

Danvers Select Board Minutes

February 21, 2023

The regular meeting of the Danvers Select Board was held on Tuesday, February 21, 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; David A. Mills, and Gardner S. Trask III; (Select Board member Duggan was absent). The **Pledge of Allegiance**, led by Select Board member Bernard, was recited by all in attendance.

Select Board member Trask motioned the Board to approve the **Minutes of February 7, 2023**, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 4-0.

New Public Business: Bill Bradstreet, TMM Precinct 1, suggested that his preference would be to have more board/commission meetings listed in the calendar portion of the Annual Town Report.

A **public hearing** was held under Chapter 138 of MG.L. on the application of **Packaging Center, Inc., d/b/a Stop & Shop**, 301 Newbury Street, Kenneth W. Lorentzen, Manager, for a Change of Manager at that location. A Packaging Center representative was present to introduce Mr. Lorentzen, a 35-year employee of Stop & Shop with 11 years of managerial experience in other locations. It was also noted that Mr. Lorentzen is TIPS-certified, with increasing responsibilities in the area of liquor sales during his time with Stop & Shop. A manager will be on site at all times, and alternates named on the license are also TIPS-certified. Select Board member Trask motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Select Board member Mills, and voted 4-0. Select Board member Trask motioned to accept the application as presented, seconded by Select Board member Mills, and voted 4-0.

A **public hearing** was held on the application of **Falafel Mom, LLC, d/b/a Falafel Mom**, 100 Independence Way (LTM Food Court), Jabbar Hashim, owner, for a Common Victualler License at that location. Mr. and Mrs. Hashim were present and described their venture as the service of Middle East food, soups, salads, etc. during scheduled hours of operation to be addressed by LTM management. The Board welcomed this new restaurant, and Select Board member Trask motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Select Board member Mills, and voted 4-0. Select Board member Trask motioned to approve the application as presented, subject to final inspections by the Board of Health and Building Inspector, seconded by Select Board member Mills, and voted 4-0.

In the absence of a permanent Chair, Dan Gagnon, **Historic District Commission** [HDC] member, spoke of the potential to create a **new historic district**, encompassing only the 1712 structure at 42 Summer Street, currently protected by a one-year demolition delay, scheduled to expire on 5/13/23. He was accompanied by other HDC members [Richard Trask; Betsy Gadbois; and Doug Deroscher]. Mr. Gagnon described the steps followed since the issuance of the demo delay:

- Eight (8) Preservation Commission public hearings after which property deemed “historically significant.”
- Establishment of a State mandated [Historic Districts Act] Historic Study Committee.
- Petition (making this one home its own “district”) signed by 150 residents. Property owner has agreed not to oppose such a move, as long as it only includes half of the parcel, and that only the new lot with the historic house is being considered; backyard is not included.
- Meetings in summer/early fall, culminating in preparation of a comprehensive 38-page “Final Study Report.”
- Tonight’s presentation to Select Board, resulted in a discussion as how best to move the matter forward [Select Board ⇒ Warrant ⇒ Finance Committee ⇒ Town Meeting (2/3 vote required)].

Select Board member Trask motioned to place the Article on the 5/15/23 Annual Town Meeting warrant, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 4-0. Discussion ensued as to the timing constraints [demo delay expires 5/13; Town Meeting convenes 5/15] and prior discussion of an adaptive re-use by-law.

Town Manager Update

- Budget workshop March 18; finance director abridged version of financial summit. Working to get budget in shape to deliver by March 1, waiting for key numbers.

- HRIC partnered with School Department to bring noted Civil Rights activist Joan Trumpauer Mulholland and her son Loki Mulholland in for discussions in school and a moderated discussion in H.R. Middle School Multi-purpose Room at 6:30 P.M. Staff on hand for childcare and refreshments. All are welcome!

Select Board member Trask motioned to accept the **Consent Calendar** as presented, seconded by Select Board member Mills, and voted 4-0.

Livery Service: Exclusive Limousine Service, LLC, 6 Orchard Lane Ext.

Banners: Danvers YMCA, Healthy Kids Community Day, over Maple Street, April 17-23
Danvers Babe Ruth, over High Street, March 20-26

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

Select Board member Trask

- Affordable Housing Trust heard of N.E. Home for the Deaf project proposal for senior housing (primarily for deaf, blind, near-blind) on the property’s back corner, presently hilly, to be leveled in line with other property. Neighbors notified, response mostly positive. If space not filled by intended population, preference to be given to Danvers seniors. No approval needed from Planning Board but from ZBA. All units applicable toward 10% affordable housing mandate, providing protection from unfavorable 40B projects which are able to *“get around most zoning regulations.”*
- River Committee beginning review of slip rental requests; there’s a waiting list, and they’re planning for a robust season.

Select Board member Bernard

- March 11 pancake breakfast; *“Great event,”* tickets available.
- Walked the Rail Trail recently; looks great!

Select Board member Mills

- Important presentation at Middle School Multi-purpose Room on March 2; refreshments as well.
- Dismayed at the disruption to residents around Essex Tech in terms of parking; neighbors uneasy about plans to make the school even bigger.
- Check out the array of programs available at Senior Center, *“a great, welcoming place; don’t stay home.”*
- Local YMCA has a variety of programs for older folks, including water aerobics and exercise regimens.
- HRIC working on making Town more welcoming and inclusive.

Select Board member Bennett

- Regarding outdoor dining: Is Select Board authorized to grant permissions for continued practice or do we require State permission? **NOTE:** The Town Clerk noted that license holders without fully-approved outdoor dining areas would need to request application for *“alteration of premises,”* outlined by ABCC.
- Receipt of e-mails from those impacted by Beverly Airport activities; *“it’s unfortunate that they can’t get any relief from State or Federal government about this travesty going on.”*
- If you meet a vet, thank him or her for their service.

The meeting adjourned at 7:19 P.M.

Prepared by Ann Freitas

Attest: Catherine S. Ellsworth, Town Clerk