

Danvers Select Board Minutes

May 16, 2023

The regular meeting of the Danvers Select Board was held on Tuesday, May 16, 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.

The meeting commenced with the Board **reorganization/election of a Chair** for the coming year. Select Board member Trask nominated David Mills, seconded by Select Board member Bennett. Select Board member Duggan nominated Maureen Bernard, seconded by Select Board member Bernard. There being no additional nominations, Town Clerk Cathy Ellsworth called for a motion, and Select Board member Bennett motioned to elect Select Board member Mills as Chair, seconded by Select Board member Trask, and voted 3-2 [Select Board members Bernard and Duggan opposed]. Newly elected Chair Mills noted that he *“believes in the principle of ‘principles over personalities’ and always in the best interests of the people of the Town of Danvers.”*

Select Board member Trask motioned the Board to approve the **Minutes of May 4, 2023**, as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bennett, and voted 5-0.

New Public Business: (1) Bill Bradstreet, TMM Pct. 1, reiterated his concern for pavement conditions at the Food Pantry and added the Senior Center rear parking area pavement where lighting could also be improved. (2) Nova Samodai, TMM Pct. 1, asked if there are *“standards to which commercial property owners are held in terms of maintaining their driveways and parking areas or are they allowed to just deteriorate?”* Land Use & Community Services (LUCS) Director Aaron Henry responded that staff has been reviewing site plan approval documents for leverage, but there doesn't seem to be enforceable language that areas be maintained at some level of adequacy; but staff will continue to review documents on file.

Kathy Ciman, TMM Pct. 7, described acquisition of three pencil drawings (2½' x 3½') by Danvers artist Richard Ellery which were donated by Santander Bank (Danvers Square location closing June 8). She noted also that she and her spouse (Jim) would be *“touching up”* the frames before delivery to the Town Clerk *“to do with as she sees fit.”* Select Board member Trask motioned to **accept the gift** (with appropriate “thank you”), seconded by Select Board member Bennett, and voted 5-0.

The Board conducted interviews of three (3) **candidates** for a vacancy on the **Beverly Airport Commission** in the following order: Todd Deinstadt; Luke McCaul; and Wayne Maguire, all of whom provided resumes and earlier had submitted Talent Pool forms for consideration. The Town Manager explained the process to select a candidate, and forward his/her name to the Beverly City Council for approval. He noted that at least one and perhaps two additional candidates would meet with the Select Board at their June 6 meeting. Select Board members asked a variety of questions and commented on past and current operations at the airport. Board members noted that all three candidates had the breadth of knowledge and backgrounds to provide the Town good service and thanked them for applying for the position. Select Board Chair Mills offered *“kudos to the Town Manager and the talent pool process and the way we're reaching out to residents; it's been a wonderful night for that.”* Select Board member Bennett motioned to table further discussion until such time as one or two additional candidates have had an opportunity to appear before the Board on June 6, seconded by Select Board member Bernard (no formal vote required).

A public hearing was held under Chapter 138 of the General Laws on the application of 99 West, LLC, d/b/a 99 Restaurant & Pub, 60 Commonwealth Ave, Krista-Lyn Figueroa, Manager, for Change of Officers/ Directors at that location. Elizabeth Pisano of Upton, Connell & Devlin represented the applicant and described the changes as corporate level only, with no change to the restaurant's operations. Select Board member Bennett motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Select Board member Trask, and voted 5-0. Select Board member Trask motioned to approve the application as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bennett, and voted 5-0. Select Board member asked whether the ABCC requires that these corporate level changes come before the DSB for approval,

and Town Clerk Cathy Ellsworth responded that it has been the procedure favored by the Select Board in Danvers (not mandated by the ABCC); however, it was noted that there was no desire to effect a change in this procedure.

A public hearing was held under Chapter 138 of the General Laws on the application of Kelly's Roast Beef, Inc., d/b/a Kelly's Roast Beef, 165 Endicott Street, Corey Perretti, Manager, for a Change of Manager at that location. Shannon O'Donnell (last approved license manager) was on hand with Corey Perretti who will become the manager of record (the list of named alternates on the license will undergo no change). Ms. O'Donnell noted that they card everyone "from ages 21-101," and the Board was comfortable with this approach. Select Board member Bennett motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Select Board member Trask, and voted 5-0. Select Board member Trask motioned to approve the application as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0.

The Board will consider proposed new parking regulations in neighborhoods around Essex North Shore Tech. A memo from LUCS Director and DTAC (Danvers Traffic Advisory Committee) Chair Aaron Henry made the following points:

1. This has been a long-standing issue (2-3 yrs.), and the proposal has taken shape after many meetings and a great deal of thought, as we've considered a variety of solutions.
2. There has been a spike in students not availing themselves of on campus parking for which there is a fee, choosing rather to use on street parking.
3. A number of conflicts have arisen with neighbors complaining of blocked driveways, cars using private property to turn, littering, and double side parking leading to inability of large vehicles (trash haulers, fire trucks, etc.) to pass through safely.
4. Solutions have been tried, work nicely in the short term, then fail over time, particularly in areas most impacted (Grandview, Sunset, Prentiss, and Preston (west of Hazen Ave.).
5. Survey conducted of 130 homes (including Old Stonewall, Hazen, and Preston east of Hazen), with approximately 1/3 responding, not overwhelming but significant. Based on feedback, the focus has narrowed to those streets listed in No. 4.
6. Restrictions ("**Resident Parking Only**") will be daytime, non-holiday, weekdays during the school year (i.e., August 15-June 30) by means of a placard or sticker to be provided by Town at a cost under \$1k. There will, of course, be broader implications of DPD monitoring of parking (citations may be issued but illegal to tow a vehicle for this type of infraction).
7. Each household will be entitled to one placard for each registered vehicle at the address in question. There will be placards available for a visitor as needed.

Robert Panneton of Grandview Road thanked the Select Board, DTAC, and Finance Committee for "*all the work put into this.*" He spoke of the 1,200 or more empty parking spots spread over 8 lots at the school, but students prefer to make a quick exit to Rte. 62 at dismissal to avoid the school buses. He suggested that someone from DCAM should redesign pick-up and drop-off areas and reevaluate pedestrian safety on this busy roadway (Route 62).

Town Manager update

- Thank you to the Moderator who ran a successful Town Meeting, skull session, and Town Meeting "School," Danvers Public Schools, DPW, and Ann Freitas in my office for preparation and distribution of warrant booklets.
- Memorial Day ceremonies, Monday, May 29, with parade kick-off at 9 A.M.

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

Select Board member Bernard

- Thanks to Select Board member Duggan for his nomination of me for Chair.
- "*Congratulations in your new role, David.*"
- And, thank you to voters for welcoming me back for another term.

Select Board member Trask

- Thanks to Dan for his service as Chair.
- Town Meeting went well, but would *“like it noted when FinCom recommendation differs from that of Select Board (i.e., \$1.5m ⇨ \$1.75m for SPED).”*

Select Board member Duggan

- *“Thank you (Town Manager) and your team for a successful Town Meeting.*
- *“How is roll out of bins going to happen?”* TM explained that automated pick-up will not begin until after Labor Day.

Select Board member Mills

- People my age sometimes stay in and it’s not a healthy thing to do, according to Surgeon General. Look into all the things the Town has to offer at the Senior Center, from the Recreation Department, and at the YMCA. Great programs and welcoming groups.
- *“Kudos to Town Manager and his financial team. They do a superb job of justifying every single penny.”*
- Will continue to rail against the unfairness of a billion dollars in properties (Essex Aggie, St. John’s Prep, MGH, NSCC, etc.) who avail themselves of all municipal services without paying a penny in taxes. It’s just not fair to the taxpayers!

Select Board member Bennett

- If you meet a vet, thank him or her for their service.
- Hope to see you at the parade on Memorial Day.

Select Board member Trask motioned the Board to adjourn at 8:05 P.M., seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0.

Prepared by Ann Freitas

Attest: Catherine S. Ellsworth, Town Clerk