

**SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES –February 26, 2024**

6:00 p.m. - Chair’s Introduction to Remote Meeting

Chair Cohen read the current remote meeting notice and confirmed the following Select Board members and others could hear and be heard.

Select Board (SB)

Mitch Cohen, Chair
Kristen Wixted, Vice Chair
Laura Ziton, Clerk
Julianne Hirsh
Lisa Maselli

Others

Timothy McInerney, Town Administrator
Diane Wackell, Assistant Town Administrator
Jason Little, Finance Director (present for open session)

6:04 p.m. – EXECUTIVE SESSION

Ziton moved the Board vote to enter into Executive Session pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (3) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation – SA Farm; and pursuant to M.G.L., Chapter 30A, Section 21 (a) (7) for the Review and Consideration of the December 18, 2023 Executive Session meeting minutes due to the Chair's determination that a discussion regarding these matters in an open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town. Wixted seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hirsh	“aye”	Maselli	“aye”
Wixted	“aye”	Cohen	“aye”
Ziton	“aye”		

Chair Cohen announced that the Select Board was entering into Executive Session for the purpose previously voted and that the Board will return to Open Session at approximately 7:00 pm.

7:19 p.m. – RETURN TO OPEN SESSION

Chair Cohen announced the Board’s return to Open Session.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Cohen invited comments from the public. There were none.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

January 8, 2024 –

Maselli moved the Board vote to approve the version of the January 8, 2024 meeting minutes dated today at 4:27pm as presented; Wixted seconded the motion; The roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hirsh	“aye”	Maselli	“aye”
Wixted	“aye”	Cohen	“aye”
Ziton	“aye”		

January 22, 2024 – postponed to the next meeting.

REVIEW OF PRELIMINARY TOWN MEETING WARRANT SUMMARY

Mr. McInerney provided the Board with an overview of the draft warrant summary. He noted that there could be changes, deletions and/or additions made to the articles up until the Board votes to close the warrant on March 11th.

Following a review of the articles and some suggested changes by Board members, Mr. McInerney reminded the Board that the warrant will be closed on March 11th and the Joint Budget Hearing with Appropriations Committee will be held on March 25th.

REVIEW OF DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

The Board was presented with a draft of the legislative priorities letter. In addition to the standard legislative priorities, also included is a supplemental list of potential specific earmark requests for various infrastructure projects, including the Fire Station Building project, sidewalk repair project and Assabet Hill drainage repair project. The letter will be forwarded to the Governor and the State Legislators in preparation for the legislative priorities discussion at the Board’s April 8th meeting.

Board members offered their input and discussed items that they would like our legislators to support.

Wixted moved the Board vote to authorize the Chair and the Town Administrator to finalize and sign the Legislative Priorities letter and Supplemental Earmark Requests for discussion with our State Legislative Delegation at the April 8th Board Meeting; Ziton seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hirsh	“aye”	Maselli	“aye”
Wixted	“aye”	Cohen	“aye”
Ziton	“aye”		

REPORTS

Julianne Hirsh

- Cultural Council – discussed the draft minutes policy from the last meeting and wondered if we should send it out to boards & committee chairs to comment. Some members on Cultural Council had concerns about when they do grants and how to be respectful of people’s privacy.
- Asked interested citizens to apply for boards & committees under the annual reappointment process by March 15th.

Kristen Wixted

- Town Offices Feasibility Study Committee is holding a public input session on February 27th in the Town Hall gym.
- March 20th at 7 pm CAC annual town clean up planning meeting at the library, in the big meeting room.
- Attended morning coffee hour with Chief Parenti at Aero coffee this morning, thanks to the CAC. We had some good conversations.

Lisa Maselli

- Attended Traffic Safety Committee, where they discussed HCVE on Lincoln St and Pleasant Streets, crosswalk blinking lights on Lincoln St, Pleasant St, Church St and Northgate Rd and Howard St.
- Participated in a walk through at 432 Whitney Street with reps from Sudbury Valley Trustees and DCR, Planning Director and Conservation Agent.
- 2/20: Spoke to Hudson Town Planner and Director of DBI (Downtown Business Improvement) They offered to make a presentation to the board on their success with downtown business development or invited members to come to Hudson for lunch and tour.
- 2/21: Co-presented congratulatory certificate for 10-year anniversary of Dull Men's Club with Laura Ziton
- 2/21: Town Offices Feasibility Committee met and presented the four (4) options for locating the town offices. Joint Meeting tomorrow at 6:30 p.m., Town Offices Gym, for public participation to help with final choices
- 2/22: Attended Appropriations Committee Meeting with DPW budget presentation. Long standing member, Richard Neiber, resigned. The Board would like to extend their heartfelt appreciation for his years of service. The Committee is now a member short. Those interested in applying, please send application and letter of interest to Diane Wackell
- 2/23 - Attended OARS Workshop at the library and learned of the potential project, including dam removal and invasive cleanup Bartlet Pond and section of the Assabet on Hudson Street.
- Sustainable Northborough will offer a walk/workshop on invasive plants led by Sudbury Valley Trustees on April 6 at Edmund Hill Woods.
- Recommend that we put aside time to prepare and create the policy for the Traffic Safety Mission.
- Recommend a town wide municipal sign policy of appearance consistency for Senior Center, Library, Town Offices, Police and Fire as well as DPW and any other municipal building we have or acquire. Chair agreed and suggested to pass it to Design Review.

Laura Ziton

- Celebrated the Dull Men's 10th Anniversary. They appreciated the proclamation from the board.
- Looking forward to Thursday when she will be holding office hours with SB Member Maselli at the C'LeVie Bistro. Thanked Community Affairs for putting this together.
- Early voting for the Presidential primary is all week at town hall during regular business hours and the election if March 5th. Polls are open from 7:00 am – 8:00 pm.

Mitch Cohen

- Congratulated the Dull Men's Club on their 10th anniversary and thanked to SB Members Ziton and Maselli for representing the board at that event
- Just received a letter from Town Counsel regarding Municipal Code & Bylaw Committee. Has not had a chance to read the letter yet but will provide an update

Town Administrator Report

- In keeping with the terms of his contract of employment, Mr. McNerney informed the Board that he took the 3-day Inspector General's purchasing class and passed the test to be a certified purchasing agent
- Noted the joint meeting tomorrow night with the TOFST at 6:30 pm in the gym
- Reached out to Jeff Nutting about a Goal Setting workshop.

- Spoke to an Amazon corporate rep and is working to reestablish that connection and have a discussion on truck traffic
- Will be meeting with the Mayor of Marlborough to introduce himself and find creative ways to work together with the city
- Will be setting a meeting in late March with the DPU for the electric energy aggregation plan process
- Working on led light conversion and trying to find a more cost effective vendor
- Continue to work on the FY25 budget. Committee meetings are held every Tuesday and Thursday . He can send a note to the Board with the department meeting schedule.
- Announced that the town's payroll process to be moving to an online portal system.

OTHER BUSINESS

There was no other business.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Chair Cohen invited comments from the public. There were none.

ADJOURNMENT

Wixted moved the Board vote to adjourn; Zitton seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hirsh	“aye”	Maselli	“aye”
Wixted	“aye”	Cohen	“aye”
Zitton	“aye”		

The meeting adjourned at 9:21 pm.

A recording of this meeting is available at:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=3W7MS6iVwm0&list=PL2mWMhvXDP2jbO2c8kLs09TR8zry9oUyV&index=2>

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda LePoer
Executive Assistant to the
Select Board

Documents used during meeting:

1. February 26, 2024 Meeting Agenda
2. Meeting Minutes January 8, 2024
3. Draft Warrant Articles Summary
4. Draft Legislative Priorities letter