

Select Board Minutes
Tuesday, June 30, 2020
6:00pm

The Select Board Regular Meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A. S.20.

Select Board participants:

Chair Alice von Loesecke, Rich Maiore, Kara Minar, Stu Sklar, Lucy Wallace

Town Staff participants:

Town Administrator Tim Bragan, Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro, Executive Assistant Julie Doucet

Additional participants:

Tom Philippou, Chris Mitchell, Even Wittenberg, Michael Maglothin, Dan Tracey, Janet Waldron, Jim Burns , Mark Shaw, Jason Cole, Joanne Ward

Board of Health (BoH) appointment

The Select Board invited current member seeking reappointment Tom Philippou and new volunteer Chris Mitchell to speak about their interest in serving and the qualifications that possess that add value to the board. Philippou has served on the BoH for 18 years and has been a resident for close to 30 years. His pharmaceutical profession and years as a volunteer are what he highlighted as beneficial to the BoH. Mitchell is also a long term resident with a professional background as a geologist specializing in education and is consulting now on environmental impacts to water quality, human health and the environment. The Select Board members agreed both candidates have value to bring to the BoH. Select Board member Rich Maiore was adamant now is not the right time to appoint someone new mainly because of the current global pandemic. Wallace and von Loesecke want to encourage involvement of new volunteers admitting there is never a perfect time to make such a change. By a roll call vote, Minar – aye, Wallace – aye, von Loesecke – aye, Sklar – aye, Maiore – nay, the board voted to nominate Chris Mitchell for the position on the Board of Health. The members thanked Philippou for his service and time over the years.

Conservation Commission appointments

The commission has three terms up for appointment and one associate position. Janet Waldron, Mark Shaw and Jim Burns have all indicated their interest in being reappointed. Residents Eve Wittenberg, Michael Maglothin and Dan Tracey have submitted volunteer forms indicating their interest in serving on the commission.

Eve Wittenberg highlighted her professional experience in public health and her personal interest in preservation of open space. She is a newer resident to town who recently advised with the Emergency Management Committee during the Covid pandemic.

Dan Tracey is a longtime resident and biologist. His interests include wildlife, the wetlands protection act, the deer management subcommittee and development projects.

Maglothin is fairly new to town. He moved his family from Acton for the farming and open space Harvard offers. He describes himself as an outdoor enthusiast and GIS expert. Maglothin owns a farm near the town center and is eager to contribute.

Current member Jaye Waldron has served on the commission since 2008 and has been employed with the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) for close to 30 years. She has extensive knowledge of the wetland regulations. Waldron enjoys being on the commission and views her role as a commissioner to be a strong focus on protection minus any personal agendas.

Mark Shaw is a lifelong resident who joined the commission a few years ago. He has enjoyed learning the role of commissioner and being able to work with residents and landowners. He has taken the time to learn the regulations to determine what is best and what compromises can be made.

Jim Burns began in an associate role and is also a longtime resident. He enjoys the interaction with residents and wants to continue. He has learned the commission is very busy.

Commission member Janet Ward added Jaye Waldron is map certified which is extremely helpful. She noted as long term residents those who are on the commission currently have a vested interest in town and are familiar with all areas of town very well.

In the interest of time Von Loesecke decided to move votes on these appointments to the July 7th meeting. The Select Board have a special meeting scheduled for 7pm that they must attend.

Deer Management subcommittee member Jason Cole asked the Select Board to be mindful of anyone seeking appointment for a singular or political agenda and to consider what is best for the commission and their current goals.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:00pm

Documents referenced:

Mitchell vol form dated – 5.12.2020

Magolthin vol form dated – 5.3.2020

Wittenberg vol form- dated 5.4.2020

Tracey vol form – dated 5.13.2020