

PLYMOUTH SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY, JULY 26, 2022

1820 COURT ROOM, TOWN HALL, 26 COURT STREET, PLYMOUTH, MA – 6:00 PM
HYBRID PARTICIPATION IN-PERSON OR VIA ZOOM WEBINAR

6:00PM - CALL TO ORDER

Betty Cavacco, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

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_Q9KtC8flydH61g

Present: Betty Cavacco, Chairman
Richard Quintal, Vice Chairman
John Mahoney Jr.
Harry Helm
Charlie Bletzer

Derek Brindisi, Town Manager
Brad Brothers, Assistant Town Manager

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Kevin Lynch, a member of Precinct 5, described his comments regarding the Town Charter Commission's proposed Mission Statement. Mr. Lynch noted how ambitious the proposed Charter is. Mr. Lynch noted that there would be a required three Town Meetings per year if the proposed charter passes.

ENERGY COMMITTEE – COMMUNITY CHOICE POWER SUPPLY PROGRAM

Mr. Farah, Energy Officer stated that the Town is in the fifth year, of a second contract to purchase a third-party electric supply for residents and small businesses. Mr. Farah stated that the current rates will expire on October 1, 2023. Mr. Farah stated that the standard rate is 0.098 cents per kilowatt hour, and the 100% renewable option is 0.09897 cents per kilowatt hour. Mr. Farah noted that the Eversource basic service rate is \$0.17 per kilowatt hour. Mr. Farah noted that the Town has the best energy rates in the State from a municipal aggregation program. Mr. Farah stated that the Town, since 2017 has saved \$23 million because of the Community Choice Power Supply Program. Mr. Farah stated that customers can determine if they have opted into the program by looking at the supplier listed on their electric bill. Mr. Farah stated that if a customer has Dynegy listed as a supplier, they have opted into the program.

DPW FACILITY UPDATE – PROJECT COSTS PRESENTATION

Mr. Beder stated that the Town hired a project manager, CH & Associates, and the Town hired Weston and Sampson as architects for the project. Mr. Beder stated that the DPW has outgrown its facility at Camelot Drive. Mr. Beder stated that he is concerned with affordability, and the proposed project would be in three stages. Mr. Beder stated that when the DPW facilities are not up to speed to respond to emergencies and storms, he believes it is challenging to provide the best services for the Town. Mr. Beder noted that the DPW is classified as a first responder by the Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Beder stated that all DPW vehicles are stored outside with no awnings, Mr. Beder stated that the vehicles become corroded more quickly. Mr. Beder stated that the facilities do not comply with the current building code, have inadequate egress, are not ADA accessible, and do not meet the current energy, plumbing, and mechanical codes. Mr. Beder stated that due to space restraints, operations are not as efficient. Mr. Beder stated that the DPW does not have office meeting space or short-term shower facilities.

Tony Wespiser, Senior Project Engineer, Weston & Sampson stated that the company completed the feasibility study, including a space needs assessment. Mr. Wespiser stated that the DPW facility needs about 123,000 square feet and will utilize an existing building of 29,800 square feet.

Mr. Beder stated that the DPW Facility would cost the Town \$100 million for three phases, with 2030 as the anticipated end of construction. Mr. Beder stated that the DPW has outgrown its existing space. Mr. Bletzer noted that it is good that there is enough land to build the new facility at Camelot Drive.

Mr. Quintal stated that he is not in favor of the total cost, but recognizes the importance of an upgraded facility. Mr. Quintal asked if there is additional land that could be sold to help offset the costs of the facility. Mr. Beder stated that the land that is currently being used by the DPW is needed for operations. Mr. Quintal noted that he is aware that there could be two new elementary schools that need to be built in the future.

Mr. Wespiser noted the Town should consider planning to address the needs of the DPW Facility. Mr. Wespiser noted that the cost of replacing equipment due to storing it in the elements is hundreds of thousands of dollars, sometimes millions of dollars. Mr. Mahoney noted that the Town has multiple large infrastructure projects (Schools, Fire Stations, etc.) that are currently being proposed.

Ms. Cavacco stated that she is concerned that the Building Committee has been vetting the project before the Select Board was aware of the project. Ms. Cavacco noted that the Town does not have any long-term or short-term plans to address capital improvement. Ms. Cavacco stated that if facilities are inadequate for staff, remodeling should occur in those areas.

Mr. Helm is concerned about the number of significant projects and the associated costs for all of them. Mr. Helm noted that the Town is not doing enough to maintain its existing facilities. Mr. Brindisi stated that the Assistant Town Manager and the Finance Director are working on a 10 Year Capital Improvement Plan to address the issues that the Board has been discussing. Mr. Brothers stated that the School District is looking into a feasibility study to determine the need for potential consolidation and infrastructure improvements. Ms. Cavacco noted that the Town should sell unused properties to afford larger projects.

SAVE THE BAY COALITION – UPDATE

Henrietta Constantino, Steering Committee member of Save Our Bay, a coalition of conservation organizations. Ms. Constantino stated that Save Our Bay is concerned with Holtec International's prospective intent of discharging radioactive waste into Cape Cod Bay. Ms. Constantino noted that multiple sections of the site contain water, which she believes altogether totals one million gallons. Ms. Constantino remarked that the water could be contaminated with radiation. Ms. Constantino described the ways Holtec could dispose of or remove the water. Ms. Constantino noted that Holtec could discharge the water into the Bay. Ms. Constantino noted that the water could be transported offsite to licensed radiation water sites. Ms. Constantino believes that Holtec could decide to leave all the water on site until a permanent repository is determined. Ms. Constantino described the types of contamination that could be in the water. Mr. Constantino described the letters that Save Our Bay has sent to Holtec, Senator Markey and Senator Warren, and Attorney General Healey.

COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS – SIMES HOUSE TASK FORCE (7 SEATS)

Bill Keohan, Community Preservation Committee Chair withdrew his application, he noted to the Board that he is available as a CPC liaison to the Task Force. Mr. Senesi stated that Maggie Glennon, Marlene McGrath, and Joan Bartlett have withdrawn their applications.

Ms. Cavacco stated that she would like to volunteer as the Select Board liaison for the Simes House Task Force. Ms. Cavacco stated that the Task Force will come back to the Board to make a recommendation in less than 60 days. Mr. Helm questioned that quick of a timeframe. Mr. Helm believed that a recommendation to be formed may take a longer time.

Alice Baker, Manomet Village Steering Committee Chair, and White Horse Beach Parking Committee member stated that she lives in Manomet and is invested in Manomet. Mr. Baker noted that the Simes House is a historic landmark and should be preserved.

Karen Buechs stated that she was involved with the Simes House for several years and has been involved with many boards/committees in the past.

Patricia Adelman withdrew her application due to meeting schedule conflicts.

Robert Zupperoli believes that the Board's decision to take ownership of the Simes House was a positive development. Mr. Zupperoli noted that the Simes House needs significant maintenance. Mr. Zupperoli stated that he believes the Simes House needs a complete engineering and structural analysis to determine future uses. Mr. Zupperoli noted potential municipal uses of the building.

Allen Hemberger withdrew his application. Jonathan Morse withdrew his application.

Gail Butler, Advisory & Finance Committee, Capital Improvement Committee member, stated that her career in real estate may be beneficial to the Task Force.

Will Shain, stated that he has been active with the Simes House Foundation and is an active resident of the Manomet community.

Anna Fish, Ellen Cerasuolo, Jeffrey Fiedler, Joseph Ventresca, Julie Gallant, Patricia Adelman, Sarah Jennings, Stephen Cole, Margaret McSharry, Conor Ryan, Tamra Giard, Victoria Costa, Monica Mullin, were not present to be interviewed.

The following votes were cast for the seven vacancies on the Simes House Task Force:

Alice Baker: *Mr. Mahoney, Ms. Cavacco, Mr. Helm, Mr. Bletzer*

Anna Fish: *None*

Ellen Cerasuolo: *None*

Jeffrey Fiedler: *Mr. Mahoney*

Joseph Ventresca: *None*

Julie Gallant: *Mr. Mahoney, Mr. Quintal, Ms. Cavacco, Mr. Bletzer*

Karen Buechs: *Mr. Quintal, Ms. Cavacco, Mr. Bletzer, Mr. Helm*

Robert Zupperoli: *Mr. Mahoney, Mr. Quintal, Ms. Cavacco, Mr. Helm, Mr. Bletzer*

Sarah Jennings: *None*

Stephen Cole: *Mr. Mahoney, Mr. Quintal, Ms. Cavacco, Mr. Helm, Mr. Bletzer*

Gail Butler: *Mr. Helm, Mr. Mahoney*

Margaret McSharry: *None*

Will Shain: *None*

Conor Ryan: *None*

Tamra Giard: *None*

Victoria Costa: *Mr. Quintal, Ms. Cavacco, Mr. Helm*

Monica Mullin: *Mr. Mahoney, Mr. Quintal, Ms. Cavacco, Mr. Helm, Mr. Bletzer*

The Board appointed Alice Baker, Julie Gallant, Karen Buechs, Robert Zupperoli, Stephen Cole, Victoria Costa, and Monica Mullin to the Simes House Task Force. The Board appointed Ms. Cavacco as the Select Board Liaison. The Board appointed Mr. Brindisi as the Chair. The Board appointed William Keohan as the CPC Liaison.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

Recent Heat Wave

Mr. Brindisi stated that the Town offered cooling centers, at the Library on Saturday, and the Center for Active Living on Sunday. Mr. Brindisi stated that Chief Foley was able to configure transportation for anyone who would need to access the cooling center.

Structure Fires

Mr. Brindisi described two recent structural fires. Mr. Brindisi stated that two families lost their homes, and no one was injured. Mr. Brindisi stated that Chief Foley was well-staffed to respond to the fire. Mr. Brindisi stated that there are a significant number of brush fires in the Town.

Reported Whales

Mr. Brindisi stated that the Harbormaster has been in communication with the United States Coast Guard, Massachusetts Fish and Wildlife, Massachusetts Environmental Police, and non-profit advocacy groups to address the whale sightings. Mr. Brindisi noted that the Coast Guard and the Harbormaster cannot prohibit legitimate fishing boats from being near the whale sightings. Mr. Brindisi did note that the Harbormaster has been providing pamphlets at the boat ramp and posting signs to provide safety information for boaters.

Monkeypox

Mr. Brindisi stated that the Board of Health and Public Health Department has been informed of the disease in Massachusetts by the State Department of Public Health. Mr. Brindisi stated that there are no reported cases of Monkeypox in the Town.

Mr. Helm asked that the Town Manager advise the Harbormaster that there are boaters that are operating at high speeds near the whale sightings.

SELECT BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION

Mr. Bletzer noted that Morton Park and other ponds are experiencing a large influx of visitors. Mr. Bletzer stated that he has received numerous complaints from residents about illegal parking, dirty facilities/bathrooms, litter, and safety issues at the swimming ponds in the Town of Plymouth. Mr. Brindisi stated that he is aware of the trash and facilities maintenance issues at Fresh Pond. Mr. Brindisi stated that the DPW Director will ensure that there will be additional staffing in the future. Mr. Brindisi recommended that residents call the Police Department if there is any inappropriate behavior that is occurring at the swimming ponds. Ms. Cavacco stated that the loud music was an issue at White Horse Beach. Ms. Cavacco stated that the Town needs to address the concerns and safety of the residents.

Mr. Helm believes that the Plymouth County Commissioners are interested in considering a horse racing track at the County Woodlot. Mr. Helm stated that Boston South is currently in a 90 day due diligence period for the County Woodlot. Mr. Helm requested that Mr. Brindisi set a meeting with Town Counsel, the State legislative delegation, and the Board. Mr. Helm stated that there is misinformation as to whether or not the County Commissioners can approve a race track without the Select Board's approval. Mr. Helm stated that the Gaming Commissioners are finalizing their changes to the statutes and application, and the Town should be aware of their rights to oppose the development. Mr. Bletzer stated that he is not willing to spend more time and energy in the County Woodlot. Mr. Bletzer stated that the Board should let the developer do their research, and come to the conclusion that a horse racetrack would not be approved.

On a motion by Mr. Helm and seconded by Ms. Cavacco, the Board voted to have a meeting with Town Counsel, State legislative delegation, and the Board regarding the County Woodlot. The vote did not pass.

Voted 2/3. Mr. Helm, Yes; Mr. Mahoney, No, Mr. Bletzer, No; Ms. Cavacco, Yes; Mr. Quintal, No.

Mr. Mahoney thanked Melissa Arrighi, former Town Manager, for her service to the Town for nearly twenty years. Mr. Mahoney noted that it is her official last day this week.

LICENSES AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

Licenses

On a motion by Mr. Quintal and seconded by Ms. Helm, the Board voted to approve the Licenses.

Voted 5/0. Mr. Helm, Yes; Mr. Mahoney, Yes, Mr. Bletzer, Yes; Ms. Cavacco, Yes; Mr. Quintal, Yes.

South Shore Race Management, 124 Long Pond Road, Anne Marie Winchester is requesting an amplified music permit for a road race staging point at Town Wharf – Parking lot in front of lobster hut on 2/18/23 from 9:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for a DJ.

South Shore Race Management, 124 Long Pond Road, Anne Marie Winchester is requesting an amplified music permit for a road race staging point at Town Wharf – Parking lot in front of lobster hut on 1/29/23 from 9:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. for a DJ.

South Shore Race Management, 124 Long Pond Road, Anne Marie Winchester is requesting an amplified music permit for a road race staging point at Stephens Field on 7/4/23 from 7:00 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. for a DJ.

South Shore Race Management, 124 Long Pond Road, Anne Marie Winchester is requesting an amplified music permit for a road race staging point at Manomet Elementary School on 9/24/22 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for a DJ.

South Shore Race Management, 124 Long Pond Road, Anne Marie Winchester is requesting an amplified music permit for a road race staging point at DCR Pilgrim Memorial State Park, Water Street for a DJ on 3/18/23 from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 a.m.

South Shore Race Management, 124 Long Pond Road, Anne Marie Winchester is requesting an amplified music permit for a road race staging point at Nelson Park, 10/22/22 from 8:30 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. for a DJ.

ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

On a motion by Mr. Quintal and seconded by Mr. Mahoney, the Board voted to approve the administrative note.

Voted 5/0. Mr. Helm, Yes; Mr. Mahoney, Yes, Mr. Bletzer, Yes; Ms. Cavacco, Yes; Mr. Quintal, Yes.

1. The Board will vote to approve and execute the SEIU Local 888 contract for the fiscal year 2022 through the fiscal year 2024.

ADJOURNMENT

On a motion by Mr. Quintal and seconded by Mr. Mahoney, the Board voted to adjourn the Open Session at 9:14 p.m.

Voted 5/0. Mr. Helm, Yes; Mr. Mahoney, Yes; Mr. Bletzer, Yes; Mr. Quintal, Yes; Ms. Cavacco, Yes.

Recorded by: Anthony Senesi
Assistant to the Select Board/Town Manager