

## Danvers Select Board Minutes

May 4, 2023

The regular meeting of the Danvers Select Board was held on Thursday, May 4, 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** was recited by all in attendance.

Select Board member Trask motioned the Board to approve the **Minutes of April 18, 2023**, as presented, seconded by Select Board member Mills, and voted 4-0.

**New Public Business:** (1) Armand Shirikyan addressed the Board regarding what he perceives to be inequitable opportunities for children in youth sports. He asked whether league by-laws could mandate equal playing time for all youth participants regardless of their skill level, particularly when training and/or playing on town properties. Board members were in agreement with his sentiment but were not able to promise a change to a league's by-laws. Select Board Chair Bennett asked the Town Manager to seek the advice of Town Counsel. (2) Bill Bradstreet, TMM Pct. 1, noted (a) the Electric Division's recognition for reliability [Select Board Chair Bennett read the letter of recognition]; (b) requested that "a few evergreens" be planted at Pope's Landing; and (c) urged that Food Pantry parking lot receive attention in the form of a pad for the dumpster and striping for parking spaces.

Eric Tritta, attorney and co-owner with spouse David Pinette of Twisted Fate, requested twelve **(12) wine and malt beverage licenses** for the dates as follows for the summer concert series on the lawn of the Peabody Institute Library, 15 Sylvan Street, from 6-8:30 P.M. Board members and the applicant spoke of the potential for rain dates and agreed that permissions(s) for dates other than those which appear below would need to be requested.

Monday, July 10	Monday, July 24	Monday, August 7
Wednesday, July 12	Wednesday, July 26	Wednesday, August 9
Monday, July 17	Monday, July 31	Monday, August 14
Wednesday, July 19	Wednesday, August 2	Wednesday, August 16

They have a plan for monitoring sales (neon wrist bands) which was tested in 2022 and worked to the satisfaction of all parties. Select Board member Trask motioned to grant the licenses as requested, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 4-0.

The Board considered an application for a **One-Day Wine & Malt Beverage License** by The Natural Dog, James Dorau, event Manager, for a "*Spring Pet Fling Open House*" at 29 Elm Street, on Sunday, May 7, 2023 from 12:00 P.M.-4:00 P.M., and owner Jeff Dorau described placement of the beer (Ipswich Ale) and food trucks and plans to monitor sale of alcohol in a contained area by TIPS-certified servers. Select Board member Trask motioned to grant the license as requested, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 4-0. Board members were enthusiastic about the "new" business and wished him well.

A public hearing was held under Chapter 138 of the General Laws on the application of Danvers Kappy's Inc., d/b/a Kappy's Fine Wine & Spirits, 158 Andover Street, Virendra Patel, Manager, for Transfer of an All Alcoholic License at that location. Atty. John Mooradian, representing Kappy's, described his three-fold request to as follows: (1) transfer of license (2) approval of Mr. Patel as manager of record; and (3) pledge of license and inventory to Northern Bank & Trust (there is no pledge of inventory to Major Liquors, Inc.). He further noted that there will be no alteration of the premises; store hours to remain Mon-Sat. 8 A.M. to 11 P.M.; Sun. 10 A.M.-11 P.M. TIPS-certified Manager Patel commits to be on premises at least forty (40) hours per week, with properly trained alternates named on license when he is not on site. 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 grant the application as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 4-0.

Finance Director Rodney Conley discussed the FY 23 **third quarter Revenue & Expenditure Report**, noting that meals and room tax revenue have rebounded to almost pre-pandemic levels and that expenses are tracking as expected

with surplus funds in Land Use and Police Departments, as well as Snow & Ice (85% expended as of 3/31/23), and investment income up 1000%, from 0.05% to 5.05%; rates could go up again, but investment income estimate is \$400k. "Other Charges for Services" is the amount we recoup for services (accounting, human resources, IT, treasury, etc.) to Water, Sewer, and Electric."

As prescribed, the **Budget Conference Committee** can request a meeting to discuss future budget items, and Select Board Chair Bennett recommends that the group (represented by two members from each board: Select Board, School Committee, Library Trustees), with participation by two Finance Committee members convene on Thursday, June 15, 6 P.M. At the June meeting, discussion would be a consensus vote to choose a chair, items to review going forward, and what information to forward to staff. Follow-up meetings would occur in August, September, and October, if needed, to go through the agenda established in June.

### **Town Manager update**

Given that the Finance Committee has recommended that Town Meeting vote to recoup the costs for the bins to be used for "new," automated trash & recycling collection system, a meeting was held with DPW to discuss how this would work, if Town Meeting were to vote the FinCom recommendation. Items of note from the discussion include the following:

- Contract with Republic begins July 1; service change to begin in September.
- Households receiving trash pickup number 7,700 customers (15,400 bins).
- Cost of bins to be purchased is \$956,000: 16,000 (8,000 for trash and 8,000 for recycling); additional inventory of 600 bins would be stored by Republic.
- Per household bin price  $\$59.75 \times 2 = \$119.50$  (with expectation that requested grant will allow for \$15 offset for **recycle** bin), for a total net cost of \$104.50 to acquire and distribute.
- If FC recommendation is voted, billing would be as a line item on Water & Sewer charges in two payments, i.e., perhaps payments 2 and 3. **Note:** Bills for multi-family units sent to property owner and not to tenants. Not within the Town's purview to determine how owners would cover costs of bins.
- Sixty (60) taxpayers who are approved through Assessing for tax abatements (elderly, disabled, veteran) would have bin costs waived. In addition, a small group working with NSCAP would be considered on an individual basis.
- Town still needs to acquire bins from Free Cash to avoid upcharges if purchased through Republic.

### **Town Clerk Election update**

- Working on finalizing results, "*though there were no surprises.*"
- There are precincts requiring caucuses prior to Town Meeting [at least 1 in Pct. 2; 1 in Pct. 4; and 2 in Pct. 8]. "*If interested in a seat in your precinct, come half hour early to Town Meeting and introduce yourself. Current precinct members are able to caucus someone in.*"
- "*Thank you*" to poll workers, DPW, Danvers Police, other departmental staff members. "*Couldn't have done it so cleanly without them.*"
- Town's registered voters = 21,883; ballots cast = 2,874 or 13%.

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

### **Select Board member Mills**

- Outages were frequent in years past; we have a great Electric Division, deserving of commendation.
- Pope's Landing popular resource and people dismayed at posted signs for boat parking only. It was noted that the Intent was to discourage businesses from parking for extended periods of time, not those wishing to enjoy the waterfront, explained Select Board member Trask.
- Great job by management and Town Manager involving trash collection contract.

- Surgeon general reported on U.S. epidemic of loneliness leading to premature death. Town provides lots of opportunity to connect at Senior Center, YMCA, Rec. Department functions, including involvement on boards and committees.
- Ann and Cathy put together our packages for Board meetings and make our job painless; and the minutes are so competently, socially, and emotionally appropriate as to what goes on here. Great job, and thank you for doing it!

The Town Manager noted that the volunteer flyer produced by staff has attracted thirty (30) persons with an interest in serving, and this is a tremendous response. We've started to interview candidates for Town Manager and Select Board appointments.

**Select Board member Bernard**

- *"Thank you to staff and Town Clerk for superb election. I'm looking forward to working with you over the next three years. Come to the meetings, bring your questions and concerns."*

**Select Board member Trask**

- E-mail requesting no trucks on Andrews Street heading to or from Maple Square project; Town Manager to request proper signage.
- Invitation to DEEP "Breakfast of Champions" on May 31, celebrating sponsors and those retiring.
- Question about using firehouse for open meetings; perfectly legal.
- Does yard waste pickup remain as is? Use your own bags and current barrels?

Town Manager reported same yard waste schedule; bulk item pickup program being worked on. Perhaps a single day (Tuesday?) pickup for bulky items. Also under review is sticker program; changes should be anticipated but nothing finalized yet.

**Select Board member Bennett**

- Bennett: Bradley Danvers (former Danvers State Hospital property) increasing rents (from \$180-\$200) and requiring current tenants to move out for renovations, bearing the associated costs. While the Board has no authority over a Colorado company, potential renters should give consideration to these tactics.
- "Light the Night Purple" event at Library on May 17.
- *"Gardner, will you serve with me on Budget Conference Committee?"*
- Please remember the veterans thank them for their service and *"good night, Danvers."*

The meeting was adjourned at 7:46 P.M.

Prepared by Ann Freitas

Attest: Catherine S. Ellsworth, Town Clerk