

**Town of Needham
Select Board
Minutes for Tuesday, January 25, 2022
Needham Town Hall
Powers Hall
and
Via ZOOM
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82321649764>**

5:00 p.m. Executive Session: Exceptions 3 (collective bargaining or litigation) & 6 (purchase of real property)

Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Select Board vote to enter into Executive Session.

Exception 3 – To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares;

and

Exception 6 – To consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real estate if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

6:00 p.m. The public portion of the Select Board meeting of January 25, 2022 was convened by Chair Matthew D. Borrelli. Those present were Daniel P. Matthews, Marianne Cooley, Marcus Nelson (via Zoom), Kevin Keane, and Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. 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:

Sue Mirageas, 179 Dedham Avenue spoke with the Select Board concerning two “NO PARKING” street signs placed in front of her house. She said the signs were placed there without her knowledge and with no explanation. She commented that she has been able to park in front of her home for 29 years and that her visitors and guests must be able to park in front of her home. She asked for the Select Board’s help in removing the signs.

Shirley Pelaggi, 96 Wyoming Avenue spoke with the Board regarding a professional appraisal and application for an abatement for her property. She noted the field card relating to her property is not accurate. Mr. Borrelli told Ms. Pelaggi the Town Manager will follow up with her.

6:08 p.m. Introduce Care of Graves for Veterans and Coordinator of Ceremonies:

Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager introduced Jason Kravetz as Needham's new Care of Graves for Veterans and Coordinator of Ceremonies. She said a search was conducted, and based on the recommendation from the VFW, Mr. Kravetz was selected to fill the vacancy.

Mr. Kravetz said he is excited to take on the role and to give back to the veteran population.

The Board welcomed Mr. Kravetz and thanked him for his service and dedication to Needham.

6:13 p.m. Public Hearing: Removal of one (1) Public Shade Tree at 341 Nehoiden Street

Edward Olsen, Tree Warden, Parks & Forestry Superintendent spoke with the Board regarding a request from Cort Johnson to remove one Public Shade Tree. Mr. Johnson is a new resident to Needham. He has expressed concerns for the street tree located at this address. He is formally seeking approval from the Town to remove and replace this tree with a more suitable species. Currently this Norway Maple is misshapen, missing a large portion of its crown canopy. This tree has been negatively impacted by repeated Eversource Electric Distribution line trimming. Furthermore, this Public Shade tree location would be better suited to a lower growing, flowering tree. This is also the expressed desire by the homeowner. A tree that is sustainable for his family's enjoyment for many years in this location. Mr. Olsen states he does not object to the removal of this tree based on these reasons. He recommends a donation of \$500 to cover the expense of purchasing two trees to replace the loss of this one tree.

Cort Johnson, homeowner (via Zoom), 341 Nehoiden Street said Mr. Olsen gave a good summary of the situation. He said he is happy and willing to work with the Town in any way to improve the street.

Mr. Borrelli invited public comment.

David Hruska, 21 Rosemary Street said he has no objection to removal of the tree. He asked the Select Board to consider a more holistic solution to trees in town, noting 90% of power outages are caused by trees and that electrical distribution lines should be buried.

Mr. Keane concurred with comments made by Mr. Hruska.

Motion by Ms. Cooley that the Board vote to approve and sign the Public Shade Tree Hearing form for the removal of one 24-inch, Norway Maple tree in the front berm of 341 Nehoiden Street, and to accept a \$500 donation to cover the expense of purchasing 2 trees to replace the loss of this one tree.

Second: Mr. Matthews. Unanimously approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

Discussion ensued on the type and appropriate placement of two new trees.

6:14 p.m. Appointments and Consent Agenda:

APPOINTMENTS

- | | |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. Tom Ryder | Traffic Management Advisory Committee Term Exp. 6/30/2024 |
| 2. Dmitry Gorenburg | Transportation Planning Review Committee Term Exp. 6/30/2022 |

CONSENT AGENDA *=Backup attached

- 1.* Approve minutes of December 20, 2021 (open session), December 21, 2021 (open session), and January 11, 2022 (open session)**
- 2. Accept the following donation made to the Center at the Heights: \$500 donation from Ellen Knizeski in memory of her mother, Eileen**
- 3. Accept the following donation made to Needham Public Health's Traveling Meals Program: \$300 donation from Amy Sherman and a \$1,000 donation from the Thakore Family.**
- 4. Accept the following donation made to the Needham Community Revitalization Trust Fund: \$750 from an anonymous donor.**
- 5.* Approve a request from Sara Berney race coordinator from the Needham Athletic Booster Club, NHS Boosters Club Rocket Run to hold a race in Needham. The event is scheduled for Sunday, March 20, 2022, 8:00am. The event and route have been approved by the following departments: Fire, Police, DPW, Park & Recreation.**
- 6.* Approve and sign Water & Sewer Abatement #1317**

Second: Mr. Nelson. Unanimously approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

6:15 p.m. Public Hearing: Eversource Energy Grant of Location - 58 Taylor Street

Joanne Callender, Eversource Energy representative (via Zoom) spoke with the Select Board requesting permission to install approximately 10 feet of conduit in Taylor Street. This work is necessary to provide underground electric service for a new home at 58 Taylor Street.

Ms. Fitzpatrick indicated all paperwork is in order.

Mr. Borrelli invited public comment.

Karen Shapiro, 48 Taylor Street said the street and sidewalks were recently repaved and doesn't understand why digging up the street and sidewalk is necessary. She commented she hopes that after any work is done the street and sidewalks are restored to the same condition as prior to excavation.

Ms. Fitzpatrick said the DPW approved the application and that the street and sidewalk will be left in the same condition.

Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Select Board approve and sign a petition from Eversource Energy to install approximately 10 feet of conduit in Taylor Street.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

6:33 p.m. ABCC Change of LLC Manager - Needham Food and Beverage, LLC d/b/a The Heights:

Brian Hughes, Applicant Counsel spoke with the Select Board regarding an application made by Needham Food and Beverage, LLC., d/b/a The Heights, 200 First Avenue, for a Change in LLC Manager. The requisite filing materials appear to be in order.

Mr. Hughes said the LLC must appoint a new manager, stating the LLC seeks to appoint Mr. Patrick Carney, Jr. and Mr. Francis X. Lynch. He stated no change will occur in the operation, noting the LLC manager is not the liquor license manager, and the change is primarily ministerial. He asked the Select Board to approve the petition.

Motion by Mr. Matthews that the Select Board, as Liquor Licensing Authority, approve and sign an application for a Change in LLC Manager for Needham Food and Beverage, LLC d/b/a The Heights, 200 First Avenue and to forward this application to the ABCC for approval.

Second: Ms. Cooley. Unanimously approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

6:36 p.m. Town Manager:
Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager spoke with the Board regarding one item:

1. FY2023 Budget Presentation

Ms. Fitzpatrick presented the Select Board the proposed annual budget for fiscal year 2023.

A PowerPoint presentation titled “Balanced Budget for Fiscal Year 2023” dated January 25, 2022 was viewed.

Ms. Fitzpatrick commented on budget priorities, with an overview of the budget in brief, general fund resources, state aid revenue estimates, budget drivers, performance budget, changes to submitted budgets, Needham Public Schools, Enterprise Fund budgets, financial warrant articles, capital, and ARPA funds.

Mr. Borrelli commented on paying down OPEB on an accelerated basis and using warrant articles for adding staff, which he said is not the best practice. He commented on budgeting and town head count.

Mr. Matthews commented on the work it takes to produce the budget.

Ms. Cooley commented on the allocation to pay down the Emery Grover project and the forward planning on the debt burden. She asked about COVID allocated money for testing kits, as well as state funding for Covid.

2. Town Manager Report

No Town Manager Report was given.

6:45 p.m. Board Discussion:

1. Committee Reports

Mr. Matthews reported the first public hearing of the Housing working group will be held. He said it is the initial process in developing town-wide recommendations to submit to the planning board. He said discussion will be about zoning, including size, density, traffic, and school enrollment for the future of Needham. Mr. Matthews encouraged public attendance if members of the community want to have a say, suggesting interested residents follow the process early and stay with it as it moves forward. He noted the meeting will take place on Thursday, January 27th at 7 p.m. on Zoom.

Ms. Cooley reported the Transportation Planning and Review Committee held its first organizational meeting and have set their work schedule.

She also reported appointments to the Climate Action Committee have not yet been made, and that she is still looking for people with certain skills. She said she hopes to bring recommendations to the Select Board in the near future. She commented that 30 interviews were held in November and December for various openings on Town committees.

7:15 p.m. Adjourn:

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

Second: Mr. Nelson. Unanimously approved 5-0 by roll call vote.

The next Select Board meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, February 8, 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=>