

**SELECT BOARD MEETING MINUTES
VIRTUAL MEETING
MONDAY, JANUARY 25, 2021
APPROVED**

SB Members Virtually Present: Alison S. Manugian, Chair; Joshua A. Degen, Vice Chair; Rebecca H. Pine, Clerk; John R. Giger, Member; John F. Reilly, Member

Also Virtually Present: Mark W. Haddad, Town Manager; Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant; Melisa Doig, HR Director; Patricia Dufresne, Town Accountant; Michael Hartnett, Tax Collector/Treasurer; Hannah Moller, Assistant Tax Collector/Treasurer; Megan Foster, Principal Assistant Assessor; Bud Robertson; Diversity Task Force Members; Eileena Long and David Saindon from Left Field

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

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Mr. Saindon said that the Building Committee voted to go with a CMR model. He said it fused what was done in the private sector in the public sector. He said they vetted out elements of the design process and select the CMR they would like to work with. He said that they would be prequalifying a pool of contractors. Mr. Haddad said that they had a D level contractor who was allowed to bid and win the fire station project which ended up going bankrupt. He said that with this model, they would be able to pick an A level contractor. Mr. Giger said it made sense to him. Mr. Saindon said that they had to file an application with the Inspector General for CMR contract. He said that this would have to be an acknowledgment by both the School Committee and Select Board.

Ms. Pine moved to approve the CMR process for the Florence Roche School. Mr. Giger seconded the motion. Roll Call: Manugian-aye; Pine-aye; Reilly-aye; Degen-aye; Giger-aye

2. Mr. Haddad said that due to Governor Baker extending capacity limits, they extended working remotely at Town Hall through February 8th.
3. Mr. Haddad said that the weekly COVID health report showed Groton was trending lower over a 2-week period and hopefully they would continue to trend down still. Ms. Pine said that it was announced today that people 75 and older would be able to register on Wednesday for the vaccine.

Mr. Haddad asked the Board to approve a CVL for the Country Butcher naming Patrick Gaudet as Manager.

Ms. Pine moved to approve to CVL license for Country Butcher, Patrick Gaudet as Manager. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. Ms. Manugian made a friendly amendment for the hours to be 9am-5pm 7 days a week to allow them flexibility. Ms. Pine accepted the amendment and added to her motion to allow for electronic signatures to be used also. Roll Call: Manugian-aye; Pine-aye; Giger-aye; Reilly-aye; Degen-aye

DIVERSITY TASK FORCE PRESENTATION

Raquel Majeski and Audra Waiters were present.

Ms. Waiters gave an overview of Diversity Task Force and reviewed their Charter. She said they one of their first tasks was to put action items into buckets for sub groups to work on. Ms. Majeski said that they had 4 working groups working on affordable housing, community education, diversity training and town image. Ms. Majeski said that they didn't feel as though their work was done and had identified suggestions for improving their task force and goal accomplishments. They asked that they be give until June 30, 2021 to complete their work. Ms. Majeski said that Nadia Madden was stepping off the committee along with Paul Shea and one member from the School Committee possibly. She said they would like to fill them with members from those designated groups. Ms. Majeski also asked for a member from the Civil Discourse Group stating the School Committee was unsure if they were going to continue serving with the DTF or develop their own group. Mr. Haddad said that they had gift fund money to be able to purchase handbooks the committee would like.

Ms. Pine moved to authorize the Town Manager to use Lawrence Academy gift account money to purchase Racial Healing Handbooks for the Diversity Task Force and a few extras for around town. Mr. Giger seconded the motion. Roll Call: Manugian-aye; Pine-aye; Reilly-aye; Giger-aye; Degen-abstain

Mr. Giger moved to extend the period of work time for the Diversity Task Force to June 30, 2021. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion and asked to include a member from the Civil Discourse Group. Mr. Giger accepted the amendment. Roll Call: Manugian-aye; Pine-aye; Reilly-aye; Giger-aye; Degen-abstain

Ms. Pine said it would be wonderful if the Diversity Task Force could attend the Non-Profit Group on Friday to talk about what they had been working on. She said that the Library had chosen the book “March” for their Groton Reads program this year. She added that she attended the MMA conference last week adding that the keynote speakers were all speakers centered around diversity, equity and inclusion.

Mr. Degen thanked Ms. Majeski for the great job she had done chairing their Committee and thanked the Board for allowing them more time.

TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT – CONT.

4. Mr. Haddad said that he had set aside time for the Board to discuss the process for whether they would make recommendations for various CPA projects. He said that there were some projects that required Board action as co-sponsors. Ms. Manugian said that there were projects they needed to co-sponsor but beyond that she was at a point to not recommend beyond those co-sponsorships at this time. Mr. Giger said he shared Ms. Manugian’s concerns. Ms. Pine said they weren’t being asked to prioritize or comment on which ones should go forward or not but instead their own sense of whether they support a project or not. She said that she was comfortable with what had been past practice that proponents of some, if not all proposals, ask the Select Board for a letter of support, after having a discussion with the applicants. Ms. Pine said she contacted the State Ethics Commission to explore conflict of interest and reviewed what she had found out. She said this would not be considered a conflict of interest but more so a policy decision. Mr. Giger said there was a significant difference between allow and support. Mr. Degen said he agreed with Mr. Giger’s point. Mr. Degen said if a project wasn’t on town land, they applicants should not come before them for a letter of support. Ms. Manugian said that they should either be a co-applicant or not. Ms. Pine said she wasn’t sure what the difference was between now and during the warrant period of registering their support.

Mr. Degen moved that they adopt as a policy that the Board take no action and not entertain for debate CPC letters of support, requested by applicants, on any application that does not involve a town owned asset and further that the Board instead offer its position on said other projects on an article-by-article basis on the Town Meeting warrant. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion.

Ms. Pine asked clarification if this motion would not allow them to hear about other projects applying for CPC funds. Mr. Degen said that he thought they should be dealing with things in their bailiwick and not things that were not. Ms. Pine disagreed with that. Ms. Pine said they should not restrict citizens from coming before the Board and said she could not support this motion.

Mr. Haddad said that of the 14 projects before the CPC, there were 3 that required the Select Board or Town Manager to sign on as a co-applicant. Mr. Haddad said he as the Town Manager had been asked to support projects and write letters of support and asked the Board what they recommended he do; should he follow the Board’s policy. Ms. Manugian, Mr. Degen and Mr. Giger said they thought the Town Manager should follow the Board’s policy. Ms. Pine agreed that he should follow Board policy.

Roll Call: Manugian-aye; Degen-aye; Giger-aye; Reilly-aye; Pine-no

Mr. Degen moved that the Town Manager follow Select Board policy relative to previous CPC policy. Ms. Manugian seconded the motion. Manugian-aye; Pine-aye; Reilly-aye; Degen-aye; Giger-aye

Mr. Haddad reviewed the projects. It was decided that there were 6 projects that required Select Board signing as co-applicants.

Ms. Pine noted that the Board's decision to not consider writing a letter of support for the Affordable Housing Trust CPC application was in contrast to the Board's stated goal of creating Affordable Housing.

5. Mr. Haddad said he thought the Saturday Budget Meeting went really well. He said he was meeting on Thursday morning to discuss the police staffing as was discussed on Saturday.
6. Mr. Haddad reviewed the Board's schedule for the next few weeks.

OTHER BUSINESS

Mr. Haddad said that Mr. Degen had suggested, as one of their goals, that a member of the Finance Committee or Capital Planning Advisory Committee be appointed to the CPC. He said that Mr. Degen suggested that those members serve as ex-officio members of the CPC until such time as the at-large members decided to no longer serve after speaking with the CPC at their last meeting. Ms. Pine said it was decided that nothing should happen now, allowing the at-large members to continue, but thought there were various ways to bring in Finance Committee and Capital Planning Advisory Committee members into the process. She said there was agreement there was benefit to doing that now. She said no vote was taken to appoint these members once there was a vacancy but rather discuss it when a vacancy arose. Mr. Degen asked every member on a straw pole adding the members felt good about the suggestion.

ON-GOING ISSUES

A: Mr. Haddad said that the alarm system at Prescott School should be completed by next week.

D: Mr. Haddad said they had a great meeting about Green Communities today and were on track to complete the projects by the deadline adding they had identified \$500K worth of projects for the next round.

B: Mr. Giger said he had done a bunch of work on the polystyrene containers a year ago and had not heard anything from the Board of Health. He said he was very disappointed that the Board of Health had not done anything yet. Mr. Degen suggested that Mr. Giger request time on the Board of Health agenda.

MINUTES

Ms. Pine moved to approve the meeting minutes of January 11, 2021 as presented. Mr. Reilly seconded the motion. Roll Call: Manugian-aye; Pine-aye; Degen-aye; Giger-aye; Reilly-aye

Liaison report

Mr. Degen said he and Mr. Orcutt met with the Board of Health on PFAS adding there was a moratorium on the use of certain fertilizers and thought the Board of Health should notify the hardware store. Ms. Manugian suggested that the Town Manger work with Mr. Grossman to issue a press release as had been discussed at the Board of Health Meeting

Ms. Manugian adjourned the meeting at 8:30pm.

Approved: _____
Rebecca H. Pine, Clerk

_____ respectfully submitted:
Dawn Dunbar, Executive Assistant

Date Approved: 2/8/2021