

PLYMOUTH SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY, MARCH 29, 2022

REMOTE VIA ZOOM, PLYMOUTH, MA – 3:00 PM

3:00PM - CALL TO ORDER

Richard Quintal, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 3:00 p.m. and asked Vice Chairman Cavacco to read the opening statement. He then called for an Executive Session.

In accordance with S2475, and pursuant to Chapter 20 of the Acts of 2021, this meeting will be conducted via remote means and in-person. Members of the public who wish [to watch the meeting may do so](#) in the following manner: tune into PACtv government cable access channels Comcast Channel 15 or Verizon Channel 47 and watch the meeting as it is aired live, or watch the meeting live the PACtv website at <https://pactv.org>. Members of the public who wish to PARTICIPATE in the meeting may do so in the following manner:

Remote Participation: please go to the Town website under the Select Board page and click on the Zoom Webinar Registration box or simply click on the link below.

https://pactv.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-cge_yk_Q9KtC8f1ydH61g

Present: Richard Quintal, Chairman
Betty Cavacco, Vice Chairman
Patrick Flaherty
Harry Helm
Charlie Bletzer

Derek Brindisi, New Town Manager

3:00PM – EXECUTIVE SESSION

The Select Board will hold an Executive Session pursuant to Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 30A, Section 21, Paragraph 6, to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property; if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining, negotiation, and the chair so declares. Following Executive Session, the Board will reconvene in open session.

❖ Holtec Negotiations

6:00PM – BACK TO OPEN SESSION

Before the meeting began, Chairman Quintal asked the audience, the Board, and people watching from home to join them in a moment of silence for Pearl Sears, Town Clerk, who passed away suddenly last Friday evening.

Vice Chairman Cavacco came on and wanted to say a few words about Pearl Sears. She said Pearl Sears was the first female Town Clerk in 400-year history. She said she was fun, caring, energetic, and a dedicated individual with a positive attitude and a smile that could light up a room, if not the entire Town Hall. She said her colleagues, both past and present, have nothing but kind words for Pearl. She earned the reputation of being the problem solver in the face of challenges and led with a sound and calm voice that everyone admired. She said the respect she gained through her years of dedicated service to the Town of Plymouth is only overshadowed by the love that her friends and family had for her. She said to fellow friends, colleagues, and Plymouth residents, let us all strive to keep the name of Pearl Sears alive. She said as a community we are better to have known her. She said personally, Pearl's spark will never fade. She said her smile will be with her forever, her kindness will always be remembered, and her bell will ring eternally. She said rest in the sweetest peace and love Pearl, you were such a gift to all.

Vice Chairman Cavacco then said they started a GoFundMe for Pearl's son which is on all of the social media sites. She said Pearl's son is an adult with some medical issues and she took care of him, and he needs our help right now. She said hopefully people can donate any amount and help him out getting through this difficult time.

Anna Messner, Acting Town Clerk, came to the podium and wanted to say a few words about her colleague and friend, Pearl Sears. She said as many of you know Pearl cared deeply about people. She said she cared even more about her community and her town. She said she was committed to her work here with the Town of Plymouth and was very honored to be the first woman to serve as Town Clerk. She said she was an inspiration to all of us and she always rose to the occasion. She said to some of them she was a mentor and a good friend. She said we are saddened yet honored to be here tonight with the Town Clerk's staff. She said she knows that all of her colleagues and friends are also happy to be here in support of her. She said we will all miss her smile, her kind words, her positive attitude, her professionalism, and most of all her friendship. She then thanked the Board for allowing her to speak and honor her friend and coworker, Pearl Sears.

6:08PM – PUBLIC HEARING – Sam Diegos

Chairman Quintal read the Public Hearing notice into the records as follows:

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held remotely and/or in person at the Plymouth Town Hall, 26 Court Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 6:00pm to consider the application for an Alteration of Premises from Sam Diego's East Inc d/b/a Sam Diego's Mexican Cookery and Bar, holder of an Annual All Alcohol Restaurant License, 51 Main Street, Richard Sorenson as Manager.

Description of premises will be as follows: First floor: kitchen, bar, table service. Second floor: bar, lounge. Basement: kitchen, storage, receiving. One first floor entrance/exit on west side of building and one entrance/exit on east side of building. Outside patio on west side of building to include eleven table with chairs at each table. Applicant seeks to add outdoor dining tables on the sidewalk and in the parking space, per the Town's license agreement.

Richard Sorenson came on and thanked the Board for having him in tonight.

Selectman Bletzer asked how many tables and seats would be added to this outdoor area, to which Richard Sorenson said they would be looking to add twenty-four seats.

Selectman Bletzer then said he knows that you already have the outdoor patio, but he recalls that last year or the year before it appeared that the sidewalk was congested and partially blocked and said now that this is permanent, he hopes that he will stay ADA Compliant, to which Richard Sorenson said yes, he understands that and saw the rules and regulations that were sent out by the Town. He said they are leaving a five-foot path and will not be having umbrellas out there because of the clearance needed for pedestrians.

Selectman Helm came on and referenced his rendering and said where there are 80" between tables did you calculate having seats in that area, to which Richard Sorenson said no, those tables will only have two seats each so there won't be any seats in that 80" area.

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to approve an Alteration of Premises for Sam Diego's Mexican Cookery and Bar. *Voted 5/0*

6:14PM – PUBLIC HEARING – Roll Street Tavern

Chairman Quintal read the Public Hearing notice into the records as follows:

In accordance with Massachusetts General Laws, as amended, notice is hereby given that a Public Hearing will be held remotely and/or in person at the Plymouth Town Hall, 26 Court Street, Plymouth, Massachusetts on Tuesday, March 29, 2022 at 6:05pm to consider the application for an Alteration of Premises from Roll Street Tavern Inc d/b/a Roll Street Tavern, holder of an Annual All Alcohol Restaurant License, 35 Main Street, Unit 1, Jeffrey Zeitz as Manager.

Description of premises will be as follows: Two floors for a total of 4400 square feet. First floor is two rooms (walk-ins, liquor closet, and prep area) and second Floor is 4 rooms (kitchen, dining area, men's, and ladies' rooms) with 2 entrances and exits. Applicant seeks to add outdoor seating areas on the sidewalk, in parking spaces, and behind the restaurant per the license agreement with the Town.

Jeff Zeitz came on and thanked the Board and said he appreciates being part of the outdoor dining program this year and asked for the Board's support.

Peter Silva came up and said he is the owner of 29 - 31 Main Street right next door to Roll Street Tavern. He said he is all for businesses having outdoor seating and being successful, but he was unaware the last time, but we didn't care because we were in the middle of covid but since then he said he has a new tenant and now parking is terrible. He said the problem is they are using the parking space in front of my building so he would be opposed to that. He said he thinks it's unfair to have their outdoor dining in front of my tenant's business. He said the issue is there is a loading zone in front of Roll Street Tavern.

Selectman Bletzer asked if Roll Street Tavern had permission from Park Plymouth to have the seating out back, to which Jeff Zeitz said yes, they do. He said the reason why this was decided is because we don't have parking spaces directly in front of the restaurant. He said the back seating is not as valuable to them because it doesn't have the foot traffic that the front side has.

Selectman Bletzer asked how many seats they were adding, to which Jeff Zeitz said in the parking spaces there are four three tables with four seats each and then we'd like two tables on the sidewalk with two seats each. He said in the back area they would have three tables with four seats at each of those as well. He said that would give us twelve seats out back and fourteen in front for a total of 26 seats for outdoor dining.

Vice Chairman Cavacco asked if there were any way that we could move the parklets down and encroach partially into the loading zone, to which Jeff Zeitz said he doesn't want to hurt anyone else's business so his preference would be to have tables right in front of his store.

Selectman Bletzer said we need to watch out for the retail shops as well, to which Jeff Zeitz said last year they worked well with the Craft Beer Cellar. He said people would eat and then see their store and go in and shop at the same time. He said he is a supporter of our retail neighbors and will do anything to enhance their business as well. He then said he felt it wouldn't be fair if he wasn't able to do what the other restaurants were doing as well.

Vice Chairman Cavacco said that loading zone is very large and asked if they could put part of the parklets more towards the loading zone, to which Peter Silva said that could work because no one ever pulls up that far in the loading zone.

Derek Brindisi said they can absolutely take a look at that but said he would want to make sure it is ok with the Fire Department and with DPW to make sure this will work. He said we will also meet with the abutters and try to satisfy all parties involved.

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Patrick Flaherty, the Board voted to approve an Alteration of Premises for Roll Street Tavern contingent upon the approval of the placement of the parklets to encroach partially into the loading zone after being inspected by Fire, DPW, and Park Plymouth. *Voted 5/0*

6:28PM – PUBLIC HEARING – Aquaculture Licenses

Chad Hunter, Harbor Master, came up and said both of these sites are in full compliance as far as reporting and use. He said these transfers are consistent with two previous transfers. He said both sites are within the Aquaculture Development Zone and both license holders have been an absolute pleasure to work with over the years.

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to approve Aquaculture Licenses for the following people: *Voted 5/0*

- Rick Vayo
- Camron Dobratz

6:30PM – CORDAGE SMOKESTACK

Nick Mayo, Building Commissioner, came up and said the owner of the smokestack, Joe Jannetty, gave him a call asking about the process of inspecting the tower. He said they do have a local ordinance through our local Historic District that requires any structure or building that is 75 years old or older is subject to our demolition delay. He said the caveat to that is if he determines a structure needs immediate demolition for safety reasons. He then said the owner had a report produced back in September of 2021 and that he had not yet seen so he provided that to him for review. He said this report was produced by a chimney company that inspects structures such as these smokestacks. He said after discussing this with his counterparts and Town Counsel, he determined that he needed to take some form of action. He said at that time a cease and desist was sent out to abate a dangerous situation. He said this is where the six-foot chain-link fencing came in though the 780 CR State Building Code which is under his authority here in Plymouth. He said he then requested that a structural evaluation be done by an engineer and to follow up within seven days.

Nick Mayo said after receiving that report he reviewed it with some other inspectors and Town Counsel and unfortunately it was determined that the structure needed to come down. He said part of this decision was made driven by the cost to repair it and the probability of a total collapse if someone were to go in and try to restore it. He said it is clear in his opinion, based on the report and drone footage, something should have been done a long time ago which is why we are in this situation today.

Vice Chairman Cavacco said this is a historic part of Plymouth and something should have been done a long time ago. She then asked if there was any way to save this tower, to which Nick Mayo said the preservation is not feasible but it could always be rebuilt.

Vice Chairman Cavacco then asked if we had any estimates on the demolition cost and also asked if the Community Preservation Committee could get involved, to which Bill Keohan came up and said he reached out to the Massachusetts Historical Society and is trying to have a preservationist look at this structure to determine if anything can be done. He said they are meeting with a building conservationist tomorrow to try and get a report back from them.

Chairman Quintal said that he hopes this can be done pretty quickly because the structure looks very unsafe and needs immediate attention.

Selectman Flaherty said based on the report you got you made the decision to demolish this tower, and then asked if a new report comes in from this group would that change your mind, to which Nick Mayo said it is not likely that another report would come back saying anything different. He said this isn't a decision to be taken lightly and it is unfortunate.

Selectman Bletzer said he agrees that this structure has historic value, but it is also a liability to the Town. He said if the tower comes down while someone is working on that would come back on the Town as far as liability goes.

Selectman Helm said while you are all planning the demolition could you ask if we could rebuild it using the same bricks, to which Bill Keohan said that is a possibility and he will try to get more information on that process.

Selectman Helm then said as a resident of Plymouth he knows it has significance to the boating community and many see the smokestack as being home. He said he hopes that we can rebuild this, and it is a marine landmark, to which Bill Keohan said this is also an industrial landmark and we will do whatever we can to preserve or rebuild it.

Kristin Ligouri came up and said she is the Property Manager for Cordage Commerce Center. She then read the following statement into the records: *"Good evening, my name is Kristin Ligouri, and I am the Property Manager at Cordage Commerce Center. I am here tonight to discuss the demolition of the Cordage Smokestack. This all came about recently during a land survey and evaluation, when Best Chimney Services was brought out to inspect the integrity of the structure. With the use of drone imaging, they were able to get a close look and realized the amount of damage along the banded area. A structural engineer further verified the findings and identified that significant deficiencies were in place throughout the entire length of the smokestack. Their findings and extent of the deterioration was totally unexpected. At this time, the Building and Fire Departments have deemed the smokestack to be a public hazard and the property is quickly taking action to comply with Town Ordinances. We are disappointed to see the removal of such a familiar and beloved structure within our Cordage property. Throughout the entirety of the Cordage development, the owners have made it a priority to have waterfront access for the community, as it had previously been walled off for years. It is now open to the public and can be enjoyed by all residents of North Plymouth.*

At this time, the removal of the smokestack is necessary to ensure the safety of all that come to the waterfront by the Pier. As soon as the weather improves, many from the community will come to enjoy the area, so time is of the essence. The smokestack is 210' tall, consists of approximately 500,000 bricks, and has been a beacon of comfort in the community since 1899. Property ownership has plans to memorialize it and will continue to pay homage to both the Smokestack and the significance of the Plymouth Cordage Company with its importance to Plymouth and maritime history. We will continue to fully support the Plymouth Cordage Museum as we have done for years and will also create visible references throughout the property to inform visitors of the dynamic and deep roots at Cordage. Thank you."

Kristin Ligouri then told the Board that she has spoken with a number of demolition contractors already and talked about retaining the bricks so that part has already been discussed. She said this is coming about very quickly so if there are any questions, she would be more than happy to try to answer them.

Vice Chairman Cavacco said she just got a message from a friend that is a structural engineer, and he tells her that smokestack is shown on the oldest Plymouth boundary markers and was used as a triangular station. He said you, the Selectmen, are the caretakers of these markers even if it is on private property. She said this seems like something we should address and asked the Town Manager to reach out to Town Counsel.

Steve Lydon came up and said he would hate to see this tower come down. He said it is a landmark, but it is unsafe, and he trusts the opinion of the Building Commissioner. He also talked about liability if someone were to get hurt from debris.

Everett Malaguti came up and said it is disheartening to hear this icon will be coming down. He said it has been a part of North Plymouth for decades if not centuries. He said it has been a backdrop for Plymouth and many people had family members work at Cordage. He said we need to do everything we can to preserve or rebuild that structure.

Chairman Quintal thanked everyone for their comments and thanked Nick Mayo. He said he understands the safety issues but also understands how people feel about the tower as well. He said the Jannetty's have been good neighbors and thanked them for that. He also said he has seen other communities rebuild structures like these and he looks forward to gathering new information in the days to come.

7:00PM – COUNTY WOODLOT

Chairman Quintal said they held a meeting in the Great Hall and invited town staff and our state delegation to discuss this matter. He said they do not have all of the information, but they can certainly share what they have at this point.

Loring Tripp came up and said he is the Director of Planning and Community Development for Boston South Real Estate and Development LLC. He said we have been on the process over the past few months in cooperation with Plymouth County to work through and RFP process which we were awarded last month. He said he also has with him Jim Bristol and Will Connell who are Managing Members for Boston South. He then said he would like to explain the process because one of the proposed uses for this site has garnered some attention. He said now that the RFP process is complete there will be a 90-day due diligence on that property. He said they will be doing research and look for things like deeds and permitted uses, as well as performing community outreach.

Loring Tripp then said they are at the very beginning of a three-to-four-year process to develop what the best use of this property will be. He said the County is looking to create a long-term revenue stream to help support the service that Plymouth County provides. He said Boston South's commitment is to spend \$4,000,000 to \$6,000,000 over this three-year period to go through this evaluation process to find what the best uses are for this property. He then said Vince Garrett who is the Vice President of Keenland Thoroughbred Racetrack in Kentucky, met with some of the local officials last week and will be back in the next few weeks as we work through this process. He said he is one of the leading experts on horse racing in the world and runs a \$500 million dollar per year organization. He said they lead the country in the humanitarian treatment of horses and the care and safety of their riders. He said they also have world-class venues for entertainment, concerts, gaming, and sporting events as well. He said this will be the foundation for us to bring a sports, entertainment, and gaming center to this site. He said we don't know what this will look like just yet but our commitment to the County is that we will look at every opportunity that is available that will produce that revenue stream for the County. He said basically this is the beginning of a process and they are here tonight to be transparent with the community. He said they are looking forward to working with the Town of Plymouth and its residents as well.

Vice Chairman Cavacco said we have received many emails for and against this endeavor and many are saying it will be a horse racing track, but it is much more than that. She said until you can do your due diligence we won't even know if it will be a horse racing track. She then said tonight is just having Boston South inform us on what they want to do with the property and added that the Select Board has no jurisdiction over that property.

Selectman Bletzer came on and said to all of the people making negative comments, this is just being presented tonight and it is the first time he has heard about this proposal. He said in the last ten to twelve years we have had no economic development in Plymouth. He said we have to at least listen and be open minded because we are talking about thousands of jobs and tax revenue, to which Loring Tripp said that Keenland is the world's largest thoroughbred racetrack with their average sales being \$500 million dollars annually and the taxes and revenue for Plymouth would be significant. He said the Finance Director did a quick calculation and it would mean about \$8,000,000 per year for Plymouth.

Selectman Bletzer said we need that revenue badly and he is excited about this. He said he wants to keep an open mind while going through this process. He also said he is not concerned about the animal abuse as they will be inspected and watched closely.

Selectman Flaherty came on and thanked Loring Tripp for the update. He said so far you have mentioned the thoroughbred racetrack and then asked if there would be any other aspect of this brought forward in this first phase or is the racetrack really the anchor of this proposal, to which Loring Tripp said the investment that he mentioned earlier is primarily to research the thoroughbred horse racetrack and do that analysis at their risk. He said we will go through this process openly and through that, other opportunities will come forward as well. He also said they would be looking at helping to upgrade the infrastructure in and around Long Pond Road. He said as far as the other aspects such as sporting arena and entertainment center they already have investors interested in those aspects and conversations have already taken place regarding those additional uses.

Selectman Flaherty said if you reach a point where a thoroughbred horse racetrack is not looking possible, would there still be a commitment to make a significant investment in this area, to which Loring Tripp said they will explore the highest and best uses for this site, so everything is still on the table for this property and its uses.

Selectman Flaherty said every once in a while, we have issues come up that spark a lot of public interest such as this, and then asked what the community engagement looks like moving forward, to which Loring Tripp said it is beginning tonight with some residents that came to this meeting. He said he has already handed out business cards and intend to be completely open and available to the public. He then said this past Saturday he had the pleasure of going to Black Feather Horse Rescue and met with Darlene Nickerson who is a true saint when it comes to horses. He said she is a neighbor of the site and said we have the same beliefs as she does when it comes to the care and protection of horses. He said we would like to partner with her in her efforts as well.

Selectman Helm asked if there are any mechanisms that we can use to see if the community agrees with this proposal, and if the community decides they don't want a horse racetrack are you willing to follow that lead, to which Loring Tripp said absolutely. He said he was a member of the Planning Board for over ten years and if you look back during that time, he was a strong supporter of the process and public involvement. He said that will be the same process with this project with plenty of public outreach.

Ric Serkey came up and said the speakers who will follow him will speak to why a racetrack should not be built on the Woodlot, but he will speak to why a racetrack legally cannot be built on the Woodlot. He said at a prior County Commissioner's meeting a claim was made as follows: *"The County, as a higher government, is not restrained by local zoning if the land use is for the benefit of the County, but if the property were sold the underlying zoning would be law"*. He said that was too broad of a statement and a more correct statement would have been *"The County, as a higher government, is not restrained by local zoning if the land is used for a governmental purpose, but if the property were sold the underlying zoning would be law"*. He then said use must be for governmental purposes to not be restrained by local zoning laws. He said the case law is clear, which he has provided to the Board, that commercial use for the County owned Woodlot would indeed be subject to Plymouth zoning. He said since most of the racetrack would be located in the rural residential portion of the Woodlot and since commercial uses are not permitted in the rural residential district, it would require an amendment to the zoning bylaw by a two-thirds vote of Town Meeting to allow a racetrack to be built in the Woodlot. He said he does not understand how this threshold issue escaped the notice of Counsel for the County, Counsel for the Town, and Counsel for Boston South before the project progressed this far.

Chairman Quintal said this is the first meeting that we have had on this matter and asked how he would have done this any different, to which Rich Serkey said he would suggest that Boston South get an opinion for their attorney, the Town get an opinion of their Counsel, and the County get an opinion from their Counsel. He said he is certain that this racetrack cannot be built on this lot because almost all of this racetrack is in the rural residential zone.

Chairman Quintal said he understands that and repeated that this is the first meeting and that there will be many more hearings and contact with Counsel. He said we will look at all of the information and listen to the community.

Selectman Bletzer asked if Town Meeting were to vote to change the zoning would the racetrack be able to be built, to which Rich Serkey said yes, if there was an amendment to the zoning bylaws and that use were to be allowed then it could be built but it would more than likely also need a special permit as well. He said his comments were based on the current zoning and also going off the fact that getting a two-thirds vote at Town Meeting is a heavy lift for something like this.

Pat McCarthy came up and said she lives at 156 Long Pond Road not far from this piece of land. She then talked about their proposed options for access points, and it looks like they would come on through Rafael Way off Camelot Drive. She said she feels like they discounted that Tall Pines Road is a small residential neighborhood but hoped they would have at least a 325-foot buffer which disregards environmental and aquifer concerns. She said she also has concerns about the tax benefits and wondered where they would be coming from since the County doesn't pay taxes and they do not have a PILOT with the Town. She said they are not buying the land as it is being leased from the County so again, she has no idea where the tax revenues would come from. She said she is also concerned about the school district being located close by.

Frank Mand came up and said there are a lot of things that concern him about this proposal. He said the County has no business making a proposal, that if realized, would change the very nature of our community and culture. He said you would have to look long and hard to find one resident that believes the County has the community's best interest at heart. He said they have not exactly been good stewards of this property. He said he was a reporter nearly a decade ago when he was shown that the County had allowed a section of this property to be used as a dump and it is still a mess. He said they also allowed five acres to be cleared to make a sand pit and have allowed it to become a de facto dirt bike track. He said in his opinion this is the last thing the Town needs or wants and it is yet another Hollywood East. He said this is reminiscent of a racetrack proposal a few miles away in Wareham which was voted down by over 80% of the residents who voted.

Elise Bruneau came up and said she has lived on Tall Pines Road for the past couple of years. She said they have met several times with the County Woodlot Committee about this and they have not been very transparent with us. She said the main issues with developing this land would be the traffic issues as well as the noise pollution. She said she is also concerned about the smell from the horse manure as they are only about a half mile away. She then said that she has environmental concerns as there has never been an environmental survey in this area and there are multiple vulnerable and threatened species that are in that Woodlot. She said it is a rare, historical eco-region that is quickly diminishing. She said if history is a part of Plymouth, then this Woodlot needs to be preserved because it sits on top of the Plymouth and Carver sole source aquifer which needs to be protected.

Kathleen Fitzgerald came up and said she lives at 15 Theatre Colony Way. She said she is very concerned about his proposal. She said when Loring Tripp said there would be some open dialogue it is almost too late because we are only hearing about this for the first time. She said she respectfully opposes this proposal. She then asked the Board what they want Plymouth to be. She said we have taken pride in being America's hometown and people come here to see the Mayflower, Plimoth Plantation, and other important sites. She said do we really want to change our image to a gambling, horse racing town. She said Long Pond Road is a mess and there is the housing development that hasn't even come to fruition yet. She then said that Suffolk Downs closed due to a lack of interest in live horse racing. She said between 1985 and 2015 horse racing has declined and has lost about \$500 million dollars. She said drugs have become prevalent in recent years and we do not want that in Plymouth. She said before anything is voted on, they need to let Plymouth residents have a voice, and she urged the Select Board to put the brakes on this project if possible.

Chairman Quintal thanked everyone for their comments and apologized if people didn't know we were going to talk about this tonight, but he did let people know last week. He said if you call the office and ask for Chris Badot, he can put you on an email list and he will keep you posted on future Select Board meetings.

Loring Tripp came back up and said he wanted to validate every comment that was made, and he wants everyone to know that this is public process. He said we are a society of self-government and while thousands of people are dying across the world for these very rights, we should enjoy and appreciate even though we may not agree and let's be thankful for that. He said he completely hears every word that people are saying, and this process will engage everyone in the dialogue of where this project will go and where Plymouth is going to go heading into the future. He said they are not here to rush any project through or to take advantage of any loophole in zoning or government use, but rather they intend to vet this out completely and thoroughly with the community. He said he appreciates the fact that some feel as though they were not informed but many months ago the County publicly advertised, as duly required under the law, and the RFP process began. He said he can relate to many people in this room because he also lived across the street from a project that jumped out at us without us knowing known as the Pinehills. He said he ran for office and won so hopefully this project will cause more enthusiasm for others to get involved in our local government. He said he looks forward to working through this democratic process and said he hopes that we will come to a solution, a direction, and a plan that benefits everyone involved.

Selectman Flaherty said he appreciates that commitment and then said we have an election coming up and we have the ability to put a non-binding question on the ballot to be able to hear from Plymouth residents. He then asked if he thought that would be a good idea, to which Loring Tripp said it would be unfortunate to put that question to the voters without any information and details in front of them. He said he is honestly a big fan of non-bonding referendums and reminded them that he was the person that petitioned the Board to bring the Community Preservation Act to Plymouth. He said it passed by 72% but that was after months of educating the public about what this actually was about and get the will of the people. He said in a democratic society you want to make sure the voters, who direct the government, have information in advance so that they can cast an informed vote.

Selectman Flaherty there are two aspects to every project like this. He said one are the logistics such as traffic, and the other is simply the concept. He said enough residents have shared their comments on the mere concept of this to warrant having a no-binding question added to the ballot, to which Loring Tripp agreed but added that they had fifty public hearings during the development of Pinehills before there was even a permit filed so he is aware of what the public process should be. He then implored the public to take a step back and have a real community discussion and invite his colleagues up to talk about what they are really proposing because it is not your typical racetrack. He said it is a model of what the future of horse racing will be, and the community deserves to have that conversation.

Chairman Tavares came on and said he has heard everything that everyone has said and that this is the first of many meetings to discuss this. He then said that last year, Plymouth had \$3,000,000 worth of new growth which means it can't stay like this for Plymouth taxpayers. He said we need more economic growth and asked the planners to please help them figure out how to bring in more economic growth. He said he would like to know where the commercial development should be in this community of 106 square miles. If we do not, then the taxes will just keep going up so do we start closing schools and fire departments. He said we have to come together as a community and talk about how we are going to address these things. He said when he first heard about this proposal, he told himself he would listen to the presentation because that is his job. He said if he didn't offer to listen that would be the same as him telling everyone in the audience tonight that he didn't want to listen to them, and that wouldn't be fair. He said he always gives everyone the opportunity to speak and give their opinion and he always listens.

Chairman Quintal then said he was asked on day what his three biggest concerns are. He said his first concern was the traffic issues in Plymouth. He said we don't need any development along Long Pond Road because we already have enough. He said one of the reasons that he ran for office was because they are putting 300 to 400 residential units near Home Depot which is a commercial area. He said that should have never happened because it used up good commercial space and now, we are adding more traffic to an already busy area. He said things need to change which is why he ran for office. He then talked about the Holtec property and said we should plan for development there. He said we are losing \$7 million dollars in revenue just with the power plant closing so he is simply asking everyone to approach this with an open mind and listen to what these people have to say regarding the Woodlot. He then said they will keep everybody posted and let people know when the next meeting will be. He then thanked everyone for coming.

Vice Chairman Cavacco said she didn't realize there was going to be a mass exodus but as Selectmen, it is their job, when something comes in front of them, to do their due diligence and make sure we support the people that have come before us. She said as the executive branch of this government she believes we have to give this organization the tools to be able to do what they need to be able to come back to the public and have the information that our community needs. She then said she would like to make the motion to support the process of moving forward and let them do their due diligence and research.

Selectman Helm said that the main reason he ran for Selectman was due to the burden of taxes on our residents that has not been offset by commercial development because we have very little. He said everybody in Plymouth needs to realize the importance of commercial development and what happens with that. He said this development can change the town that we all know and love. He said Plymouth has changed over the last decade and said we are a residential nexus and highly desirable as a residential destination. He said we have to offset that with commercial development. He then said that he is not going to support this motion, not because he has made up his mind that this would be a bad use for the woodlot, but because he really doesn't have the information that he needs to support this going forward. He said we are being asked for a letter of support but when he ran for Selectman, he said he would demand information and facts before making up his mind along with input from residents. He said he just heard about this last week and that he has the RFP but not the response to the RFP. He said he also didn't hear anything tonight that he could consider factual details and it's in the realm of supposition and what could be and what might be so he just can't give his vote to a letter of support at this time.

Selectman Bletzer said that we need to move this forward if we want to get more information. He said if we do not show support this may not go anywhere. He said we need to keep moving this process forward so he will be voting in favor of this motion.

Selectman Helm asked what we were actually voting on because he hadn't heard the motion before tonight, to which Vice Chairman Cavacco said we are voting on a motion of support for them to move forward all of their investigations for zooming, planning, licenses, and feasibility.

Selectman Flaherty said that the horse racetrack is the only proposal being brought forward and that is what we are voting on then, to which Vice Chairman Cavacco said we are voting on a sports and entertainment complex because they don't even know if they can even consider a horse racetrack without going through this process. She said we need to support what they need to do to bring this to fruition, but we are not approving the actual concept at this point.

Selectman Flaherty said respectfully maybe we heard the presentation differently because he heard Loring Tripp say that the thoroughbred horse racetrack was the anchor of this proposal and said that is the only thing being brought forward which is why he asked. He said he sees this motion as support from the Board and the Town to pursue thoroughbred racing and gambling on that site. He said honestly, he has not received one piece of paper on this proposal. He said he spoke with Loring Tripp on Friday to follow up and see how the meeting went and he has not received any follow-up paperwork from the RFP. He said we are being asked to support something that we have no information on, and further, we have only heard very strong opposition from the community tonight. He said he knows this Board is understanding of wanting to get community input and right now the only community input was tonight, and they said this is not a good idea. He then asked if this letter of support is necessary for this project to move forward, to which Derek Brindisi said we heard their presentation on Friday morning, and they said in order for them to advance this proposal at the State level they would need a letter of support from the Select Board.

Selectman Flaherty said this proposal is not some small sub-division nor is it more residential building, but rather this is a proposal that will change the fabric of our community forever. He said we need to learn a lot more about this before he is going to support it. He then said he doesn't understand how we can have a complete and legally sounding motion come forward when members of the Board haven't had the opportunity to hear the proposal. He said he doesn't know what else to say besides he cannot support this motion tonight.

Loring Tripp came up and said it sounds like the intent of the motion is to support the process to move forward so that we can all explore this together. He said this is not to support a thoroughbred racetrack or anything else on this site, it is about supporting a process moving forward with a partnership with the community, to which Selectman Bletzer said that is exactly how he sees this motion as well. He said we need to explore all economic development and we can't just keep conserving land.

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to express support for the conceptual project of a sports and entertainment complex and service amenities in the Town of Plymouth to be located on approximately 110 acres of land on Camelot Drive and Long Pond Road also known as the woodlot subject to the project proponent obtaining all of the necessary licenses, permits, and approvals, and maintaining compliance with all of the applicable statutes, codes, regulations, and bylaws.

Voted 3/2 Quintal-Yes, Cavacco-Yes, Bletzer-Yes, Flaherty-No, Helm-No

8:16PM – DCR PROPERTY – Possible Acquisition

Selectman Bletzer said he brought this to the New Town Manager's attention about possibly acquiring the State Park South where the pavilion is on the waterfront. He said it's a state park that we owned and sold in 1939 to the State for one dollar. He said after talking with See Plymouth and the Director of Project Arts, they would love to have control of that park. He said they have had issues with the State approving events and it is an important spot in our town and an important part of our history.

Elise Bruneau came back into the room and said she and everyone else that was a part of this meeting are very disappointed in the Select Board for waiting until everyone left the room to make their motion and vote to support the proposal for a thoroughbred horse racetrack.

Selectman Bletzer then read an email that he received from Mike Landers who is the Director of Project Arts along with a group of volunteers.

“I have been advocating for the town to take back the South Park for twenty-seven years, here are a few reasons to do so. Philosophies, the state has never been an advocate for events in the park. I have been told many times that they would prefer that it be used for nothing more than a walking park. The overall attitude of the DCR Staff is unfriendly and condescending to the users. With twenty-five seasons with not so much as an argument in our audience we are forced to pay for security staffing that basically does nothing. We are over regulated. There are a number of events which have been denied access over the years that would have been a great benefit to the citizens as well as our tourism community. The cookie cutter approach to the management of the park as the same as the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade is excessive for Plymouth. The Town of Plymouth is growing in so many ways and we are tourist driven by our historic properties and this should be no different. I believe that we can double the number of events which would increase the revenue stream. Our audience and staff, after all these years, are concert goers and so in-tune with our expectations that they completely pick up after themselves and treat the park with great respect. We produce family events and will continue to do so. DCR has doubled our rental costs in just three years which makes our job that much harder. We are willing to continue paying the current amount to bring the Town back in. The Town could easily pay for staffing and upkeep with the fees that are charged. The acquisition, with the amount of town-owned conservation land in the State Forest, I believe that we could carve out a section of equal value for the trade and DCR could manage that property, yet it would remain as conservation land which would be a win, win. The future of the Pilgrim Memorial South Park area could become the epicenter of large events on the waterfront which would please our residents as well as continue to build our tourist trade.”

Selectman Bletzer then said he thinks this is an important tourism property and he would like to explore acquiring this park. He said he talked to Bill Keohan about possibly helping out with some CPC Funds if there were some available. He said this is something that he would really like to see get done.

Steve Lydon came up and said he is the Chairman of the Visitors Service Board. He said he has spoken to most of the people who do events on the waterfront such as the Chamber and See Plymouth, and there seems to be such a problem dealing with DCR. He said from what he understands, they are hard to work with and they are very dissatisfied with the service that they get. He said we pay for their security staff for the Waterfront Festival, and he doesn't understand why because out police and fire cover that aspect. He said this is just an expense that these people do not need to have

Steve Bolotin came up and said what we have heard tonight, repeatedly, is the need for a balance between conservation and commercial use. He said this seems to be the exact thing that we have all been talking about which is the opportunity for the Town to gain control to an area that could bring more concerts and arts to the community. He said this is the type of commercial venture that benefits everyone.

Everett Malaguti came up and said he serves on the Visitor Services Board as well and this is a high priority item and is much needed. He said this needs to be back under the Town's control. He said this would allow the Town to control the events and make the process much easier. He said he feels this property could be an economic engine for the community and would be a win for the Plymouth taxpayers for sure.

Chairman Quintal asked if the Board needed to take a vote, to which Derek Brindisi said that he met with Representative Matt Muratore and brought this to his attention and in order to begin these discussions we would need a vote to support this and move forward to negotiate and identify a funding source.

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to instruct the Town Manager to engage in talks with DCR and to send a letter of support to negotiate the acquisition of the South Park on the waterfront. *Voted 5/0*

8:28PM – TOWN MANAGER’S REPORT

Long Beach Grant

Derek Brindisi, Town Manager, came on and said they got some great news and said we were contacted by Senator Markey’s office called and they informed us that the Town of Plymouth will be the recipient of a \$25,000,000 grant for the reconstruction of Plymouth Long Beach. He said we would expect that David Gould will work directly with the Army Corp of Engineers and he then congratulated the Board for advocating for this work.

Outside Kiosk

Derek Brindisi said that our outside kiosk has already received 1,300 transactions which represents about \$290,000 in transactions so that kiosk is certainly serving its purpose. He said we are also in the midst of creating a Help Desk where two staff members will be assigned to that and help residents with online transactions.

Fire Station Updates

Derek Brindisi said that the West Plymouth Fire Station was having their underground storage tank removed and the Station is earmarked to undergo a major renovation. He said this is one of the first steps. He then said the Old North Plymouth Fire Station will go back out to bid for the assessed value. He also said that Jerome Hart has been promoted to Deputy Fire Chief and he was formally a Battalion Chief and he wanted to publicly congratulate him. He also said that on April 12th there will be an Open House for Fire Chief Ed Bradley t the Fire Headquarters to celebrate his retirement. He said they wanted to honor him for his multiple decades of service to the Town of Plymouth.

Police Updates

Derek Brindisi said that the Mountain Bike Patrol will begin on April 1st in downtown Plymouth. He then said that Chief Flynn has also reported that he now has finalized an agreement with the Department of Child and Family Services (DCF) for a pilot program. He said DCF will provide a Mental Health Counselor between 8:00am and 4:00pm Monday through Friday and they will ride along with a patrol officer and assist on domestic calls. He said due to covid many calls have been domestic calls and mental health calls.

Economic Development

Derek Brindisi said the UMass Strategy Report which is a Master Plan for Economic Development is nearing its end. He said he talked with Stephen Cole today and he is proposing a joint meeting with the Economic Development Foundation and the Select Board towards the end of April so we can review the finding of this report.

Harbor Committee

Derek Brindisi said that the Harbor Committee gave us a list of milestones to try to achieve and he wanted to update the Board on those. He said the No Wake sign has already been installed and floats at the boat ramp and Town Wharf have been installed as well.

Covid Sick Leave Policy

Derek Brindisi said that the Massachusetts Covid Sick Leave Policy was passed in May of 2021 and provides five days of emergency paid sick leave to any of our employees and the State would reimburse the Town up to \$850 per employee. He said unfortunately this benefit has expired as of March 15th so from that date until June 30th the Town will be paying all of those costs, so he wanted to bring that to the Board's attention. He said if the Board would like to extend that benefit once again then you would need to take another vote.

Chairman Quintal said Bill Abbott has an Article for Town Meeting for a study on Long Beach and asked the Town Manager to check with David Gould to make sure that this won't interfere with the \$25,000,000 grant that you mentioned above, to which Derek Brindisi said he would be happy to follow up on that.

8:35PM – PUBLIC COMMENT

Steve Lydon came up and said the Historical District and the Visitor Services Board got together and decided that the sign at North Park Avenue and Court Street needed some repairs. He said the Visitor Services Board provided the funding and the Historic District provided the design and the DPW installed the sign, and it looks gorgeous. He said everyone involved should be commended because they all did a great job.

Ken Tavares came up and congratulated the Board on the \$25,000,000 Long Beach grant. He then said that over the next week, the Board should think long and hard about the motion that was just approved regarding the thoroughbred racetrack. He said questions need to be asked and we need to get more facts before deciding like this. He said there is no doubt that Plymouth needs more economic development, but he said he would like the Board to think about this and make a list of questions and said there are plenty of people that could help with that such as the Planning Department. He said those questions need to go to these people so that you can get them answered.

Andrew Marshall came up and said he is the Business Manager with Labor Locals 721 and represent twenty-three towns here on the South Shore. He then gave a little background on what has been going on at the Pilgrim Power Station. He said the hot topic is the potential water being dumped into the bay but there is more going on there. He said there are some serious safety concerns going on at that facility. He said members of this Local built that facility and some have been working there recently and have performed a lot of critical operations such as placing the pads in place and demolishing some of the buildings. He said they recently laid us off and locked us out and have hired less expensive and inexperienced people. He said our employees are highly trained and capable and now they have people working there that have no experience and that is very dangerous. He said we have filed unfair labor practices and are gaining traction but what their main concern is the safety issues. He said they are actually hiring people off the street, and they have no training or experience, and some have never stepped foot in a nuclear power plant. He said this is an accident waiting to happen and could harm these people as well as the general public. He said the NRFC, Attorney General, Senator Markey, and Senator Warren have been informed about this, but no one seems to want to do anything about this. He said many of these new people have been contaminated and lost their clothes and were not permitted to leave the facility. He said one of the decommissioning specialists was literally sleeping on the floor in the lobby. Someone woke him up and he said he had a rough night and that they gave him a breathalyzer test and he failed it, so he was sleeping it off. He said he is not asking for help with their labor issues but rather only the safety issues.

Scott Gustafson came up and said he is very passionate about issues like this. He said he has spent most of his career making sure Plymouth families and their workers are treated respectfully. He said he has never seen a situation like this in his life and he spoke with Selectman Bletzer last week and made him aware of the situation. He said Selectman Bletzer spoke to Patrick O'Brien who told him that it was our laborers who were refusing to sign an agreement. He said we have fifty-two years of experience work there and have always fought for those jobs. He said their laborers worked very hard to make sure that was a well running and very safe power plant. He said they took a lot of pride in that power plant, and they always did right up until the time that they were locked out a few weeks ago. He said Holtec actually praised our laborers for moving the fuel out of that plant in record time and then they locked us out over a negotiation that went bad. He then said they are not looking for them to help with the negotiations as they know how to do that and have done that for a long time, they are just looking to make sure everyone stays safe. He said there are sixty of their members who mostly live in their Town that are locked out of Holtec and they care about this town and what happens at the power plant. He said he knows you have the ear of Holtec, and he respectfully asked for the Board's help. He said they never refused to sign that agreement, and this is clearly a lockout plain and simple. He said he knows the Board can't get involved in a labor dispute, but you can get involved in a lockout.

Vice Chairman Cavacco came on and thanked them both for their comments and for allowing people to hear what has been going on at the power plant. She said she has worked with both of these gentlemen and the members of Local 721 and they are some of the most qualified people that she has had the pleasure of working with in the nuclear industry. She said she knows what has been going on and has spoken to Patrick O'Brien and Tom White and he also let her know what was going on. She said that she wants everyone to know, that caliber of employee at a power plant is unacceptable. She said you cannot have seven people contaminated in one day, and you cannot have someone getting through several security checkpoints and then failing a breathalyzer test. She said if there is anything that this Board can do then we need to do it and take action to support these guys that have worked for so many years at that facility. She said she thinks it is important to take a stand and send a message that this is not acceptable to Plymouth and our residents.

Chairman Quintal asked what our option are, to which Vice Chairman Cavacco said we can write a letter of support and demand action. She then suggested getting OSHA involved as well to address some of these safety issues.

Chairman Quintal said we need to do something because we have a responsibility to keep the 60,000 Plymouth residents safe. He said maybe we could set up a meeting with Holtec to discuss this, to which Derek Brindisi said he will reach out to them to set that up.

9:07PM – LICENSES AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Patrick Flaherty, the Board voted to approve a One Day Wine and Malt License for **Mayflower Brewing Company** for a Beer Garden being held at Pinehills from 12:00pm to 6:00pm every Sunday from May 29, 2022 through October 9, 2022 and on the following Mondays: May 30, 2022, September 5, 2022, and October 10, 2022. *Voted 5/0*

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to approve a One Day Wine and Malt License for **MAR Promotions** for a Cage Titans Event being held on April 2, 2022 from 5:00pm to 12:00am at Memorial Hall. *Voted 5/0*

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by Patrick Flaherty, the Board voted to approve an Amplified Music Permit for **Mayflower Brewing Company** for a Beer Garden being held at Pinehills from 12:00pm to 6:00pm every Sunday from May 29, 2022 through October 9, 2022 and on the following Mondays: May 30, 2022, September 5, 2022, and October 10, 2022. *Voted 5/0*

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Patrick Flaherty, the Board voted to approve the following Licenses in conjunction with their Seasonal Liquor License Renewal for **Pinewood Lodge Inc d/b/a Pinewood Lodge**: *Voted 5/0*

- Common Victualler License
- Comprehensive Entertainment License (Groups I, II, III, IV)

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to approve the following Licenses in conjunction with their Seasonal Liquor License Renewal for **Sandy Pond Gold Inc d/b/a Atlantic Country Club**: *Voted 5/0*

- Common Victualler License
- Comprehensive Entertainment License (Group I)
- Early Sunday Opening

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Patrick Flaherty, the Board voted to approve the following Licenses in conjunction with their Seasonal Liquor License Renewal for **Double C Inc d/b/a Campy's**: *Voted 5/0*

- Comprehensive Entertainment License (Groups I, II, III)
- Sunday Entertainment License (TV, Dancing, Live)
- Early Sunday Opening

On a motion by Patrick Flaherty and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to approve the following Licenses in conjunction with their Seasonal Liquor License Renewal for **Kevin J Aragon d/b/a Kevin's Club House Restaurant**: *Voted 5/0*

- Common Victualler License

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to approve the following Licenses in conjunction with their Seasonal Liquor License Renewal for **Pillory Pub**: *Voted 5/0*

- Common Victualler License
- Comprehensive Entertainment License (Group I and III)

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to approve the following Licenses in conjunction with their Seasonal Liquor License Renewals for the **Stack Shack LLC d/b/a Stack Shack**: *Voted 5/0*

- Early Sunday Sales (10:00am)
- Comprehensive Entertainment License (Group I and III)
- Outdoor Amplified Music Permit (Periodic Entertainment)

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to authorize the Town Manager, Derek Brindisi, as the recipient for ARPA Funds. *Voted 5/0*

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to appoint Christopher Neri to the Water Conservation Committee for a term beginning immediately and terminating on June 30, 2023. *Voted 5/0*

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to waive the fifteen-day Right to Rescind Employment Contract for Brad Brothers as the Assistant Town Manager. *Voted 5/0*

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to approve the filing of an application for, and the acceptance of grant funds in the amount of \$24,225 from the Massachusetts Department of Industrial Accidents Workplace Safety Training Grant Program, in accordance with Section 53A of Chapter 44 of the Massachusetts General Laws. These grant funds will be used to provide driver safety training courses for 85 employees in the Town's Department of Public Works. *Voted 5/0*

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to grant Cherry's Bait & Tackle LLC an extension to the deadline for building improvements set forth in Section 9 of the Lease Agreement with the Town for use of the town-owned property at 151 Water Street. The deadline will be extended from the existing date of March 31, 2022 to a new date of June 30, 2022. *Voted 5/0*

9:11PM - COMMITTEE LIAISON / DESIGNEE UPDATES

None

9:12PM - OLD BUSINESS / LETTERS / NEW BUSINESS

Vice Chairman Cavacco said we have gotten several comments in the past about the short hours that our public bathrooms are open. She asked the Town Manager to get an estimate on what it would cost to have the bathrooms open year-round at the Maritime Center and at the Town Hall. She said the need is greater and this has been a topic of conversation recently.

Vice Chairman Cavacco said she believes that the DPW Director, Jonathan Beder, has a proposal for the White Horse Beach Comfort Station. She asked the Town Manager if he could get ahold of that proposal and update the Select Board at the next meeting.

Vice Chairman Cavacco said that she attended some of the caucus meetings and there is a lot of misinformation out there. She said because they were there, they were able to correct that misinformation. She then suggested having some kind of policy where at least one member of the Select Board should attend these caucuses when they occur and represent the Board, to which Selectman Helm said that is a great suggestion but we need to discuss in length what our rolls would be. He said when he was on the Finance Committee, we needed to be very careful to only give our opinion when asked. He said we should make this an agenda item in order to have a more in-depth conversation.

Vice Chairman Cavacco said after Ken Tavares got up and spoke, she was a little perplexed. She said this is the place to have all of the discussions for new things being presented which is what we did. She said the process that they approved tonight was just that, the process. She said it wasn't about a horse track or any other end product. She said she wanted this to be clear that the Board voted for the process to gather more information.

Selectman Bletzer came on and said he would like to echo what Vice Chairman Cavacco said. He did not vote for a thoroughbred racetrack tonight; it was merely the process. His said his vote tonight was to approve the process so they can go and begin research with the State and get more information and then to come back to us at a later date. He said for Ken Tavares to come up and say what he said was out of line. He said none of us have any other information and we are not going to get any unless we support the process for them to gather more information. He then said he has no idea how much economic development happened under his watch, so we need to explore any opportunities for economic development.

Patrick Flaherty came on next and said he would like to make a motion that a non-binding ballot question be added to the May ballot asking residents if they support a thoroughbred horse racing track in Plymouth, to which Selectman Bletzer said he would second for discussion. He then said he does not think we have enough information to add this question to the ballot as a non-binding question.

Selectman Flaherty said we know that their proposal is for a thoroughbred horse racing track that included gambling. He said they asked for a letter of support to move forward with licensing from the state for gambling and a thoroughbred racetrack which is what their proposal is and what they want the letter of support for. He then said if the Board can support that after just one hour, then six weeks is enough time for our residents to decide whether or not they support this concept. He said this does not mention any other topics or uses so he thinks six weeks is enough time for residents if one hour was enough time for this Board.

Vice Chairman Cavacco said she has to agree with Selectman Bletzer. She said she has no problem with non-binding questions as we all know, but she could not support this until there is more information. She said Selectman Flaherty keeps saying that this is going to be a racetrack, but we don't know that is what it will end up being. She said they have no idea if they're going to get approval from the state so it might only be a concert venue or sports arena. She also said that she doesn't think that we have enough time to add this question. She said she wants more information for our residents to make an educated decision.

Selectman Flaherty said we need thirty-five days to add a non-binding question on the May ballot so April 15th or 16th would be the deadline, so there is plenty of time to accomplish that so he thinks we should try to get that done.

Selectman Helm came on again and said he wanted to first say that whenever a Plymouth resident comes up to the podium under public comment to voice their opinion and make their own comment they are never out of line. They are a resident of the Town of Plymouth, and they have a right to express their opinion whatever is going on in the Town and what we do as a Board. He said it is very difficult to move forward with a letter of support just like it is very difficult to move forward with a non-binding ballot question after a very long meeting even though it might be a very valid motion. He then said he would like to bring this back next week and get more of a presentation. He said tonight's presentation was not a very good one so he would like to get more information next week and then we can come back and discuss the non-binding ballot question as well. He said the ramifications of both the presentation and the non-binding ballot question are great so he simply cannot decide on either one of those tonight with such little information.

On a motion by Patrick Flaherty and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to place a non-binding ballot question on the May Town Election Ballot asking residents if they support a thoroughbred horse racing track to be built on the County Woodlot.

Voted 1/4 Flaherty-Yes, Quintal-No, Cavacco-No, Helm-No, Bletzer-No

Chairman Quintal said he totally understand why Selectman Helm would want another presentation so he will reach out to them to see when they might be able to come back. He said one of their partners is in Mexico at the moment so he will need to reach out to them to see when he would be back so we can set up another meeting.

9:28PM - ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to adjourn the Open Session at 9:28pm.

Voted 5/0 By Roll Call: Quintal-Yes, Cavacco-Yes, Flaherty-Yes, Helm-Yes, Bletzer-Yes

Recorded by: Christopher Badot

Administrative Assistant, Board of Selectmen