

Select Board Regular Meeting
Monday, May 1, 2023- 7:00 p.m.
Longmeadow High School, Meeting Room A15
535 Bliss Road, Longmeadow, MA
Hybrid Meeting

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

Staff Present: Lyn Simmons, Michael Barbieri, Chief Stocks, Erica Brunell.

Chair, Josh 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.

Mr. 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

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 viewed at www.longmeadowma.gov/TownMeeting. Additional information including voter education videos and outlines on specific articles can also be found at that link.

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. The survey will close on Friday, May 12. To learn more about the project and to complete the survey, please visit www.longmeadowma.gov/ActiveRecSurvey

Resident Comments

The following residents spoke about traffic concerns with the newly painted double yellow lines on Ellington Street and the future painting of lines on Farmington Ave: Lori Burroughs of 104 Ellington St, Rob Durfee of 81 Ellington St, Jaqueline Nyman of 61 Ellington St, Hazel Keane of Ellington St, Ryan McManus of 48 Ellington St, Samantha Warren of 113 Farmington Ave, Chris Papadopoulos of 17 Farmington Ave, Beth Paulson of 98 Ellington St, Allison Fargas of 33 Farmington Ave, Melissa Schettler of 34 Ellington St, Jane Mantolesky of 80 Mill Road, Elaine Mann of 72 Farmington Ave, Antoinette Mongillo of 44 Farmington Ave. All of the residents comments can be viewed [here \(15:00 – 50:00\)](#).

Mr. Gold made the motion to take item 8D, Traffic Calming Applications and Policy out of order. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

New Business

D. Traffic Calming Applications and Policy Discussion

Ms. Simmons spoke about a memo that was shared prior to the meeting about the traffic calming policy itself as well as the application for traffic calming received in the fall of 2022. Ms. Simmons stated that an application for Ellington and Farmington was received in October of 2022. The traffic committee-working group discussed Farmington Ave and Ellington St and that is when the speed signs were placed. Ms. Simmons went on to say that, subsequent conversations were had in February, upon further questions from residents on what was going on. At this time, DPW was in the midst of preparing the line-painting contract, which is done annually. Farmington and Ellington were added to the contract based on a meeting held by the traffic-working group in February. Ms. Simmons detailed that the traffic committee is not a formal group in terms of appointment by Select Board, and it is a group of departments consisting of the DPW, Police, and Fire, who gather once a month to discuss special event permits that may have an impact on traffic, roadwork, etc. Ms. Simmons stated that road markings have been proven to calm traffic because they visually reduce the travel lanes. Ms. Simmons stated that previously speed signs were done and then the pavement marking. Ms. Simmons explained that we understand that some pieces of the traffic calming process were not followed and we are bringing this to the Select Board for further discussion. At the time, we discussed the road markings, we also wanted to pursue another speed and traffic count study, Ms. Simmons went on to say. This request to complete the study was sent to PVPC and we are waiting on a date confirmation. Ms. Simmons stated that we are here tonight to listen to the concerns and have a further discussion on the future process. Mr. Levine stated that he believes we need to reset and get rid of the lines and start at the beginning. Mr. Levine went on to say that, there is no institutional knowledge about the policy due to new staff being present at this time. The policy itself is internally contradictory, it does not say who the traffic committee is, and there is a number of failings in the policy itself, which we need to address. Mr. Levine added that we need to align the policy with other bylaws and newly codified traffic rules and regulations binder. Mr. Levine stated that traffic is a major concern in this area and explained that not everyone is going to be happy with what is done. Mr. Levine explained that he believes that the speed signs are effective. Mr. Levine suggested having the contractor black out the lines on Ellington and for the Town to cancel the striping of Farmington so that we can reset the process. Mr. Gold stated that the traffic calming policy was a direct response to the issues that had happened on Greenacre several years back. Mr. Gold stated that due to turnover in staff, the institutional knowledge on this process is lacking and asked residents to bear with us as we move forward. Mr. Gold explained that this issue goes town-wide and believes there needs to be a comprehensive solution. Mr. Gold stated that our goal is to solve the issues on Ellington and Farmington, along with all of the other streets seeking traffic calming measures. Mr. Gold suggested resetting and taking the proper steps that we need to take to solve the traffic issues. Mr. Zwirko supports painting over the lines. He stated that a mistake was made with the process and we should come together as a group to move forward with a new strategy. Mr. Hemavathi also agreed with removing the lines and would like to hear some options on the best way to going about doing so. Mr. Gold questioned if we go through the process after painting the lines black, and then the processes through traffic calming deem that road marking is necessary after all, how we go from there. Mr. Levine commented that he could not imagine the lines being painted black and then marked again as a traffic calming measure. Mr. Levine also mentioned chunking out the lines and stated that his hesitation is that we do not have any quotes on any removal measures at this time and we would need that information. Mr. Lachiusa questioned Chief Stocks about his thoughts on a dotted yellow line versus a solid yellow. Chief Stocks stated that a double solid yellow line is DOT acceptable for traffic standards and a dotted line is permitted but would promote and indicate that is an area acceptable for passing. The white lanes on the sides of the road delineates the side of

the road from the travel lane. Mr. Levine questioned if a timeframe is known for when we can begin the process of removing the lines. Ms. Simmons explained that generally we would grind out the lines because painting over would not withstand the weather and in plowing. Ms. Simmons stated that there are three quotes out to vendors now and we can have a discussion at the next meeting concerning the quotes and how we would like to proceed. Ms. Simmons stated that it is likely that traffic has increased on Ellington over the last several weeks due to the water main work happening to its neighboring street, Farmington.

Mr. Zwirko made the motion to instruct the Town Manager and DPW to remove the Ellington Street lines and to cancel the scheduled painting for Farmington Ave as contracted. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. After further discussion, the motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Hemavathi requested to amend the motion to include not damaging the street and to cancel the speed study.

Ms. Simmons stated that there is no cost for the traffic study; we are allotted a certain amount from PVPC per year. Mr. Gold commented that we should let the study take place given that we have a certain amount of credits and that a study has not occurred in this area in a while. Mr. Hemavathi withdrew the amendment to cancel the study. The original motion was voted on.

The next application was from February and was discussed at that same traffic committee meeting. This application was for Longmeadow Street east of the green, in front of Center School to clarify the one-way traffic calming measure. The questions are where this one-way begins; if it is only when school is session, and when it was approved. A suggestion to was made to explore the legality of this one-way and clarify the parameters and guidelines of the traffic committee. Mr. Levine spoke about also clarifying in the policy and how notifications to residents and abutters are sent out. Ms. Simmons stated that she was hesitant to bring the group of department heads back together to meet with our some clear guidance on what the Board wants us doing. Mr. Gold suggested having an elected officials perspective or historical perspective. Mr. Gold stated that part of the issue is figuring out whom we consult in these instances. Mr. Levine stated that the current policy does not clarify the parameters of a hearing for this scenario. A review of the policy will take place at a future meeting.

Select Board Comments

Mr. Levine stated that it is fantastic seeing Wolf Swamp Fields packed and is very happy to have this amenity in Town. Mr. Levine commented that he along with Ms. Simmons, Chief Dearborn, and members from the Energy and Sustainability Committee attended an event with Melissa Hoffer, the Climate Chair for Governor Healy's administration. He stated that she asked great questions and it was a fantastic conversation. Mr. Levine thanked everyone who attended and spoke at the event.

Mr. Gold commented that there was a shredding event at the High School this past weekend and there were 220 cars and around 5 tons of materials received. Despite the weather, people were very appreciative and it was well attended. Mr. Gold thanked the Recycling Commission from running and promoting this event.

Town Manager's Report

Fields Maintenance Follow Up and Greenwood Pool at the April 18, 2023 Select Board meeting I provided an update on the maintenance at Wolf Swamp Athletic Fields. Questions were asked about Wolf Swamp and Glenbrook and as a follow up, I have the following information. The water to Wolf Swamp has been turned on and the irrigation system is working. A sensor needs to be installed on the irrigation system to switch the water source from well to town water, this is being worked on. The first mowing was scheduled for 4/28. The DPW continues to work with the maintenance contractor on the fertilizer specifics. Glenbrook has grass

growing. There continue to be issues with the irrigation pump and the electrical system, more work is needed to make the irrigation work. Luckily, the weather has cooperated, however DPW is using water cannons to water the field. The field is not perfect but it does look better. The material to prep the infields is on order. A major repair at Greenwood Pool is scheduled for two weeks. The known, pre-existing leak has undermine the area and caused the concrete decking to buckle and cave. A contractor will be on site to complete the repair work to before the pool opens for the season. The pool is expected to open on time.

State Budget Amendment As I updated in my April 18, 2023 report, State Representative Brian Ashe filed an amendment to the FY24 House budget to assist with maintenance of sports fields. Unfortunately, the budget amendment did not survive the debate process and was struck from the FY24 budget.

Last Push for Active Recreation Area Conditions Assessment Survey We are in the final days of the Active Recreation Area Conditions Assessment survey. The survey will close on May 12. As of this writing, we have 500 responses.

Municipal Code Online Completing a multi-year process including reviewing, editing, updating and a vote of Town Meeting, I am pleased to report that the Town’s Municipal Code, including the General and Zoning Bylaws, Charter, Planning Board Regulations and Traffic Rules and Orders, etc... are now available online! The new online Code provides convenient access to these key documents in a feature-rich format that has been specifically designed for optimal viewing on desktops and laptops as well as smartphones and tablet devices. Partnering with General Code, the Town’s online Code offers the ability to quickly search by keyword across all areas of Town laws or regulations and provides an easy to understand organization.

Old Business

A. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Mr. Lachiusa clarified a paragraph in the minutes that he requested be changed.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the April 3 Select Board Minutes with corrections. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the April 18 Select Board Minutes with corrections. Mr. Zwirko seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 4-0 (Levine Abstained).

B. Grant Letters of Support

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the sending of the grant letters of support for the MVP grant. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Mr. Gold made the motion to approve the sending of the grant letters of support for the Long Island Sound Futures Fund grant. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

C. 2023 Annual Town Meeting Discussion

Ms. Townsend invited everyone to attend the Annual Town Meeting set for next week on May 9. Ms. Townsend commented that this would be hopefully be a “back to normal” Town Meeting after all of the modifications and changes that had to be made with the pandemic. Ms. Townsend encouraged residents to view the educational videos on the website to learn more about specific warrant articles. Ms. Townsend explained the logistics of the meeting and commented that the clickers have been updated to address a security update. Mr. Levine asked what has been updated with the clickers. Ms. Townsend stated that the vendor informed us that the software and hardware was needed to be updated and addresses security issues identified by the vendor. The new clickers look similar to the old. Mr. Gold questioned if the issue of need for legal representation for zoning article 27 was addressed. Ms. Simmons stated that we would not have someone representing the Town on specific issues with this article due to availability. Ms. Simmons explained that the original issue was resolved and we may just receive general questions about the article. Mr.

Gold questioned changing the organization and order of the articles. Ms. Townsend stated that every motion to change the article order would require a majority vote and this is possible. Consent agendas will also be available ahead of the meeting.

New Business

A. Street Closure Applications

Mr. made the motion to approve the street closure application for a block party to be held on Meadowbrook road May 20. Mr. Hemavathi seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

B. Quarterly Investment Report

Town Treasurer and Collector Erica Brunell attended to give the quarterly investment report for the period ending March 1. Interest rates have continued to rise, most noteworthy, was Peoples Savings Bank who offered a rate of 4.27%, up from 3.8 percent from last quarter. Newburyport Bank was at around 4.25%, which was up from about 3.35%. Ms. Brunell explained that we are taking advantage of higher interest rates by opening a 9-month CD at Adams Savings Bank to hold a large majority of our stabilization fund at a rate of 4.0 percent. Since the account opened on January 23, we have earned about \$55,000 on the account. The OPEB pension reserve saw a positive return, quarter ending with a net gain of \$214,000, and the March 31 balance is \$6,421,396. The Town has earned around \$360,000 in interest aside from the OPEB fund. Mr. Levine questioned if a 9-month CD was the limit or if we could go longer. Ms. Brunell explained that at the time the 9-month was at a great rate and felt this was a great start. She went on to say that, there are different plans at different rates and terms of length. Mr. Gold stated that now that we can look at this year with higher interest rates, is there a process for modifying projected interest income to allow us to impact the tax rate for our residents. Are there any annual projections worth looking at as well, Mr. Gold questioned? Ms. Brunell explained that she and would like to bring the Finance Director in to discuss this process further. Mr. Gold asked Ms. Simmons if recognizing additional sorts of revenue would allow us to look at reducing revenue needed from the tax base. Ms. Simmons stated that Mr. Pasterczyk will be looking into this and would be part of gather information together for setting the tax rate.

C. Draft Electronic Payment Policy

Ms. Brunell explained that this policy is something we already do internally but wanted to have something official in place. Safeguarding measures and authenticating requests is important for the Treasurer's office and a policy should be in place.

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to accept the Electronic Payment Policy. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

D. Fiscal Constraint of the Draft FFY 2024-2028 Transportation Improvement Program

Mr. Gold explained that this does not require any action by the Select Board but wanted to provide explanation to the memo that was distributed. There is an escalation in all costs and particularly the PVPC's Metropolitan Planning Organization is seeing an increase in project costs for roadways. Specifically the intersection of Converse and Longmeadow Street project has increased by around \$2.2 million dollars. The group is working on considering how to address this. The sub-group of the PVPC has a bucket of money both federal and state, assigned to traffic and roadway projects throughout the Pioneer Valley. There are a few proposals to address what projects will be deferred. Mr. Gold went on to say that, other projects down the road will likely see project increases as well. The PVPC asked Mr. Gold to represent division 1 of the commission and will be attending these meetings. Mr. Gold is hopeful that it would not affect Longmeadow too severely.

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

121025 EARLY OUTREACH LETTER – LONGMEADOW L-14002(8DU) BARK HAUL ROAD OVER I-01-SIGNED (1).PDF

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL – SAVE THE DATE, GLENMEADOW GROUNDBREAKING CEREMONY.PDF

COMCAST LETTERS (2).PDF

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL – CABLE ADVISORY COMMITTEE.PDF

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL- DOBLE LINE PROPOSED ON FARMINGTON AVE_DOUBLE LINES ON ELLINGTON.PDF

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL – ELLINGTON AND FARMINGTON – TRAFFIC LINES.PDF

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL – ELLINGTON ST – TRAFFIC LINES CONCER.PDF

TOWN OF LONGMEADOW MAIL – ELLINGTON STREET TRAFFIC LINE CONCERNS.PDF

Mr. Levine commented about the closing of Bark Haul Road as addressed in the letter from Mass DOT highway division.

Mr. Gold commented about the letter questioning finding competition for Comcast. He explained that we would continue to look at wireless systems providing internet to the Town and explained some of the intricacies with the Comcast system. Mr. Levine also commented that reforming the cable advisory committee was on our look ahead as well.

Adjourn

Mr. Lachiusa made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 9:30 p.m. Mr. Gold seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by a vote of 5-0.

Documents

[**SELECT BOARD MAY 1 2023 REGULAR MEETING AGENDA PACKET**](#)

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Barbieri