

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN  
MEETING MINUTES – February 8, 2021**

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7:00 p.m. - Chairman's Introduction to Remote Meeting

Chairman Perreault stated that this Open Meeting of the Board of Selectmen was being conducted remotely consistent with Governor Baker's Executive Order of March 12, 2020, due to the current State of Emergency in the Commonwealth due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 Virus.

Chairman Perreault added that in order to mitigate the transmission of the COVID-19 Virus, the Town has been advised and directed by the Commonwealth to suspend public gatherings, and as such, the Governor's Order suspended the requirement of the Open Meeting Law to have all meetings in a publicly accessible *physical* location. Further, all members of public bodies are allowed and encouraged to participate remotely.

Chairman Perreault noted that the Order allows public bodies to meet entirely remotely so long as reasonable public access is afforded so that the public can follow along with the deliberations of the meeting. He added that ensuring public access does not ensure public participation unless such participation is required by law. Chairman Perreault noted that this meeting will allow for Public Comment only under the Public Comment portion of the agenda. He indicated the various ways that the public may view or participate in this meeting as listed on the posted agenda.

Meeting Business Ground Rules

Chairman Perreault covered the ground rules for effective and clear conduct of the business. He asked members of the Board to mute their phone or computer when not speaking and to speak clearly and in a way that helps generate accurate meeting minutes. He will go through the items on the agenda. Following presentations, Board members will be offered an opportunity to speak, followed by staff members answering any questions, if necessary. Those responding were asked to wait until the floor was yielded to them. Members were asked if they wish to respond to the comments of others, to do so through the Chair, taking care to identify themselves.

Chairman Perreault noted that the those who wish to speak under Public Comment will be admitted to the meeting as an attendee and will be asked to provide their full name and address for the record.

Any votes taken this evening will be done by roll call to ensure that the records of the vote are clear and accurate to the members attending the meeting remotely.

Chairman Perreault confirmed that the following members and persons anticipated on the agenda were remotely present and could be heard.

Board of Selectmen

Jason Perreault, Chair  
 Timothy Kaelin, Vice Chair  
 Leslie Rutan, Clerk  
 Julianne Hirsh  
 T. Scott Rogers

Town Staff

John Coderre, Town Administrator  
 Rebecca Meekins, Assistant Town Administrator  
 David Parenti, Fire Chief  
 William Lyver, Police Chief  
 Scott Charpentier, DPW Director

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 14, 2021 JOINT MEETING**

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve the January 14, 2021 Joint Meeting Minutes as submitted, Selectman Kaelin seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rogers	“aye”	Kaelin	“aye”
Hirsh	“aye”	Perreault	“aye”
Rutan	“aye”		

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES – JANUARY 25, 2021 REGULAR MEETING**

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to approve the January 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes as submitted, Selectman Kaelin seconded the motion.

Discussion

By consensus, the Board agreed to defer the approval of the January 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes to the Board’s next meeting in order to allow Board members an opportunity to review the recording of the meeting for clarification on the last paragraph of the Traffic & Safety Hearing on Page 10.

**7:00 p.m. - KRISTIN BLACK, HEALTH AGENT  
 COVID-19 Update.**

Health Agent Kristin Black provided a brief COVID-19 update on vaccination clinics. Ms. Black thanked everyone who was involved in making the first vaccination clinic at the Senior Center such a success.

Chief Parenti presented a slideshow of the first vaccination clinic and detailed the team’s process that was necessary to it running so smoothly.

**COVID-19 UPDATE CONT. . .**

Ms. Black announced that vaccination clinics will continue to be offered to Northborough residents at the Senior Center and at the Hopkinton Senior Center. Details on future vaccination clinics will be available on the Board of Health website.

Following several questions and comments, members of the Board thanked Ms. Black, Chief Parenti, Senior Center Director Liz Tretiak, Town staff and the volunteers for their efforts in providing this much needed service to the residents.

**7:40 p.m. - WILLIAM LYVER, POLICE CHIEF**  
 Appointment of Eloi Reugg as a Full-Time Police Officer.

Chief Lyver introduced Eloi Reugg as the department's newest full-time police officer. He indicated that Mr. Reugg was born in Geneva, Switzerland where he spent the first 18 years of his life. A US citizen at birth through his Massachusetts-born mother, and Swiss through his dad, he attended the international school of Ferney-Voltaire and obtained his French Baccalaureate. He then earned his undergraduate and master's degrees in criminology from Cardiff University in Wales.

Mr. Reugg moved to America in 2012. He became a teacher in Marlborough, at the Advanced Math and Science Academy Charter School where he's taught French, History, and Criminology since 2013. In February of 2019, he was hired as a part-time patrolman in Carlisle, MA. Mr. Reugg will attend the Municipal Police Training Committee (MPTC) Recruit Academy starting on April 26, 2021.

Members of the Board welcomed Mr. Reugg to Northborough. Mr. Reugg thanked Chief Lyver and the Board for this opportunity.

Selectman Rogers moved the Board vote to appoint Eloi Reugg to the position of Police Officer effective April 12, 2021; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rogers	"aye"	Kaelin	"aye"
Hirsh	"aye"	Perreault	"aye"
Rutan	"aye"		

**7:45 p.m. - MIA McDONALD, CONSERVATION AGENT**  
 Vote to Accept and a Letter of Support for the  
 Open Space and Recreation Plan Update.

Conservation Agent Mia McDonald informed the Board that as part of the on-going efforts of the Open Space Committee to protect land for open space purposes, the Committee has worked this past year on the update of the Northborough Open Space and Recreation Plan, which can be found on the Town website. She reviewed the key points of the Open Space and Recreation Plan Update. She noted that the Massachusetts Division of Conservation Services requires that the plan receive a review letter from the Board of Selectmen to confirm that the Board has been provided the plan and has had the opportunity to provide comment and feedback.

**MIA McDONALD, CONSERVATION AGENT CONT. . .**

Members of the Board thanked Ms. McDonald and the members of the Open Space Committee for their efforts.

Selectman Rutan moved the Board vote to accept the Open Space and Recreation Plan Update as presented by Conservation Agent Mia McDonald and to forward a letter of support for same to Division of Conservation Services; Selectman Rogers seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rogers	“aye”	Kaelin	“aye”
Hirsh	“aye”	Perreault	“aye”
Rutan	“aye”		

**REPORTS****T. Scott Rogers**

- Thanked the Police Chief and Fire Chief for their monthly reports.
- Thanked the Senior Center staff for going above and beyond what is being done with the vaccination clinics, and teaming up with the Community Affairs Committee to prepare Valentine cards and gift bags for seniors. Residents who wish to help with this effort can contact the Senior Center directly.
- Thanked Cable Access Director Kathy Dalglish and her team for their support in keeping the community connected during the pandemic.
- Noted that the Financial Planning Committee met on February 4<sup>th</sup> to begin their review of the FY2022 capital budget.

**Julianne Hirsh**

- Reminded residents that the Central Massachusetts Regional Planning Commission (CMRPC) will attend the February 16<sup>th</sup> Planning Board to discuss traffic and pedestrian safety.
- Looking forward to working with the CMRPC Physical Development Committee.
- Inquired when representatives from Amazon will be available to attend a Board meeting? Mr. Coderre responded that representatives from Amazon are set to attend the Board’s February 22<sup>nd</sup> meeting.

**Leslie Rutan, Clerk**

- Thanked the DPW for their efforts with the many winter storms this year.
- According to social media, it appears that many residents are thrilled with the town sponsored vaccination clinics. Thanked everyone involved for their efforts to offer and maintain this service, adding that she would be happy to volunteer if needed.
- Announced that the Northborough Food Pantry is in need of food and monetary donations and encouraged residents to visit the Food Pantry website.

**Tim Kaelin, Vice Chair**

- Thanked Police Chief Lyver for attending the recent meeting of the Diversity & Inclusion Committee meeting.

Tim Kaelin Report Cont. . .

- Shared his thoughts regarding the new Amazon facility, stating that although he understands and appreciates the concerns raised regarding traffic and pedestrian safety in the surrounding neighborhood and understands that this will continue to be monitored, he also asked that residents appreciate the benefits of having this facility located in our community. Amazon will provide additional property tax revenue and will offer over a thousand new job opportunities, which will have a positive impact on our local businesses. As the revitalization of the downtown is a priority of the Master Plan, this facility and its employees will help entice new businesses to locate downtown. He asked everyone to be creative and extract as much value as we can from having Amazon located in our town.

Jason Perreault, Chair

- Thanked Treasurer/Collector Amy Haley for her help with creating a venue on the Town website to donate to the various funds, such as the Elderly & Disabled Taxation Fund, the Scholarship Fund and the Special Benevolent Fund.
- Noted the passing of Gigi Casella, Nancy Berglund and Bill Graham, all of whom contributed in many ways to our community. Reminiscenced fondly about each of them and their long-time service to the town. Extended his condolences to their families.

John Coderre

- Reminiscenced fondly about his years of working with Nancy Berglund.
- Announced that the traffic webpage is up and running on the Town's DPW website.
- Noted that exit signs with turning restrictions for 301, 330 and 350 Bartlett Street have been installed, adding that Amazon went above and beyond what was asked and included another set of signs with directions in Spanish.
- Spoke with representatives from A Duie Pyle who has had no reports of any trucks taking a left on Bartlett Street. Their signs should be installed by next week.
- Noted that a permanent sign at the roadside to the Amazon facility has been designed and ordered. In the interim, a temporary sign is in place at the end of the driveway.
- Announced that representatives from Amazon have confirmed that they will attend the Board's next meeting to talk about their plans to mitigate truck traffic and its effect on the neighborhood.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Chairman Perreault noted that the Public Comment portion of the agenda allows for the public to provide input, comments, questions, or concerns. The Board will not engage or deliberate in any detailed discussion, nor will it take action or make any commitments in real time in response to any public comment. If they are able, present Town staff may respond to any questions that can easily be answered. Those who wish to speak under Public Comment will be admitted to the meeting as an attendee and will be asked to provide their full name and address for the record. Public comment will be limited to 3 minutes per person.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS CONT. . .**

Lisa Maselli of 13 Maple Street asked for a status update on the following:

Rectangular rapid flashing beacons (RRFB) at the Main Street crosswalk at Maple Street and Route 20? Mr. Charpentier reported that the Town's initial request to MassDOT to allow installation of RRFBs at Maple Street and Route 20 as additional safety measures was denied. A reconsideration request was made and is currently being evaluated by MassDOT.

Advance warning signs of a truck exclusion on Route 20 eastbound as you approach Maple Street? Mr. Charpentier responded that the sign has recently been delivered and is scheduled to be installed next week, weather permitting.

Is there a plan for the Annual Town Meeting? Mr. Coderre responded that a conversation with the Town Moderator will take place at the appropriate time to likely plan for an outdoor Town Meeting. As to whether or not Town Meeting will be postponed, that decision will be made at the appropriate time according to the circumstances.

Janeen Callaghan of 6 Stirrup Brook Lane asked if FedEx will be installing signs similar to those installed by Amazon that directs FedEx trucks specifically? Mr. Coderre responded that the signs apply to both FedEx and Amazon as they share the same driveway. He reiterated that the signs have been installed in accordance with what the Town requested.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE INTERIM CLEAN ENERGY AND CLIMATE PLAN FOR 2030**

Ms. Meekins indicated that the communities of Westborough and Natick have partnered to provide joint comments to the state's Interim Clean Energy and Climate Plan (CECP) for 2030. This Interim Plan is the Administration's implementation strategy for the 2050 Decarbonization Roadmap Study, published in December of 2020. Representatives from Westborough and Natick have asked communities to sign on to provide the additional comments and recommendations to the plan prior to the February 22, 2021 deadline.

Town staff supports the following recommendations:

- To establish a municipal version of the GWSA (Global Warming Solutions Act) Implementation Advisory Committee
- To increase funding for municipal climate action
- To prioritize public transit in transportation emission reduction strategies
- To provide resources to accelerate electrification locally
- Increase access to emissions data

Ms. Meekins indicated that Town staff supports the recommendation to update the Building Code with a High-Performance Stretch Energy Code with some caveats. The 2030 CECP recommends a new high-performance stretch energy code to the Board of Building Regulation and Standards (BBRS) in 2021. The plan will allow for Green Communities to opt in starting in 2022. The new code will be mandatory and effective state-wide in 2028.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE INTERIM CECP FOR 2030 CONT. . .**

As a Green Community, the Town supports the development of high-performance stretch energy codes; however, the language in the new stretch code referenced for 2021 rollout has still not been released to communities. The Town supports the concept of a pool of grant money being made available as incentive exclusively to communities who choose to opt-in to the new code ahead of the 2028 state-wide rollout. This will allow ample time for communities to consider the language and the impact of the new code ahead of adoption. Additionally, the Town supports the creation of a mechanism aside from Town Meeting that would allow Green Communities to adopt future editions to the stretch code. The Town supports adding a provision that would give the Board of Selectmen the authority to opt in. Eliminating this administrative hurdle would ensure timely transition to the new code.

Ms. Meekins informed the Board that Town staff has some concern in supporting the recommendation to align funding for public buildings with net zero goals. In general, the Town supports requiring the Massachusetts School Building Authority (MSBA) and other state funding agencies to consider 2050 goals in the design and construction of new or renovated municipal use buildings. Currently, the MSBA provides additional reimbursement points to projects that exceed the Energy Code by 20%. It is clear that the most efficient way to achieve net zero buildings is at the time of design, all the way through construction to the finished product using energy efficiency technologies, rather than through use of renewable energy after the fact. However, energy efficiency technologies are rapidly changing. The market lacks a sufficient number of resources/vendors who specialize in the most up to date energy efficiency technologies, most notably, heat pumps. There are a limited number of HVAC installers in Massachusetts with significant experience using heat pumps as a whole building/majority building heating system. If it is asked that the state require all new designs funded with state dollars be net zero by 2022, there may be a severe shortage of qualified contractors to do the work, which may have lasting negative impacts on new building construction. Additionally, communities that are currently using natural gas for heat may see cost increases when switching to electrification. This could lead to further inequality in communities with fewer resources to manage long term increases in costs due to net zero designs.

Ms. Meekins indicated that rather than a requirement for state funded buildings to be net zero in 2022, the Town would support increasing the incentive from MSBA (increasing the reimbursement point allowance) for communities who pursue net zero designs. Ultimately, moving to net zero design in the future will be necessary to curb climate impacts, but given the shortage of qualified contractors with experience in heat pump HVAC systems, it makes sense to wait until 2025 to require net zero designs in order to give the market time to adapt and learn new technologies.

Chairman Perreault thanked Ms. Meekins for her efforts. He added that the February 22, 2021 deadline to submit comments has been extended to March 22, 2021, which will provide an opportunity for this to be examined more closely. With that being said, there is no need for the Board to take any final action this evening.

**DISCUSSION REGARDING THE INTERIM CECP FOR 2030 CONT. . .**

Mr. Coderre noted that the Town is in agreement with about 95% of the comments as presented. In regard to those comments the Town has concerns with, it is important that the Town moves forward from an informed standpoint. With that being said, Board members discussed the various options moving forward, including whether or not it is best for Northborough to provide feedback to the coordinators of this multitown effort to see if they will make changes to the comments as presented that better reflect Northborough's position. If not, another option is for Northborough to provide its own specific comments separate from the multitown effort.

Chairman Perreault confirmed that Ms. Meekins will reach out to Natick and Westborough to express the Board's hesitancy with agreeing to the request to align funding for public buildings with net zero goals, due to concerns with the emerging heat pump market and the lack of qualified contractors to perform this work on large scale building projects funded by MSBA. The Board will postpone this discussion to their next meeting in order to allow an opportunity to hear from other communities.

**DISCUSSION OF DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES**

Mr. Coderre presented the draft legislative priorities letter for the Board's review. The goal of preparing this letter is to provide the Town's State Legislative Delegation with clear direction regarding the Town's priorities. Mr. Coderre stated that the letter includes the Town's position on key legislative issues that, if changed, could save the Town money and allow for greater efficiency in the management of Town affairs.

Mr. Coderre reviewed the top two legislative priorities:

1. Provide for a multi-year \$300 million Chapter 90 authorization.
2. Local Aid increases that keep pace with State revenues for the Student Opportunity Act ad Minimum Aid, Special Education Circuit Breaker, Regional Transportation Reimbursements and Unrestricted General Government Aid.

In addition to the top two priorities, the Board also reviewed each of the secondary priorities and discussed their importance. The secondary priorities included: funding for environmental and climate-related infrastructure needs; ongoing flexibility in addressing Covid-19; promoting equity and diversity in cities and towns; opposition of unfunded mandates; modernization of procurement and public construction laws; and support of legislation regarding agricultural composting programs.

Selectman Hirsh asked if the Board would consider reaching out to our legislative delegation asking that they file a bill requesting that Amazon agree to community impact plans with any municipality in which they have a presence. Mr. Coderre responded that Amazon is not located in a new facility and therefore enforcement of retroactive impact mitigation would not be possible. He noted that the town has seen great progress in traffic safety as a direct result of the town's collaborative efforts with Amazon and the other facilities, adding that he looks forward to hearing from Amazon at the Board's next meeting. Chairman Perreault stated that without detailed background information as to



**DISCUSSION OF DRAFT LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES CONT. . .**

what other communities are proposing, he is not prepared to add this to the legislative priorities letter tonight. He also expressed concern with singling out a specific company.

Selectman Hirsh agreed that it should not be just about Amazon, but rather for any future development of similarly large businesses. Mr. Coderre stated that the town has advocated for the State to allow for impact fees in the past, but was unsuccessful in advancing it through the legislature.

Selectman Kaelin moved the Board vote to authorize the Chair and the Town Administrator to finalize and sign the Legislative Priorities letter for discussion with our State Legislative Delegation at the March 8<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting; Selectman Rutan seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rogers	“aye”	Kaelin	“aye”
Hirsh	“aye”	Perreault	“aye”
Rutan	“aye”		

**EXECUTION OF CEMETERY DEED 1113**

Selectman Hirsh moved the Board vote to execute Cemetery Deed 1113; Selectman Rogers seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rogers	“aye”	Kaelin	“aye”
Hirsh	“aye”	Perreault	“aye”
Rutan	“aye”		

**OTHER BUSINESS**

None.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Selectman Hirsh moved the Board vote to adjourn; Selectman Rogers seconded the motion; the roll call vote was taken as follows:

Rogers	“aye”	Kaelin	“aye”
Hirsh	“aye”	Perreault	“aye”
Rutan	“aye”		

The meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Diane M. Wackell  
Executive Assistant to the  
Board of Selectmen

Documents used during meeting:

1. February 8, 2021 Meeting Agenda
2. January 14, 2021 Joint Meeting Minutes
3. January 25, 2021 Meeting Minutes
4. Memorandum – Police Officer Appointment
5. Memorandum – Open Space and Recreation Plan Update
6. Memorandum – Clean Energy and Climate Plan for 2030
7. Draft Legislative Priorities Letter
8. Cemetery Deed