

**Town of Needham
Select Board
Minutes for Tuesday, May 10, 2022
Needham Town Hall
Powers Hall
and
Via ZOOM**

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87942749004>

- 6:00 p.m. Call to Order:
A meeting of the Select Board was convened by Chair Marianne B. Cooley. Those present were Marcus Nelson, Kevin Keane, Heidi Frail, Matthew Borrelli, and Town Manager Kate Fitzpatrick. Christopher Heep, Town Counsel, Dave Davison, ATM/Finance, Katie King, ATM/Operations, Myles Tucker, Support Services Manager, and Mary Hunt, Recording Secretary were also in attendance.
- 6:00 p.m. Public Comment Period: No comments were heard.
- 6:01 p.m. Public Hearing: Grant of Location - 500 Dedham Avenue
Joanne Callender, Eversource Representative (via Zoom) spoke with the Board requesting permission to install a new pole on and approximately 21 feet of conduit in Dedham Avenue. This work is necessary to provide underground service to 500 Dedham Avenue, Needham.
- Hank Haff, Public Facilities Dept., Sr. Project Manager spoke about the grant program Massachusetts Electric Vehicle Incentive Program (MassEVIP) for installing electric vehicle charging stations. Discussion ensued on charging stations already installed in parking areas at Rosemary Recreation Center and on Chestnut Street in the downtown. He noted Needham is applying for a third charging station to be located to the right of the entrance to the PSAB building.
- Discussion ensued on electric vehicle charging stations, fees, and the best locations in Needham for charging stations, and the role of the Climate Action Plan Committee.
- Ms. Fitzpatrick, Town Manager confirmed all paperwork is in order for the Grant of Location.
- Ms. Cooley invited public comment. No comments were heard.
- Motion by Mr. Borrelli the Select Board approve and sign a petition from Eversource Energy to install a new pole on and approximately 21 feet of conduit in Dedham Avenue.**
Second: Ms. Frail. Unanimously approved 5-0.
- 6:20 p.m. Public Works Week Proclamation:

Ed Olsen, Department of Public Works – Acting Assistant Director spoke with the Board and requested the Board vote to proclaim the week of May 16th to 22nd as National Public Works Week. A brief presentation was viewed.

Mr. Nelson read a Proclamation recognizing the week of May 16th to May 22nd as National Public Works Week in the Town of Needham.

Motion by Mr. Nelson that the Select Board vote to approve and sign the Public Works Week Proclamation.

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

6:28 p.m. Public Hearing – Dangerous Dog Hearing (continued from April 13, 2022):
Police Chief John Schlittler has requested that the Select Board hold a dangerous dog hearing in accordance with MGL c. 140 Section 157 and Town By-Law 3.7.5 on a complaint about a dog by the name of “Axel” residing at 233 West Street in Needham. Diana Rasoul-Agha, Dog Owner (via Zoom) and Jeremy Cohen, Counsel (via Zoom) spoke with the Board regarding “Axel” who was deemed a “dangerous dog.”

Ms. Cooley opened the public hearing saying this is the second session regarding a dog named “Axel.” She noted the Select Board imposed a number of conditions, reviewing each to understand what has been/not been done in response to conditions set by the Board. Discussion ensued on fencing, use of a dog pen, securing the property, training, neutering, proof of insurance, payment of veterinary bills, and weekly progress updates from the dog owner on the conditions set by the Board.

Ms. Rasoul-Agha agreed to provide a weekly update to Chief Schlittler on Thursdays.

Attorney Heep clarified dates of when he sent the Board’s order to Attorney Cohen and when he received the first update from Attorney Cohen.

Ms. Cooley invited comments from the Board.

Mr. Borrelli said the concern of the Select Board was to make sure it had information in a timely manner. He said it is unclear to him whether the fence is in compliance and that he supports the police checking the property as often as they deem reasonable. He said the continuation of the hearing is to continue the “second chance,” but once credibility is breached discussion will be different. He noted the Select Board is trying to work with Attorney Cohen and Ms. Rasoul-Agha to achieve the best outcome. Mr. Borrelli said the Town must look out and protect the neighbors surrounding the property and go by the law as written. He asked about continuing the hearing to ensure compliance before making a final ruling.

Attorney Heep concurred continuing the hearing is a reasonable approach. He noted 9 conditions the dog owner must meet, saying a number of the conditions remain incomplete, in process, or are outstanding.

Ms. Cooley commented the Board will continue the public hearing to Tuesday, May 24, 2022. She thanked Ms. Rasoul-Agha and Attorney Cohen for the update and that the Board looks forward to continued progress and seeing photos of the dog pen.

Motion by Mr. Nelson that the Select Board vote to continue Public Hearing – Dangerous Dog Hearing to Tuesday, May 24, 2022 at 6:00 p.m.

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

6:55 p.m.

Town Manager:

Kate Fitzpatrick, Town Manager spoke with the Board regarding 3 items:

1. Goal Setting Preparation

Ms. Fitzpatrick discussed with the Board the process for reviewing its goals for FY2023/FY2024. She referred to “Select Board Goal Statement, Adopted August 17, 2021, Revised January 11, 2022,” saying progress has been remarkable. She commented on funding for various projects approved by Town Meeting including Ridge Hill Building Demolition, Community Farm long term planning, DPW Refresh, evaluating RTS Delivery Service model, Household Trash Removal, School Administration building renovation, among other items. She commented on sending the goals list to other boards and committees to ask them if there are specific items they would like the Select Board to discuss for potential inclusion.

The Board thanked Ms. Fitzpatrick for the update.

2. American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Update

Ms. Fitzpatrick provided the Board an update on ARPA spending, commitments, grants, and projects. She commented on the Water/Sewer Drains Infrastructure category including the Walker Pond project, the Economic Development category including the Grant Program, Rental of Tents, and Public Art, and the items under the COVID-19 Direct Impact category including hiring an epidemiologist.

The Board thanks Ms. Fitzpatrick for the update.

3. Town Manager Report

Ms. Fitzpatrick reported the 2022 community survey was mailed to 2,800 households and that the survey will also be available on the Town’s website and social media next week.

Ms. Fitzpatrick told the Board the Town was approved by the governor as a Housing Choice designated community, noting eligibility to apply for special

grants. She commented the designation also recognizes the work the Town has done to encourage housing.

Ms. Fitzpatrick thanked boards and committees for their amazing support this year on the many initiatives undertaken by the Town. She commented on employee and union relations, particularly Public Safety, noting Public Safety is a reason why Needham is such a well run community. She said she is grateful for the support of Town Meeting, noting many people have worked very hard on some difficult issues.

7:14 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: No Appointments were made at this meeting.

CONSENT AGENDA *=Backup attached

- 1. Approve a one-day Weekday Entertainment License for Needham Music, Inc for Saturday, May 14, 2022**
- 2. Accept the following donation made to the Needham Community Revitalization Trust Fund: \$100 from the Needham Diversity Initiative Inc.**
- 3. Accept the following donations made to Needham Aging Services: for in-kind donation of personal care products worth \$2,200 from the Boston Alumnae Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Incorporated; \$50 from John & Roberta Miele and \$100 from Gordon & Jo-Ann Goodwin in memory of Leonard Burke.**
- 4.* Approval of Minutes: April 13, 2022 (open session), April 13, 2022 (executive session), April 26, 2022 (open session), April 26, 2022 (executive session), May 2, 2022, and May 4, 2022. 5* Approve and sign Water & Sewer Abatement #1319**

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

7:15 p.m. Board Discussion:
1. Committee Reports
No Committee Reports were made.

7:15 p.m. Adjourn:
Motion by Mr. Borrelli that the Select Board vote to adjourn the Select Board meeting of Tuesday, May 20, 2022.
Second: Mr. Nelson. 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, May 24, 2022 at 6 p.m.