

## Danvers Select Board Minutes

October 3, 2023

The regular meeting of the Danvers Select Board was held on Tuesday, October 3, 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**, led by Select Board member Bernard, was recited by all in attendance.

**Approval of Minutes:** Select Board member Trask motioned to approve the Minutes of September 19, 2023, as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bennett, and voted 5-0. Select Board member Trask asked that, in future, the speaker be identified when statements are quoted.

**New Public Business:** (1) Arman Shirikyan requested a written response from the Town Manager's office regarding his opinion that the town should wield some "control" over youth sports on played public land. (2) Bill Bradstreet, TMM Pct. 1, asked about settlement money in opioid litigation, i.e., Has the Town received it? How much did we receive? What is it being used for to help the town?

The Board voted to accept a \$3,000 **gift to the Danvers Fire Department** from Abiomed to benefit the Fire Prevention Safety Program. Select Board member Trask motioned to accept the gift, with an appropriate letter of thanks to follow, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0.

The Board was requested to approve an application for a **block party on Central Avenue** (Nos. 35-45) and applicant Alayne Walako was present. She explained that the neighborhood has seen an increase in new residents; and it was thought a block party would present a good opportunity for people to meet. There are 24-30 interested parties, the street will be blocked by DPW-provided sawhorses (Road Closed | Do Not Enter), "bring a chair and share (potluck)." Select Board member Bennett motioned to approve the application as presented, seconded by Select Board member Trask, and voted 5-0.

A public hearing was held on the application of Toasted Brothers Danvers LLC, d/b/a The Friendly Toast, 50 Independence Way, Jennifer Tkachuk, Manager, for an **Alteration of Premise** (add outdoor seating), **Change of Manager**, and **extended early hours (8 A.M. Monday-Saturday, and Sunday beginning at 10 A.M.)** at that location. Representatives were on hand to answer questions, in particular because it pertained to precedent-setting alcohol service beginning at 8 A.M. Given that the establishment had no prior compliance issues, several Select Board members were in support of this request, as was a resident who responded as part of the public hearing. All other conditions with regard to the liquor license (a second and third named person on the license on site at all times; a separate area, cordoned off for patio service [i.e., April 1-October 31], and all servers having TIPS certification), Select Board member Trask motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0. Then, Select Board member Trask motioned to approve the application(s) as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 4-1 [Select Board member Bennett opposed].

A public hearing was held on the application of Johnnie's Beef and Pizza, 67 High Street, Unit 3, Johanna Lekkakos for a Common Victualler License at that location. The applicant noted that she had owned a pizza restaurant in Rockport for 25 years and now, as a resident of Danvers for 13 years, decided to "reopen" in this new location. Select Board members offered a warm welcome, and Select Board member Bennett motioned to close the public hearing, seconded by Select Board member Trask, and voted 5-0. Select Board member Bennett motioned to approve the application as presented, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0.

The Board will consider an application for a **One-Day Wine & Malt Beverage License by Gluten-Free New England**, Abby Helman Kelly, Event Manager, at Danvers Indoor Sports, 150 Andover Street on Saturday, October 21, 2023, from 9:00 A.M.-3:30 P.M. Ms. Kelly reported that this free, large-scale (100+ exhibitors & vendors) event will include one (1) gluten-free beer vendor and potentially one (1) wine vendor, both of whom are aware that the issued license(s) for the event are for on premise consumption only. ABCC regulations prohibit the sale of the product for consumption at home or elsewhere. Select Board member Trask motioned to approve the application as presented

with the condition that it only be extended to those vendors who provide proof of TIPS certification and insurance to the Town Clerk, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0.

Asst. Town Manager Jen Breaker reported on the various methods of communication employed by Town to keep residents up to date on events, upcoming projects, advisories, etc. They include the Town's website, press releases, social media [FaceBook, X [formerly Twitter], Instagram, and LinkedIn], utility bill inserts, open houses, and newsletters. In addition, Ms. Breaker visited the Town's website and illustrated the varieties of ways in which residents and businesses can keep in touch with events around Town. Select Board members were appreciative of the many way in which information is transmitted and suggested it might be useful to have a repeat presentation in the months ahead to assist those who are less technologically advanced. Also, Ms. Breaker noted that DCAT (Danvers Cable Access Television) is a resource for meetings (old and new) of boards and committees.

The Board heard a presentation from FalconFest on two (2) proposed events (fireworks display and bonfire) and thanked organizers [Amy Ciancarelli and Rebecca Froncki (Jocelyn Marchand not present) for their comprehensive presentation of both events and considered a vote to authorize the Fire Department to issue a ceremonial bonfire permit to FalconFest.

**Winter Bonfire:** Saturday, January 13, 2024 (weather permitting) or Sunday, January 14, 4:30-7:30 P.M., Plains Park gravel lot near Memorial Field, food, entertainment, activities, raffle or silent auction, community booths. Select Board members weighed in with suggestions that there be earlier and broader outreach to neighbors other than just Damon and Porter Streets; a traffic mitigation plan may be helpful; and that perhaps a DJ would be a better option for this cold-weather event. A suggestion was made to consider ice skating at the Meadows. Before proceeding,, Select Board member Bennett motioned to authorize the Fire Department to issue a ceremonial bonfire permit to FalconFest, working in conjunction with the DFD, seconded by Select Board member Bernard, and voted 5-0.

**Summer Fireworks Display** (@ 8:30 P.M.) Sunday, August 11, 2024, 5-9 P.M., Danvers High School, musical entertainment, community showcase, cultural exhibitions, kids' activities, etc. Select Board members were enthusiastic about the return of the fireworks display and the considerable, detailed outreach to neighbors and organizations. It was reiterated that a similar level of outreach should precede the winter bonfire event.

On request, the Town Clerk provided an update on ABCC requirements for a corporate application process (change of officer/director) and whether a Select Board vote is appropriate and/or required. In consultation with ABCC, the Town Clerk learned that a change of this nature does require a sign-off by the Select Board. However, given that these changes do not affect operations at the local level, whether or not an official of the corporation appears in person is at the discretion of the licensing authority (Select Board). Ms. Ellsworth recommended that **the item appear on the agenda with a caveat ("Appearance not required") which the Select Board may or may not choose to discuss, thus avoiding the necessity for a corporate representative and/or attorney to attend a meeting.** Select Board member Trask motioned to accept the recommendation of the Town Clerk, seconded by Select Board member Bennett, and voted 5-0.

The Asst. Town Manager reported to the Board on various items of interest, including an update on communications (provided earlier on the agenda); other items, as follows:

- New trash program has gone relatively smoothly; Republic's retro-fitted trucks are in operation, and all residents should have received their new trash and recycling receptacles. If not, please call DPW. Also, there is an informative FAQ page on the Town's website.
- Two (2) DPW events coming up: October 7, Household Hazardous Waste collection and on October 21-22, rigid plastic collection, including barrels that have not yet been turned in for disposal.
- Town offices closed on Monday, October 9, in recognition of Columbus/Indigenous People's Day.

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

**Banner:** St John's Prep Open House, over Maple Street, October 9-15, 2023

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

**Select Board member Trask**

- Topsfield Fair ongoing (day 5) with good attendance so far. “*They do a great job.*” If you plan to attend, my recommendation would be to use the Rte. 97 lot to encounter much less traffic. If necessary, and the farm lot gets filled you’ll see signs directing you to a bus (parking \$15; bus free) which will take you to the Fair.
- Discussion with Chair about last week’s Locust Street 15-minute parking decision; lots of backlash. This was discussed by DTAC, and Mr. Bennett will likely speak to that.

**Select Board member Bernard**

- Attended *Celebracion*; “*It was pretty cool, lots of crafts for kids and vendors. Great job.*”
- Walked the rail trail, encountered a lemonade stand. Maybe something could be put together with FalconFest such as a small scale carnival?
- Reminder to public about October 12 meeting at Senior Center, 6 P.M. “*Come to hear what’s going on.*”

**Select Board member Bennett**

- DTAC talked about Locust Street parking at their 9/25 meeting, and it was recommended to meet with business owners (who didn’t feel they were active participants in the discussion) for suggested parking options. After DTAC 10/25 meeting they may or may not come before the Board with additional recommendations.

**Select Board member Duggan**

- A more comprehensive thought process needs to take place around Locust Street due to the Maple Square project. Glad that Select Board will hear recommendation from DTAC since Board is charged with implementing these recommendations.
- Danvers Police conducting their annual food drive at Danvers Plaza (301 Newbury Street) on Saturday, October 7, 9-noon to collect non-perishable items to donate to Danvers Food Pantry before the holiday season.

**Select Board member Mills**

- Streets look pretty with new trash barrels; very neat.
- Continue to be concerned about older residents and the epidemic of isolation and aloneness. Studies have shown this can lead to premature death and enhancement of illness among older people. Use the tools available to check out resources at the Senior Center, YMCA, Danvers Recreations. Don’t stay home.

In closing, Select Board member Bennett asked that “*If you meet a veteran, thank him or her for their service,*” and the meeting adjourned at 8:18 P.M.

Written | prepared by Ann Freitas

Attest: Catherine S. Ellsworth, Town Clerk