

**SELECT BOARD (SB)
INTERVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – August 15, 2023**

5:20 p.m.-Introduction to Remote Meeting

SB Member Kristen Wixted read the current remote meeting notice and confirmed that the following SB members could hear and be heard.

SB Member Julianne Hirsh
SB Member Kristen Wixted

Any votes taken this evening will be by roll call vote.

INTERVIEW FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Remotely present:

SB Member Kristen Wixted
SB Member Julianne Hirsh
Applicant Kate Girard

Due to changes in their schedules, two applicants were unable to attend tonight's meeting. Since Traffic Safety is a new committee there is no input from a chairperson.

Kate Girard

Kate was the first applicant to be interviewed. She first heard about the Traffic Safety Committee while volunteering at a town election and started watching the meetings of the Temporary Traffic Safety Committee. When asked why she was volunteering for this particular committee she stated that she currently is a lawyer for an insurance company where she examines liability. She lives on Davis Street and is a runner. Kate agreed that if there had been a Traffic Safety Committee before Northborough Commons was built this would have been the type of development that a traffic safety committee might have helped with. Because her job is litigation, she is aware of a town's liability for safety and feels that her experience and knowledge would be beneficial to the committee. When asked what she saw as first steps she thought that it would be beneficial to have one central place for residents to voice their concerns about traffic safety.

Kate was informed that recently a police representative was added to the committee; she responded that this was the first recommendation she would have offered and therefore is very positive about the addition of a police representative. She stated that it is important for residents to understand what is possible to change and what is not.

She had no further questions and the process of interviewing all candidates, recommendations by the Interview Subcommittee and then approval at a full board meeting was explained.

Rachel Armstrong

Rachel Armstrong was the next applicant to interview. When asked why she wanted to be on the committee Rachel explained that she got involved in road issues when her part of town saw changes in traffic due to recent warehouse building and expansion. At the time that she was working on the Bartlett St. problem she realized that there were other issues in town that could be addressed by a traffic safety committee. She felt that a forum where residents would be welcomed to voice their concerns was necessary.

In her application Rachel stated that she learned a lot about traffic safety; when asked what some of those things were she listed regional collaboration, truck exclusions, traffic studies, signage, safety zones, etc.. When asked how she would advise residents to not become frustrated because traffic safety issues can take time she said the first thing she would tell residents is to manage their expectations. She understands that nothing will be quick and little victories should be celebrated.

Rachel stated that she has time to do research which may be a part of the committee's duties and it is something she has already been doing.

Rachel had no further questions and the process of interviewing all candidates, recommendations by the Interview subcommittee and then approval at a full board meeting was explained.

INTERVIEW FOR MASTER PLAN IMPLEMENTATION COMMITTEE

Remotely present:

SB Member Julianne Hirsh
SB Member Kristen Wixted
Applicant Jennifer Tolman
MPIC Chairperson Rick Lief

Jen's interest in MPIC began with her membership of the Cultural Council and her research about the possibility of implementing a Cultural District in Northborough. Because the suggestions for downtown revitalization include public art and cultural events Jen thought that her knowledge of what Cultural Council could offer would be helpful to the committee. She explained that a cultural district would be a place for local artists, performers, and students to gather and support each other and it would provide a space for them to showcase their work.

Jen has watched MPIC meetings and is beginning to understand where growth can happen in the downtown area. Rick Lief explained that once the downtown revitalization plan is approved and underway the MPIC will move on to other parts of the master plan such as housing and historic preservation. He commented that her involvement in the cultural council will be helpful and wanted to make sure that she is interested in the complete master plan.

Jen asked what the goal for downtown revitalization was. Is it to become a large and busy downtown or will the small town atmosphere be preserved? Mr. Lief responded that maintaining a small town feel is consistent with what the residents would like. But a

lot will depend on implementing such things as design standards and the private developers. It was clarified that the position that is currently open is a resident position and will expire in April, 2025. Additionally, Jen has a background in business and is currently taking courses for an MBA.

The process of recommendation by the SB Interview Committee and then approval by the full board was explained. Jen was the only applicant for this position.

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT

The merits of recommending Jen to MPIC were reviewed.

SB Member Hirsh moved the Interview Subcommittee vote to recommend Jen Tolman for appointment to the Master Plan Implementation Committee for a partial 2 year term to expire April, 2025; SB Member Wixted seconded the vote; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hirsh "aye"
Wixted "aye"

APPROVAL OF MINUTES-May, 16, 2023

SB Member Julianne Hirsh moved the Interview Subcommittee vote to accept the meeting minutes of May 16, 2023; SB Member Wixted seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hirsh "aye"
Wixted "aye"

ADJOURNMENT

With no other business before the committee, SB Member Hirsh moved the Interview Subcommittee vote to adjourn; SB Member Wixted seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Hirsh "aye"
Wixted "aye"

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 6:15pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Julianne Hirsh
Select Board Member
Interview Subcommittee member

Documents used during the meeting:

Minutes of May 16, 2023 meeting

Application of Kate Girard to Traffic Safety Committee

Application of Rachel Armstrong to the Traffic Safety Committee

Application of Jennifer Tolman to the Master Plan Implementation Committee