

# PLYMOUTH SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 13, 2023

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

---

## 6:00 PM - CALL TO ORDER

Betty Cavacco, Chairman of the Board, called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and asked Select Board Member, Harry Helm to read the opening statement.

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\\_vk\\_Q9KtC8f1ydH61g](https://pactv.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_-cge_vk_Q9KtC8f1ydH61g)

Present: Betty Cavacco, Chairman  
Richard Quintal Jr., Vice Chairman  
John Mahoney Jr.  
Harry Helm  
Charlie Bletzer  
  
Derek Brindisi, Town Manager  
Brad Brothers, Assistant Town Manager

---

## 6:00 P.M. PUBLIC HEARING: PILLORY PUB LLC D/B/A PILLORY PUB

- Comprehensive Entertainment – Group 1 - Radio, TV
- Common Victualler
- Extension of Hours – 1:00 a.m

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by John Mahoney, the Board vote to approve the request, as presented.

*Voted 5/0 By Roll Call: Mahoney-Yes, Cavacco-Yes, Helm-Yes, Quintal-Yes, Bletzer-Yes.*

---

## PLYMOUTH CRANBERRY QUILTERS

Gail Butler, Plymouth Cranberry Quilters presented a quilt to a family that recent immigrated to the United States from Ukraine.

---

## THREE HARTS VETERANS FARM – HYDROPONICS PRESENTATION

Christopher Hart, President and Found of the Nathan Hale Veterans Foundation, and Executive Director of the Three Harts Veterans Farm gave a presentation regarding the Farm and facility.

---

## LICENSES AND ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

On a motion by John Mahoney and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted approve Administrative Notes 1, 2 and 4.

*Voted 5/0 By Roll Call: Mahoney-Yes, Cavacco-Yes, Helm-Yes, Quintal-Yes, Bletzer-Yes.*

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted approve Administrative Note 3.

*Voted 4/1 By Roll Call: Mahoney-No, Cavacco-Yes, Helm-Yes, Quintal-Yes, Bletzer-Yes.*

### ADMINISTRATIVE NOTES

1. The Board will vote to approve the Snow Removal Description and Rate Changes as proposed by the DPW Director and Highway Manager.
2. The Board will designate the Town Manager, Derek Brindisi, by formal resolution as the Environmental Certifying Officer for the Town.
3. The Board will approve and execute the Amendment to the Employment Agreement between the Town of Plymouth and the Town Manager, Derek Brindisi as presented in the agenda packet.
4. The Board will vote to approve and execute the October 15, 2022, Annual Fall Town Meeting Warrant.

---

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None.

---

### **TOWN MEETING LOCATION DISCUSSION**

Steve Triffletti, Town Moderator stated that his role as Town Moderator is to eliminate risk with not having an in-person Town Meeting, but rather having a fully virtual Town Meeting. Mr. Moderator stated that at least six to seven Town Meeting members would not feel comfortable attending an in-person meeting.

Mr. Moderator stated that his plan for Fall Town Meeting is to have the meeting in an in-person format at the Center for Performing Arts and have a separate room for those Town Meeting member who wish to be in a room where everyone is masked. Mr. Moderator stated that Brian Losi, has been appointed as a second Assistant Town Moderator to have full coverage in the second room. Mr. Moderator stated that Select Board, Town Staff, Finance Committee, and the public can join in the Plymouth North High School Library.

Mr. Bletzer asked Mr. Moderator why the Select Board and Advisory and Finance Committee in a separate room from Town Meeting members. Mr. Moderator said he would not additional risk to Town Meeting members by having additional people in the room. Ms. Cavacco stated that the COVID-19 State of Emergency has been lifted, and that she does not want to be told where to sit for Town Meeting.

Steve Lydon, Plymouth resident, said that what happens if the Town Moderator delays the Town Meeting for fourteen days.

Wrestling Brewster, Precinct 15 Chair, said that the Town Moderator is over-stepping his position of power. Mr. Brewster recommended that Town Meeting occur in two rooms.

Pat McCarthy, Precinct 18 Vice Chair, said that she is disturbed, saddened, and concerned about the situation at hand. Ms. McCarthy said there are at least 50 new Town Meeting members, and they have not had an opportunity to participate in-person. Ms. McCarthy cited Section 10 of Chapter 39:

*'Whenever the moderator determines the voters are being excluded from the town meeting because there is no room for them in the places provided or that voters in attendance are being deprived of the opportunity to participate therein for any reason whatsoever, he shall either on his own motion recess the meeting for any period during the day of the meeting or after consultation with the members of the Board of Selectmen then present, adjourned the same to another date no later than 14 days following the date of set meeting when places and facilities sufficient to accommodate all voters attending.'*

Ms. McCarthy stated that there is sufficient facilities for Town Meeting at the High School.

Alyse Bruneau, Precinct 18 Chair, asked what were the results of the survey that was sent to Town Meeting members, regarding their preference of an in-person or virtual Town Meeting. Mr. Moderator stated that the results of a survey was a 50% in favor of in-person and 50% opposed to in-person

Maureen Renaud, Precinct 6 Town Meeting member, stated that she has a compromised immune system, and stated that the Town must live with the disease. Ms. Renaud said that the Town Moderator's restrictions are not necessary at this level anymore.

Virginia Davis, Precinct 4, said that if she was sick during Town Meeting, she would not consider attempting to attend. Ms. Davis stated that she is concerned that 50% of members have not yet attended an in-person Town Meeting.

Richard Nealey, Precinct 15 Town Meeting member, said that the Town Meeting should be a hybrid meeting. Mr. Nealey said that all appointed and elected officials should be vaccinated.

Kathryn Holmes, Chair of COPC, stated that there was a 50-50 split of surveyed Town Meeting members in regards to virtual or in-person format. Ms. Holmes stated that Town Meeting should occur at Plymouth North High School, and not at the Center of the Performing Arts. Ms. Cavacco said that the Center of Performing Arts is at Plymouth North High School.

Mr. Brindisi noted that additional costs may occur if Town Meeting is delayed by 14 days. Mr. Mahoney said that it is imperative for Town Meeting to occur as normal, with no delay. Mr. Bletzer stated that Town Meeting should occur in two rooms, including a room for people who don't feel comfortable around several people. Ms. Cavacco said that she wants Town Meeting in two rooms, so that Town staff, Select Board, and A&F be in the same room that Town Meeting members are in.

Martha Vautrain, Precinct 4, stated that the room can accommodate several hundred people.

David Golden, Precinct 7, stated that he is concerned that Mr. Moderator has considered that every Town Meeting member that would like to speak has to be pre-registered in advance.

Mr. Moderator said that in the past, he has created a speaker's list of people who like to speak on a given warrant article.

Kevin Canty, Advisory & Finance Committee Chair, said that he believes that having as many people in one room as possible would benefit Town Meeting. Mr. Canty said that this deliberation is detracting from necessary conversations regarding Town Meeting articles.

Lawrence Delafield, Precinct 16 Chair, stated that he believes Mr. Moderator is keeping Town Meeting members safe.

Joseph Hutchinson, Precinct 17 Chair, said that Town Meeting needs to occur in a timely fashion.

Ms. Cavacco called for a five-minute recess.

On a motion by Harry Helm and seconded by Betty Cavacco, the Board voted to reaffirm the Select Board vote to have an in-person Fall 2022 Town Meeting.

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

---

## **2022 FALL TOWN MEETING ARTICLES**

### **Article 8 – Property Acquisition off State Road**

Mr. Brother stated that the \$90,000 in question was appropriated at 2022 Annual Town Meeting, and this article is a transfer of funds to purchase land to provide space for the construction of Manomet Fire Station.

On a motion by Charlie Bletzer and seconded by John Mahoney, the Board voted to recommend Article 8, to be brought forth to Town Meeting

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

### **Article 22 – Citizens Petition – Horse Racing**

Kathryn Holmes, the Petitioner, noted that most Plymouth residents (88%) are opposed to horse racing in the Town. Ms. Holmes said she felt that this article she proposed, would further prohibit horse racing from the Town.

On a motion by John Mahoney and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to recommend Article 22, to be brought forth to Town Meeting.

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

### **Article 9A – CPC – Purchase Open Space – Off Carver Road**

Bill Keohan, Chair of CPC, stated that the Town has been in conversations with the Narragansett Council, about acquiring property over several years. Mr. Keohan noted that the appraisal was \$900,000 for 99 acres.

On a motion by Harry Helm and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to recommend Article 9A, to be brought forth to Town Meeting.

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

## **Article 9B – CPC – Historical Preservation – Spire Center**

Mr. Keohan described this history of the building, of it being an 1884, former Methodist Church and former Beth Jacob Synagogue Community Center. Mr. Keohan stated that CPA funding was used to buy the property in 2012. Mr. Keohan stated that Great Plymouth Performing Arts manages the building and worked on improvements. Mr. Keohan stated that the recommendation is to allocate \$3.6 million to rehabilitate the historic integrity of the building.

On a motion by Richard Quintal and seconded by Betty Cavacco, the Board voted to recommend Article 9B, to be brought forth to Town Meeting.

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

## **Article 9C – CPC – Purchase Open Space – Off Stephens Lane**

Mr. Keohan described the article as acquiring 0.64 acres at the cost of \$30,000. Mr. Keohan noted that it is part of the Stephen's Lane Estuary Protection Project. Mr. Keohan stated that the property is being clogged, due to the owners not living nearby. Mr. Keohan stated that the fresh water become stagnant. Mr. Keohan stated that the property can be managed by DMEA to assist with storm surge.

On a motion by Richard Quintal and seconded by Harry Helm, the Board voted to recommend Article 9C, to be brought forth to Town Meeting.

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

## **Article 9D – CPC Historical Preservation – 1857 Plymouth Foundry/Marina**

Mr. Keohan stated that the Historic District Commission invoked a one-year stay of execution on the building being demolished. Mr. Keohan stated that the Bradford Street Area Commission was formed, and they are in discussion with Safe Harbors to preserve a portion of the property. Mr. Keohan stated that CPC was contact by both parties. Mr. Keohan stated that the CPC hired an independent cost analysis to see how much preservation efforts are needed and the associated cost. Mr. Keohan stated that CPC and Safe Harbors were in contact to preserve the building. Mr. Keohan stated that Safe Harbors in the permitting process stage to demolish the building and build their facility. Mr. Keohan stated that CPC is meeting this Thursday to modify the amount in regard to preservation costs. Mr. Bletzer says that he is unsure of the significant costs to renovate a small portion of the property.

On a motion by John Mahoney and seconded by Betty Cavacco, the Board voted table Article 9D at a later date for future discussion. John Mahoney withdrew his motion, and Ms. Cavacco withdrew her second to Mr. Mahoney's motion.

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Charlie Bletzer, the Board voted to recommend Article 9D, to be brought forth to Town Meeting.

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

On a motion by Betty Cavacco and seconded by Richard Quintal, the Board voted to approve and execute the Fall 2022 Town Meeting Warrant

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

Mr. Helm left the meeting at this point in time.

---

## **TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT**

Mr. Brindisi stated that the Inspectional Services and Fire Departments are working to relocate the fire prevention division to the third floor of Town Hall, to create a one-stop-shop for contractors to file all their applications at once. Mr. Brindisi stated that this would occur in the next 30 days.

Mr. Brindisi stated that BID has given a \$10,000 grant to the CAL for the Age and Dementia Friendly Assessment.

Mr. Brindisi stated that the roofing project at Pine Hills Fire Station is underway. Mr. Brindisi stated that phase two of the West Plymouth Fire Station is underway, that consists of asbestos abatement and demolition of living quarters. Mr. Brindisi stated that Early Voting will begin for the Primary on October 22, 2022, through November 4, 2022.

---

## **SELECT BOARD OPEN DISCUSSION**

Mr. Bletzer spoke regarding the New Hope Chapel construction project. Mr. Bletzer met with the Pastor, Mr. Brindisi, and Mr. Bolotin, Planning Board member to discuss the traffic concerns. Mr. Bletzer said that he felt that the traffic would be minimal, and would only occur on a Sunday morning at 8:30 a.m.

---

## **ADJOURNMENT**

On a motion by John Mahoney and seconded by Richard Quintal, the Board voted to adjourn the Open Session at 9:50 p.m.

*Voted 4/0 By Roll Call: Mahoney-Yes, Cavacco-Yes, Bletzer-Yes, Quintal-Yes*

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