

Danvers Select Board Minutes

June 6, 2023

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

Select Board member Bennett motioned the Board to approve the **Minutes of May 16, 2023**, as presented, seconded by Select Board member Trask, and voted 5-0.

New Public Business: (1) Judy Freehan, a recent TOD retiree, read a letter as follow-up to a November 2022 allegation of a “toxic culture” in Town Hall. Select Board member Bernard suggested adjourning to executive session for further discussion, but it was pointed out that there are procedures which must be met before taking this action. (2) Bill Bradstreet, TMM Pct. 1, wanted to call attention to two items (a) the Memorial Day ceremonies, and the imperfect sound system provided for the speaker; can we do better? And (b) the traffic island at the end of Ash Street which needs “beautifying!” Both requests will be noted.

The Board heard a statement from HRIC volunteer candidate Karen Greisdorf, Select Board members welcomed her as a volunteer, and Select Board member Bennett motioned to appoint her to a three-year term on the Human Rights & Inclusion Committee, seconded by Select Board member Trask and voted 5-0. In addition, on a motion by Select Board member Trask, seconded by Select Board member Bennett, Jorge Sanchez-Salazar was reappointed to the HRIC for a three-year term and voted 5-0.

The Board conducted interviews of two (2) additional **candidates** for a vacancy on the **Beverly Airport Commission** in the following order: William Kossowan, long-time Danvers resident with an impressive array of aviation-related qualifications (FAA & Department of Defense) and suggestions for improving quality of life issues described by neighbors (i.e., \$30 landing fees to cut down on touch and go flights). Vincent Meoli, an ER physician with many years of aviation experience, a self-described “airport advocate” who favors data collection which demonstrates that landing fee charges translate to fewer complaints. After a brief discussion as to how the Select Board wished to proceed, it was decided to defer a vote on an appointment to the Beverly Airport Commission until a thorough review of each of the five candidates’ qualifications was made by individual Select Board members. This item was earmarked for discussion and candidate selection at the Select Board’s regular meeting of June 20. In conclusion, the Board noted that each candidate possessed excellent qualifications, presented well, and had suggestions to bring balance to the issues brought to the Town by residents and that, ultimately, it is within the Beverly City Council’s purview to approve the candidate who receives the Select Board’s endorsement.

The Select were introduced to three recent Town Manager appointees as follows:

Alyssa Czarnecki introduced herself to the Select Board, as the newest appointee to the Town’s **Recreation Committee**. She comes to the position with a background in Sports Management at Endicott College and was welcomed with enthusiasm by each member of the Select Board.

Jonathan Gawrys, native and invasive plant expert with 20 years’ experience in the ecological construction field, will join the Conservation Commission as a full member.

Mary Haight, a high school biology teacher, with a master’s degree in Sustainability & Environmental Management, will join the Conservation Commission as an Alternate.

All three appointees were welcomed with a great deal of enthusiasm for their community involvement, for their superb training and backgrounds which they bring to the committees.

At the request of HRIC Chair Dutrochet (“Dee”) Djoko two (2) proclamations were presented for Select Board approval: (1) **Race Amity Day** [annually on the second Sunday in June]; Select Board member Trask motioned to approve the proclamation as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0. And (2) **Juneteenth** [annually on the 19th day of June], reapproved on a motion by Select Board member Bennett, seconded

by Select Board member Trask, and voted 5-0. Select Board member Bennett also noted that there is a Race Amity Day celebration on the lawn of the Peabody Institute Library on Sunday, June 11, 1-3 P.M..

On a motion by Select Board member Bennett, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0, a gift of \$500 for the purchase of two (2) shade trees by Paul and Nancy McNulty was accepted with the gratitude of the Select Board for their thoughtful donation toward the town's beautification. An appropriate "thank you" will be sent to the McNultys.

A public hearing was held under Chapter 138 of the General Laws on the application of GMRI, Inc., d/b/a **The Olive Garden Italian Restaurant** #1874, 153 Andover Street, Candy Jimenez, Manager, for a Change of Manager on an All Alcoholic Common Victualler License at that location. Ms. Jimenez, a 12-year employee of the establishment has been promoted over the years from waitress to General Manager, is TIPS-certified with experience in all aspects of liquor service. Her name will appear on the license along with a two new TIPS-certified alternate managers, one of whom will be on site during the restaurant's hours of operation. Select Board member Duggan inquired as to the training of waitstaff, and was informed that staff, while not TIPS-certified, has undergone training (i.e., ServSafe Alcohol Certification). The Town Clerk agreed to look into the company's training requirements to ensure there is parity with TIPS ("Training and Intervention Procedures"). 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 grant the request as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bennett, and voted 5-0.

The Board considered an application for a One-Day Wine & Malt Beverage License by **North Shore Agricultural & Technical School**, 565 Maple Street, Bonnie Carr, event coordinator, to hold LEADS Graduation and Pitch Day on Friday, June 9, 2023 from 5:30P.M.-8:00P.M. at Smith Hall and Smith Hall Lawn. Ms. Carr was in attendance and noted that they have engaged the services of Boston Best Bartending to oversee alcohol service at this event and on a motion by Select Board member Bennett, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, the Board voted 5-0 to approve the application as presented.

The Board considered three (3) applications for One-Day Wine & Malt Beverage License(s) by the Danvers Historical Society, 11 Page Street, Louis George, Event Manager, for **2023 Summer Beer Garden** events at Glen Magna Farms, 29 Ingersoll Street, from 5:30 P.M.-8:30 P.M. on the following dates [Tues., June 20; Tues., July 25; and Tues., August 22] with rain dates to be the day following each event. DHS Chair of Revenue & Events Committee appeared and noted the precautions in place (wrist bands issued) to ensure appropriate liquor service of craft beer and ciders), \$10 entry fee, with Vinwood Catering serving snacks. Select Board member Bernard motioned the Board to approve the applications as presented, seconded by Select Board member Duggan, and voted 3-0-2 [Select Board members Bennett and Trask abstained due to their associations with Danvers Historical Society].

The Board considered four (4) applications for One-Day Wine & Malt Beverage License(s) by The Cellar Door, Bea Tiberii & Bruce Flynn, Event Managers, for the **2023 Summer Concert Series** on the lawn of the Peabody Institute Library, 15 Sylvan Street from 5:30-8:30 P.M. on the following dates [Weds., July 12; Weds., July 19; Weds., August 2; and Weds., August 16] with rain dates to be the day following each event. Ms. Tiberii noted that she and her husband have been operating this establishment since 2017, and that it's their third season of off-site events; one or the other (sometimes both) are on site and have TIPS certifications. On a motion by Select Board member Bennett, seconded by Select board member Bernard, and voted 4-0-1 [Select Board member Trask abstained due to his association with one of the licensed events] to grant the application as presented.

The Board will consider three (3) applications for One-Day Wine & Malt Beverage License(s) by The Cellar Door, Bea Tiberii & Bruce Flynn, Event Managers, for **2023 Paint & Sip** series at Endicott Park, 57 Forest Street from 6:00-7:30 P.M., on the following dates: Sat., June 17; Fri., July 14; and Sat., August 5. Ms. Tiberii, as noted above, has the required certifications and reported that this particular function has been limited to fifteen (15) participants who must be over 21 years of age to attend. Select Board member Trask motioned to approve the applications as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bennett, and voted 5-0.

The Board heard a proposal to amend the Parking Rules & Regulations by Land Use & Community Services Director Aaron Henry with considerable input from DTAC [Danvers Traffic Advisory Committee]. Given the lengthy document to be reviewed, Select Board members Duggan and Bernard were not in favor of a formal vote this evening; however, Select Board member Bennett motioned to approve with the expectations that there would be tweaks to the document, seconded by Select Board member Trask, and voted 3-2 [Select Board members Duggan and Bernard opposed]. Several items in particular were noted:

- Addition of language for E-bikes in line with State regulations, particularly as they pertain to pedestrians; “*we consulted with bike and pedestrian advocates for input.*” Select Board members Duggan and Bernard expressed concern about bicycles on sidewalks in the downtown area, citing safety of pedestrians exiting stores/restaurants.
- Essex Tech parking restrictions were to begin in September, but date amended to August 15, owing to early school opening date. Neighbors in and around this area noted that they are satisfied with program to be in place by 8/15. Perhaps a similar program could be instituted in other areas of town where parking is problematic, suggested Select Board member Duggan.
- A two-hour parking zone has been created in front of Preston Street playground.
- DTAC affirmed decision to recommend Foster Street, time-restricted (A.M. & P.M.) “Do Not Enter” signs where it intersects Elliott Street. Mr. Henry recommended six-month trial to determine effectiveness.
- Select Board member Bennett commended those who assist on DTAC [Parking Clerk; DPW; DFD; DPD; Electric; Engineering; traffic consultant; Aaron (and Mr. Bradstreet)]
- TRO and street signage on the ground do not agree; TRO has been reworked to mirror existing signage.
- Fines listed in the TRO (p. 25 and not subject to change in the document) do not accurately reflect fines listed on the actual “on ground” tickets, and these amounts will be corrected to correlate with what appears in the TRO.

The Board heard from members of the Electric Division [Asst. Utility Dir. Clint Allen and Jeff Elie, Energy Resource Mgr.] related to the **DRAFT Climate Action, Sustainability, Preservation and Resiliency (CASPR) Plan**, begun in 2019, sidelined by COVID in 2020, formally presented to Select Board in 2021 with direction to investigate plan to address climate change. Tonight’s presentation is the culmination of that directive in *draft* form, requiring no action tonight, with a plan to reconvene in August for the plan’s formal adoption. Initial planning efforts included review of what other communities had adopted which allowed Danvers to produce a “roadmap” for a comprehensive plan that would meet the needs of everyone with the overall goal of how best to reduce greenhouse gases and, most importantly, how to do it. The Division’s work with Kim Lundgren Associates, specializing in developing and administering climate action plans, is geared toward designing an equitable plan, developing actionable steps toward a Resilient Danvers (the movement) and CASPR is the first output. The plan has been made available for viewing on the Town’s website. Select Board comments were positive, and recognition made of the effort to “*guide us toward the light,*” while acknowledging that new construction planning and education are vital components to the plan’s success. Board members were encouraged to check out the on-line dashboard tracking and provide feedback. By late summer/early fall, the Division will be asking for formal adoption of CASPR, prior to receiving (within the following 6-12 months) designation as a “Green Community,” opening up avenues to “*a lot of grant money.*”

Town Manager update

- It’s likely that a short DSB meeting in July necessary to sign BANs (Bond Anticipation Notes), according to Finance Director Rodney Conley.
- Thanks to Kelley Rayos and Dick Moody for organizing another lovely Memorial Day program, to Jim Ciman for his uplifting comments on military service, and to our public safety departments who participated in the parade.
- Thank you to everyone involved in the Pride events (Dee Djoko, Jasmine Ramón, DPW, Public Safety personnel) for their work to make it a success.

Select Board member Bennett motioned to approve the Consent Calendar items as they appear below, seconded by Select Board member Trask, and voted 5-0..

Block Party: Gardner Trask – 31 Fellows Street Annual Block Party, June 24,2023, 12-10 P.M. (rain date June 25, 2023), blocking Fellows Street from Weston Street

Gas Storage: Hutchinson III Realty, d/b/a BJ's Gas, 6 Hutchinson Drive

Banner: Care Dimensions Walk for Hospice, over High Street, September 18-24, 2023

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

Select Board member Bernard

- Thanks to all volunteers appointed tonight.
- Climate action presentation was great.
- Want to discuss employee retention and concerns. The Town Manager reiterated that personnel management is within his purview and that he has, on multiple occasions, offered to meet individually with any member of the Select Board who wishes to discuss this. Select Board member Trask noted that as a board, "*we aren't able to go any further on this.*"
- Memorial Day parade wonderful; Kelley did a great job.

Select Board member Bennett

- Thanks to everyone who came out and watched the parade.
- If you meet a vet, thank him or her for their service.

Select Board member Trask

- Good events in the past weeks: Pride flag raising and celebrations such as Light the Night Purple, etc.

Select Board member Mills

- "*The DHS marching band is the best advertisement for (supporting) the school budget.*"

The Select Board Chair adjourned the meeting at 9:35 P.M.

Written | prepared by Ann Freitas

Attest: Catherine S. Ellsworth, Town Clerk