

Danvers Select Board Minutes

February 7, 2023

The regular meeting of the Danvers Select Board was held on Tuesday, February 7, 2023, at 6:30 P.M. in the Daniel J. Toomey Hearing Room, Town Hall, 1 Sylvan Street, Danvers. Present: Daniel C. Bennett, Chair; Maureen A. Bernard; Matthew E. Duggan; David A. Mills, and Gardner S. Trask III. The **Pledge of Allegiance** was recited by all in attendance.

Select Board member Trask motioned the Board to approve the **Minutes of January 17, 2023**, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0.

New Public Business: Bill Bradstreet, TMM Precinct 1, noted several issues: (1) Perhaps install evergreen near CVS earlier and remove later? (2) Conflict with public meeting schedules and a way to avoid this? Overlaps unintended but sometimes unavoidable. (3) Instruction sheet for public on use of new website? (4) Exit interviews to learn why we're losing valued employees. Content of these interviews part of an employee's personnel file; not subject to disclosure.

Robert Panneton, 46-year resident of Grandview Road, concerned with lack of response from Essex Tech to address student parking on residential streets, impeding movement by buses, delivery trucks, trash haulers. "Resident Parking Only" stickers discussed as a solution, noting that this incurs costs to Town for DPD to monitor. Select Board Chair Bennett, a member of the Town's Traffic Advisory Committee, referenced Zoom discussion on Friday, February 10, to explore solutions.

DHS Principal Adam Federico Asst. Town Manager Jen Breaker, assisted by Nick Campion and Jasmine Ramon, solicited applications to a newly-formed Student Advisory Committee, yielding 17 applicants. Of that number, 8 students were chosen (with one withdrawal). At a later date, a second 10th grader and a replacement 11th grader will be introduced to the Select Board. Select Board members expressed their appreciation for the students' willingness to involve themselves, noting that there is no better way to learn about your hometown than to get involved; in turn, the Select Board was eager to "*hear students' input as we make decisions.*" Select Board member Trask motioned the Board to appoint the applicants to the Student Advisory Committee [Gr 9: Nora Nickerson, JJ Murphy | Gr 10: Julia Boyd | Gr 11: Malana Moy | Gr 12: Isiah Young, Danielle Ford | At-large: Milla Shirikyan] for a term to expire on August 31, 2023, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0.

DPD compliance checks were conducted on December 12, 2022 (4-8 P.M.) and in accordance with ABCC directives, including prior notification to 50 liquor license holders of upcoming compliance checks, as reported by Police Chief Jamie Lovell. Of the 45 open businesses checked, one violation was documented at Torito's Restaurant, 10 Newbury Street. DPD Interactions with personnel at the establishment "*were met with less than cooperative employees.*" After a brief discussion, Select Board member Trask motioned the Board to request the attendance of Torito's management at the Select Board meeting of March 7, 2023 and to show cause as to why the license should not be suspended or other action taken, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0.

A **public hearing** was held under Chapter 138 of MG.L. on the application of **9 Bridge Enterprises, Inc.**, d/b/a New Bridge Variety & Deli, 9 Bridge St., Leah Piantidosi, Manager Owner, for transfer of an Off Premise (liquor to be sold for consumption elsewhere) Wine & Malt License at that location (license to include a pledge of license to Gloucester Bank). Applicant's purchase of purchasing building and license for continued operation as a variety store/deli is in process. Her plan is to be on site at least 40 hours per week with at least one TIPS-certified alternate named on the license. Town Clerk will be apprised of the Alternate Managers to be kept on file. Select Board member Trask motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0. Select Board member Trask motioned to accept the application as presented, seconded by Select Board member Mills, and voted 5-0.

A **public hearing** was held on the application of **Elbasan Roast Beef, Inc.**, d/b/a Supreme Roast Beef, 18 Maple Street, Ariana Gjorga, owner, for transfer of a Common Victualler License at that location. This two-family partnership by experienced food industry owners plans no changes to restaurant's operations, with the possible

exception of extending hours of operation to later on Friday evenings. With Select Board members expressing welcome and their good wishes, Select Board member Trask motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0. Select Board member Trask motioned to approve the application as presented, seconded by Select Board member Mills, and voted 5-0.

A **public hearing** was to have been held on the application of **Falafel Mom, LLC, d/b/a Falafel Mom**, 100 Independence Way (LTM Food Court), Jabbar Hashim, owner, for transfer of a Common Victualler License at that location. Given that the applicant was not present, Select Board member Trask motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0. Select Board member Trask motioned to table discussion of the application, seconded by Select Board member Mills, and voted 5-0.

A **public hearing** was held on the application of **Starbucks Corp.**, d/b/a Starbucks Coffee, 139 Endicott Street (across from Market Basket), Daniel Brennan, Manager, for a Common Victualler License at that location. Mr. Brennan, responsible for licenses and permits for Starbucks, reported that the 2,600' shop will contain 38 interior seats and 24 outdoor seats in a patio area with plans to open in late March/early April from 5 A.M. to 11 P.M. After a brief discussion, Select Board member Trask motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0. Select Board member Trask motioned to approve the application as presented, seconded by Select Board member Mills, and voted 5-0.

Markham (formerly Melanson), the Town's independent auditor, in the person of Zach Fentross, was present to discuss the Annual Comprehensive Financial Report for Fiscal 2022. He noted that the entire Melanson team has come over to new owners, Markham CPA, and that there are to be no changes to interactions with the Town of Danvers. After a comprehensive explanation of the Town's financial position with questions and clarifications, he concluded by noting that the Town is *"in a good financial position; no Management Letter; has a good unassigned fund balance; and has funded an OPEB Trust Fund."* In addition, the audit was a "clean opinion," the best you can hear, and one the Town has received over previous years. Select Board members commented on the value of the statistical pages and a suggestion made that it would be helpful to distill the information for residents, perhaps for a proposed March 2023 abridged Financial Summit. **NOTE:** Funds denoted as "unencumbered" elsewhere are "Free Cash" in Massachusetts.

Town Manager Update

- Danvers has received certification of Free Cash; ARPA funds are not included as part of the certification.
- State aid figures likely to arrive later than usual due to transition to new administration.
- Special Education experiencing a *"wave of costs; and State's funding mechanism is being stress-tested yearly, and communities need help."*
- Essex Tech contribution expected to see increase of half million dollars (8% increase).
- Soliciting trash hauler proposals.
- Employee health care renewal increases ranging from 1-10% (likely to be c. 5%).
- Airport manager screening committee, including Town Manager and Aaron Henry, reviewed 20 applications; narrowed field to 8 candidates; 4 recommended to meet publicly with full Airport Commission.
- To date, 58% of Snow & Ice budget has been expended.
- Maple Square project demolition wrapping up; hoping for preparation of project signs for display.

Select Board member Trask motioned to accept the **Consent Calendar** as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0.

Common Victualler

- Target Corporation, d/b/a Target Store T1187, 240 Independence Way
- TeaCAMILLA LLC, d/b/a TeaCAMILLA, 23A Locust Street

Correspondence, Select Board “*New Business,*” previous “*New Public Business*” updates, and **Select Board closing comments.**

Select Board member Bernard

- Danvers Housing Authority (Cindy Dunn & staff) keeping residents safe.
- Heard from N.E. Home for the Deaf develop about plans.
- Rail trail and bridge look great; committee does a great job.

Select Board member Mills

- Police Chiefs and departments “*Issued powerful statement of solidarity with victims; a very important message and beautifully done.*”
- Beautiful job on Annual Town Report; thanks to staff who are responsible.
- Town’s website much improved; some short (3-minute) instruction on how to access information?
- HRIC meeting Thursday, February 9, 7 p.m. “*All the work they do is work of great commitment.*”
- Senior Center bulletin available on-line or it may be mailed upon request; “*great stuff going on down there*” and at the local YMCA.

Select Board member Duggan

- Improved look and feel for users’ experience; don’t believe directions are necessary, should be intuitive but a rudimentary user guide may be a good idea.
- Search function trying to find historical (i.e., past meeting agendas and minutes) still an issue. The naming of files convention difficult.
- Kudos to DPW staff on rail trail north of Wenham Street near “the cut.” Prone to flooding, they installed six half-inch pipes under trail to encourage water flowing and elevated the trail itself.
- Essex Tech parking issue a problem; instituting “resident only” parking sticker is the way to go.
- Objects to dugouts appearing in residential areas on Town’s playing fields.

Select Board member Trask

- Likes new website; thanks for the effort.
- Has also received e-mails about the Essex Tech parking situation.
- The Chair and I attended ribbon cutting at Aldi; there was considerable interest by public.

Select Board member Bennett

- Maple Square contractors/developers are neglecting to close and/or lock gates; they have been ajar and sometimes wide open. **NOTE:** High winds over weekend caused section of fencing to fall down.
- If you meet a vet, thank him or her for their service.

The meeting adjourned at 8:20 P.M.

Prepared by Ann Freitas

Attest: Catherine S. Ellsworth, Town Clerk