

**SELECT BOARD (SB)
INTERVIEW SUBCOMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES – August 29, 2023**

5:25 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 Mitch Cohen (standing in for Julianne Hirsch)
SB Member Kristen Wixted

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

INTERVIEW FOR COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

Remotely present:

SB Member Mitch Cohen
SB Member Kristen Wixted
Applicant Olia Groza
Chairperson Suzanne Cieslica

Ms. Groza explained that she is interested in volunteering for the Community Affairs Committee because she moved to Northborough 8 years ago, loves living here, and recently finished school to become a dietician so she has more time volunteer.

Ms. Cieslica enthusiastically shared some of the activities the CAC organizes.

The process of interviewing candidates, making recommendations, and how the Select Board votes at the September 11, 2023 meeting was explained.

INTERVIEW FOR DIVERSITY, EQUITY, INCLUSION AND BELONGING COMMITTEE

Remotely present:

SB Member Mitch Cohen
SB Member Kristen Wixted
Applicant Olia Groza/Applicant Mary Alexandra Molina
Chairperson Mariam Ibrahimi

Olia Groza explained that she is from Belarus and her husband is from Ukraine. She stated that they have been helping refugees from Ukraine and now newer Russian refugees as well get accommodated into the U.S.

Ms. Ibrahimi described what the DEIB committee does and how they were formed. It was mentioned that a new staff liaison will need to be decided, as the previous staff liaison has left Northborough.

Everyone thanked Ms. Groza for volunteering.

Mary Alexandra Molina joined the zoom. She explained that she worked with Diversity and Inclusion at her job for the public schools of Fitchburg, and she knows everything about DEI in Fitchburg but nothing about it in her own hometown. She was pleased to see, upon checking the website, that there was an opening on our DEI committee and she decided to volunteer.

Ms. Molina recently graduated from Tufts with a masters degree in Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Justice and is eager to dive into DEI+ topics in Northborough. She noted that the town's diversity is increasing. At work, she helps implement DEI+ policies and wants to help Northborough do the same.

The basics of how the committee was started and what they might be working on this year were explained to her by Ms. Ibrahimi.

The process of interviewing candidates, making recommendations, and how the Select Board votes at the September 11, 2023 meeting was explained, and the Select Board members thanked Ms. Molina for volunteering.

INTERVIEW FOR RECYCLING COMMITTEE

Remotely present:

SB Member Mitch Cohen
SB Member Kristen Wixted
Applicant Chris Wilson
Chairperson Ingrid Molnar
Staff Liaison Fred Litchfield

Chris Wilson is a packaging engineer. He designs packages for recycling, incorporating recycled content, and trying to find solutions other than using non-recyclable packaging. He is a relatively new resident in Northborough and wants to volunteer in a way he thinks he can help the town.

Ms. Molnar briefly described what the committee does, and Mr. Litchfield followed up with additional information regarding the same.

An energetic conversation about the two key events the recycling committee organizes, the Hazardous Waste Collection Day and Take-It-Or-Leave-It Day, followed.

There was a brief discussion about the Recycling Committee looking into expanding what they do and including other programming.

Mr. Wilson stated that he is willing to do whatever the committee can use his time for, and thanked everyone for the opportunity to interview.

The process of interviewing candidates, making recommendations, and how the Select Board votes at the September 11, 2023 meeting was explained.

INTERVIEW FOR TRAFFIC SAFETY COMMITTEE

Remotely present:

SB Member Mitch Cohen
SB Member Kristen Wixted

Applicant Kevin Sheehan/Applicant Christopher Deacetis/Applicant Bryan Cole

Since Traffic Safety is a new committee there was no input from a chairperson.

Kevin Sheehan

Kevin Sheehan was the first applicant to be interviewed. He first heard about the Traffic Safety Committee from an email generated by the town about openings on town BCC's. When asked why he was volunteering for this particular committee he stated that he proposed online an idea to help traffic flow in the downtown of Northborough and people thought it was a good idea. He also wants to serve the town.

Mitch Cohen stated that it's good for people to have ideas on how to improve traffic in town. He described briefly what the preliminary Traffic & Safety Committee accomplished and recommended to the Select Board.

Mr. Sheehan 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.

Christopher Deacetis

Chris Deacetis was a member of the preliminary Traffic and Safety Committee. He stated that he enjoyed being part of that committee. He also reminded those present that he is a Civil Engineer with a focus on roadway design and traffic control. He stated he is invested in using his professional experience to mitigate Northborough's ongoing traffic and safety problems, keep the roads safe. He enjoyed working on the initial T&S Committee. He would like to help take some burden off the DPW by helping take input from local residents. He also stated that input from residents is crucial to the work of a T&S Committee.

Mr. Deacetis 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.

Bryan Cole

Bryan began his interview with a statement that he feels he takes his life in his hands if he goes for a bike ride or a walk near his house. He would like to have a place on the new Traffic and Safety Committee to have a chance to problem solve the town's issues in that area. He also stated that he likes a good, walkable downtown, and that pedestrian safety is important as he is raising his family here.

It was discussed that he was an active municipal volunteer in the town of Milford and is ready and willing to volunteer on a Northborough BCC.

Mr. Cole 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.

RECOMMENDATION FOR APPOINTMENT

The merits of recommending candidates for Community Affairs Committee: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging Committee; and Recycling were reviewed.

SB Member Cohen moved the Interview Subcommittee vote to recommend Olia Groza for appointment to the Community Affairs Committee and the DEIB Committee; SB Member Wixted seconded the vote; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Cohen	“aye”
Wixted	“aye”

SB Member Cohen moved the Interview Subcommittee vote to recommend Mary Alexandra Molina for appointment to the DEIB Committee; SB Member Wixted seconded the vote; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Cohen	“aye”
Wixted	“aye”

SB Member Cohen moved the Interview Subcommittee vote to recommend Chris Wilson for the Recycling Committee; SB Member Wixted seconded the vote; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Cohen	“aye”
Wixted	“aye”

Appointments for Traffic & Safety Committee were not discussed because the Interview Committee has two other volunteers who were interviewed at an earlier date. A meeting to deliberate which volunteers will be recommended will be scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

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

Cohen	“aye”
Wixted	“aye”

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:00 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Kristen Wixted
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

