

**TOWN OF WINCHESTER
SELECT BOARD MEETING
Thursday, November 5, 2020
Record**

OPENING

Chair Michael Bettencourt called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM via Zoom remote participation due to the State of Emergency COVID-19 prior to the opening of the 2020 Fall Town Meeting. Present were Select Board members Vice Chair Susan Verdicchio, Jacqueline A. Welch, Amy Shapiro, and Mariano Goluboff. Also present was Town Manager Lisa Wong. (Note - due to the remote participation all Select Board votes are roll call votes.)

NOTIFICATION OF MEETINGS AND HEARINGS

1. Monday, November 9, 2020 - Regular Session before Fall Town Meeting
2. Monday, November 9, 2020 - Fall Town Meeting

ACCEPTANCE OF DONATIONS

*Motion That the Select Board accept, with gratitude, a donation in the amount of \$150 from Shirley S. French to Wildwood Cemetery for the care of graves and grounds maintenance.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

TOWN MANAGER REPORT AND COMMENTS

1. Appointments: Ms. Wong announced the following promotional appointment in accordance with section 4-2b of the Town Charter, and she respectfully requested that the Select Board vote to waive the fifteen (15) day appointment period for: **Firefighter David Sherwood to Fire Lieutenant.**

*Motion: That the Select Board waive the customary fifteen (15) day appointment effective waiting period to allow David Sherwood to begin his employment.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

2. Town Manager's Updates:

Election: Kudos to the Town Clerk and her team for another election season!

COVID: The state won't release their town-by-town data until Friday (it's usually Thursday) so no information on whether Winchester is in the red for a second week yet.

MBTA: The MBTA indicated in an email yesterday that they will be providing "updated cost estimates" in response to our letter to them about which items we were seeking funding for "cost-sharing" at Fall Town Meeting. We have expressed our confusion and displeasure as there was no indication that the numbers would change, but that the figures received months ago by them were "maximum" and "not to exceed" figures, and that the MBTA would cover any costs above those amounts if the change orders came in higher. Earlier this week they gave us a draft of an MOU to review to cover issues like noise. We are still waiting for several responses from them, including responses to the easement documents we sent almost two weeks ago. Maintenance terms remain a major point of contention.

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Waterfield Lot: An award letter was issued to Civico, who signed and acknowledged it. We will have 30 days to negotiate an MOU with them and then continue forward with a negotiation on the Land Disposition Agreement and Ground Lease if we receive Town Meeting approval. I will share a draft for review soon.

Public Safety: There is ongoing investigation into a fatal shooting that occurred Monday night in Winchester. This is an open and ongoing investigation being conducted by the Middlesex District Attorney's Office, Massachusetts State Police assigned to that office and Winchester Police.

Personnel: There were less than the required 4 minimum candidates from the pool of Police Lieutenants who signed up for the Police Chief Assessment Center. The deadline was midnight on November 4th. Civil Service has just approved my request to open up the pool of candidates to Sergeants on 11/9 and close on 11/30. The new requested Assessment Center date is December 15th. The retiring Chief's last day will be in early January. I will be prepared to appoint a temporary chief if needed. In the Treasurer's office, the Town has received several qualified candidates to move forward to the interview process in the next few weeks. We hope to have this position filled as soon as possible.

Anti-Racism Project: We are finalizing the contract with Jason Lee now. We were waiting for some insurance documentation. I will let you know as soon as we are able to proceed.

PCR Testing: Thank you for the budget for employees to get reimbursed for testing if not covered by their insurance. A notice has been sent to departments that this is available right now. For ease of reimbursement, we are adding this to our existing process for HRA reimbursements and will send out the new form once it is updated.

Town Hall "doorbell": The intercom system is up and running at the ADA entrance. Two monitors in my office allow us to talk with people and let them in at the entrance during normal business hours.

MATTERS FROM THE AUDIENCE

COMPTROLLER'S REPORT

The Select Board acknowledged the receipt of the Comptroller's FY21 Financial Report as of September 30, 2020.

LICENSES

HEARINGS

BUSINESS

- 1. Committees & Commission Appointments** - The Select Board interviewed Michael Queenan for the position on the Affordable Housing Trustee Committee. The Board then made the following appointments.

*Motion That the Select Board appoint Michael Queenan, Stacey Irizarry, and Carey Sue Barney to the Affordable Housing Trustee Committee for a term to expire April 30, 2021.

Verdicchio - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

*Motion That the Select Board reappoint Susan McPhee to the Wright-Locke Farm Conservancy for a term to expire October 31, 2023.

Verdicchio - Shapiro

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Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

- 2. Town Meeting Warrant Articles** - Mark Twogood, Assistant Town Manager, Mina Makarious, Town Counsel, and the Select Board members discussed changes and revisions to Articles 11, and 25.

*Motion That the Select Board amend the motion under Article 11 as presented.

Verdicchio - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

*Motion That the Select Board recommend favorable action on Article 11.

Verdicchio - Shapiro

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

*Motion That the Select Board approve the revised motions 12 & 13 under Article 25 as presented.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

*Motion That the Select Board recommend favorable action on Article 18.

Goluboff - Verdicchio

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

*Motion That the Select Board recommend favorable action on revised motion 8 under Article 25 appropriate an additional \$525,000 of reserve fund.

Verdicchio - Welch

Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt VOTED

EQUITY AND ANTI-RACISM TASK FORCE

1. **Land Acknowledgement** - Vice Chair Verdicchio presented to the Board a revised draft of the Land Acknowledgement for their review. She suggested that the statement be read at the beginning of the first Select Board meeting of every month.

As one step toward carrying out our equity and anti-racism initiative, I would like to acknowledge that we are holding this meeting on the ancestral homeland of the Massachusett **people, who** lived here for thousands of years before European colonists began arriving about 1630. In the 1600's, the Massachusett were led by the Saunkswa of Missitekw (called the Squaw Sachem by the colonists), who led her people through epidemics, **wars, and** displacement. We acknowledge that Winchester exists within a region where lands were taken under unjust and violent circumstances, causing a forced relocation that continues to have harmful effects on Native communities. As part of the town government of Winchester, we recognize our responsibility, now, to be good stewards of this land. And we acknowledge that Massachusett, Wampanoag, and other Indigenous people from across the country currently live in Winchester and throughout the state and contribute to our community in myriad ways.

2. **Removing Columbus Day and replace with Indigenous Peoples Day for all town documents, contracts and communications** - Chair Bettencourt informed the Board members that our documents, contracts and communications identify Columbus Day as a holiday. There has been multiple discussion on the town and school side for a while and he felt that he should move forward with the motion to the Select Board.

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*Motion That the Select Board remove the term Columbus Day and replace it with Indigenous Peoples Day for all town documents, contracts and communications.
Verdicchio - Goluboff
Roll Call: In favor: Verdicchio, Goluboff, Bettencourt
Abstained: Welch, Shapiro

VOTED
(Motion Passes 3-0-2)

CONSENT AGE NDA

*Motion: That the Select Board rescind their vote on September 14, 2020 authorizing the spending of \$12,000 out of the Winchester Hospital Gift Account for tents/communication for the Board of Health flu clinics.
Verdicchio - Welch
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

*Motion That the Select Board approve the Staging Permit from Viewpoint Sign & Awning, for Marc Bissett, StretchMed, 9 Thompson St, to install sign on the exterior wall on the front of the building.
Verdicchio - Welch
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

ADJOURNMENT : 7:30 PM

*Motion: That the Select Board adjourn to the floor of Town Meeting.
Verdicchio - Welch
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Welch, Shapiro, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

*Motion: That the Select Board adjourn for the evening at 10:35 p.m.
Verdicchio - Goluboff
Roll Call: Verdicchio, Goluboff, Bettencourt

VOTED

Respectfully submitted,
Lisa Wong, Town Manager