



LANCASTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Regular Meeting Minutes
Of October 1, 2018

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Stanley B. Starr, Jr. called the Regular Meeting of the Board of Selectmen to Order at 6:00 P.M. in the Nashaway Meeting Room, located in the Prescott Building, 701 Main Street, Lancaster, Massachusetts. Present were Selectmen Walter F. Sendrowski, Mark A. Grasso, Jr., Town Administrator Orlando and Executive Assistant Kathleen Rocco.

II. PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD

6:00 P.M. Opportunity for public to address their concerns, make comment and offer suggestions on operations or programs, except personnel matters. Complaints or criticism directed at staff, volunteers, or other officials shall not be permitted.

III. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Review and take action on Regular Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2018 and Special Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2018.

Selectman Sendrowski move to approve the Regular Meeting Minutes of September 17, 2018. Chairman Starr Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. abstains, Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. [2-0-1]

Selectman Grasso moves to approve the Special Meeting Minutes of August 27, 2018. Selectman Sendrowski Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. [3-0-0]

IV. SCHEDULED APPEARANCES & PUBLIC HEARINGS

1. Victoria Petracca – Affordable Housing Initiative

Victoria Petracca updated the Board on the Affordable Housing Initiative. She noted that the Housing Production Plan is currently being written by volunteers and the Montachusett Regional Planning Commission (MRPC). She stated that they are working off the 2013 Housing Plan that was never completed or submitted to the State. She further stated that they are half way through and will be seeking approval from the Selectmen and the Planning Board. She further explained that with the Affordable Housing Plan it will allow the town to become familiar with Chapter 40B.

Selectman Grasso expressed concerns about a citizens group that acts in a quasi-official capacity, updating the Housing Production Plan; noting that he does not get a sense there's a collaborative effort. He stressed that he appreciates the work they are doing, however the Board of Selectmen should not be on the outside looking in. He suggested that a sub-committee be established and

subject to Open Meeting Law and a public record of meeting minutes, thus allowing for transparency.

Selectman Sendrowski suggested to let the citizens group finish what they started.

After further discussion, *Selectman Sendrowski moved to allow the citizens group continue with the Affordable Housing Plan. Chairman Starr Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Nay and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. [2-1-0]*

2. Larry Shoer - Recycling Committee

Larry Shoer member of the Recycling Committee updated the Board on the status of the Recycling Committee and Recycling Center. He stated that he is stepping down after nearly 20 years volunteering on the Committee. He further stated that there are several concerns that are still unresolved. One concern is the fate of the recycling center, which, due to the worldwide changes in the recycling industry means that it now cost money to dispose of what Lancaster used to get paid for. Mr. Shoer did note that recycling center does receive money for its metal and redeemable cans and bottles. He suggested that the Town research the idea of creating a transfer station for not only for recycling but rubbish removal as well.

Town Administrator Pacheco stated that a transfer station is not feasible given the residents do not want to change their vendors. He noted that all vendors do offer recycling.

Selectman Grasso asked what the costs would be for a transfer station, noting that it would be a benefit for the whole community as a whole. Mr. Pacheco noted that costs would be at least \$15,000 annually plus labor.

Chairman Starr suggested they do an experiment for year in hiring for a paid position and subsidizing the recycling center or a transfer station.

V. BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS REPORTS
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Fire Chief Hanson - update on the status of Fire Engine #2

Fire Chief Hanson reported that on Tuesday, September 25, 2018, the Lancaster Fire Department was dispatched to Route 2 off ramp at Old Union Turnpike Road for a reported car accident. Engine 2 and Ambulance 1 responded. He stated that while enroute, Engine 2 was involved in an accident. *(See attached Press Release)*

Fire Chief Hanson concluded that the Engine 2 is currently out of service and received minor damage with most being cosmetic and the worst being the radiator where the fence went into it. The Fire Department has a reserve engine that was placed into service, which will allow the Department to maintain the ability to have full coverage for the Town.

VI. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

1) Netflix Filming

Netflix will be filming from October 3rd through the 15th utilizing various town facilities. They will be paying the Town \$15,000 for use of Town Hall, Town Green and the Community Center. The Production Company has also reimbursed the Town for all expenses incurred during filming.

2) Thayer Field

Playground equipment arrived on September 24th and have started the installation process, which will conclude in 2 weeks. Mr. Pacheco reported that once the playground equipment is in and

inspected, the fencing, wood chips, landscaping and additional resurfacing will be completed. Work on the installation of the splash pad will be done in the spring of 2019.

3) Municipal Aggregation

The new National Grid Basic Service rates from National Grid will be 13.7 cents per KWH for the 6 month period of November – May. The Town has been able to secure a rate of 13.1 cents per KWH for the same period of in its Aggregation program.

4) Town Beach Wheelchair

The Town has ordered an All-Terrain Beach Wheelchair for use by those who are disabled or have limited mobility at the Town Beach. Town Administrator Pacheco stated that the wheelchair should arrive next week as the Town acknowledges “Disability Awareness Month” in October.

5) Goodridge Brook Estates Comment Period

Town Administrator Pacheco noted that the Town has closed its comment period and received over 175 comments in total. A letter has been drafted on behalf of the Board of Selectmen.

6) Pellechia Boat Launch

The Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR), and the Town of Lancaster will pursue the project in a joint venture. The DFG will handle the procurement, project oversight and most of the financial burden. The DCR will contribute \$20,000 to the cost of the project through a grant provided to the Town.

7) Revolutionary War Soldiers Memorial

Mr. Pacheco reported that the War Memorial granite slab and site work has been completed. The rock wall has also been repaired to accommodate the Memorial. The bronze plaque has been ordered and will be installed when it arrives. A dedication is being planned by the Lancaster Historical Commission for Sunday, November 11th at 2pm.

VII. ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET, AND POLICY
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1. Discussion - Goodridge Brook Estates 40B letter

Town Administrator Pacheco noted that the purpose of the letter is to convey what comments sent the Board of Selectmen. He noted that the letter was sent to each of the Selectmen and asked for their edits.

2. Special Town Meeting Update

Town Administrator Pacheco stated that at this time a Special Town Meeting is not needed. He further noted that the Finance Committee is fine with this decision.

3. Discussion - Gazebo placement

Town Administrator Pacheco commented that the Gazebo is in its present location as a result of Netflix. He further stated that filming will conclude in December. Chairman Starr noted that 80% of residents that contacted him regarding the Gazebo were in favor of it to remain on the Town Green. Selectman Sendrowski stated that the Gazebo cannot stay in its present location due to the sight line to the First Church. He suggested that the Gazebo be moved where the Christmas tree is located on the Green.

Selectman Sendrowski made the motion to have the Gazebo moved to where the Christmas Tree is located on the Green. Chairman Starr Seconded.

After further discussion

Motion was tabled and the Gazebo will remain in its present location through December.

4. Discussion and review the Town of Lancaster Electronic Communication Policy
Selectman Sendrowski moved to approve the Town of Lancaster Electronic Communication Policy. Selectman Grasso Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. [3-0-0]

VIII. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS - NONE

IX. LICENSES AND PERMITS - NONE

X. NEW BUSINESS *

**This item is included to acknowledge that there may be matters not reasonable anticipated by the Chair.*

XI. COMMUNICAITONS

Prescott Building will be closed on Monday, October 8, 2018 for Columbus Day.
Next Board of Selectmen Meeting will be held on Monday, October 15, 2018 at 6:00pm in the Nashaway Meeting Room

XII. ADJOURNMENT

Seeing no further business, on Motion by Selectman Sendrowski, seconded by Selectman Grasso, it was unanimously voted the Board of Selectmen adjourned at 9:01 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Kathleen Rocco
Executive Assistant



Walter F. Sendrowski, Clerk

Approved and accepted: 10/15/18



**TOWN OF LANCASTER, MASSACHUSETTS
FIRE-EMS DEPARTMENT**



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PRESS RELEASE

On Tuesday, September 25, 2018, the Lancaster Fire Department was dispatched to the RT 2 off ramp at Old Union Turnpike Rd for a reported car accident. Engine 2 and ambulance 1 responded. While enroute, Engine 2 was involved in an accident.

As the engine was driving north on Lunenburg Rd, they encountered heavy traffic and cars not yielding to the fire engine. As they approached the area of Kimball's Farm, there was a mini-van stopped with its left directional on and the southbound traffic was not yielding and pulling over for the engine. The driver of the engine, seeing the minivan stopped and southbound traffic not pulling over, went towards the breakdown lane to go around the van. At the last moment, the driver of the van pulled right causing the engine to swerve more to the right. The right side tires went off the pavement and hit the drainage swale on the side of the road. This caused the truck to go into the grass, which was muddy from the rain, and pulled them further off the road. The driver choose to stay on this path to avoid hitting the minivan that was occupied by one adult and three children. The truck crashed through the fence at Kimball's Farm and slide about 60 feet down the grass. There were no injuries to any of the firefighters and they avoided hitting the van and causing serious injury to the occupants.

As is the policy of the department, the driver of the engine was transported to the hospital for mandatory drug and alcohol testing. All of the tests came back negative. The driver is a class A CDL operator with fourteen year's experience.

The vehicles data box was read and showed the tuck was traveling at 52 MPH just prior to the incident. Lunenburg Rd is a 50 MPH zone. It also showed that everyone was seat-belted and everything worked as it should have as far as the ABS brakes and that he was in control of the truck throughout the incident.

The truck is currently out of service and received minor damage with most being cosmetic and the worst being the radiator were the fence went into it. The department has a reserve engine that was placed into service, which allows us to maintain the ability to have full coverage for the town.


Michael J. Hanson
Fire Chief/EMD

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