

**Town of Needham
Select Board
Minutes for Tuesday, October 25, 2022
Powers Hall
and
Via ZOOM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84584382174>**

- 6:00 p.m. Call to Order:
A meeting of the Select Board was convened on by Chair Marianne Cooley. Those present were Marcus Nelson, Kevin Keane, Heidi Frail, Matthew Borrelli, and Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager. Dave Davison, ATM/Finance, Katie King, ATM/Operations, Myles Tucker, Support Services Manager, Kristin Scoble, Administrative Specialist, and Mary Hunt, Recording Secretary were also in attendance.
- 6:00 p.m. Public Comment Period:
No public comments were heard.
- Ms. Cooley stated the Select Board will not be holding the scheduled Executive Session after tonight's meeting.
- 6:05 p.m. Arts and Culture Action Plan:
Amy Haelsen, Economic Development Manager presented a proposal by the Metropolitan Area Planning Council (MAPC) to facilitate a cultural planning process that will result in a proposed vision reflective of Needham's arts and culture community's goals and a Needham Arts and Culture Action Plan to identify strategies to bring the vision to fruition. MAPC's proposal includes \$42,500 in in-kind support via MAPC staff time and technical assistance for data collection and analysis, community engagement, and writing the plan. The planning process is estimated to last one year, starting in Fall 2022.
- Ms. Haelsen explained a working group will be formed, data collection and analysis of existing cultural assets will be considered, community outreach will be sought, and a vision statement will be developed culminating in an action plan in November 2023. Ms. Haelsen stated the MAPC will develop a web page for people to learn more about the plan.
- Discussion ensued on community outreach, development of a working group, and survey results.
- The Board thanked Ms. Haelsen for the presentation.
- 6:14 p.m. Appointments and Consent Agenda:
Motion by Mr. Borrelli that the Select Board vote to approve the Appointments and Consent Agenda as presented.

APPOINTMENTS

- 1. Jeffrey Stulin Minuteman District School Committee Term Exp. 6/30/2024**

CONSENT AGENDA *=Backup attached

- 1.* Adopt Calendar Year 2023 Fee Schedule**
- 2.* Approve the Norfolk County-8 Local Public Health Coalition Inter-Municipal Agreement (IMA) for the Public Health Excellence for Shared Services Grant.**
- 3. Accept the following donations made to the Needham Free Public Library; Koimonogatari: Love Stories Vol. 2 from Kieran Teare-Thomas, \$40 from The Needham Garden Club in Memory of Janet O'Shea, Azores donated by Dmitry Gorenburg, Gazing at the Sky: My journey from Nazi occupied and Communist dominated Poland to the United States in pursuit of freedom and happiness donated Anonymously.**
- 4. Accept the following donation made to the Needham Public Health's Interface Referral Program; \$8,000 from Beth Israel Deaconess Hospital – Needham.**
- 5. Accept the following donation made to the Needham Fire Department; \$100 from the Fidelity Charitable Donor-Advised Fund.**

Second: Mr. Keane. Unanimously approved 5-0.

6:15 p.m.

HHS Adolescents Health Survey:

Tiffany Zike, Assistant Director of Public Health, Karen Shannon, Senior Substance Use Prevention Coordinator, and Julie McCarthy, Epidemiologist presented data from the 2021 MetroWest Adolescent Health Survey. This is a regional survey administered in 26 towns to monitor trends and emerging health issues among grades 6-12 and to make data informed decisions. The survey is provided by the MetroWest Health Foundation and is based on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Youth Risk Behavior Survey. Needham has participated since 2006.

A PowerPoint presentation was viewed.

Ms. McCarthy and Ms. Shannon commented on results of the survey including youth risk behavior, substance use trends (marijuana, alcohol, vaping), the influence of the pandemic on trends, protective factors, mental health, and the Parent Action Team.

Mr. Nelson asked about the survey participation rate, gender, and race. He said it is important that everyone, including the LGBTIA+ community has the opportunity to be seen and heard, and that they feel safe.

Mr. Borrelli commented on the disparity in results of male vs. female and stress factors.

The Board thanked the presenters for the discussion.

6:55 p.m. Town Manager:
Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager spoke with the Board regarding five items.

1. Sewer Rate Relief

Ms. Fitzpatrick, along with Dave Davison, ATM/Finance told the Board the Commonwealth has monies available for sewer rate relief for FY2023 for which the Town can apply. Every year that the program has been offered, the Town has filed an application. The application requires the Town Manager and Select Board signatures to submit. He asked the Select Board for its support and to sign the rate relief application.

Motion by Mr. Borrelli that the Select Board vote to support and sign the sewer rate relief application to be filed with the Commonwealth and that the Board approves applying the proceeds of the grant, if any, as a credit against the sewer bill.

Second: Mr. Nelson. Unanimously approved 5-0.

2. American Rescue Plan Act Funding Update

Ms. Fitzpatrick provided the Board with an update on ARPA spending, commitments, grants, and projects, recommending that the Board approve certain transfers within spending categories. Ms. Fitzpatrick referred to “ARPA Proposal Budget with Expended Balances October 21, 2022.”

Motion by Mr. Borrelli that the Select Board approve the updated ARPA Budget dated October 21, 2022.

Second: Mr. Keane. Unanimously approved 5-0.

3. Juneteenth Celebration Committee

Ms. Fitzpatrick reminded the Board it adopted a goal to “Develop a plan for a community observance of Juneteenth.” The Board reviewed a draft committee charge and composition for a Juneteenth Celebration Committee at its meeting on October 11, 2022. Ms. Fitzpatrick recommended that the Board approve the committee charge and composition.

Motion by Mr. Keane that the Select Board approve the committee charge and composition for the Juneteenth Celebration Committee dated October 25, 2022.

Second: Mr. Nelson. Unanimously approved 5-0.

4. Active Recreation Area Working Group

Ms. Fitzpatrick reminded the Board it adopted a goal to “Identify opportunities for expanded active and passive recreation facilities including but not limited to an action sports park and additional boat ramps.” She commented on the committee charge and the inclusion/exclusion of river access, ice hockey, and off-leash dog areas. She said at its meeting on August 9th, the Select Board met with the Park &

Recreation Commission to discuss the creation of a committee to review the Town's options.

Motion by Mr. Borrelli that the Select Board vote to approve the revised committee charge and composition for an Active Recreation Area Working Group dated October 25, 2022.

Second: Mr. Nelson. Unanimously approved 5-0.

5. Town Manager Update

Ms. Fitzpatrick recapped the Special Town Meeting held last night, noting creation of the resolution to dissolve the meeting in honor of Mr. Carl Leuders, business owner and longtime resident. Ms. Fitzpatrick noted the irony when researching information on Ridge Hill and potential acquisition of land along Charles River Street. She said while looking back to the 2010 Annual Town Meeting she noticed the 2010 Annual Town Meeting was dissolved in honor of Lois Leuders, Carl's wife. She said it is an unusual coincidence the Leuders also lived on Whitman Road.

7:06 p.m.

Board Discussion:

1. Special Town Meeting

Ms. Cooley thanked the Board for their work on the Special Town Meeting. She noted work of the Climate Action Committee, as well as the Foster property.

Mr. Borrelli thanked Ms. Cooley for her presentation on Article 11 - Appropriate for Property Acquisition. He said the Town Meeting's vote was resounding in moving forward to purchase of the property. He thanked Ms. Fitzpatrick and staff for their work.

Ms. Cooley thanked Michael Fee, Town Moderator, speakers, and attendees for the civil environment during Town Meeting.

Mr. Nelson acknowledged the Needham Channel for their work in broadcasting Town Meeting.

Ms. Frail thanked staff for their efforts over the weekend in getting additional documents out to Town Meeting Members. She said she also appreciated Ms. Cooley's distinction between holding a public hearing vs. soliciting public input.

Mr. Nelson said it's important to listen, include residents, be as transparent as possible, and have a very intentional process moving forward referring to the Charles River Street project as it affects Whitman Road residents.

Ms. Cooley concurred with comments made by Mr. Nelson. She also pointed out the Select Board has always responded and met with neighborhoods to have conversations and answer questions. She noted answering questions does not always mean everyone agrees with the outcomes. Ms. Cooley concluded she

expects Select Board members to listen and respond to the community, and that residents can email or call Select Board members at any time.

2. Committee Reports

Ms. Cooley reported the Minuteman School sub-committee held a meeting on October 17, 2022, to review progress at the school. She observed the new school has filled up district enrollment, noting some participating towns who chose to leave the district a few years ago are regretting their decision and wishing they could rejoin. Ms. Cooley said a proposal is being developed to potentially allow towns to return, however she said it is important to ensure there will be space for Needham students, suspecting other towns in the district may feel the same way. Ms. Cooley acknowledged it was always a risk to leave the school district and try to return. She said Needham students have had great experiences at the school and have gone on to do excellent things.

7:20 p.m.

Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Borrelli that the Select Board vote to adjourn the Select Board meeting of Tuesday, October 25, 2022.

Second: Mr. Keane. Unanimously approved 5-0.

The next Select Board meeting is scheduled for Wednesday, November 9, 2022.

A list of all documents used at this Select Board meeting is available at:

<http://www.needhamma.gov/Archive.aspx?AMID=99&Type=&ADID=>