

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
MINUTES FEBRUARY 25, 2019
APPROVED**

BOS Members Present: Alison S. Manugian, Vice Chair; John R. Giger, Clerk; Joshua A. Degen, Member
Member Absent: Barry A. Pease, Chair; Rebecca H. Pine, Member
Also Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Ms. Manugian called the meeting to order at 7:00pm and reviewed the agenda.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Mr. Giger thanked all town departments for all their hard work clearing the branches and trees in the roads due to the strong winds.

Mr. Degen said that the town election was coming up in May including his seat and Mr. Pease's. He said that nomination papers were due by April 2nd.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. *Mr. Degen moved to approve a request for a one-day beer and wine license for the Friends of Prescott for a Fundraising Event to be held on May 4, 2019 from 6:30pm to 10:30pm. Mr. Giger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*
2. *Mr. Degen moved to approve a request for a one-day BYOB license for Salt & Light Café for a Private Event to be held on February 27, 2019 from 6:00pm to 9:00pm. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*
3. *Mr. Degen moved to ratify the appointment of Michael Luth to the Commemorations and Celebrations Committee term to expire June 30, 2019. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.*
4. Mr. Haddad said that the Board needed to approve the draft Open Space Plan and issue a letter of review with any comments they may have. Mr. Haddad said that Ms. Manugian said she wanted to see something in their letter that said they approved this plan with the condition that it be dependent on available funding or competing needs at the time. Mr. Degen agreed with Ms. Manugian's comment as explained by Mr. Haddad.

Ms. Manugian moved to authorize the Town Manager to draft a letter of support for the Open Space Plan with the condition as discussed. Mr. Giger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

5. Mr. Alan Donald said that he was before the Board in the fall because of an episode with one of his neighbors discharging a firearm near the abutting homes. Mr. Donald said that if they brought forward a new proposed bylaw regarding the discharge of firearms, he thought it might be contentious. He said that with the proper application of the Mass GL, there were very few properties within Groton that would qualify with the 500ft limit. Mr. Donald said that he had spoken to the Police Chief who ensured that the laws would be strictly adhered to adding that the neighbors were ready to put this on hold as long as the law was adhered to. Mr. Giger said that there were local ranges that residents could go to in surrounding towns and encouraged people to use them.

7:15PM - BROADMEADOW ROAD

Mr. Delaney said that the high-water issues on Broadmeadow was an ongoing issue. He said he received a letter from David Ross Associates adding that the way the flood plain was, it would cost a couple of hundred thousand dollars to build up the road. He said that unless the Board wanted to spend money on it, he didn't think it was wise to do so. Mr. Delaney said that his favored approach would be to dredge some channels along the rail trail in James Brook so the water had somewhere to go adding it would cost about \$30K to do this. He said that the other option would be to make Broadmeadow a cul-da-sac using the dirt road behind the Light Department as part of the road. Mr. Takashi Tada said that dredging would require filing a Notice of Intent with the Conservation Commission. Mr. Degen said he thought the cul-da-sac option might be premature as

well as the expensive option of building up the road. He said he would like to see them explore the path of least resistance. Mr. Haddad said that he was hearing they should put an article on the warrant seeking money to dredge the swamp. Ms. Manugian said that she agreed and asked where the money would come from. Mr. Haddad said that they would have to seek a withdrawal from the capital stabilization account or seek money from free cash. Mr. Degen said it would make sense to do this in July or August when it was drier. Mr. Haddad said that it would probably be a Fiscal 2020 project. Mr. Giger said that the cul-da-sac option was not a bad idea but couldn't rationalize this becoming another Zakim bridge project.

Mr. Degen moved that the Select Board add an article to the 2019 Spring Town Meeting warrant for the purposes of seeking funding to dredge James Brook along the rail trail. Mr. Giger seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT - Cont.

6. Mr. Haddad said that he had sent out a draft of the 2019 Spring Town Meeting warrant for the Board's review. Mr. Haddad reviewed the warrant articles. Mr. Haddad said that he would be proposing a ballot question to the Board for the DPW Facility and Library Roof capital projects based on articles 7 & 8 as contained in the warrant. He said that the Board needed to make that decision. Mr. Degen said that he was concerned about putting a debt exclusion that comingled with CPA funding. He didn't know if they should make it 2 questions. Mr. Haddad said that there would be a public hearing on March 7th at 7pm to present the proposed DPW facility plans to the Committee and the public. Mr. Giger said that Mr. Degen made a good point about the library roof.

Mr. Degen said he would like to get an update from the organization who was raising money for the High School track renovation project before they moved forward on this CPA request. Mr. Degen asked that article 14 be advanced to earlier in the warrant so that he could be present for the discussion because he would not be at the second night of town meeting. Mr. Haddad said that article 16 was about short-term rentals and possibly taxing them. He said that they were researching the number of short-term rentals in Groton. Mr. Haddad said he would bring this back to their meeting on March 11th.

Mr. Haddad mentioned the Charter and the potential for an article relative to it. Mr. Degen suggested adding a placeholder for it.

7. Mr. Haddad reviewed the health insurance budget based on estimates received from Minuteman Nashoba Health Group. Mr. Haddad reviewed the budget tax levy calculations scenarios. One of the scenarios would remove the snow and ice deficit leaving them with a \$128K deficit because of Nashoba Tech and GDRSD requests along with the potential addition of 2 new firefighters.

ON-GOING ISSUES

A: Mr. Haddad said that they put the Senior Center roofer on notice last week that patches would not be acceptable. He said that they town was holding firm on this. He said that the Building Committee met the week before and were in agreement that the roof needed to be replaced. Mr. Haddad said that the Building Committee voted that quality trumped schedules. Mr. Degen agreed that they stuck firm on this.

F: Mr. Haddad said that the Flo Ro project had narrowed their search for an OPM to 3 firms who would be interviewed the next day.

G: Mr. Haddad said that the Task Force finalized their report earlier that night and would be on next week's agenda. He said that they wanted to make some minor edits to it and would have it to the Board on Wednesday.

MINUTES

Mr. Degen moved to approve the Joint Meeting Minutes of February 6, 2019. Mr. Giger seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ms. Manugian moved to approve to the Regular Session Meeting Minutes of February 11, 2019. Mr. Giger seconded the motion. The motion carried 2-0-1 with Mr. Degen abstaining because he was not present for that meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52pm.

Approved: _____
John Giger, Clerk

_____ respectfully *submitted*:
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 3/11/19