

**IPSWICH SELECT BOARD**  
**Meeting of Monday, July 19, 2021**

Pursuant to Open Meeting Law M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Select Board was held on Monday, July 19, 2021 at 7:00 PM in Meeting Room A.

Board Members present: Dr. Tammy Jones, Chair; Linda Alexson; Kerry Mackin; Sarah Player

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

Not present: William Whitmore, Vice Chair

With a quorum present, Dr. Jones called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM.

**Welcome/Announcements**

**HONOR & REMEMBER JOHN FISKE, LONG TIME IPSWICH HISTORICAL COMMISSION MEMBER**

John Fiske, a longtime member of the Ipswich Historical Commission and valued member of the community, passed away last week.

**RED TIDE**

Ipswich shellfish beds are closed due to Red Tide. The Shellfish Constable expects the beds to remain closed for the next few weeks. Permit holders should call the shellfish line at (978) 356-6671 for flat status.

**REBATE PROGRAMS**

Rebate programs are available through the Electric department to residents who opt for energy-efficient appliances when updating their homes.

**MEETINGS**

The Public Safety Facility Committee will meet on July 20 at 7 PM in the tent behind the Police Department.

The Climate Resiliency Committee will meet on July 20 at 6:30 PM via Zoom.

**Citizen Queries**

Phil Goguen (Kingfisher Road) asked about the schedule of upcoming Select Board meetings; Mr. Marino responded that a special meeting would be held on August 2 to discuss the State 911 Feasibility Study, and regular meetings would be held on August 9 and August 23. Mr. Goguen asked for ten (10) minutes to be set aside at the August 9 meeting for him to speak on Town finances in general. Mr. Goguen asked why there wasn't an advisory board in place to challenge Town expenses, and when minutes from the May 3 Executive Session would be available. Mr. Marino responded that the minutes would be available to the public upon their release, which could take years depending on the topic discussed. Dr. Jones stated that she would work with Mr. Marino to find an appropriate time to discuss Town finances on an upcoming agenda.

Ms. Alexson read an email submitted by Ana Mellow (Wilds Court):

“...I want to say first I am extremely happy that Heart and Soul is thriving. The problem is they need to do better. Last night around 8:30 I walked [my dog]. We walked around town. The issue is Heart and Soul was still open (awesome for them) but they took over the whole side walk with tables and chairs!! They have a tent area for customers. People where [sic] standing and not one person moved so I could get by with [my dog]. To top it off a couple ladies where sitting on the bench with a dog and not paying attention at all of their [sic] surroundings. Well the dog got snippy and it was hard to pull my dog because of the people not moving. It was terrible. I usually am all for businesses being busy. I am only saying they need to remember they don't own the side walk! They don't need to have tables in the middle of a side walk that pedestrians are going to walk on. All types of people walk down town and it's uncomfortable walking thru [sic] people eating or sitting or standing that don't care to move so you can get by. The owner was out there saying good bye to some people so I'm sure he saw the fact that his customers took the whole corner. The town wants to

beautify and make market street [sic] a walking street yet you can't get thru [sic] when heart and soul [sic] is open. They should not be allowed to have tables on the side walk that is what the tent is for!! Again I'm not trying to trash Heart and Soul but they need to remember the side walk isn't there's [sic] it's for people who are walking. ...walking thru [sic] people who are eating while walking my dog who could squat to pee at anytime [sic] is not the best. ... I am very concerned as this corner is dangerous. When I tell you it was like a maze trying to walk on the sidewalk because of the tables and customers who chose to not move. If someone had a big dog and tried it would be impossible. I feel like the town wants market street [sic] to be a walking street then this can't happen. As a business owner he needs to know the sidewalks should be free and clear of tables that is what he has a tent area for. It's extremely uncomfortable walking thru people dinning [sic] especially with a dog. I can't blame the owner for what his customers do but my dog almost got bit by another small dog because the owner wasn't paying any attention. Is there something the select board [sic] can recommend to Heart and Soul to not use the side walk as thier [sic] lounge area?? I don't walk [my dog] around town during the day because of this. But at 8:30 at night it shouldn't be an issue. Brown dog [sic] has their tables in parking spaces so no one is on the sidewalks. I have talked to a few people who have had the same concern with heart and souls set up. Again love that they are thriving but something needs to be done. This is a dangerous corner for anyone to have to walk in the road. Thanks so much for your attention to this matter.”

**Board and Committee Appointments**

- I. Tess Schutte and Tom Schutte – Resignation – Historical Commission
- II. Select Board Confirmation of TM Appointments to Historical Commission – Rachel Meyer, Joseph Bourneuf, Christopher Morse, Alternates Jaime Novack, Regular Member
- III. Lewis Vlahos – Reappointment – ZBA
- IV. Linda Alexson – Reappointment – MBTA Advisory Board
- V. Michael Dougherty – Reappointment – Water and Wastewater Subcommittee
- VI. Heather Pillis – Reappointment – Waste Reduction Advisory Committee

➤ *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to accept the resignation, confirm the Town Manager appointments, and approve the reappointments. Ms. Player seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

**Market Street Roadwork Improvements**

➤ *Vote: Ms. Player moved to open the Public Hearing. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

National Grid has provided substantial funding to repave Market Street following their water/sewer pipeline work, which has given the Town an opportunity to rethink what they would like the downtown area to look like going forward.

Kevin McHugh (Konico Engineers & Scientists) provided an overview of three (3) options he has drafted.

**OPTION 1A**

Option 1A would keep Market Street as a two-way street. At Depot Square, a bump out would shorten the crosswalk and narrow Market Street, also allowing for additional greenspace. At the Post Office, a bump out leading into the crosswalk would shorten the crosswalk and allow additional greenspace, signage, bollards, and period lighting to be installed. It would also extend a pedestrian plaza and walkway to the Riverwalk. At the Central/Market Street intersection, protected plazas would be created with bump outs and bollards, narrowing the road way and shortening crosswalks.

Ms. Alexson asked if a firetruck could safely make a right-hand turn onto Market Street if it were traveling from the current fire station. Mr. McHugh stated that it was a tight turn, but software simulations show that it can be done.

**OPTION 2**

Option 2 would make Market Street a one-way street. A lane would be eliminated to allow for a significant increase in pedestrian access. Parallel parking would be provided along the west side of the street. At the Post Office, large bump outs would allow for more greenspace. At the intersection of Central/Market Street, larger sidewalks and

bump outs would allow for outdoor seating and diagonal parking. The area would be fully ADA accessible, and include markings to allow for safer bicyclist access.

#### OPTION 1B

Option 1B was developed based on comments and concerns raised to the Board. Option 1B would keep Market Street as a two-way street. At Depot Square, the design would remove the middle flush island and bump outs.

Ms. Alexson asked how 1B would influence fire apparatus maneuvers; Mr. McHugh responded that with the flush island, the truck could drive directly over it if necessary.

Ms. Player asked if 1B would lessen the narrowing of the road; Mr. McHugh confirmed this.

At the Post Office, the bump out proposed in 1A would be reduced so as not to lose parking spaces.

Ms. Alexson asked how bump outs would impact snow removal operations. Rick Clarke (Director of Public Works) responded that the effect should be minimal, as Market Street is cleared during snow storms using a “Downtown Cleaning” process, where the streets are closed and different machines are utilized than the typical plows.

#### PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Miles (58 North Main Street) expressed appreciation of the openness of the review process. He stated that twenty-three (23) years ago, a similar plan was presented that proposed designating Hammatt Street as one-way. He noted that the lot on Hammatt Street is available to the public, and that Newburyport recently built a garage to accommodate more parking. Mr. Clarke confirmed that if Market Street was designated as one-way, Hammatt Street would need to undergo significant upgrades. Mr. Miles asked if the Electric Department had provided any insight into transitioning to underground utilities; Mr. Marino responded that while there are ongoing discussions about it, there are no plans in the near future to convert to underground electric.

Christine Hezzey (Green Street) stated that she appreciates the 1B option, and has concerns regarding the one-way option. She stated that before the plan can even be concerned, a traffic study spanning at least a year needs to be completed. She also noted that the Hammatt Street lot is largely designated for specific businesses and condominiums, and that the EBSCO lot does not allow for non-employee parking during regular business hours. She added that metered parking would also drive potential customers away from downtown Ipswich.

Cricket Davison (Blaisdell Terrace) stated that she was in favor of Market Street converting to one-way as a former Newburyport resident. She argued that a one-way street provides for safer access and allows downtown business to grow.

Bud Siciliano (0 Central Street) provided a diagram that he drafted proposing slight changes to Option 1. He suggested that benches, greenery, and bicycle racks be added to the bump out planned for in front of Heart & Soul. To address traffic concerns he suggested restricting the street to trucks over a certain weight, and encouraging businesses to coordinate early-morning vendor deliveries to prevent congestion during high-traffic times.

Sheila Taylor (Ipswich Senior Center Director) spoke in advocacy for older adults and those with mobility issues. She noted that downtown parking needs to be a priority, as handicapped spaces are limited as is, and those with mobility issues may not have a handicap placard.

Phil Goguen (Kingfisher Road) asked what the cost was for drafting the conceptual designs; Mr. Marino responded that it was under \$5,000. Mr. Goguen stated that he was not in favor of adding greenery to the area, as trees encroach on signs and prevent them from being easily read.

Jennifer Page (Masconomet Road) echoed Ms. Alexson’s concerns regarding fire apparatus making right-hand turns onto Market Street. She also expressed concern about a bump out being added in front of Heart & Soul that would only benefit one establishment. She asked Police Chief Paul Nikas for his recommendation from a public safety perspective; Chief Nikas responded that designating Market Street as one-way would cause congestion, as 1A feeds

directly into downtown Ipswich and is frequented by about 18,000 vehicles in a single day. He expressed support for Option 1A or 1B, which he believes would minimize traffic and have less effect on parking. He stated that temporary handicapped spots could be installed to increase accessible parking.

Ms. Alexson asked what the next steps would be in the process. Mr. Marino responded that based on public feedback the Town was likely to pursue Options 1A or 1B, with an emphasis on minimizing parking loss.

- *Vote: Ms. Player moved to close the Public Hearing. Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously*

### **Provisional Commercial Clamming Permit Application**

Alexander Graham - 14 Labor in Vain Road

Chief Nikas reported that one (1) provisional commercial clamming permit is available. The resident requesting the permit does not owe any back taxes.

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to approve the permit on the condition that the applicant provide the Town Clerk with a copy of their State Transaction Card and pay all required fees within thirty (30) days. Ms. Player seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Memorial Bench Request - COVID Memorial Bench, Town Hall**

Ms. Taylor stated that the Council on Aging (COA) and Ipswich community at large has lost several members to COVID-19, and requested that a memorial bench be established in their memory outside Town Hall, near the memorial stone commemorating September 11. The bench plaque would read:

*Always in Our Hearts  
Honoring those loved and lost during the COVID-19 pandemic  
2020-2021*

A dedication would be held on October 2 as part of Ipswich Illuminations.

- *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to approve the request. Ms. Mackin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Consider Formation of a Public Safety Building Reuse Task Force**

Ms. Alexson asked that the Board commission a Public Safety Building Reuse Task Force to make recommendations about how to best utilize the current police and fire stations once the Public Safety Facility has been completed. She noted that building reuse was not a part of the charge of the Public Safety Facility Committee, and suggested that residents with backgrounds in history, architecture, or design might be best suited for the Task Force.

Ms. Player agreed that establishing the Task Force would show thoughtful planning on the part of the Town.

Dr. Jones suggested that the Task Force be made up of nine (9) members, with representatives also considered from the Finance Committee and Historical Commission.

Mr. Marino stated that he would put a formal vote to establish the Task Force on the August 2 agenda.

### **Consent Agenda**

- I. One Day Wine and Malt License Applications
  - a. Jason Bullen, Brewery Silvaticus for Summer Beer Garden at Appleton Farms on 8/21/21
  - b. Rob Barossi, Trustees of Reservations for Guided Hikes & Craft Beer Appleton Farms on 7/24 and 8/14, 20, 27, 9/3, 24 of 2021

- c. Kathryn Garry, Old Planters Brewing Co. for Summer Beer Garden, Appleton Farms on 8/21/2021
- d. Dan Clapp, 1634 Meadery for Farm Harvest Markets, Appleton Farms on 8/7, 9/26, 11/13 and 12/11 of 2021
- e. Rob Hughes, Notch Brewing for Craft Beer & Cider at Castle Hill on 7/25/2021
- II. One Day All Alcohol License Application
  - a. Andrew Skillman, Ipswich Masonic Temple for Wedding on 8/14/2021

➤ *Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Ms. Player seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Approval of Minutes**

- I. June 7, 2021
- II. June 21, 2021
- III. July 6, 2021

Ms. Player clarified that in her July 6 subcommittee report, she attended the ELD Subcommittee as a member of the public, and not as a Select Board representative.

➤ *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to approve all sets of minutes. Ms. Player seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

### **Town Manager Report**

#### **PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY**

The Town is exploring installing electric heat pumps at the Public Safety Facility, which are more energy efficient than traditional heating/cooling methods.

#### **SPECIAL TOWN MEETING**

An article will be presented at Special Town Meeting regarding the Symes development open space area. The article will ask the Town to take ownership of the open space, which will fall under the supervision of the Water Department.

Congressman Seth Moulton is assisting the Town in exploring federal funds that may be available for financial aid in raising Argilla Road.

#### **MOVIE PRODUCTION**

*Salem's Lot* will be shooting in Ipswich between September 10 and 16. Production will use the library, police department, and area of South Main Street by AnnTiques.

#### **VOLUNTEER APPRECIATION**

The Town is currently working with Appleton Farms to arrange a volunteer appreciation event. There are about three-hundred (300) people who regularly volunteer for the Town of Ipswich.

#### **American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA)**

ARPA funding numbers are expected to be released in the near future. A plan for allocating the funding will be presented to the Board once the exact numbers are received.

#### **HYBRID MEETINGS**

Hybrid meetings will allow for residents to participate in Select Board meetings remotely. The model will be ready to launch once the equipment is received; a plastic shortage has delayed the setup.

## **Select Board Member Subcommittee Update**

### **SHELLFISH ADVISORY SUBCOMMITTEE**

Ms. Alexson serves as the Select Board representative to the Shellfish Advisory Subcommittee. The Subcommittee will meet again in August. The shellfish beds are currently closed due to Red Tide.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE**

Dr. Jones and Ms. Alexson serve as the Select Board representatives the Public Safety Facility Committee. The Committee will meet on July 20 at 7 PM in the tent behind the police station.

### **AFFORDABLE HOUSING TRUST FUND BOARD**

Ms. Player attended a recent meeting of the Affordable Housing Trust Fund Board. The trust fund balance is currently at about \$940,000. A motion was taken to approve no more than \$10,000 to Harbor Light to research potential sites in town.

### **CLIMATE RESILIENCY COMMITTEE**

Ms. Mackin serves as the Select Board representative on the Climate Resiliency Committee. She reported that the Committee will meet on July 20, and the Water/Wastewater Subcommittee will meet later in the month.

Ms. Mackin recently took place in a Public Hearing held by the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (Mass DEP) on water management regulations on “registered withdrawals.” Comments on the issue must be submitted to Mass DEP by July 26 at 5 PM.

Ms. Alexson noted that over the last several years, communities that draw from the Ipswich River Watershed do not impose restrictions, while Ipswich is often the first to enter restrictions. She asked if these regulations would address that inconsistency. Ms. Mackin responded that it would, and noted that it has been more than a decade since it was decided that Mass DEP held the authority to implement restrictions, and that this is the first step in implementing that authorization.

### **ELECTRIC LIGHT SUBCOMMITTEE**

Dr. Jones serves as the Select Board representative on the Electric Light Subcommittee. The Subcommittee recently met to discuss sustainability initiatives and incentives for purchasing energy efficient appliances, solar panels, and air source heat pumps.

August 14 has been identified as a potential date for the Board to tour the Electric facilities.

### **TRI-BOARD CHAIRS**

The Chairs of the Select Board, Finance Committee, and School Committee continue to meet monthly, and a full Tri-Board meeting is planned for August 17.

### **PUBLIC SAFETY FACILITY COMMITTEE**

Ms. Player asked if any publicity campaigns were planning for the Public Safety Committee. Dr. Jones responded that the Committee will soon be seeking volunteers to step forward and advocate for support of the article at Special Town Meeting.

Ms. Alexson encouraged the public to visit [www.IpswichPublicSafety.net](http://www.IpswichPublicSafety.net).

### **New Business**

Ms. Alexson asked that the Board schedule a discussion about proposing a warrant article that would eliminate the Tuesday night restriction for Annual Town Meeting in the bylaws. Current language dictates that Annual Town Meeting must be held on the second Tuesday in May; she suggested implementing language that would dictate Annual Town Meeting be held no later than the third Saturday in May.

**Old Business**

None.

➤ *Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to adjourn. Ms. Player seconded. The motion carried unanimously.*

The Select Board adjourned at 8:56 PM.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page  
08.13.2021*