

**SELECT BOARD MEETING
MINUTES MAY 21, 2018
APPROVED**

BOS Members Present: Joshua A. Degen, Chair; Alison S. Manugian, Clerk; John G. Petropoulos, Member; Rebecca H. Pine, Member

Members Absent: Barry A. Pease, Vice Chair

Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Mr. Degen called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Degen announced that Election Day was the next day.

Mr. Degen said that next Monday was the Police Chief's last day. He thanked him for the level of professionalism he had brought. He said the Chief had been exemplary and would be sorely missed. Mr. Degen wished him the best of times during his retirement. Mr. Petropoulos said that the Groton Police Department had not always been held in high esteem adding that Chief Palma was responsible for the majority of the turn around and said they should be grateful for that.

Mr. Degen said that this was Mr. Petropoulos's last meeting as a member of the Select Board. Ms. Pine said that they scheduled a meeting of the Non-Profit Council for that morning, something Mr. Petropoulos had a lot to do with. She added that he decided to retire earlier that day by not showing up. Ms. Manugian said she liked what she saw when Mr. Petropoulos first pulled papers and supported him. She said that all the inquiry came toward her a few weeks later while she was on the School Committee. She said they didn't always see eye to eye but healthy debate was a good thing. She thought his intentions were good whether provoking or preventing change. Ms. Pine pointed out that Mr. Petropoulos wanted a roast instead of sincere quotes just so the public was aware. Mr. Degen read an email from former Board member, Stuart Schulman. Mr. Degen said it was a great pleasure serving with Mr. Petropoulos adding his was stubborn, pragmatic and logical to only himself. He said that Mr. Petropoulos stuck to his convictions which was important adding that all were welcome including him. Mr. Petropoulos said that he had a lot of people to thank Starting with Mr. Degen who had cooperated, schemed and worked with him to make things happen. He added that they had found a way to get things done as a minority. He thanked Mr. Robertson for his support on some issues also. He said that if people wanted something done, to not be silent; reach out to your Select Board members. He said he could not say being a member was fun but that it had been an important time for him.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

Mr. Jack Risdon commented on how awful the last Select Board meeting was. He said that everyone was talking over one another which was maddening when you're watching it from home. He said he was requesting that it stop.

Ms. Ellen Baxendale said that they had a perfectly good Deputy Chief and asked why he wasn't made the next Chief. Mr. Haddad explained the process as laid out in the Charter on appointing a Chief.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Ms. Pine moved to ratify the Town Manager's appointment of Kevin Barrett to the Trails Committee term to end June 30, 2019. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
2. Mr. Haddad said he was asked to bring back the Chief's requested Tattoo Rules and Regs. He said that the Chief removed the wording as discussed by the Board at their last meeting and asked the Board to consider adopting the modification that evening. Ms. Pine said she was happy to see the change.

Ms. Pine moved that they approve Rule 9.4 Tattoo and Body Modification of the Police Rules and Regulations. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion failed 2-2 with Mr. Degen and Ms. Manugian voting against.

Mr. Petropoulos said he was interested to understand why they had voted against this. Mr. Degen said that freedom of expression was a good thing as long as it was not offensive. Mr. Petropoulos said he understood but asked if he had taken into consideration the role officers play and the need for highly regimented groups being separate from the public. Ms. Manugian said she was an inch on either side of this. She said that tattoos had become so common adding it was not a problem like it was decades ago. She said if there was a compelling reason or issue now then she might have voted differently. She thought this was forcing them to be conservative adding she wanted police officers and their presence to be approachable and was not sure prohibiting tattoos and the like was in keeping with them being approachable with the public. Mr. Degen said he worked with a lot of people that had tattoos and didn't think officers should be prohibited. Ms. Pine said she was comfortable singling out everything but tattoos. Mr. Degen said he would be okay with that. Ms. Manugian said that was probably where that line was but didn't think banning the display of tattoos was necessary. Mr. Haddad said that this was something that was common practice at the local and national level. He said that he personally didn't want to see an officer pull him over with tattoos all up their arms and piercings and supported this request by the Chief. Mr. Robertson said that the Police Department was different. He said that the officers were out in the public all the time and thought this was important. He said that this was a department that people look up to because of their high level of discipline and didn't think they should have tattoos or body piercings. He said he agreed with Mr. Haddad adding Groton has become a community where they tried to change everything and didn't think this was one thing they should allow. Ms. Pine said that the Police Chief had recommended this and thought they should support it. Mr. Degen said he would support a possible modification. The discussion ensued about possible modifications and about asking the Chief to modify it for a future meeting.

3. Ms. Manugian moved to appoint Berta Erickson, Geoffrey Kromer and Erica McConnel to the Scholarship Committee term to expire June 30, 2019. Ms. Pine seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.
4. Mr. Haddad said that MassDOT would be holding a public hearing regarding the planned installation of sidewalks on 119 at 6pm on June 6th at Legion Hall. Mr. Degen said that this was a good thing and thanked Mr. Haddad and Mr. Delaney for making this happen.

ON-GOING ISSUES

- A. Mr. Haddad said that the Police Chief Search Committee had completed its interviews and narrowed the list down to five. He said that the Police Chief's panel would be scheduled within the next couple of weeks at which point he would be making a decision on who and how many to bring forward to the Board. He said that the Select Board would then interview the finalists and hold an assessment center the very next day. There was a discussion on when to interview the candidates and hold the assessment center. It was decided that Mr. Haddad would bring the finalist's names to the Board on June 11th, that the Board would interview the candidates on June 19th and hold the assessment center on either June 20th or 21st.
- B. Mr. Haddad said that the meeting about the Prescott School was scheduled for May 30th. He said he would have an update for the Board on the 4th.
- C. Mr. Haddad said that responses to the RFP for Town Counsel services were due on Thursday. He said he would deliver the responses to the Board the following week.
- D-F. Mr. Haddad said he would bring this back to a future meeting.
- G. The Board could not remember who was going to mark up the proposed policy on Major Initiative Planning. Mr. Degen offered to do it.
- H. Mr. Haddad said that depending on tomorrow's vote on the Senior Center, if it passed, the plans were in place to schedule the move and fire department use of the building for training adding they would issue a notice to proceed for June 18th.
- I. Mr. Haddad said that he had started to schedule the Department Heads for their audit recommendations review with the Land Use Department on June 4th.
- K. There was nothing to report on the local room occupancy tax at this point.
- L. Ms. Pine said that he had not had a chance to review the proposed bylaw for a Permanent Building Committee. Mr. Degen said he thought this made sense but needed to see the language and parameters of bylaw. Ms. Pine asked Mr. Haddad to resend this to her.

- M. Mr. Haddad said they had talked about the sidewalk installation on 119.
- N. Mr. Haddad said that they would discuss the non-binding marijuana questions after the election.
- O. Mr. Haddad said that the FloRo feasibility study was in the hand of the schools.
- P. Ms. Pine said she was not sure the First Parish Church CPA application needed to be on their list anymore.
- Q. Mr. Haddad said that building fee waivers was put on this list because of Indian Hill. He said that there could be a possible policy in the future. Ms. Pine asked if that made sense adding that the Charter had new language about making exceptions to policies. Mr. Giger said that there was language in there that fees be written and available to the public with changes having to be made in open meeting. Mr. Degen said that this should be dealt with sooner rather than later.
- R. Mr. Haddad suggested holding off on discussing anything relative to the Police Department Task Force on hold until a new chief was in place.
- S. Mr. Haddad said he would be coming back with a charge in the next few weeks for the Fire Department Task Force.
- T. There was not update on union negotiations.

LIAISON REPORTS

Mr. Degen said that representative from the new Hindu Temple had been working with himself and Tom Delaney on a donation to the Town to replace trees around Town. He said that they had purchased the first two trees which were being installed at Williams Barn. He said they had a commitment to do this for the next 10 years. Mr. Petropoulos said that this was an outcome of the Non-Profit Council. Mr. Petropoulos said that there was also a rain garden project Lawrence Academy and Groton School were working on with Tom Delaney in the Lost Lake area.

Mr. Degen adjourned the meeting at 8:24pm.

Approved: _____
Alison Manugian, Clerk

_____ *respectfully submitted,*
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 6/4/18