting for vote and approval.

B. Eversource Projects – Telemetry Cabinet Installation

Bryan Meccariello, of Eversource Energy was present via ZOOM to explain these upcoming projects. Mr. Meccariello explained that these are similar projects that were started last year; installing telemetry cabinets at regulatory stations. These five projects will be running to existing underground vaults, Mr. Meccariello explained. Mr. Gold explained the cabinet on Forest Glenn and was glad that the Select Board required these to have green posts as opposed to yellow. Mr. Gold stated that he appreciates the time taken to explain these projects to the Select Board. Mr. Gold commented about a requirement of having the cabinet posts be green in residential areas. Mr. Lachiusa agreed with the aesthetics looking better if they blended into the landscape more. Mr. Lachiusa questioned the safety of these locations. Mr. Meccariello stated that these locations are in place because that is where the current existing underground vaults are at these stations. Moving locations would require running different infrastructure under the roads and cabinet and we are tied to these locations for this reason, Mr. Meccariello added.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve these projects and authorize the installation contingent upon the standards, requirements set forth by the DPW and Police Department, and that the posts are painted green.

Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed by a vote of 3-1 (Lachiusa-No).

C. Street Closure Applications

a. 2023 Lacrosse Jamboree

Coach Josh Rice was present to explain the application for street closure. The request is for a Lacrosse Jamboree to be held on May 6, 2023 and to close Blueberry Hill Road to Bliss Ct. from 7:30 am – 5:00 pm. Mr. Gold asked Mr. Rice to explain the event and how it went last year. Mr. Rice explained that we were thrown a curveball with the extreme heat last year and everything still went well. Coach Rice went on to say that, Police detail went excellent and the Fire Department inspectors were also content with the event. Mr. Lachiusa asked how the parking situation went in this area. Rice indicated that parking went well and was no issue last year. Mr. Gold questioned if this event was planning to move back to Wolf Swamp Fields as it has in the past. Coach Rice indicated that the new set up and configuration of the fields would not be enough space to hold an event scope of this size. A discussion ensued about facilities in the center of Town being utilized and if the location would promote more access to local businesses. It was also confirmed that Mr. Rice has worked with Parks and Rec, DPW, Police, and the Emergency Management team to go over police detail and safety measures for the event.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve the road closure request for the Girls Lacrosse Jamboree to be

held on May 6, 2023 from 7:30 am – 5:00 pm, contingent upon requirements set forth by the Police Department. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0.

b. Center School Field Day

Mr. Gold explained that this is a routine request to close Longmeadow St. (east of the green) from Longview to the gymnasium driveway at Center School for their annual Field Day.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve the road closure application for Center School for an event to be held on June 2, with a rain date of June 5, from 8:00 am – 2:45 pm. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0.

D. One Day Liquor License Applications

a. Longmeadow Adult Center Community Fund (LACCF)

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to approve the Liquor License Application for an event to be held at the Adult Center on May 25, from 4:30 – 7 pm. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0.

E. Discussion: Special Town Counsel for Maple Road Plaza

Ms. Simmons explained that in preparation for the zone change petition on the 2023 Annual Town Meeting Warrant, along with the Planning Board reviewing the site-design review for the rebuild of the plaza, we have learned that Town Counsel could not represent the Town on this matter due to a conflict of interest with the property owner. In anticipation of potentially needing some legal assistance, we have started to discuss special counsel and have not identified one yet, Ms. Simmons stated. Ms. Simmons anticipates to bring a name to the Board to designate a special counsel for these reasons. Mr. Lachiusa questioned if Egan and Flanagan could potentially represent on this since we already have relationship. Ms. Simmons stated that she would look into this. Mr. Gold questioned if the extent of the engagement would be for discussion and vote at Town Meeting solely. Ms. Simmons stated that it would be used for this and can be used in case there are further questions or interpretation of Zoning bylaws or regulations to the Planning Board. Ms. Simmons confirmed that Select Board is the authority for appointing any special legal counsel.

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

COMCAST LETTERS (2).PDF

Adjourn

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to adjourn the Select Board Regular Meeting at 8:15 p.m. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0.

Documents

[Select Board April 18 2023 Regular Meeting Agenda Packet](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Barbieri