

Board of Selectmen's Meeting
Open Session Meeting Minutes
Meeting Conducted Remotely via Zoom

Members Present: Joseph Botaish, Christopher Gallo, William Harrington, Michelle Rouse

Members Absent: James Anderson

Also present: Kevin Sweet, Town Administrator; Amanda Vasapollo, Administrative Assistant; Gregory Enos, Assistant Town Administrator/Human Resources Director

Called to order: The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM by Mr. Botaish. Followed by a roll call for attendance, all members and staff present.

Documentation:

Mary Beth Bernard Application to Fiske Library Trustees

Cait Lanza Application to Fiske Library Trustees

June 20, 2023 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Common Victualler and Entertainment License Application from White Barn Farm

Common Victualler License Application from CC Express

Memo from Kevin Sweet re Wrentham Elementary School Building Committee

Letter from Heidi Almeida re Public Transportation

Presentation prepared by Jon Jackson and Recreation Commission re Sweatt Park

Original Proposed Pickleball/Tennis Court Design

Letter from Donna Sullivan re Sweatt Park Courts

Letter from Paul McSweeney re Sweatt Park Courts

Letter from Kathi Carey re Sweatt Park Courts

Zip Trip Flyer

Announcements:

Mr. Harrington read the following, On the morning of July 28, Boston 25 will be broadcasting live from the Wrentham Town Common from 6-10 a.m. as part of its 20th season of "Zip Trips." During the broadcast, Boston 25 will highlight the unique aspects of the community that makes Wrentham, Wrentham. Community members are encouraged to attend the live showing as a representation of their Wrentham pride and to see the behind-the-scenes action of a live broadcast. The live broadcast will feature several interviews, performances, and more! There will also be several sponsor pop-up tents for attendees to browse and enjoy. During the event, a special presentation of "Wrentham, Oh Wrentham" will be performed by the Wrentham Elementary School Chorus. The Town will close David Brown Way and Common Street for this event. Spectator parking will be available at the following locations: Town Hall, 79 South St. Original Congregational Church, 1 East St. Delaney School, 120 Taunton St. Senior Center, 400 Taunton St. A shuttle bus will be available from the Senior Center to the Town Common from 8 -10 a.m. Community members should note that the town center parking lot will be under construction until August 31. Wrentham 350th: Join us for Wrentham's 350th Birthday Party

on the Town Common on July 15th, 12-3pm! There will be exciting activities and entertainment for the whole family.

Discussion of Public Transportation with Heidi Almeida

Mr. Harrington read the following into the record,

Dear Board of Selectmen, my name is Heidi Almeida and I am a third grader in your town. Lately, I have been doing a lot of driving around and I have been thinking, there has to be something easier. And that's when I got it – public transportation! The reason this letter is now in your hand is because I think you can make this happen! Wouldn't you want it to be easier for you to get around, our planet to use less fossil fuel, and the people in your town to meet new people? My first reason is it would be easier to get around. For example, if not a lot of people are driving cars then there would be less traffic so people and doctors can get where they need to go faster. Also, people who don't have a car can still get where they need to. That is why it would be much easier to get around. My next reason is it would be better for the planet. A lot of people drive big cars around but that is bad because it puts a lot of harmful chemicals in the air. Also, if you are using public transportation it uses less fossil fuel. Now you can see why it would be better for the planet. Lastly, you can meet new people. One example is, if you are riding on public transportation and you have a cool pet or toy you could talk about it with other people. In addition, if a kid was riding on it to go to school for the first time they might want to become friends with other children so they are less scared. In conclusion, public transportation in our town would be better for a lot of reasons. After reading all of them, I hope you look further into my idea for public transportation in our town! I look forward to hearing back from you. A sincere resident of your town, Heidi Almeida

Mr. Botaish spoke, reviewed the history of public transportation in Wrentham and past services that have been offered.

The Board thanked Heidi Almeida for sharing her letter and for bringing the topic to their attention. The Board expressed their interest and support for having public transportation in the area.

Vote to Appoint Wrentham Elementary School Committee Members

Ms. Rouse and Mr. Harrington shared their interest in being the Board of Selectmen representative on the Wrentham Elementary School Committee.

Motion made by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the Board voted to recommend Michelle Rouse as the Board of Selectmen representative on the Wrentham Elementary School Committee. Followed by a roll call vote, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-0.

Motion made by Mr. Gallo, seconded by Mr. Harrington, the Board voted to approve Michelle Rouse, Kevin Sweet, Philip Jordan, Veronica Gonzalez, Allan Cameron, Chad Lovett, Glenn Gillespie, Kevin Martes, Edward Goddard, Michael King and Lou Allevato to the Wrentham Elementary School Building Committee for a term effective August 1, 2023 to June 30, 2026. Followed by a roll call vote, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-0.

Joint Meeting with Fiske Library Trustees

Present were members of the Fiske Library Trustees (Suzanne Bove, Lori Yarworth, Honora Rainville, Judith Brown, and Diane Rook); Mary Beth Bernard of 40 Black Birch Circle; and Cait Lanza of 15 Julie Drive

The Trustees and Board of Selectmen conducted interviews for both Mrs. Bernard and Ms. Lanza. Both candidates reviewed their resume, history, and detailed their interest in joining the Trustees.

Motion made by Diane Rook and seconded by Lori Yarworth, the Trustees recommended Mary Beth Bernard for the vacancy on the Fiske Library Trustees.

The Board voted to appoint Mary Beth Bernard to the Fiske Library Trustees for a term effective immediately and expiring April 1, 2024. Followed by a roll call vote, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-0.

Approval of the Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Ms. Rouse, the Board voted to approve the June 20, 2023 Open Session Meeting Minutes. Followed by a roll call vote, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-0.

Common Victualler & Entertainment License – White Barn Farm

Present was Chris Kantlehner of the White Barn Farm

Mr. Kantlehner reviewed the Common Victualler and Entertainment License Application for White Barn Farm.

A discussion took place amongst the Board, Mr. Sweet and Mr. Kantlehner regarding outstanding items with other departments. The discussion continued

Motion made by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the Board voted to approve the Common Victualler License for The Kitchen at White Barn Farm at 431 South Street and Entertainment License for White Barn Farm at 431 South Street permitting that events exceeding hundred or more participants shall have a police detail, limited to a 5-piece band, and volume not to exceed 10 decibels with hours of entertainment permitted between the hours of 9AM and 8PM Sunday to Saturday and to authorize the use of electronic signatures. Followed by a roll call vote, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-0.

Common Victualler License Application – CC Express

Present was George Abboud of CC Express at 500 Thurston Street

Mr. Abboud spoke, reviewed the Common Victualler License Application.

Motion made by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Ms. Rouse, the Board voted to approve the Common Victualler License for CC Express at 500 Thurston Street pending all permits issues by Board of Health and Inspectional Services and to authorize the use of electronic signatures. Followed by a roll call vote, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-0.

Discussion of Pickleball/Tennis Court Design

Present was Chad Lovett, Director of Facilities and Capital Planning; Jeff Plympton, Recreation Director; and John Jackson, Recreation Commission Member

Mr. Sweet spoke, reviewed the proposed design plans for Sweatt Park noted that this project is being funded through the American Rescue and Recovery Act which has specific limitations on spending. Mr. Sweet noted that this project is about revitalizing a community park and not about creating additional recreation space.

A discussion took place amongst the Board regarding the number of pickleball vs tennis courts. The Board was in favor of four pickleballs courts and one tennis court.

A discussion took place amongst the Board and Mr. Sweet regarding the cost of getting an engineer to redesign the plans for the area.

Mr. Sweet spoke, expressed his concern for potential vandalism of the courts and noted area communities with issues that have arose from volume of the pickleball sport.

Ms. Rouse asked about the availability of tennis courts at Kind Philip High School.

Mr. Sweet responded, those are under the control of the high school and is unaware of their availability to public.

Mr. Jackson spoke, presented the Board with a design plan provided by the Recreation Commission that would allow for four pickleball courts and one tennis court at Sweatt Park. Mr. Jackson noted the recent rise in popularity of the sport.

Lynn Adams of Wrentham Recreation Department spoke, reviewed the current proگرام available for pickleball and the current availability of courts for play. Ms. Adams noted the popularity of the sport and need for more space.

Donna Sullivan spoke, noted the applications utilized for scheduling and seeing availability of recreation areas. Ms. Sullivan also stated it's nice to see the area (Sweatt Park) being revitalized.

Valeria Hogs spoke, emphasized the popularity of the pickleball sport and its availability to a diverse network of individuals.

Discussion of July 28, 2023 Zip Trip

The Board and Mr. Sweet reviewed the planning and timeline for the Zip Trip scheduled for July 28, 2023 on the Wrentham Town Common.

Discussion of 350th Parade

The Board discussed their participation in the Wrentham 350th Parade Celebration on September 16, 2023.

Discussion of Live/Remote BOS Meetings

A discussion took place amongst the Board and Mr. Sweet regarding meeting options, continuing completely virtual, doing hybrid meetings, or returning to full in person meetings. They discussed the procs and cons of remote versus in person meetings. The topic will be revisited in 2024.

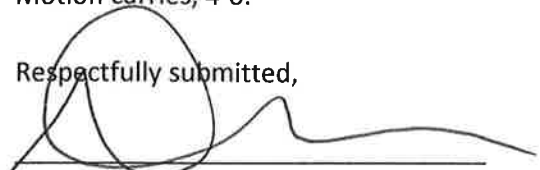
Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Sweet spoke, provided the Board with an update on the installation of signs at the Chestnut Street, Madison Street, and Carriage House Lane locations.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Ms. Rouse, the Board voted to adjourn the open session meeting at 9:30PM. Followed by a roll call vote, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-0.

Respectfully submitted,


Amanda Vasapollo, Executive Assistant