

**Town of Needham
Select Board
Minutes for February 26, 2019
Needham Town Hall
Select Board's Chamber**

6:45 p.m. Informal Meeting with Citizens: No activity.

7:00 p.m. Call to Order:
A meeting of the Select Board was convened by Chairman Daniel P. Matthews. Those present were John A. Bulian, Maurice P. Handel, Matthew D. Borrelli, Marianne B. Cooley, Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick, and Recording Secretary Mary Hunt.

7:00 p.m. Public Hearing - Eversource Energy Grant of Location: Oxbow Road
Maureen Carroll, Eversource Energy representative appeared before the Board requesting permission to install approximately 9 feet of conduit in Oxbow Road. She said this work is necessary to provide underground electric service to 77 Oxbow Road.

Mr. Matthews clarified conduit being placed in the road is a legal easement, and that work cannot begin before approval by the Select Board. He said Mr. Tocci, builder, has been before the Board in the past regarding a separate project. He noted in the spring the Select Board will ask Town Meeting for approval to impose a non-criminal fine for two or more offenses.

Ms. Fitzpatrick indicated all other paperwork is in order.

John McAward, 97 Jarvis Circle, electrician employed by Tocci Management, Inc., said he understands the position of the Town. He commented there was miscommunication and it will not happen again.

Motion by Mr. Handel that the Select Board approve and sign a petition from Eversource Energy to install approximately 9 feet of conduit in Oxbow Road. This work is necessary to provide underground electric service to 77 Oxbow Road.

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

7:06 p.m. Appointments and Consent Agenda:
Motion by Mr. Handel that the Select Board approve the Appointments and Consent Agenda as presented.

APPOINTMENTS:

- 1. Council of Economic Advisors David Montgomery (term expires: 6/30/2021)**

CONSENT AGENDA:

1. Accept a \$50 donation made to the Needham Aging Services Donation Account from Lidia Panchenko, a Needham resident.
2. Accept a donation of 14 boxes of Girl Scout Cookies made to the Needham Park and Recreation Commission from Caren and Stu Carpenter. The estimated value of the items is \$70.
3. Grant permission for the Newton Needham Regional Chamber to use the Town Common and surrounding area for its Street Fair on Saturday, June 1, 2019, and the Fall Harvest Fair on Sunday, October 6, 2019. They would like to request rain dates of Saturday, June 8, 2019 and Sunday, October 13, 2019 respectively. Permission includes: Town Common for local businesses' booths; Businesses to have items for sale on sidewalk in front of their own stores; parking lot behind Town Hall and for one handicapped accessible portable toilet and one hand washing station (to be delivered and picked up on the same day); close Chapel Street from corner of Great Plain Avenue to the Chapel Street parking lot for food court, fire truck, touch the trucks, and Michelson's Shoe table; use of the Town's generator on Chapel Street to power the food court and other activities as needed; use of the outlets on the town common to provide requested electricity for popcorn and other activities as needed; trolley ride that will start at Highland Avenue by the Town Common and loop back around the town via Great Plain Avenue, Webster Street, May Street, and back to the Town Common; delivery and pickup of a dumpster in the parking lot behind town hall; delivery and pick up of trash cans to be placed around the event area including specifically at the food court and near the portable toilets; and any changes as recommended by the Needham Police Department. Also grant permission for meter free parking in the downtown area for both days.
4. Approve and sign the Employment Agreement between the Town of Needham and the Town Manager for the period May 6, 2019 through May 5, 2022.
5. Approve a Special One Day Wines and Malt Beverages license for Steve Volante, of Volante Farms, to host a Design & Drinks- Cupcake Decorating event on March 14, 2019 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. The event will be held at Volante Farms, 292 Forest Street, Needham.
6. Approve Open Session and Executive Session minutes of February 12, 2019.
7. Accept a \$1,000 donation to the Needham Police Benefit Association from Shuli Li and Binyuan Sun.
8. Approve Water & Sewer abatement #1269.
9. Grant permission for the following residents to hold block parties:

Name	Address	Party Location	Party Date	Party Rain Date	Party Time
Celia Carboni	42 Greenwood Ave.	Greenwood Ave. between Powers & Great Plain	7/20/19	7/21/19	2pm-11pm

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

7:07 p.m. Dockless Bike Share Program:
Carys Lustig, Director of Administration & Finance/Public Services and David Davison, Assistant Town Manager/Director of Finance appeared before the Board

to discuss the future of the dockless bike share program in Needham. They also discussed the planned spring relaunch, including the transition of the bicycle fleet to all pedal-assist and using demand-based supply to determine the number of bicycles on the street.

A Powerpoint presentation was viewed.

Ms. Lustig provided data on the fifteen communities participating in the program last year, as well as data provided by Lime Bikes. She said in discussions with Lime Bikes for renewal of the program by MAPC and each community, it was found bikes seemed to leave Watertown, Arlington, and Newton causing a constant rebalancing in those communities. She said even before Needham began participating in the program people were riding bicycles to town. Ms. Lustig provided information on pedal bikes and E-bikes, noting Lime Bikes changed the contract for the upcoming year. She commented all MAPC communities are discussing whether to continue with the program. The key issues for the spring relaunch, she said, is the change to a demand based system, as well as the shift to electric assist bicycles from pedal bicycles.

Discussion ensued on the MAPC master agreement and Needham's agreement with Lime Bikes.

Mr. Davison commented on the subtle differences between the E-bike and pedal bike. He said from Needham's standpoint, the new contract will focus on usage rather than population, which he said is a positive step.

Ms. Lustig asked for feedback from the Select Board on the direction the Town would like to take, which she said will be provided to the MAPC. She said the MAPC is trying to make a network wide decision on whether to continue with the current or new contract.

Discussion ensued on geo-fencing around the Town Common, location of a bike rack in the downtown, recharging E-bikes, and the total number of bikes in Needham.

Mr. Borrelli said he feels Lime Bikes are "a billboard" advertisement and an eyesore around the Town Common. He said there are certain "must haves" he would want in any contract including geo-fencing around the Town Common, location of bikes, and total number of bikes. Mr. Borrelli said he likes the idea of Lime Bikes, but he cannot support the program if it is not different. He said he wants to see the contract, know the locations, the company's plan for picking up bicycles, number of bicycles, and geo-fencing around the Town Common.

Ms. Lustig commented the next step is to report Needham's concerns to the MAPC, and whether communities want E-bikes. She said the MAPC will decide whether to agree to the contract noting Needham has the ability not to renew, but it is frowned

upon. She commented there is a public benefit as it is a “free” program for the Town.

Mr. Handel said he likes the demand based model, and some bikes at the edge of the Town Common gives visibility to the program. He commented Needham should give the program a serious try, and not concentrate all the bikes in one place. Mr. Handel said the vendor must be more aggressive in picking up bikes that have been left. He commented people using bikes in other cities do not use helmets, noting he does not feel using a helmet is an issue.

Mr. Matthews suggested geo-fencing is necessary and a bike rack at the corner of the Town Common should be provided by the vendor. He said the number of bikes should be less and the Town should give the vendor one year to see what happens. He asked the Board for comment.

Mr. Handel agreed with Mr. Matthews suggestion.

Mr. Borrelli said residents should not have to call the vendor to remove a bike sitting too long in one place, and that the vendor should be vigilant in removing bicycles. He said the number of bikes in Needham should be low, suggesting if the vendor does not agree to the Town’s request, he is not interested in the program. Mr. Borrelli said the Town sets the rules, not the vendor.

Mr. Matthews said he believes the company will act in good faith, and does not feel special conditions are necessary, other than what the MAPC may require in their overall agreement.

Mr. Handel said not renewing the contract is a possibility.

Ms. Cooley favors continuing experimenting with the program for another year.

Mr. Davison said concerns will be conveyed to the MAPC and the vendor.

Mr. Borrelli asked for answers before the next meeting.

Mr. Matthews suggested keep moving on the program, but answers are necessary. He said that if the Town wants to be involved in the program it must state it now.

Mr. Borrelli said there are too many questions he needs answered to make an informed decision. He asked for discussion to be moved to the next Select Board meeting.

Mr. Matthews said Town staff should be able to act with all deliberate speed even if the contract is not satisfactory, members can vote no. He said the vote tonight is a motion of intent, not a binding motion for signing a contract.

Mr. Handel clarified if the contract developed is not satisfactory to a majority of the Select Board, there is an “out.”

Motion by Mr. Handel that the Board support the Town’s continued participation in the Regional Bike Share Program and the movement to all pedal-assist bicycles for the 2019 season.

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

Mr. Handel said his motion is made with the understanding a contract be negotiated that is acceptable to members of the Select Board.

Ms. Cooley said the proposed initial number of bikes in Needham must be known.

Mr. Handel said the location must also be known.

Mr. Borrelli clarified he understands the Select Board will have the opportunity to review the contract and take a second vote at a later date. He said if his concerns are not met he will vote “no.”

7:58 p.m.

Innovation & Smart City Concepts in Needham Public Works:

Carys Lustig, Director of Administration & Finance/Public Services and Roger MacDonald, Director of Management Information Systems spoke with the Board about six different technologies the Department of Public Works is using to improve service delivery, increase communication, and continue to provide more services without increasing resources.

A Powerpoint presentation was viewed.

Ms. Lustig spoke about Commonwealth Connect (app) for reporting concerns to the DPW, Intelligent Lighting Control currently being installed on top of the new LED street light fixtures, Snow Event Rollup Report, Big Belly solar pilot program for trash and recycling, the Complete Streets program to inventory and maintain sidewalks and roadways, and the Verizon Connect program for installing GPS to track and maintain Town equipment.

Ms. Fitzpatrick commented this presentation was delivered in December 2018 to representatives of Daxing, China, Needham’s sister city, who were visiting to learn more about how the Town provides municipal services.

The Board thanked Ms. Lustig and Mr. MacDonald for the presentation.

8:18 p.m.

Town Manager:

Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager appeared before the Board with three items to discuss:

1. Streetscape Project/Great Plain Avenue Pre-signal

Ms. Fitzpatrick discussed the option of hiring an independent engineering firm to review the design of the Great Plain Avenue pre-signal and railroad preemption. She said the consulting engineer would review the VHB and BETA designs, conduct field visits to assess current operations and functionality, review regulations and guidelines for railroad preemption, and report findings and recommendations to the Select Board. She asked the Board for authorization to engage a consulting engineer to review the design of the Great Plain Avenue pre-signal and railroad pre-exemption.

The Board acknowledged the frustration of residents and agreed a “fresh look” is necessary.

Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board vote to authorize the Town Manager to engage a consulting engineer to review the design of the Great Plain Avenue pre-signal and railroad pre-exemption.

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

Mr. Matthews cautioned residents not to get their hopes up. He commented a lot of work has already been put into the project and the issue could be due to how Needham streets and the railroad network were laid down 100 years ago. He said current safety requirements must also be considered.

2. 2019 Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Ms. Fitzpatrick recommended the Board vote to reopen the warrant for the 2019 annual Town Meeting to insert two financial warrant articles - Rosemary Pool Staffing and Public Communications Staffing. She also asked the Board if they wish to have any presentations on warrant articles during March and early April.

The Board discussed possible presentations by the Planning Board and Department of Public Works. Mr. Matthews said time will be allotted on a future agenda.

Ms. Cooley suggested a broader discussion of the Stretch Energy Code.

Mr. Matthews said a meeting was held with contractors and architects working in this area. He said both contractors and architects reported the differences are very narrow now between the Stretch Energy Code and the regular code, due in part to the use of the HERS Inspector, which most homes in Needham now have whether it is required or not. He said he is ready to recommend adoption to Town Meeting.

Ms. Cooley suggested, and Mr. Matthews agreed, a public discussion would be useful for the whole endeavor.

Mr. Matthews commented the next step is the question of whether to join the Green Communities program, noting broader discussion is required.

Discussion resumed on inserting two financial articles into the warrant.

Mr. Borrelli said while he supports both articles, he feels the articles should be included in the budget. He said he will vote against opening the warrant, saying it is an unpredictable way to budget and too unpredictable for staff. He said he understands further discussion is required with the Finance Committee.

Discussion ensued on the request to reopen the warrant.

Motion by Mr. Bulian that the Board vote to reopen the warrant for the 2019 Annual Town Meeting for the purpose of inserting two additional financial warrant articles, and to close the warrant subject to minor technical corrections to be made by the Town Manager, Town Counsel, and Bond Counsel.

Second: Mr. Handel. Approved 4-1. Mr. Borrelli voted “nay.”

3. Town Manager’s Report

Ms. Fitzpatrick reported the library will hold a joint program by Skype on March 23, 2019 with Needham’s sister city, Needham Market, England. She said children in each community will be drawing pictures of landmarks in each town to be shared and bound into volumes for each library.

The Board agreed it was a great program.

8:42 p.m. Board Discussion:

1. Committee Reports

Ms. Cooley reported a visit will be made on Saturday, March 2, 2019 at 10 a.m. to the Minuteman Regional High School in Lexington, MA, currently under reconstruction. She invited members of the Board to join in the visit and that the school is scheduled to open in fall 2019.

8:45 p.m. Adjourn:

Motion by Mr. Handel that the Select Board vote to adjourn the Select Board meeting of February 26, 2019.

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

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

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