

2023 NOV 15 AM 8:25

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

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

Members Absent:

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

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:

Complaint Letter from Ted & Maureen Lukes
Nuisance/Dangerous Dog Hearings Info from MTC
Notification Letter to Mark & Rebecca Billington of 50 Farm Hill Road
August 8, 2023 Open Session Meeting Minutes
August 22, 2023 Open Session Meeting Minutes
Email from Mike King re Perpetual Care Spending
Quote from Property Survey from Guerriere & Halnon, Inc.
Historical Commission Application from Ray Rose
Historical Commission Application from Lisa Bailey
Memo from Amanda Vasapollo regarding Fall Town Meeting Warrant

Dog Hearing – Dangerous/Nuisance Dog Hearing per MGL Ch. 40 S156

Present was Attorney Stephen Chaplin of Mead, Talerman and Costa; Animal Control Officer, Felicia Camara; Maureen and Ted Lukes of 35 Farm Hill Road; Mark Billington of 50 Farm Hill Road; Attorney Jeremy Cohen of Boston Dog Lawyers;
Attorney Chaplin spoke, outlined the proceeding and definitions, distinguished the differences between a nuisance and dangerous dog.
Attorney Chaplin issued the Oath to those who are anticipated to testify.
Mr. Lukes spoke, testified to the events and circumstances surrounding an incident with their dog, Holly, and the dog, Molly of 50 Farm Hill Road.
Mr. Lukes spoke, testified to the events and circumstances surrounding an incident with their dog, Holly, and the dog, Molly of 50 Farm Hill Road. Provided testimony of other interaction with Molly of 50 Farm Hill Road.
Attorney Cohen spoke, provided testimony on behalf for the Billingtons of 55 Farm Hill Road. Provided testimony on the events and circumstances stemming for the incident with their dog, Molly. Mr. Cohen spoke on the remedial measures the Billington's have already put into place to control Molly's behavior. Mr. Cohen provided testimony on the behavior of Molly and indicated that, per her history, should not be deemed a dangerous dog.

Mr. Billington spoke, provided testimony on the events and circumstances stemming from the incident with their dog Molly, and the neighbor's dog Holly of 35 Farm Hill Road. Spoke on action taken directly following incident and steps taken to mitigate Molly's behavior.

Ms. Camara spoke, provided an overview of the events and information she has obtained so far since taking over the position of Animal Control Officer in July of 2023. Noted that she has not seen Molly and can't speak to the dog's behavior.

Attorney Cohen spoke, noted that the previous Animal Control Officer, Chris Wider, had seen Molly and was made aware of the incident.

The Board of Selectmen took turns asking questions to the Mr. & Mrs. Billington, Attorney Cohen, Ms. Camara, and Mr. & Mrs. Lukes. Both parties clarified the weights & ages of their dogs; leashing habits in the yard & on walks; clarified visit attempts made by Ms. Camara; clarified other incidents with other dogs owned by the Billingtons; training and remedial measures implemented by the Billingtons.

Maurice Chi of 55 Farm Hill Road spoke, provided testimony on the events and circumstances involving an incident with an unidentified dog and other interactions with the Billingtons dogs.

Barbara Ligon of 70 farm Hill Road spoke, provided testimony on events and circumstances involving interactions with dog Molly of 50 Farm Hill Road.

Mr. Gallo spoke, asked for clarification as Mr. Billington has testified Molly has never bite a human while Mr. Chi testified, he believes Molly was the dog who bite his wife.

Attorney Cohen, spoke on behalf of Mr. Billington, that there are no records of any of the Billington's dogs biting a human.

Mr. Enos spoke, the Town has no records of any of the Billington's dogs biting humans.

Ms. Camara provided recommendations for Molly. Recommends the Billingtons get a 6-sided pen installed in their yard for Molly to be enclosed while outside, Molly wear a muzzle while out on walks, and for the Billingtons to acquire additional insurance for Molly.

Sheena Clutterbuck of 45 Farm Hill Road spoke, provided testimony of interactions she has had, while in her vehicle, with Molly of 50 Farm Hill Road.

Motion made by Mr. Gallo, seconded by Ms. Rouse, the Board voted to declare Molly of 50 Farm Hill Rod a Nuisance Dog. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – no, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-1.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the Board voted to order the ted and Maureen Billington of 50 Farm Hill Road to take the following measures, conduct a behavioral evaluation of Molly which will be sent directly to Town Counsel upon completion, Molly be humanly muzzled on all walk, install a six-sided pen in their yard, and acquire an additional insurance policy of at least \$100,000 The Board indicated that restrictions may be revisited pending the results of the behavioral evaluation of Molly. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – no, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-1.

Back to School Update – Wrentham Public Schools with Superintendent Allan Cameron

Present was Superintendent Dr. Allan Cameron

Dr. Cameron spoke, provided the Board with an update on Back to School in Wrentham, made note of activities that took place. Noted mandated trainings, welcomed students back on August 30, 2023.

Recess taken at 8:15PM, meeting returned at 8:17PM

Discussion of Right to Shelter Law and State's Placement of Unsheltered Families

Present was Representative Marcus Vaughn; Town Administrator from Plainville Brian Noble; Superintendent of Wrentham Public Schools, Dr. Allan Cameron

Mr. Botaish spoke, provided a brief overview of the current impacts Wrentham and surrounding communities are facing due to the rapidly rising numbers of migrant families arriving in the State. Mr. Botaish stated the importance of insuring Wrentham is prepared to provide the proper services and resources to anyone who may be placed here while protecting the interests of residents. Requested any residents with questions to please email the Office of the Town Administrator.

State Representative Marcus Vaughn spoke, provided an update on the situation with neighboring communities who have received placements, noting it's being done in accordance with the Massachusetts Right to Shelter Law. Noted some of the hinderances communities, persons impacted, and state & local governments are currently facing.

Brian Nobel, Plainville Town Administrator spoke, provided the Board with an overview of the Plainville's experience and how they've navigated this uncharted territory.

A discussion took place amongst the Board, Representative Vaughn, Mr. Noble and Mr. Enos regarding information that has been made available from the State regarding funding from the Department of Education, how communities are being selected, and resources what being provided.

Interview of Ray Rose and Lisa Bailey for Vacancy on Historical Commission

Present was Lisa Bailey of 57 Cherry Street and Ray Rose of 41 Winter Street; Justin Schlesinger, Historical Commission Chair

The Board conducted interviews of both Ms. Bailey and Mr. Rose where they reviewed their resumes, the history they have in the community, and why they wish to join the Historical Commission.

Mr. Schlesinger spoke, stated both candidates are equally qualified and both would be great fits on the Commission has they each provide unique experiences.

Motion made by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the Board voted to appoint Lisa Bailey to the Historical Commission for a term effective immediately and expiring June 30, 2024. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Motion made by Mr. Gallo, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted to appoint Ray Rose as an associate member of the Historical Commission for a term effective immediately and expiring indefinitely. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Announcements

Mr. Harrington read the following, the Metacomet Public Health Alliance nurses will be offering a Flu Clinic for Wrentham Town residents older than 18 years on Tuesday, September 12th from 11AM to 1PM & 2PM to 4PM at the Wrentham Senior center. Please see the town website for details on how to register. Do you have a Purple Heart? Wrentham Plainville, and North Attleboro will soon be recognized as Purple Heart communities, and we're reaching out to all recipients of the Purple heart Medal. Soon there will be Purple Heart Town signs on the roads leading into our respective communities, and we'd like to show our support for those who sacrifices led to the freedoms we enjoy today! Please contact Stephen Travers at the Veteran's Services Office and let him know if you're interested in being recognized. Wrentham Day & Wrentham (W)road (W)race on Saturday, September 9th on Wrentham Town Common from 9AM to 3PM, see Wrentham website for details. Wrentham 350th Anniversary

Parade on Saturday, September 9th – the festivities will commence at 12PM and are expected to wrap up around 2:30PM. The parade will start at the William Rice Recreation Area location at 54 Emerald St, and will end at the intersection of South Street and Randall Rd (at the Mobile Station). More details on the Wrentham 350th website.

Approval of Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted to approve the August 8, 2023 Open Session Meeting Minutes. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Motion made by Mr. Gallo, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted to approve the August 22, 2023 Open Session Meeting Minutes. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Vote to Approve the Expenditure of Funds from Perpetual Care Account

Present was Direct of Public Works, Brian Antonioli

Motion made by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the Board voted to approve the expenditure for property surveying not to exceed \$5,100, from the Perpetual Care Account. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Discussion of 350th Anniversary Parade – Saturday, September 16th

The Board discussed their plan for participating in the Wrentham 350th Anniversary Parade.

Vote to Open and Close the November 13, 2023 Town Meeting Warrant

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Harrington, the Board voted to open the November 13, 2023 Town Meeting Warrant on September 5, 2023 and closed on October 23, 2023. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

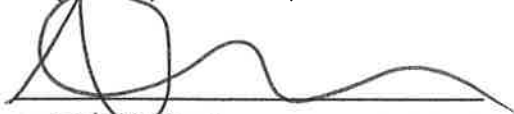
Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Enos spoke, provided an update on the Interstate Travel Plaza (580 Washington Street) EV Chargers.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the Board voted to adjourn the open session meeting at 9:56PM. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Respectfully submitted,



Amanda Vasapollo, Executive Assistant