

TOWN OF IPSWICH
SELECT BOARD
Meeting of July 9, 2018
Town Hall, 25 Green Street

Pursuant to the Open Meeting Law, M.G.L. Chapter 30A §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Select Board members, a meeting of the Select Board (“Board”) was held on Monday, July 8, 2018 at 7:00pm in Meeting Room A.

With a quorum present, Nishan Mootafian called the meeting to order at 7:02pm.
Select Board members present: Nishan Mootafian, Chair; William Whitmore, Vice-Chair; Linda Alexson, Edward Rauscher, William Craft
Also present: Anthony Marino, Town Manager; Eileen Page, Recording Secretary

Abbreviations used: SB – Select Board; ELD - Electric Light Department
Public Information: Agenda; Meeting Packet

1. Pledge of Allegiance

2. Welcome / Announcements *(Video section 00:03:56 - 00:20:40)*

-) The SB welcomed a new business, Gathr, to the town. Founders Scott Glosserman and Erica Hoffmann were present. Gathr is located at 42 Market Street, and is a rentable, membership-based office space by day, and an event space open to the town by night. The company’s goal is to “foster community and impact” by collaborating with local businesses. They hope to run consistent events for all ages including children’s programming, documentaries, discussions, and classes. Their grand opening will take place on July 18th. Mr. Craft inquired about contact details. Mr. Rauscher commended the owners for their creative thinking on how to use the previously vacant space, and admired their efforts to integrate into the community while promoting local businesses.
-) The SB recognized Firefighter Jeremy Dalton after the Topsfield Fire Chief wrote to the Town about Mr. Dalton’s assistance when he happened upon a car accident off-duty. In addition, a local senior wrote a note to the department thanking Mr. Dalton for taking the time to change the batteries in her smoke detectors. Mr. Dalton was presented with a letter of recognition from the Board.

3. Citizen Queries *(Video section: 00:20:46 - 00:20:50)*

-) None

4. Board & Committee Appointments *(Video section: 00:20:51 - 00:23:36)*

-) Jennifer Norton - Library Board of Trustees - New Appointment
-) Ellen Maher - Library Board of Trustees - New Appointment

Vote: Mr. Craft moved, Mr. Rauscher seconded to appoint Ms. Norton and Ms. Maher to the Library Board of Trustees. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Echo Reservation Conservation Restriction *(Video section 00:24:00 - 00:27:55)*

-) Mr. Chris LaPointe of Greenbelt and Ms. Beth O’Connor of the Open Space Commission were in attendance. They were seeking approval from the SB for an extra layer of protection over ownership of the land. The Conservation Commission has previously approved the restriction.

Vote: Mr. Rauscher moved, and Mr. Craft seconded to approve the restriction. The motion carried unanimously.

6. PUBLIC HEARING: New England Country Club, New Seasonal Liquor License Application, D.B.A. Ipswich Country Club Pool Area *(Video section 00:28:20 - 00:41:46)*

-) Mr. Mootafian recused himself, as he is a member of the Ipswich Country Club.

Vote: Mr. Rauscher moved to open the Public Hearing, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

) Mr. Frank LaVaca, General Manager of the Ipswich Country Club, presented the request for a seasonal license to run from Memorial Day through Labor Day. Discussion followed about the history of the events. Mr. LaVaca stated that he was aware of a history of noise pollution resulting from previous events. He stated that he has worked on his own accord with homeowners and abutters to gather feedback on the impact of the events on the Country Club community. Ms. Lynn Rivenburg (65 Country Club Drive and 7 Wimbledon Court) stated that she is an abutter, and was not notified of this hearing. Mr. Marino stated that he will follow up on the miscommunication. Mr. Larry Kutz (11 Wimbledon Court) stated that his house backs up to the Pavilion, and wanted to know the exact hours of the license. He asked the Board to consider a 7:30pm "last call," with the premises being vacated by 8:00pm. Mr. Kutz was advised that the license is only valid from 12:00pm-8:00pm, and that live music is not permitted with this license. Mr. Rauscher and Mr. Whitmore advised that if there is an issue with license hours, it should be worked out with Mr. LaVaca.

Vote: Mr. Craft moved, and Ms. Alexson seconded to close the Public Hearing. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: Mr. Craft moved to approve the seasonal license for 7 days a week from 12:00pm-8:00pm. Mr. Rauscher seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

7. Public Facilities Safety Committee (Video section 00:42:08 - 00:46:28)

) Chief Paul Nikas presented that the committee will be meeting every two weeks with the goal of reviewing bids and hiring a firm to begin a space needs assessment for a new public safety building. They expect to provide a cost estimate soon. He expects all designs and reviews to be a 6-9 month process. Mr. Rauscher stated that he was glad to see progress being made.

8. Water Rates & Water Main Replacement Discussion (Video section 00:48:50 - 01:33:50)

) Ms. Vicki Halmen, the Water & Wastewater Director, was in attendance. She presented that there was a water main break around 12:00pm on June 30, 2018. Roughly 1,000,000 gallons of water were lost, and repairs cost about \$40,000. Water was restored around 4:00am on July 1st. This was the fourth break of 2018 in this section, and the seventh break overall of 2018. Prior, the last break in this particular section was fifteen years ago. Ms. Halmen stated that the Town averages 12 breaks a year. The Town has 93 miles of water main dating back to 1894. Ms. Alexson inquired about the dam break, and Ms. Halmen stated that the town lost several million gallons of water. Frequent storms have replenished the reservoirs, but customer demand is still high. Discussion followed about how Ipswich compares to other towns in regards to water main issues, needs for repairs, and cost estimates. Additionally, ideas about building water towers were floated. Ms. Alexson proposed the idea of reevaluating seasonal rate structures that charge commercial businesses lower rates than private citizens. Ms. Halmen stated that the process of changing rates would consist of two hearings and an analysis to determine exemptions.

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to begin the process of implementing seasonal rate structures on commercial customers similar to those on residential customers. The motion was not seconded. The motion did not move forward.

9. Meet with Government Study Committee (Video section 01:33:55 - 02:06:43)

) Mr. Craig Saline was in attendance. He updated the Board on the Government Study Committee's recent activity investigating the town charters and bylaws to determine if positions on various boards and committees should be elected rather than appointed. He stated that one focus of the Committee at Special Town Meeting will be to change verbiage in the town charter to be more gender neutral. Ms. Alexson inquired about the possibility of changing the charter's requirement that Annual Town Meeting be held on a Tuesday night. Mr. Saline said he would look into it. Mr. Whitmore expressed concern that beyond logistics, the Committee may be delving too deep into some of its work, and would like to see them focus on stricter deadlines. Mr. Craft would like to see a clearer outline of what must be changed through amending the charter, and what can be changed through general consensus and behavior.

10. Set Date of Special Town Meeting (Video section 02:07:00 - 02:20:46)

) Ms. Alexson proposed that the Board experiment with holding Special Town Meeting on a Saturday morning, as there are no scheduling requirements in the town charter surrounding Special meetings. She

argued that a Saturday would make attendance more feasible for the elderly and working residents. Mr. Rauscher agreed that experimenting with a Saturday meeting would be a good idea. Discussion followed weighing the pros and cons of a Saturday date.

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to hold Special Town Meeting on Saturday, October 20, 2018 at 9:00am. Mr. Rauscher seconded. The motion failed 2-3.

Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved, and Mr. Craft seconded to hold Special Town Meeting on Tuesday, October 23, 2018 at 7:00pm. The motion carried unanimously.

) Ms. Alexson brought up the issue of keypad voting, stating that its incorporation into Town Meetings needs to be a serious effort. Mr. Mootafian suggested that it be discussed with the Town Moderator.

11. Goal Setting Preparation Discussion (Video section 02:20:50 - 02:22:41)

) Mr. Marino would like to focus on concrete, measurable goals. He would like to send a template for an analysis to the Board members ahead of time to help guide the meeting.

12. Approval of Minutes (Video section 02:22:44 - 02:27:47)

) Mr. Craft was not in attendance for the June 18th meeting, and so his reappointment to the Shellfish Advisory Committee had been tabled until this evening. Mr. Craft passed on reappointment.

Vote: Mr. Whitmore moved, and Mr. Craft seconded to appoint Mr. Mootafian to the Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee. The motion carried unanimously.

) The conversation diverted to Mr. Rauscher's request to be relieved of his appointment to the Shade Tree & Beautification Committee. Mr. Whitmore wondered if it is necessary to have two Select Board appointed to the committee. Further action was tabled until the July 23rd meeting.

) Mr. Craft recused himself from the minutes approval, as he was not in attendance for the June 18th meeting.

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved, and Mr. Rauscher seconded to approve the June 18th minutes. The motion passed 4-0.

13. CONSENT AGENDA:

Over 70 Recreational Shellfish Permits (Video section 02:27:50 - 02:28:39)

) Ms. Alexson corrected the agenda's statement that these permits are valid for a lifetime; they now expire after two years.

Vote: Mr. Craft moved to modify the Consent Agenda. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Provisional Commercial Shellfish Applications (Video section 00:46:43 - 00:48:40)

) Chief Nikas stated that all five applicants met the requirements of the permits, and that he and the Shellfish Constable recommend the Board's approval.

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to grant the permits to Ms. Jennifer Russell, Mr. Jose Andres Merlos Morales, Mr. Nathan Howland, Mr. Nicholas Lane, and Mr. Adiel Morales Merlos. Mr. Craft seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

14. Town Manager Report (Video section 02:28:40 - 02:44:21)

) Mr. Marino stated that he would like Mr. George Hall to attend the first SB meeting in August to provide an update on the firetruck case.

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

) Mr. Marino has had productive meetings recently with the school department, Ipswich Business Roundtable, Rotary, EBSCO, and transportation services, and will be meeting with the Trustees soon.

FIRE CHIEF SEARCH

) There are currently five leading candidates for the position of Fire Chief, and one is confirmed for the Assessment Center on July 25th. Three of the candidates are internal, and two are external. Mr. Marino hopes to solidify the position by the end of August or early September.

DOG PARK

) Mr. Marino has applied for a \$100,000 grant for the construction of a dog park. The field outside Town Hall has been suggested as a location.

COMMUNITY BENEFIT AGREEMENT

-) A draft copy of the Community Benefit Agreement has been received by the Select Board. Ms. Alexson would like to see a portion of it dedicated to a drug awareness program in the schools. Mr. Marino suggested bringing in the D.A.R.E. program for about \$10,000 a year.

CLIMATE RESILIENCY COMMITTEE

-) Mr. Marino met with Mike Johnson, and they are focusing on becoming a Green Community. This will be a multifaceted project, and Mr. Marino has met with former Town Manager George Howe to see where a previous solar panel project left off.

FACILITIES

-) Mr. Marino met with superintendent Dr. Brian Blake to discuss School Dude, a software that will help track town projects and progress.

TECHNOLOGY

-) Mr. Marino is in the process of filling the position left vacant by Mr. Jeff Civitarese.

ANNUAL BUDGET

-) Mr. Marino would like to use a GFOA format for the budget this year, as it is easier to read, more transparent, and provides more information.

BOARDS & COMMITTEES

-) A committee handbook to be posted to the Town website is being finalized. Mr. Marino is working with the Town Clerk to streamline meeting posting procedures for all committees.

15. New Business (*Video section 02:44:23 - 02:49:09*)

-) Mr. Dylan Malone of the Electric Light Department was in attendance. He requested a letter of support from the Board in applying for a grant for a needs assessment for a microgrid in town. Mr. Craft inquired about commitments on the part of the Town including a Town Match for funding. Mr. Malone stated that there are no requirements, aside from the expectation that the ELD will fund remaining expenses through their sustainability budget after the grant runs out. The Board granted the letter of support.
-) Mr. Marino shared that he has been working with James Foley and Director of Public Work Rick Clarke regarding sidewalk repairs that must be made before a parcel of land is donated to the town.
-) Ms. Alexson brought up the idea of limiting Pavilion Beach to residents only during the summertime. Mr. Mootafian suggested the idea be discussed in August.

16. Old Business (*Video section 02:49:10 - 02:51:35*)

-) Mr. Marino stated that Town Planner Glenn Gibbs has made changes to a legal document regarding the Cutter Realty Trust, and presented two notarized copies signed by the Cutters. Ms. Alexson noticed that while the notarization is dated, the document itself is not, and declined to sign it.

17. Miscellaneous & Correspondence (*Video section 02:51:37 - 02:52:19*)

-) The Board reviewed banner applications for East End Open Studio and the Care Dimensions Walk for Hospice.

Adjournment – *Motion made to adjourn made by Ms. Alexson, and it was seconded to adjourn at 9:51pm. The motion carried unanimously.*

Respectfully submitted by

*Eileen Page
07.16.18*