

Danvers Select Board Minutes

April 18, 2023

The regular meeting of the Danvers Select Board was held on Tuesday, April 18, 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 April 4, 2023**, as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 4-0 [Select Board member Mills was a late arrival.] Select Board member Trask motioned the Board to approve the **Minutes of April 6, 2023**, as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 4-0.

New Public Business: Bill Bradstreet TMM Precinct 1, raised the question of a possible pop-up park near North Putnam Street on Town property. Select Board member Bennett noted that his suggestion would be taken under advisement.

A public hearing was held on the application of Cindy Lou Enterprise LLC, d/b/a Clean EatZ, 156 Andover St. #3, Cindy VerColen, Manager, for a Common Victualler License at that location. The business will involve a café able to serve walk-ins (14 tables expected) and a meal plan operation whereby meals will be prepared on Fridays and Saturdays for pick-up by clients on Sunday and Monday (11 A.M.-7 P.M.). Select Board members welcomed her to Danvers and wished her well. Select Board member Trask motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 4-0. Select Board member Trask motioned to approve the application as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 4-0.

The Board considered an application from the Danvers Senior Center, 25 Stone Street, Paula Corcoran, Manager, for a One-Day Wine & Malt beverage license on Saturday, April 29, 2023, 11 A.M.-2 P.M. for the Annual Volunteer Recognition event at that location. Familiar with this recurring, well attended event, Select Board member Trask motioned to approve the application as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 4-0.

The Board heard a recommendation from Finance Committee members regarding funding the FY2024 Budget (School & Solid Waste/Recycling). Several Finance Committee members (Landers, Tipert, Pawlak, MacLachlan, Skarmeas) were in attendance, represented at the podium by FC member Eric Mitchell (and subsequently by Mike Landers). Mr. Mitchell noted that in reviewing the FY 2024 budget, it became apparent that consensus was building to discuss fundamental shifts in funding sources, nearly \$1 million from Free Cash for the purchase of trash bins versus a \$600k appropriation for the School Department's "wish list." A lengthy discussion, with public input ensued, culminating in statements that "*the Town is stretched to the brink;*" and it is the Finance Committee's belief that "*our priorities are backwards.*" Continued discussion centered on several points:

- The bins need to be purchased by July 1 to be in compliance with the Town's new trash contract.
- Discussion will continue as to whether the cost will be borne by the Town or by residents.
- The discussion should not devolve into competition between one department (School) against another (Gen. Govt. [DPW]). Eleventh hour discussion doesn't seem appropriate.
- There is broad support for increasing the School budget and yet no one wants a trash fee (proposed along with resident provision of their own bins). "*How do we get there?*" Today, residents purchase their own trash receptacles.
- The Finance Committee's "recommendation" is the main motion at Town Meeting, and we have no choice but to vote for what is financially prudent for the community.
- Mr. Landers did note that: "*What we did do is say maybe the time has come to have the Finance Committee, Select Board, and School Committee talk about this for the future.*"

In conclusion, Select Board Chair Bennett noted that the Boards/Committees [Select; School; Finance; and Library (perhaps)] could agree, at our first meeting after Annual Town Meeting, to discuss funding priorities and

a plan of action on how to finance them. Discussion, more than likely, will involve two members from each board noted above, and it will be conducted in a public meeting but not a public hearing. Audience members commented on the importance of education and getting together to decide on something acceptable; how pivotal it is to fund the diverse needs of all students and find a way to make sure it happens; and that residents should be responsible for purchase of their trash bins..

Select Board Member Mills arrived at 7:00 P.M.

The Board considered appointment to the Danvers Affordable Housing Trust of Lisa Silva, a residential real estate appraiser, helping to appraise and market affordable housing units throughout her 20 year career. Select Board member Bernard motioned to approve the appointment, seconded by Select Board member Mills, and voted 4-1 (Select Board member Duggan opposed).

The Board discussed approval of the Town Manager’s reappointment to the Conservation Commission for a three-year term. Select Board member Duggan noted that “*Vanessa does her home, is fully engaged, and is a valuable member of the Commission.*” The Board determined a formal vote was unnecessary.

Town Clerk update on Elections

- Tuesday, May 2, 7 A.M.-8 P.M., DHS Field House
- No option to vote by mail
- Absentee ballots available to those who qualify but must be requested from Town Clerk’s office no later than April 25
- Early voting opportunity in Toomey Room at Town Hall on Saturday, April 22, 10 A.M.-4 P.M.
- One ballot question regarding acceptance of CPA
- All details available on Town’s website under “Town Clerk,” including sample ballot which is also posted at Town Hall on the bulletin board.

Town Manager update

In DSB packets was an e-mail and letter from Atty. McCann related to 42 Summer Street property which is part of the warrant [Article #9]; at their warrant review, the Select Board supported the establishment of this single-parcel historic district. At that meeting, Preservation Commission Chair Dan Gagnon noted that the property owner had attended Preservation Commission hearings and raised no opposition to the plan. The Finance Committee is scheduled to review the warrant article on Wednesday, April 26, and has been provided with a copy of Atty. McCann’s letter. It was the consensus of the Select Board that they did not favor opening the warrant.

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

Road Race: Griffin’s Gift Road Race, Danvers High School, Friday, June 23, 4– 7 PM

Car Wash: DHS Girl’s Lacrosse Car Wash, Elm Street parking lot, Saturday, May 6, rain date Sunday, May 7

Parade: Danvers American Little League & Danvers National Little League & Girls Softball, Saturday, April 29, 2023 beginning at 10 A.M.

Gas Storage;

- Danvers Fuel, 97 Maple St. Newbury Realty Assoc., LLC c/o ATC Eclipse, 76 Newbury St.
- Home Depot #2663, 92 Newbury St Home Depot USA, Inc. (2623), 235 Independence Way
- Devcon (aka ITW Performance Polymers), 30 Endicott St.
- Global Montello Group Corp., 420 Newbury St. PMG Northeast LLC, 160 Andover Street

- ARCK Enterprises, Inc., 100 High St. Galyan's Trading Co., d/b/a Dick's, 96 Commonwealth Ave

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

Select Board member Duggan departed at 7:35 P.M.

Select Board member Bernard

- *"Nice that Finance Committee came before Select Board."*

Select Board member Mills

- Appreciated the thoughtful deliberations by Finance Committee members.
- Continues to be disturbed by \$6B in taxable property for which the Town provides municipal services without financial return from Essex Aggie, St. John's Prep, Mass. General, and North Shore Community College, to name a few. Town should be pursuing legislature to tax these properties for some of the costs which residents pay on their behalf.

Select Board member Trask

- Requested that DSB Minutes reflect the late arrival or early departure of members, which he finds disrespectful to voters and residents.

Select Board member Bennett

"If you meet a vet, thank a vet; and good night, Danvers."

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 P.M.

Prepared by Ann Freitas

Attest: Catherine S. Ellsworth, Town Clerk