

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Monday, May 17, 2021

The Select Board participated in this meeting remotely utilizing Zoom in accordance with the Governor's March 12, 2020 Order suspending provisions of Open Meeting Law and to promote public health and social distancing.

Board Members present: Linda Alexson, Chair; Dr. Tammy Jones, Vice Chair; Kerry Mackin; Nishan Mootafian; William Whitmore

Also present: Anthony Marino, Town Manager; Eileen Page, Recording Secretary

With a quorum present, Ms. Alexson called the meeting to order at 7:16 PM.

Welcome/Announcements

Ms. Alexson acknowledged Mr. Marino and Town staff for coordinating Annual Town Meeting, the High School cheerleaders for providing refreshments, and all residents who attended.

The Public Safety Facility Committee will meet on May 25 at 7:00 PM

The Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee will meet on June 1 at 7 PM.

The Zoning Board of Appeals (ZBA) will hold a special meeting regarding the Essex Pastures Development on May 19 at 7 PM.

The next Select Board meeting will be June 7.

The Climate Resiliency Committee will meet on May 18.

Town Elections will be held on Tuesday, May 18 at the Ipswich Family YMCA (110 County Road). Polls will be open from 7 AM until 8 PM.

Citizen Queries

None.

Board and Committee Business

- I. John Sarni – New Appointment Alternate – Design Review Board

Mr. Sarni lived in Andover for 30 years and felt that the Public Safety building they built was cold and unwelcoming. He now lives in Ipswich, and began attending the Public Safety Facility Committee meetings, and is seeking to join the Design Review Board. He is passionate about architecture, and very interested in aiding in the repurposing of the current Fire Department. He suggested turning it into an art center or farmers market.

- *Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to appoint Mr. Sarni to the Design Review Board as an Alternate for a three-year term. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

- II. Jennifer Hughes – Reappointment – Conservation Commission

- III. James Stone – Reappointment – Conservation Commission

- *Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to confirm Mr. Marino's reappointment of Jennifer Hughes and James Stone to the Conservation Commission. Ms. Mackin seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

PUBLIC HEARING: Pole Petition, Waldingfield Road

“Residents of the Town of Ipswich, please note that the Select Board will hold a remote Public Hearing on Monday, May 17, 2021 at 7:20 PM to act on the petition from Verizon and the Ipswich Municipal Light Department requesting permission to install two (2) new poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary sustaining and protecting fixtures along and across Waldingfield Road. The new poles will be installed to extend the pole line to

beyond the bridge crossing the railroad. Meeting information will be posted to the Town website in advance of the meeting and is available in the Select Board's office." – Linda Alexson, Select Board, Chair

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved to open the Public Hearing. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Jon Blair (Electric Light Manager) stated that existing infrastructure starts on County Road and runs towards Topsfield Road along Waldingfield Road, ending just before the train bridge, where the Town of Hamilton picks up service. The Town has recently been approached by a subcontractor who manages the railway to install two (2) new poles and associated equipment that would cross the railroad and allow the train to better maintain signaling equipment.

Dr. Jones asked if there was a way to encase the lines in a conduit attached to the side of the bridge, rather than installing aerial lines. Mr. Blair responded that it was theoretically possible, however discussions had determined that what is currently proposed is the safest and most reliable method for connection. Dr. Jones asked how 55 Waldingfield Road is serviced. Mr. Blair responded that the address is an Ipswich customer, but is connected to poles owned by National Grid. Dr. Jones asked what kind of property the poles would sit on, on the Hamilton side of the bridge. Mr. Blair responded that the space is a public right-of-way.

Nat Pulsifer (11 Waldingfield Road) submitted an email to the Board asking that "pole replacement take into account the possibility of future pedestrian pathways on either side of Waldingfield Road. This could mean placing poles further away from the current paved area to ensure room for a widened road with bike/walking lanes."

- *Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to approve the request to install two (2) poles on Waldingfield Road. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Consent Agenda

- I. One Day Wine & Malt
 - a. True North Ale Company for Appleton Farms Pizza Picnics on Sundays June 13, 20, 27 and Saturdays November 6, 13, 20, 2021.
 - b. Far From the Tree LLC for Outdoor Dining at Appleton Farms on June 19 and 20, 2021

- *Vote: Dr. Jones moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Approval of Minutes

- I. May 3, 2021
- II. May 10, 2021

- *Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved to approve the May 3, 2021 minutes with the correction of April 5 to April 25, and to approve the May 10, 2021 minutes. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Town Manager Report

Governor Charlie Baker held a press conference today to announce that mask requirements will be relaxed effective May 29, 2021. Mr. Marino will meet with Colleen Fermon (Director of Public Health) to discuss how these changes will affect Town Hall and Town business.

Mr. Marino has asked Beth Myers of ICAM to prioritize equipment installation that would allow hybrid meetings to be held in Meeting Room A. These meetings would allow Boards to meet in person while providing the option for the public to participate remotely via Zoom.

Mr. Marino attended a meeting regarding proposed changes to Market Street. A presentation on the proposed changes will be added to the June 21 agenda.

The Ipswich/Rowley Rotary Club will hold a ceremony for their Flags for Heroes on June 14 at 12 PM.

Mr. Marino met with Bill Solomon, the attorney who will be negotiating a new contract for Verizon. More information will be presented at the June 7 meeting.

New Business

Mr. Mootafian commended Mr. Marino on his organization of the last three Town Meetings under COVID-19 circumstances.

Ms. Alexson reminded the public that there will not be a Memorial Day Parade this year due to COVID-19 concerns.

Acknowledge Retirement of Select Board Member Nishan D. Mootafian

Mr. Mootafian has served on the Select Board for nine (9) years. Tonight is his final meeting.

Representative Brad Hill commended Mr. Mootafian on his unwavering willingness to support constituents and infrastructure projects, stated that Mr. Mootafian has been a dedicated public servant, and “when [he] spoke, people listened.”

Senator Bruce Tarr thanked Mr. Mootafian for his partnership, and stated that Mr. Mootafian always found the time to be a good Selectperson.

Mr. Mootafian thanked his current and past Select Board colleagues. He noted that when he joined the Board in 2012 it was made up of four men and one woman, and regardless of the outcome at tomorrow’s Town Elections, the Board will see a historic makeup of four women and one man. Mr. Mootafian thanked his children, Harry Lampropoulos, and his wife Denise.

Senator Tarr, Representative Hill, and the Select Board presented Mr. Mootafian with citations.

New Business

Mr. Whitmore asked if an upcoming Tri-Board meeting had been discussed. Ms. Alexson responded that it had not been, but that the next Select Board meeting is June 7.

Dave Welsh – Personal Video Library Donation of Ipswich Events

Mr. Marino played a video submitted by Mr. Welsh. Mr. Welsh is donating twenty-four (24) video archives to the Town. The videos feature footage of historic moments in Ipswich history such as the 2006 Mothers’ Day Flood and Ipswich’s 375th Birthday, and educational programs such as Fireside Chats and Oral Histories.

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to accept the donation. Mr. Whitmore seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

Old Business

None.

- *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to adjourn. Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried unanimously via roll call.*

The Select Board adjourned at 8:08 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
05.17.2021*