

**Town of Needham
Select Board
Minutes for Tuesday, September 24, 2024
Select Board's Chamber and
Via ZOOM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89068374046>**

- 6:05 p.m. Call to Order:
A meeting of the Select Board was convened by Chair Kevin Keane. Those present were Vice Chair Heidi Frail, Marianne Cooley, Cathy Dowd, and Joshua Levy. David Davison, Deputy Town Manager/Director of Finance was also in attendance. Susan Metropol, Recording Secretary, attended via Zoom.
- 6:06 p.m. Public Comment Period:

No public comments were heard.
- 6:06 p.m. Public Hearing: Eversource Grant of Location – South Street:
Presenter: Joanne Callender, Eversource Representative, Danuel Velonis, Keystone Development

Eversource Energy requested permission to install approximately 10 feet of conduit in South Street. The reason for this work is to provide service to 957, 969, and 997 South Street. The Department of Public Works has approved this petition, based on Eversource Energy's commitment to adhere to the Town's regulation that all conduit installed must be 3" scheduled 40 minimum; and, that when buried, that conduit must be placed at 24" below grade to the top of the conduit.

Ms. Callender noted that the requested installation has already taken place ahead of Board approval and accepted responsibility for this. She added that her supervisor sent an email explaining the situation and ensured that this will not occur again. The developer was also present and acknowledged this oversight and added that he was not very familiar with the process in Needham but will ensure this does not occur in the future.

Motion by Ms. Cooley that the Board vote to approve and sign a petition from Eversource Energy to install approximately 10 feet of conduit in South Street. Second: Ms. Dowd. Unanimously approved 5-0.
- 6:09 p.m. Community Preservation Committee (CPC) Consultation:
Presenters: Dave Herer, Chair of CPC, Maureen Callahan, Vice Chair of CPC, Lauren Spinney, CPC Administrative Coordinator (Zoom), Stacey Mulroy (Zoom)

Mr. Herer and Ms. Callahan presented the CPC's annual consultation with the Select Board on the pending project application for FY2025. This presentation focused on the Needham High School tennis court improvements. Following

discussion regarding the amount requested, Mr. Herer and Ms. Callahan confirmed that the correct amount is \$1,400,000 for 8 tennis courts, not \$1,440,000 as written in the application. Ms. Callahan highlighted the changes made to the application that addressed stormwater and noise concerns from abutters.

Discussion ensued regarding the specifics of the presentation to Town Meeting, including regulations prohibiting pickleball and confirming hours of operation of the tennis courts. Board members also discussed clarification regarding the specific amount requested and Stacey Mulroy, Director of Park & Recreation, confirmed that \$1,400,000 is correct and \$1,440,000 is an error. Mr. Herer added that the Finance Committee voted in favor of the application.

6:22 p.m. Appointment Calendar and Consent Agenda:
Motion by Ms. Cooley that the Board vote to approve the Consent Agenda.
Second: Ms. Frail. Unanimously approved 5-0.

CONSENT AGENDA

1.	Approve Open Session Minutes of August 13, 2024 and Executive Session Minutes of September 10, 2024
2.	Accept the following donation to the Needham Free Public Library: From Sarah Fuhro, \$37.50 after art show sales
3.	Accept the following donation made to the Needham Community Revitalization Trust Fund: \$100 from the Charles River Center
4.	Request the assignment of Police Officers to General Election polling places and to Town Hall at the close of polls, and to delegate selection of Police Officers to the Chief of Police.
5.	Designate the Needham Town Hall as the Early Voting location for the 2024 General Election and approve the Early Voting Hours as listed: - October 19 and October 20: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm - October 21-24: 10:00 am to 2:00 pm - October 25: 9:00 am to 12:30 pm (updated) - October 26: 9:00 am to 5:00 pm - October 27: 9:00 am to 1:00 pm - October 28-November 1: Regular business hours
6.	Sign the Warrant for the 2024 General Elections to be held on Tuesday, November 5, 2024.
7.	Approve partial road closure of Pickering Street (from Great Plain Ave to just before the entrance of the Walgreens Parking Lot) from 8:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. during the Needham Harvest Fair on Sunday, September 29, 2024.
8.	Authorize the placement of lawn signs promoting the Needham Harvest Fair in the following locations from September 25, 2024 through September 30, 2024: - Town Common - Needham Heights Common

	• Recycling and Transfer Station • Public Services Administration Building • Berms Adjacent to the Needham Free Public Library • Harris Avenue Median
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NOTICE OF APPROVED BLOCK PARTIES

Name	Address	Party Location	Date	Time	Rain Date
Beth Champagne	37 Ware Road	Ware Road	10/05/24	4pm-8pm	10/19/24
Lois Bacon	29 Harding Road	29 Harding Road	10/06/24	1pm-7pm	N/A
Kevin Keane	88 Lexington Avenue	Burnside Road	10/26/24	5:30pm-9pm	N/A
Yakov Shapiro	208 Valley Road	Between 208 & 222 Valley Road	10/26/24	2pm-5pm	10/27/24
Monique Harrington	36 Dell Avenue	36 Dell Avenue	10/31/24	3:30pm-6pm	10/30/24

NOTICE OF APPROVED ONE-DAY SPECIAL ALCOHOL LICENSES

Hosting Organization	Event Title	Location	Event Date
Charles River Center	Charles River Center 5k Run/1Mile Walk	Charles River Center	9/29/24

Ms. Frail recused herself before the vote of the Appointment Calendar.

**Motion by Ms. Cooley that the Board vote to approve the Appointment Calendar with the exception of the Stormwater By-Law Working Group.
Second: Ms. Dowd. Unanimously approved 4-0.**

APPOINTMENT CALENDAR

1.	Betsy Millane	Community Preservation Committee Term Exp: 6/30/2027
2.	Stephen Frail	Mobility Planning and Coordination Committee Term Exp: 6/30/2027
3.	Paul Good	Needham Center Project Working Group Term Exp: 6/30/2027
4.	Tim Bulger	Needham Center Project Working Group Term Exp: 6/30/2027

5.	Michael Greis	Needham Center Project Working Group Term Exp: 6/30/2027
6.	Carys Lustig	Needham Center Project Working Group Term Exp: 6/30/2027

6:24 p.m. Set Recycling and Transfer Station User Charges and Fees:
Presenter: David Davison, Deputy Town Manager/Director of Finance

The Board held a public hearing regarding RTS charges and fees at its September 10, 2024 meeting. The Solid Waste Disposal & Recycling Advisory Committee voted to recommend the changes that were presented to the Board that evening. The rates for the pay-to-throw bags would be increased for the first time since September 2018 for the large bags and since July 2016 for the small bags.

There would be a \$40 fee for the disposal of box spring or mattress by commercial haulers; the residential rates would remain the same at \$20. The fee for the disposal of a TV would be revised to be the same as the flat screen TV at \$20. Lastly, there would be a fee structure to allow small commercial operators to dump snow during regular business hours (if there is space), and to remove yard waste processing equipment rental fees and commercial yard waste disposal fees based on volume.

The revised fees would take effect on October 1, 2024.

Motion by Mr. Levy that the Board vote to approve the proposed changes to Recycling and Transfer Station Charges and Fees Schedule itemized in the Select Board Packet and that the Board approve the removal of the yard waste processing equipment rental fees from the schedule as the Town no longer rents out equipment, and further that the Board approve the elimination of the commercial yard waste disposal fee based on volume as the rates are now based on weight.

Second: Ms. Frail. Unanimously approved 5-0.

6:28 p.m. Town Engineer:

Sign Notice of Traffic Regulation – Norwich Road

The Department of Public Works (DPW) requested that Norwich Road northbound and southbound be designated stopped streets at Intervale Road. Board members asked about the process for determining a stop sign needs to be added and other strategies for traffic calming measures in this neighborhood.

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Board vote to approve and sign the Notice of Traffic Regulation Permit #SS24-09-24 requiring that Norwich Road northbound and southbound be designated as stopped streets at the intersection of Intervale Road.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 5-0.

6:32 p.m. Sign Notice of Traffic Regulation – Intervale Road

The Department of Public Works (DPW) requested that Intervale Road be designated a stopped street at Peacedale Road.

Motion by Ms. Dowd that the Board approve and sign the Notice of Traffic Regulation Permit #SS24-09-24 requiring that Intervale Road be designated as a stopped street at the intersection of Peacedale Road.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 5-0.

6:33 p.m. Sign Notice of Traffic Regulation – Peacedale Road

The Department of Public Works (DPW) requested that Peacedale Road be designated a stopped street at Great Plain Avenue.

Motion by Ms. Cooley that the Board vote to approve and sign the Notice of Traffic Regulation Permit #SS24-09-24 requiring that Peacedale Road be designated as a stopped street at the intersection of Great Plain Avenue.

Second: Ms. Dowd. Unanimously approved 5-0.

6:35 p.m. Town Manager:

Positions on Warrant Articles

The Board reviewed articles on the October 21, 2024 Special Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Davison recommended that the Board consider taking a position on the following articles as explained below.

Mr. Davison recommended that the amendment to the operating budget be removed (formerly Article 4). The Finance Committee recommended that the Finance Department seek a reserve fund transfer in lieu of the article.

Article 1: Appropriate for Roadway Improvements (Eversource)

Motion by Ms. Cooley that the Board vote to support Article 1 in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Second: Ms. Frail. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Article 2: Appropriate for Community Opioid Settlement Fund Program

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Board vote to support Article 2 in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Second: Ms. Dowd. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Article 4: Amend the FY2025 Sewer Enterprise Fund Budget

Motion by Mr. Levy that the Board vote to support Article 4 in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Article 5: Amend the FY2025 Water Enterprise Fund Budget

Motion by Ms. Cooley that the Board vote to support Article 5 in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Second: Ms. Frail. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Article 6: Appropriate for Unpaid Bills of a Prior Year

Motion by Ms. Dowd that the Board vote to support Article 6 in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

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

Ms. Dowd made a motion regarding the former Article 4 as follows:

Motion by Ms. Dowd that the Board vote to remove former Article 4 from the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

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

Article 7: Appropriate for Public, Educational, and Government (PEG) Programming

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Board vote to support Article 7 in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Second: Ms. Dowd. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Article 12: Appropriate for High School Tennis Courts

Motion by Ms. Cooley that the Board vote to support Article 12 in the Special Town Meeting Warrant.

Second: Ms. Frail. Unanimously approved 5-0.

Town Manager Report

- Kate Fitzpatrick is presently representing the Town of Needham at the International City/County Management Association Conference.

6:53 p.m.

Board Discussion:

Committee Reports

Ms. Frail reported that the Tree Working Group met and defined the goals and developed a charge which will be presented to the Select Board to create a Town committee for trees. It will be modeled on the Climate Action Plan Committee in

which there is a larger initial committee and then will transition into a smaller permanent tree committee that will execute the first committee's plan.

Ms. Frail added that she has visited most voting precincts and met with Town Meeting Members to ensure that they understand and have the opportunity to discuss the details of the MBTA Communities Law articles in the Special Town Meeting Warrant. She will meet the remainder of the precincts soon.

Mr. Levy reported that the Stormwater Working Group met and is on track to bring proposed changes to Town Meeting in May 2025. Mr. Levy noted several initial points the group has discussed regarding connection to the Town storm drain systems, capacity, and clarification of stormwater fees.

7:01 p.m.

Adjourn:

Motion by Ms. Frail that the Board vote to adjourn the Select Board meeting of Tuesday, September 24, 2024.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 5-0.

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

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

The next Select Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, October 8, 2024, at 6:00 p.m.