

2024 FEB -8 PM 12:47

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: Kevin Sweet, Town Administrator; Amanda Vasapollo, Executive 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:

Public Hearing Notice – Vote by Mail
Letter from Board of Registrars re In Person Early Voting
01 03 24 Board of Registrars Meeting Minutes
Excerpt from 01 17 23 Board of Selectmen's Open Session Meeting Minutes
Public Hearing Notice – Café Assisi Alteration of Premises
Café Assisi Alteration of Premises Application
Public Hearing Notice – Pole Petition on Chestnut Street
Cover Letter to Town from National Grid re Chestnut Street Pole Petition
National Grid Chestnut Street Pole Petition
Sketch for Chestnut Street Pole Petition from National Grid
January 2, 2024 Open Session Meeting Minutes
Email from LaFamilia re Opening Dates
Email from John Robertson re LaFamilia
ABCC 2023 Renewal Certification

Approval of the Minutes - January 2, 2024 Open Session Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Harrington, to endorse the 2023 Alcohol Beverage Control Commission 2023 Renewal Certification and to authorize the use of electronic signatures. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Vote to Endorse Alcohol Beverage Control Commission 2023 Renewal Certification Form

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Ms. Rouse, the Board voted to endorse the 2023 Alcohol Beverage Control Commission 2023 Renewal Certification and to authorize the use of electronic signatures. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Announcements:

The Board members offered sympathy and condolences to Mr. Harrington for the loss of his sister. Mr. Harrington read the following, The 2024 Census will be mailed to all households beginning December 15, 2023. In this upcoming Presidential year, residents are encouraged to fill them out and return to the Clerk's office in a timely fashion in order to maintain your active voter status. Dog licenses for 2024 are available in the Town Clerk's office The deadline to license your dogs is February 28, 2024. Late fees will apply. Nomination papers for the Annual Town Election will be available in the Town Clerk's office beginning on Wednesday, January 3, 2024 and are due back on February 12th. Openings available are: Board of Assessors, Board of Health, Select Board, Fiske Library Trustee, KP Regional School Committee, Moderator, Planning Board, Elementary School Committee and Housing Authority. If you have any questions, please contact the Town Clerk's office.

6:35PM – PUBLIC HEARING - Discussion of Vote by Mail for Municipal Town Election

Present was Town Clerk, Cindy Thompson and Assistant Town Clerk, Ann Fisk

Motion made by Mr. Gallo, seconded by Mr. Harrington the Board voted to open the public hearing for consideration of opting out of vote by mail of the Municipal Election scheduled Monday, April 1, 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. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Harrington, the Board voted to waive the reading of the public hearing notice. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Ms. Thompson spoke, recommended that the Board vote to opt out of vote by mail for the municipal election on April 1, 2024.

Mr. Harrington read the following into the record,

Dear Board Members: As required by the Votes Act of 2022, the Board of Registrars held a meeting on Tuesday, January 3, 2023 to discuss recommendations of In Person Early Voting for the April 1, 2024 Annual Town Election. The Board members discussed the potential In Person Early Voting hours, staffing requirements and associated costs. It was concluded that it was unnecessary to hold In Person Early Voting for the upcoming Annual Town Election. Please refer to attached minutes. If you should have any questions/concerns, please contact the Town Clerk's office. Regards, Wrentham Board of Registrars
A discussion took place amongst the Board and Ms. Thompson regarding alternative options to in person voting for the municipal election.

Phill Jordan of 50 Mill Pond Drive spoke, noted that is has been indicated at the most recent Town Meeting that the community is interested in the expansion of democracy and was opposed to eliminating the option of mail in voting for the municipal election. Mr. Jordan encouraged the Board to expand access to voting in all elections.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Rouse, the Board to close the public hearing for consideration of opting out of vote by mail for the Municipal Election scheduled for Monday, April 1, 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. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Harrington, the Board voted to opt out of vote by mail for the Municipal Election scheduled for Monday, April 1, 2024. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – no, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-1.

6:40PM - PUBLIC HEARING - Café Assisi Application for Alteration of Premises

Present was Dereck DiBiase owner of Café Assisi located at 667 South Street

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Harrington, the Board voted to open the public hearing for the Cafe Assisi Alteration of Premises. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Harrington, the Board voted to waive the reading of the public hearing notice for the Cafe Assisi Alteration of Premises. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Mr. DiBiase spoke, provided a review of the Alteration of Premises.

A discussion took place amongst the Board, Mr. Sweet and Mr. DiBiase regarding the current zoning of the property and any existing special permit requirements.

Rick Goodreau from United Consultants provided input on the Board of Health Review of the existing septic system.

Phill Jordan of 50 Mill Pond Road spoke, spoke in favor of the alteration as an Abutter to the property.

Motion made by Mr. Gallo, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted to close the public hearing for the Café Assisi Alteration of Premises. 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, to approve the application for the Alteration of Premises for Café Assis located at 667 South Street and to authorize the use of electronic signatures, only after it has meet the contingencies of all regulatory boards in the town. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

6:55PM – PUBLIC HEARING Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid & Verizon New England – Chestnut Street Pole Petition

Present was Michael Fraser of National Grid

Motion made by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted to open the public hearing for Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon Pole Petition for Chestnut Street. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the Board voted to waive the reading of the public hearing notice for Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon Pole Petition for Chestnut Street. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Mr. Fraser spoke, reviewed the purpose of the pole petition.

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the Board voted to close the public hearing for Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon Pole Petition for Chestnut Street. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Motion made by Mr. Harrington, seconded by Mr. Anderson the Board voted to approve the pole petition Massachusetts Electric Company d/b/a National Grid and Verizon Pole Petition for Chestnut Street and to authorize the use of electronic signatures. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Discussion and Vote for LaFamilia License Renewal

Present was Ever and Deb Amaya of LaFamilia located at 263 Shears Street.

Mr. Amaya spoke, provided the Board with an update on the status of LaFamilia and provide prospective opening dates. Mr. Amaya reviewed where the business stands with the Board of Health and corrective action steps they are taking to be in compliance with that office and the Department of Inspections.

Mr. Amaya spoke, the Health Inspector required hand stations, plumbing coming in Thursday to do that. Last week we call second company to clean grease trap, found out we need new pump. Tables and chairs. Waiting to finish plumbing.

Motion to approve the 2024 Renewal of the On Premises All Alcohol License for LaFamilia located at 263 Shears Street. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – yes, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 5-0.

Discussion of Town Administrator Review Process

Mr. Botaish spoke, reviewed the Town Administrator Review document and the process.

Mr. Sweet spoke, provided the Board with prior history of the review process and examples of how it has been conducted.

Mr. Botaish spoke, provided a timeline for the Board members to conduct their individual reviews with Mr. Sweet and to coordinate with the Assistant Town Administrator/Human Resources Director.

Vote to Approve Town Manger’s Contract

The Board reviewed the process for reviewing the Town Manager’s Contract.

Motion made by Mr. Gallo, seconded by Mr. Anderson, the Board voted to approve the Town Manager’s contract, as presented, effective July 1, 2024. Followed by a roll call vote, Anderson – yes, Botaish – yes, Gallo – yes, Harrington – no, Rouse – yes. Motion carries, 4-1.

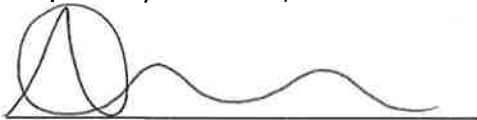
Town Administrator’s Report

Mr. Sweet spoke, provided an update on the executed contract with Fuss & O’Neill for Wastewater Feasibility Study for Downtown. Provided update on deadlines for adopting MBTA Zoning. Provided update on Tri-County Building School Project. Provided update on Environmental Partners West Wrentham Water Exploration Project. Provided a brief update on the status of Eagle Dam.

Adjournment

Motion made by Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Gallo, the Board voted to adjourn the open session meeting at 8:33PM. 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