

PRESENT: Select Board Members Margaret Scarsdale, Tony Beattie and Mark Mathews; Town Administrator, Andrew MacLean; Executive Assistant, Tracie Looney

This meeting was remote participation only. The meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM. Pledge of Allegiance was said. Ms. Scarsdale announced that the meeting is being recorded for re-broadcast by Pepperell Community Media and is being remotely attended by audience members via GoTo Meeting.

1. **AGENDA PACKET (Please see the following link to documents related to agenda items below.)**
https://town.pepperell.ma.us/AgendaCenter/ViewFile/Agenda/_05242021-2887?packet=true

2. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**
No minutes at this time.

3. **BILL AND PAYROLL WARRANTS**
Since the last meeting the Select Board have approved the following payroll and bill warrants:

- May 12, 2021 payables warrant # 45B was signed for \$4,615,014.67
- May 13, 2021 payroll warrant # 46A was signed for \$259,171.68
- May 18, 2019 payables warrant # 46B was signed for \$106,916.36

4. **APPOINTMENTS / RESIGNATIONS**
Local resident Bruce Bonnevier has applied to fill a vacancy on the Economic Development Advisory Committee (EDAC). Mr. Bonnevier was in attendance to give a brief history of himself. On a motion made by Mr. Mathews and seconded by Mr. Beattie, it was unanimously voted to appoint Bruce Bonnevier to the EDAC with the term to expire on June 30, 2022.

5. **PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**
Written Submittals: The TA reviewed the following submittal:

- Charter Communication Memo

Audience Comments: None at this time.

6. **REPORTS**
6.1 Town Administrator's Report
Please see the following link to the Town Administrator's report.
<https://town.pepperell.ma.us/DocumentCenter/View/6262/TA-Report-2021-05-24>

The Town Administrator reviewed the draft Alternative Mosquito Management Plan with the Board.

COVID-19 Update: The Town Administrator reviewed the local COVID-19 numbers and also encouraged the local citizens to get vaccinated and socially distance. Town Hall will be reopening on June 1st and masks will be mandated. Pepperell trails the state average with only 42% fully vaccinated and 53% with at least one dose.

Soil Reclamation Proposal Update: May 24, 2021 Judge Rubin is expected to rule on a summary judgment petition. Judge Rubin heard oral arguments today and has asked for final submittals due in about three weeks' time. More information in mid-June.

6.2 Select Board's Report
The Select Board members gave the following updates:

Chair Scarsdale reports the following actions:

- Finalizing One Stop grant

- Town is moving forward with the LRRP grant
- Attend the monthly coffee talk at the Albert Harris Center
- Will attend the Civic Engagement Night / Annual Town Meeting warrant article discussion

Clerk Beattie reports the following actions:

- Attended Charter Review Committee meeting
- Met with EDAC
- Revised letter for the regionalization meeting for Climate Change

Member Mathews reports the following actions:

- Spoke with Joe Mazzola, Veterans' Services Officer – need for work, lack of Veterans' housing, Mr. Mazzola will be reaching out to the local VFW
- Met with MPIT Team
- Attended the NMCOG meeting
- Attended the MMA Code of Conduct training and would like to revise the Town of Pepperell's Code of Conduct

7. DISCUSSION / ACTION ITEMS

7.1 Community One Stop For Growth Grant Letter of Support

The Town Administrator informed the Board that the Community OneStop is a new grant program from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts which combines multiple grant opportunities into one application process. It also strives to align community goals to match with grant opportunities. The Town has spent hundreds of hours of time creating an expression of interest and grant application. The final submittal is due June 4, 2021 and requires a letter of support from the Select Board.

On a motion made by Mr. Mathews and seconded by Mr. Beattie, it was unanimously voted to endorse the Community OneStop letter of support as amended tonight.

7.2 Regional Climate Change Meeting Invitation

Selectman Beattie has proposed that Pepperell host a regional meeting on Climate Change to align interests and leverage efforts. Congresswoman Trahan is committed to attending. The invitation letter draft is included in the packet and is to be sent to all the Selectpersons/Councilpersons in Congresswoman Trahan's district. The meeting is planned for June 24th. The Board would like to discuss the agenda for this upcoming meeting at the next Select Board meeting.

On a motion made by Mr. Mathews and seconded by Mr. Beattie, it was unanimously voted to endorse the Regional Climate Change meeting invitation as amended tonight.

7.3 Letter to MassDEP Regarding Soil Reclamation Proposal

MassDEP is actively involved in the regulatory framework for the proposed soil reclamation project. The Select Board has sent letters to MassDEP representatives emphatically stating the Town's opposition to the proposed project. As new members have joined the Board, it is appropriate to reinforce our continued, united opposition.

On a motion made by Mr. Beattie and seconded by Mr. Mathews, it was unanimously voted to endorse the letter to MassDEP regarding the soil reclamation proposal as presented tonight.

7.4 Farmland of Local Importance

The Farmland of Local Importance is an initiative to expand important farmland designations. (There are currently three designations: prime, unique and farmland of statewide importance.) Launched this year (2021) as a collaboration between the USDA's Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) and The

American Farmland Trust, its objective is to identify all lands suitable for agriculture to increase long-term potential for farmland preservation eligibility.

Over the past month, the Agricultural Advisory Board has been working with Albert Averill, a soils scientist recently retired from NRCS who has been tapped to implement the Farmland of Local Importance Program. He's completed a soil survey of the town noting soils and crop histories. It requires a signature from the Select Board. Sherrill Rosoff was in attendance to speak to the initiative.

Mr. Mathews would like further clarification on the subject before a letter of support is signed from the Select Board.

On a motion made by Mr. Beattie and seconded by Mr. Mathews, it was unanimously voted to table this discussion until the next meeting.

7.5 Master Plan Implementation Team (MPIT) Presentation

MPIT members Deb Fountain, Chuck Walkovich and Mark Mathews were in attendance to provide a brief update of Master Plan progress. In October 2020 the Planning Board approved the Town's Master Plan and in November 2020 the Planning Board appointed the MPIT. The MPIT will provide guidance and assistance to Town organizations on Master Plan issues. There are 197 recommendations with 19 completed, 118 in process and 60 not started. Ms. Fountain reviewed the completed projects at this time with the Board. Ms. Fountain thanked the Select Board and others who have dedicated time to the success of the Master Plan Goals and welcomes feedback. The Board thanked Ms. Fountain and the work of the MPIT Team. No Select Board action required.

7.6 Robinson Hollow Land Donation

This subdivision includes a donation of land to the Town that creates access and right of ways. Unbuildable Lots 1 and 2 are small strips of land along Route 119 that MassDOT requested be reserved for future road widening. Open Space Parcel A is being conveyed to Mass Fish & Wildlife. Open Space Parcels B & C will be managed by the Conservation Commission. Parcel D which is the center of the cul-de-sac will be owned by a homeowner's association. Paula Terrasi, Town Conservation Administrator, was in attendance to speak to the land donation.

On a motion made by Mr. Mathews and seconded by Mr. Beattie, it was unanimously voted to endorse acceptance of deeds to the Town for certain land shown on the Robinson Hollow subdivision plan, being open space parcels B and C, to be conveyed to the Pepperell Conservation Commission, and unbuildable lots 1 and 2, to remain under the control of the Select Board, when, and in the form, presented or approved by Town Counsel.

7.7 Proclamations

The Select Board wishes to use proclamations to acknowledge significant achievements of local individuals and organizations. The Board reviewed the draft policy to adopt.

On a motion made by Mr. Mathews and seconded by Mr. Beattie, it was unanimously voted to accept the Proclamation Policy and Process as amended.

The Select Board presented a Proclamation to the 2021 Graduating Seniors from both Nashoba Valley Technical High School and the North Middlesex Regional High School.

On a motion made by Mr. Beattie and seconded by Mr. Mathews, it was unanimously voted to endorse the Proclamation to the 2021 Graduating Seniors from both Nashoba Valley Technical High School and the North Middlesex Regional High School.

7.8 Signature of Agreement to Resolve Appeal From Select Board's Dog Hearing Order of January 21, 2020

A tripartite agreement has been finalized and is available for the Select Board to endorse. Signatures will be withheld until compliance with the agreement is verified.

On a motion made by Mr. Mathews and seconded by Mr. Beattie, it was unanimously voted to sign the settlement agreement resolving the appeal from the Select Board's dog hearing order of January 21, 2020, upon verification from the Town Administrator or Town Counsel of compliance with the agreement's condition for the Town's signature.

7.9 Schedule For Saturday Forums

The Select Board wishes to hold public sessions that are focused on topics of interest to the community. These would be different than regularly scheduled Select Board Meetings whose primary focus is general management of the community. Instead, these workshops are intended to gather or provide information, solicit community input, or discuss in-depth issues facing the community before making decisions on such topics. These meetings would be public meetings, but depending on the topic, the Select Board may or may not be using them to directly engage with the public. The first such meeting will be for the new Select Board to align its goals and priorities. The Board discussed upcoming dates for different topics to be discussed.

8. ADJOURNMENT

On a motion made by Mr. Beattie and seconded by Mr. Mathews, it was unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

Tracie Looney, Executive Assistant

APPROVED:

Margaret Scarsdale, Chair

Tony Beattie, Clerk

Mark Mathews, Member

Approved: