



LANCASTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN REGULAR MEETING MINUTES OF MARCH 6, 2017

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 Lancaster Community Center, 39 Harvard Road, Lancaster, Massachusetts. Present were Selectmen Walter F. Sendrowski, Mark A. Grasso, Jr., 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.

- Blaine Alvarez-Backus of 228 Devonshire Way, wanted clarification on road maintenance in the Town of Lancaster. He stated that his street, Devonshire Way, is a private way and would like to the Town to accept his street as a public way at the upcoming Town Meeting, yet has met some resistance from the DPW. Mr. Alvarez-Backus noted that shared services is a fundamental service that the town is supposed to provide, such as fire, police and public works. Yet, conversely, the Recreation Commission is putting forth a project at the Thayer Field, that would have a splash pad, soccer fields, softball & baseball fields, of which Mr. Alvarez-Backus noted that most of what is on this proposed plan is redundant. He stated that he did ask a member on the Recreation Commission about the cost of maintaining those proposed fields, and Recreation was not able to give any numbers about the potential costs and how that would impact the DPW.

Mr. Alvarez-Backus stated he is worried about good governance, noting that the DPW does not have enough money for the Thayer Field project and does not understand how this can go before the Planning Board without having any projected costs to maintain Thayer Field. He asked the Selectmen for their opinion on this matter.

Chairman Starr noted that this is a public comment period, but stated that he believes that if the Town's people wish to have this project, then they need all the details; that's essential to make good judgments. With respect to the impact to the DPW, Chairman Starr stated that the DPW is a separate entity, the Selectmen have no control on Department of Public Works.

Mr. Alvarez-Backus asked who has the statutory authority on slowing this project down.

Selectman Grasso noted that he believes this project is not bonded and that realistically the issues regarding maintenance belong before the DPW.

- LLC Director Alix Turner and Jessie Gill of World Farmers, came before the Selectmen to seek their support for a grant. The grant is through the Massachusetts Food Ventures Program, and as Ms. Turner explained, this grant will allow the renovation of the Community Center's dormant kitchen. It was noted the grant is a 50% match and World Farmers will contribute the 50% match.

Ms Turner explained that the renovation of the commercial kitchen in the Lancaster Community Center will improve food security for seniors and families, and create a year round, sustainable business model for the farmers of Mentor Flats (World Farmers), and area residents who would like to start small businesses requiring a commercial kitchen. She noted that the renovation will complement the intergenerational garden program and the lunch program.

Selectman Grasso had a concern with regard to zoning in the Community Center. Alix Turner stated she will seek Planning Board and Zoning Board of Appeals regarding this project.

Selectman Sendrowski moved to send a letter of support for the application for the Massachusetts Food Ventures Program. Selectman Grasso Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

- Roy Nascimento and Patrick Lawler of the North Central Massachusetts Chamber of Commerce came before the Board of Selectmen to seek their permission to sell microbrews and local wines at the Johnny Appleseed Visitor's Center, located off Route 2, in Lancaster. Selectman Grasso noted that Lancaster does not have a mechanism to allow the sale of beer and wine, and would need to go through the process, starting at a Town Meeting to ask for special legislation regarding package stores licensing.

III. SCHEDULED APPEARANCES & PUBLIC HEARING

6:05 P.M. Public Hearing: National Grid's Petition for Installation of Underground Facilities located at:

Main Street – National Grid beginning at a point approximately 25 feet NE of the centerline of the intersection of Main St and Crescent St and continuing approximately 230 feet in SSE direction. National Grid to extend 2-5" conduits with 500 primary from Pole 5 to Pole 4. National Grid to extend 2-5" conduits with 500 primary from current Pole 3 to new Pole 3 location 50FT SSE

Selectman Sendrowski moved to open the public hearing at 6:10pm, Selectmen Grasso Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr., vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

Selectmen Sendrowski read the legal notice into the minutes:

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING PETITION FOR JOINT POLE LOCATION

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN AS INTERESTED PARTY OR AN ABUTTER OF RECORD:

Under the provisions of Chapter 166, Section 22 of the General Laws, and any additions thereto or amendments thereof, a Public Hearing is scheduled for Monday, 6:05 pm on March 6, 2017 in the Lancaster Community Center Meeting Room, 39 Harvard Road, Lancaster, MA to consider a petition submitted by Verizon New England Inc., and Massachusetts Electric Company (NGrid), requesting permission to locate poles, wires, cables and fixtures, including the necessary anchors, guys and other such sustain and protecting fixtures to be owned and used in common by your petitioners, along and across the following public way or ways:

MAIN STREET: Relocate one (1) jointly owned pole numbered T.3/E.3 to a point on the northeasterly side of Main Street approximately two hundred forty-one (241) feet northwesterly from the Lancaster/Clinton town line.

Also permission to lay and maintain underground laterals, cables and wires in the above or intersecting public ways for the purpose of making connections with such poles and buildings as each of said petitioners may desire for distributing purposes.

Your petitioners agree to reserve space for one crossarm at a suitable point on each of said poles for the fire and police telephone and telegraph signal wires belonging to the municipality and used by it exclusively for municipal purposes. **LANCASTER BOARD OF SELECTMEN**

Verizon Representative, Bill Walsh was present to answer any questions regarding the pole petition. He noted the need to move the pole is for safety reasons.

Selectman Grasso moved to close the public hearing. Selectman Sendrowski Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye 3-0

Selectman Sendrowski moved to grant Verizon New England, Inc. and Massachusetts Electric Company (NGrid) joint or identical locations for and permission to erect and maintain poles and their respective wires and cables to be placed thereon, together with anchors, guys and other sustaining and protecting fixtures as said Companies may deem necessary, in the public way or ways as requested in petition of said Company dated 25th of January, 2017 for Main Street: relocate one (1) jointly owned pole numbered T.3/E.3 to a point on the northeasterly side of Main Street approximately two hundred forty-one (241) feet northwesterly from the Lancaster/Clinton town line. Selectman Grasso Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

IV. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT - None

V. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Selectman Sendrowski moved to approve and accept the Regular Meeting Minutes of February 21, 2017. Chairman Starr Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, and Stanley B. Starr, Jr., vote Aye. 2-0 Selectman Grasso abstained.

VI. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS -

Appointments:

Marie Sullivan, Chair of the Cultural Council came before the Board to note that the appointments will begin on July 1st for the new fiscal year.

Selectman Sendrowski moved to appoint the following to Cultural Council:

Patricia C. Doyle, 150 Nicholas Drive, term to expire June 30, 2019

Kathleen Foell, 501 Redtail Way, term to expire June 30, 2019

Maureen E. Hardy, 30 Woodruff Road, term to expire June 30, 2019

Denise Hurley, 102 Bolton Road, term to expire June 30, 2019.

Selectman Grasso Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

Selectman Sendrowski moved to appoint to the Nashua River Wild & Scenic River Study

Committee : Susan Munyon, 96 Grant Way, as associate member, term to expire June 30, 2018.

Selectman Grasso Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr., vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

Resignations:

Selectman Grasso moved to accept the resignation of Nancy Nelson of the Cultural Council, effective immediately. Selectman Sendrowski Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

VII. ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET, AND POLICY
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1. Review and take action on opening the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for FY 2018.

Selectman Grasso moved to open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant for FY2018. Selectman Sendrowski seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

2. Citizens' Petition for Proposed Warrant Article for Eagle Ridge Road Rights of Ways and Infrastructure Acceptance.

Selectman Sendrowski moved to refer the Citizens' Petition for the Proposed Warrant Article for Eagle Ridge Road Rights of Ways and Infrastructure Acceptance to the Planning Board. Selectman Grasso Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

3. Citizen's Petition for Proposed Warrant Article for Devonshire Way Road Right of Way and Infrastructure Acceptance

Selectman Sendrowski moved to accept the Citizen's Petition for Proposed Warrant Article for Devonshire Way Road Right of Way and Infrastructure Acceptance subject to a layout hearing. Selectman Grasso Seconded. Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye, Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye and Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye. 3-0

4. Discussion on the proposed Earth Products Removal Bylaw

Chairman Starr noted that the proposed Bylaw has been sent to the Law Firm of Mirick O'Connell for review of content. Once that comes back to the Selectmen, he would like to discuss the proposal.

Selectman Sendrowski has reviewed the proposal and is opposed to the granting authority will be the Planning Board. He believes the granting authority should stay with the Board of Selectmen.

He further stated that after reviewing the proposed bylaw, he found it to be redundant as well as too detailed.

Selectman Grasso agrees that the permit granting authority should be retained by the Board of Selectmen. He noted that he has not read through the whole bylaw and would like more time to review.

Chairman Starr concurred with the Selectmen on who should be the permit granting authority, but will wait for Town Counsel's review on the current bylaw and the proposed bylaw.

5. Continued discussion on a proposed Pet Policy for the Lancaster Town Buildings.

It was noted that the Board of Selectmen have received "quite a bit" of feedback regarding the pet policy. Selectman Grasso asked that the Animal Control Commission be invited to the Selectmen's next meeting to get their input on this issue. He noted that this issue is two-fold and can see both sides, however the Board of Selectmen have a responsibility to the town.

Selectman Sendrowski stated that even with pros in having animals in the building; many do not want animals in the eating area at the Community Center. He suggested the animals should be crated, with the exception of the service dogs.

Chairman Starr's main concern is the liability to the Town.

LCC Director Alix Turner stated that she is conscious of the dogs in the building and tries to be sensitive to those who are uncomfortable with animals in the building. She has had the Board of Health nurse into the building, regarding this issue. Chairman Starr stated that he has asked the Board of Health give a written determination on animals in the eating area. Ms. Turner noted that she will certainly abide by whatever the determination is.

The Selectmen noted that this is a very difficult decision regarding this issue.

VIII. LICENSES AND PERMITS - NONE
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IX. COMMUNICATIONS

Donation received in the amount of \$1,200 from Sterling-Lancaster Community Television in recognition of physical space and support of cablecasting operations.

Next Board of Selectmen's Meeting will be held on Monday, March 20, 2017 at 6:00 p.m. in the Meeting Room at the Community Center.

X. OTHER BUSINESS

Selectman Sendrowski made the motion to go into Executive Session under M.G.L. c. 30A §21 (a) to discuss strategy with respect to litigation in an open meeting may be a detrimental effect on litigating position of the public body and the chair so declares regarding Aslan Electric, and will not reconvene in open session. Selectman Grasso Seconded.

Walter F. Sendrowski vote Aye
Mark A. Grasso, Jr. vote Aye
Stanley B. Starr, Jr. vote Aye.


XI. NEW BUSINESS - NONE

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 7:08 P.M.

Respectfully submitted

Kathleen Rocco
Executive Assistant


Walter F. Sendrowski, Clerk
Approved and accepted: 3/20/17