



APPROVED

**LANCASTER SELECT BOARD
Regular Meeting Minutes
of April 20, 2022**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Jason Allison called the Regular Meeting of the Select Board to Order at 6:00 P.M. via ZOOM™, noting that the meeting was being recorded.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83117257017>

Meeting ID: 831 1725 7017

Roll call vote taken, Jason A. Allison, present, Jay M. Moody, present, and Alexandra W. Turner, present.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Mr. Moody moved to approve the Select Board meeting minutes of April 4, 2022. Ms. Turner seconded. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. Approved, [3-0-0].*

III. SCHEDULED APPEARANCES & PUBLIC HEARINGS - NONE

IV. BOARDS, COMMITTEES AND DEPARTMENTS REPORTS - NONE

V. PUBLIC COMMENTS - NONE

Opportunity for the 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.

Chairman Allison, speaking as a private citizen (Jason Allison, 343 Brockelman Road), announced that on Saturday, May 21, Lancaster's Unified Health and Performance Gym will hold their 4th Annual Five-K run/walk. This event supports not only the gym, but adaptive athlete scholarships, MA Special Olympics, Team Hoyt New England, and others. Mr. Allison offered a challenge to all Lancaster students; for any Lancaster student who fairly beats him in the race, he will wash their car or a family member's car.

Ms. Turner, speaking as Community Center Director rather than a member of the Select Board, notes that Lancaster will be celebrating Earth Day with tree plantings on May 15. Additionally, the Town is supporting a town wide cleanup effort by providing a dumpster for trash picked up roadside. Residents can pick up yellow bags for this effort at the Community Center or the Library.

VI. TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

Interim Town Administrator Jeff Nutting reported that CEI, the engineering firm hired to do the peer review of PJ Keating should have a draft report no later than the end of May for review and discussion.

Also, the Commonwealth has advised the DPW that they would like to do some paving between now and the end of June from Clinton up to Bolton, sort of an overlay. They may also work on parts of Route 117 excluding the areas scheduled for major reconstruction. As we have more information it will be communicated. Mr. Moody asked if there is any more information on when the Route 70/Route 117 construction will be taking place. Mr. Nutting explained that they advertised for bids on March 26, so it is most likely to begin in late summer or early fall, noting that this is a two-year project.

Mr. Nutting advised the Board that the contract for the Electric Vehicle charging stations will be signed this week. After that the easement will be recorded and installation will begin. The Select Board office will coordinate with the school to ensure minimal disruption. Mr. Turner asked what will be charged for use of the EV charging stations; Mr. Nutting explained that fees will be up to the Select Board and that they will need to discuss this in the months to come.

VII. ADMINISTRATION, BUDGET, AND POLICY

1. Discussion on the legality of Town Staff to schedule a Public Hearing before the Planning Board on zoning bylaw amendments (Allison)

Chairman Allison read a prepared statement into the record:

On April 5, the Select Board formally submitted to the Planning Board proposed amendments to the Zoning Bylaw in accordance with Massachusetts General Law Chapter 40A, Section 5. The proposed amendments pertain to the adoption of a new Smart Growth Zoning Overlay District under Chapter 40R. The Planning Board is required to hold a public hearing within sixty-five days after a proposed zoning bylaw is submitted to it. Additionally, notice of this hearing must be published in the newspaper once in each of two successive weeks, the first publication to be not less than fourteen days before the hearing. Upon receipt of the Select Board's April 5 letter, Town staff prepared a hearing notice and caused the notice to be published in the newspaper.

The Planning Board Chair is now contesting the ability of Town staff to publish such notice without the express consent of the Planning Board or its Chair. I have conferred with Town Counsel and wish to clarify that Town staff did not violate any law by publishing the hearing

notice in the newspaper. The requirement to publish notice in the newspaper is controlled by Chapter 40A, Section 5, which does not preclude Town staff from independently causing notice of a hearing to be published.

Moreover, Town staff did not diverge from its ordinary hearing notice practice. Town staff commonly posts notice of hearings without conferring with the requisite public body or its chair to ensure that statutory timeframes are satisfied.

Lastly, it is worth noting that the Chair controls the Planning Board's meeting agenda. Publishing a hearing notice in the newspaper permits, but does not obligate, the Chair to add the matter to an upcoming meeting's agenda. That decision is, and has remained throughout this whole process, with the Chair.

The Planning Board Chair's statements questioning the legality of our staff's actions have no basis in the actual law, and are indefensible.

Ms. Turner said that she had spoken to Mr. Nutting about this as well as several members of the Planning Board. She stated that she has heard that the reason the Planning Board did not schedule a public hearing is that they felt that the settlement agreement needed to be discussed or fixed before the hearing. Continuing, she stated that in her understanding the Planning Board could do what they did although she did not believe it was in the best judgment.

Mr. Allison moved that the Board approve the above statement, and that it be placed on the Town website and a copy sent to the Planning Board. Mr. Moody seconded the motion. Ms. Turner expressed concern that this would just perpetuate the disagreement between boards. Mr. Allison stated that he thinks it is important that the Board state its position, in part to defend town employees who are accused of inappropriate actions. Ms. Turner stated that she thinks this fosters division.

Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Abstain. [2-0-1].

Next, Mr. Allison moved to have the Select Board find no wrong by Jeff Nutting and Town staff, pursuant to the complaint filed by Planning Board Chairman Russ Williston regarding the posting of Planning Board Public Hearings. Mr. Moody seconded.

Ms. Turner agreed that actions taken were not illegal, that staff did not do anything wrong, and that staff should be treated with respect.

Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].

Mr. Allison moved to forward the results of the Planning Board's Chairman's complaint to the Planning Board and ask the Planning Board to issue an apology to Jeff Nutting. He noted that in addition to Mr. Williston making this accusation in a private email, he also made the accusation in open session, where it was supported by the Planning Board. In speaking with Town Counsel, Mr. Allison has confirmed that this statement is not supported by law.

Ms. Turner said that she thinks the most productive way to handle this is to ask Counsel or perhaps the Attorney General's office for a simple written statement on how postings should work. She does not think there was any malicious intent on behalf of the Planning Board and that it should be a learning experience for all town boards.

Mr. Allison said that this is about how the Board wants to lead the staff, and that the accusation did not need to be made in open session. Ms. Turner stated, "Thank you Jason, for bringing it up and saying let's bring up a policy, make sure that our boards are aware of it, and of course we need to encourage people to act and speak in civil and proper terms. I believe that the Chair of the Planning Board honestly felt, and he's extremely well versed in our laws, certainly better than I am, but did not know that Jeff had the authority to ask Jasmin to do so. This was an unusual case, but this is something that we need to really take a bad situation and make lemonade."

Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Abstain. [2-0-1].

Next, Chairman Allison moved for the Select Board to send a letter to the Planning Board to request that in the future, they make no public accusations of Town staff without first allowing the Select Board to seek legal guidance to ensure that these types of situations do not happen again. Ms. Turner seconded the motion. Ms. Turner would like to amend the motion to allow the Planning Board to have access to Counsel, should they feel that the Select Board did something wrong. Mr. Allison said that he cannot support the amendment since Town Counsel costs about \$210 an hour. Ms. Turner said that in the past the Town Administrator served as the conduit to Town Counsel because frequently boards and committees may have redundant questions, or there may be a large issue affecting different boards and commissions. Mr. Moody would like the motion to apply to all boards and committees, rather than just the Planning Board. Mr. Allison amended his motion to reflect this request; Mr. Moody seconded.

Ms. Turner asked what happens when another board would like to speak to Counsel; it was agreed that any board could make this request to the Town Administrator.

Vote taken on the amendment, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].

Mr. Allison repeated the motion, for the Select Board to send a letter to all boards and committees requesting that in the future, no public accusations are made of Town staff without first allowing the Select Board to seek legal guidance.

Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].

Next, Chairman Allison moved for the Select Board to approve the public release of all correspondence, documentation, and voicemail, sent by Planning Board Chairman Russ Williston to Town staff regarding the posting of the 40R public hearing. Mr. Moody seconded.

Mr. Allison said that while he does not want this to be personal, and he does not want to pass judgment, he wants to make this information available to voting residents to let them decide, noting that there are threats to file a police report and threats to go to the Attorney General. Mr. Moody said that this would be public record anyway; Mr. Allison concurred. Ms. Turner noted

that while she understands that Mr. Allison wants to underline the seriousness of this issue, but does not think this motion is helpful. Discussion continued about public records requests with Mr. Nutting clarifying the usual process.

Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].

Mr. Allison moved for the Select Board to send a letter to the Planning Board reminding them that it is difficult to fill paid positions in Lancaster, especially the positions of Town Administrator and Planning Director, and reminding them that the Town has work to do to remove the stigma that Lancaster is not a desirable place to work. Mr. Moody seconded for discussion.

Mr. Moody would like to amend the motion to apply to all boards and committees. Ms. Turner objected to characterizing Lancaster as a bad place to work. Mr. Allison amended the motion to read, “for the Select Board to send a letter to all boards and committees, reminding them how difficult paid positions are to fill in town, especially the Town Administrator and Planning Director, and also remind them that this Town has work to do to remove the stigma that Lancaster is not a desirable place to work in.” Mr. Moody seconded.

Vote taken on the amendment, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].

Vote taken on the motion, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Abstain. [2-0-1].

2. Discuss Planning Board Response to Select Board letter on having 40R Public Hearing (Allison)

Mr. Allison read into the record the letter that the Select Board sent to the Planning Board on April 5. Mr. Nutting stated that no response was received.

Ms. Turner said that there may be assumptions being made; perhaps the Planning Board did not realize that a response was required, or perhaps the response did not get through. She stated that a response would have to come from the Chair. Mr. Allison asked the Board what the plan was going into the Annual Town Meeting (ATM). Ms. Turner stated that we were not ready for the ATM in a number of areas. Because the Planning Board was meeting at the same time as this Select Board meeting, Ms. Turner suggested that Mr. Nutting could send Ms. Farinacci a note to ask if they intend to hold a public hearing.

Mr. Moody said that he also sits on the Housing Committee and stated that they had been told that there would be a hearing, that they did everything they should, and there still has not been a public hearing. Mr. Nutting advised that the Planning Board cancelled the second notice required by law to have the hearing on April 20; he suggested that the Select Board ask the Planning Board what date they plan to hold the public hearing.

Ms. Turner said that having personally spoken separately to five members of the Planning Board, they specifically told her that they did not respond to the request for a public hearing because they felt that the Select Board had “dropped the ball on the settlement agreement.” Discussion continued at length on this topic. Ms. Turner stated that the Planning Board was not taking action because the Select Board has not discussed the Settlement Agreement.

Mr. Allison moved to have the Select Board send another letter to the Planning Board asking for help and guidance on their plan for ensuring both the enterprise rezone and the 40R articles can be put in front of the residents to vote on. Ms. Turner seconded. Mr. Nutting noted that this is an open ended question and needs a “by when” date, after the Planning Board has met. Mr. Allison amended the motion to include asking for a response by April 28. Ms. Turner seconded.

Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].

3. Vote to Open the Annual Town Meeting Warrant

Ms. Turner moved to open the Annual Town Meeting warrant. Mr. Allison seconded.

At this point, Mr. Allison received an email from Jasmin Farinacci, Planning Director, with changes requested to the warrant from the Planning Board. Mr. Nutting explained that the only way this would be possible would be if Town Counsel were available to review the changes tomorrow morning so that the Warrant could be posted tomorrow afternoon.

4. Vote any changes in the Warrant deemed necessary and close the Warrant

Mr. Nutting explained that there were some typographical corrections to articles 5 and 7 in order to make the current warrant 100% accurate. The meeting is currently scheduled for May 2, so the Board needs to sign the Warrant by tomorrow (4/21/22).

At this point in the meeting, Mr. Allison received a new email from Planning Director Jasmin Farinacci, requesting the addition of an additional warrant article. Mr. Nutting noted that the only way possible to include this would be if Town Counsel could review and approve the article early tomorrow so that the Warrant could be posted later tomorrow.

Mr. Allison moved to add the article in question to the warrant. Ms. Turner seconded. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].*

Mr. Nutting requested that the Board vote on the aforementioned changes to Article 5. Ms. Turner moved to accept the changes as offered; Mr. Moody seconded. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].*

Mr. Nutting requested that the Board vote on the aforementioned changes to Article 5. Mr. Allison moved to accept the changes as offered; Mr. Moody seconded. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].*

Mr. Nutting reminded the Board that all articles presented can be approved at the ATM by majority vote except for zoning changes which require a 2/3 vote. An exception to this is housing, which under new law requires a majority vote. He also advised that the Finance Committee has endorsed the budget recommendations.

Mr. Nutting advised that the Town Meeting will not be allowed to vote on the 40R article because there has been no public hearing. Mr. Allison stated that he believes that the enterprise zone should not be voted on without the 40R article, and that he is disappointed that the opportunity for the citizens to vote on these articles because of Planning Board choices and actions.

Some discussion was held on changing the date of the ATM to make these two articles available, but it was determined that this was not possible.

Mr. Allison moved to remove Articles 14, 15, 16, and the new "Scriveners" article from the Annual Town Meeting Warrant with the intention of having a Special Town Meeting with all the zoning articles at a future date to allow the Planning Board to do due diligence to allow all articles to come before the Town. Ms. Turner seconded.

Ms. Turner asked the status of the MOU and if it will be voted on at Town Meeting. Mr. Allison explained that the MOU is an agreement between the developer and the Town, and will be part of the packet of information for the voters at Town Meeting.

Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].

Ms. Turner moved to close the Annual Town Meeting Warrant. Mr. Moody seconded. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].*

5. Continue discussion on time and place for the Annual Town Meeting

Mr. Nutting sent the Board a memo showing that 99 of 100 communities in Massachusetts will be holding their Annual Town Meetings indoors. Mr. Moody agreed that without the zoning articles, attendance will be less, so thinks it will be okay to hold the meeting indoors, although he would like the Special Town Meeting about zoning to be held outside. Mr. Allison concurs, and mentioned that several residents have mentioned that babysitting at town meeting would be helpful. Mr. Nutting noted that if the Annual Town Meeting is to be held indoors, no action is needed, but cautioned the Board that if babysitting were offered, everyone involved would need to be CORI checked.

Mr. Allison asked Mr. Nutting to send a letter to the Planning Board explaining the plans for the ATM and the Special Town Meeting. After discussion, Mr. Nutting will talk to Ms. Faranacci and ask her to communicate to the Planning Board.

6. Land Settlement Agreement (Turner)

Ms. Turner would like to discuss this because there is a great deal of misinformation about this topic. She stated, "I think I explained that I do not believe that the land settlement agreement should be the elephant in the room. When we're discussing zoning articles it's an independent discussion, but it does influence the credibility of the partners that we're negotiating with and people's faith in them. So, because we all recognize this as a problem, or at least I think that we do I think we need (unheard) this. In the last year, since I was elected, we have tried to do that as a board. We have asked multiple times for updates and discussions about the land settlement agreement. I know that one of the proposed solutions is to deal with this through that memorandum of understanding and the MOU/MOA Committee, and it's a bona fide way to deal with this. People still need to understand how we got here, so we learn from history as to where we go. The Reader's Digest version, for people who don't understand what the settlement agreement is to say there were parcels of land, that the Town was in Land Court with Mr. Boucher. The Selectmen at the time decided to enter into a settlement agreement rather than continue the litigation and to go forward. People call it a land swap; it wasn't really a land swap per se. We allowed Mr. Boucher to pay off back taxes and forgave the mining of large parcel of land that the town owned. In exchange, we were getting some environmentally sensitive land and trail easements. The Selectmen at the time told Counsel to transfer the land with the mineral rights on it and the sand, and we waited for the conservation land and the trail easements to be made. None of us were on the Board at that time, but we did extend the settlement agreement to allow for Steve Boucher and now the Capital Group to finish the agreement. That didn't happen. I think anybody who's watched their meetings know that we asked about it, we were told that there were title issues. We were told, we could obtain title issue, we were told we were all set to close numerous times. As a board, I believe we acted in good faith expecting this to try to happen. Many citizens asked us about it and it came right down to the wire and nothing happened. I spoke with Attorney Eichmann and he explained, he was working on behalf of Kopelman and Page at the time, he explained that they had, what I just stated, that the Town had turned land over to Steve Boucher and that the title issues were supposed to have happened shortly thereafter. Apparently if we chose to pursue it, we could, legally, but (illegible) the question that we have to ask ourselves as a Board is if it is worth the legal costs to do so. We didn't have that that opportunity. This isn't a critique of past boards. Personally, I have come out publicly, I did not like the settlement agreement. I think we gave land of high value in exchange for land of low value, which we didn't get. I understand why there is a concern, because people say if you didn't perfect one agreement, why can we expect to perform another agreement. I'm confident what I will look for in the Memorandum of Understanding and the MOU is that not only do we have restore this, but that there is legal recourse to be able to make sure that we don't have to go back to court to fight to perfect something. And that there is, and that we don't bear the burden of those legal costs, because one of the things that we've talked about now repeatedly is (whether) it is worth going back to get this agreement completed. I think if we haven't talked to why we haven't talked it out about it at the Board. I've listened to Chairman Allison and Jay and people, hoping that we could find an easier way through the MOU and MOA process to do that, than through the legal process. So, in a nutshell, I wanted people to understand what the settlement agreement was about, and how we got to where we're at right now. That's a very abbreviated version. We are talking about a lot of land and the mineral rights alone on the people's land was worth millions of dollars. So this is something that I'm really disappointed that the town didn't do better. It's a

collection of problems and issues and I'm hoping that we as a board can find a way, whether it be through your MOU/MOA -- Jason I say yours, I know it's the people's agreement, but obviously you're spearheading it or through others, and I have to admit it gives me a lot of trepidation about entering into an agreement if we don't have something very, very strict, to be able to enforce it. So that's my Reader's Digest version.”

Mr. Nutting recommended, now that the Board has additional time because the zoning articles will not be presented at the ATM, that all parties invite the town attorney negotiating the MOU/MOA to the public hearing or to some meeting and open it up to questions way before the Town Meeting. Mr. Moody voiced his agreement.

Mr. Allison stated that the idea that the developer was or wasn't trustworthy should not be part of the discussion. The MOU/MOA will be an enforceable agreement that will work for all parties. Secondly, pursuing legal action could result in the Town both losing the land in question and running up enormous legal bills.

Ms. Turner noted that the 86 acres in question is environmentally sensitive, and the settlement agreement contained trail easements that the Conservation Commission advocated strongly for. She stated that the Town gave up millions of dollars in mineral rights to enable economic development. She continued, saying that she has seen MEPA filings and MEPA letters indicating that the land from the settlement agreement being discussed in the MOU/MOA is being used once again as the open space and trail easement offset, and she wants to make sure that this is not being a "double credit." She would like some provision in the MOU/MOA for indemnification. Lengthy conversation continued, with Mr. Allison stating that he disagreed with Ms. Turner's analysis of the situation and that the Board will have plenty of time to review the completed MOU/MOA.

Ms. Turner would like to see a "fact sheet" produced prior to the Special Town Meeting. It was agreed that there is not enough lead time to send any kind of information to residents before the Annual Town Meeting.

7. Select Board's Recommendations for Budget and Capital Plan

Mr. Nutting had provided the Board with a copy of the budget at the last meeting. He asked the Board if it were a tradition for the Select Board to support a specific budget or recommend one at the ATM. The Finance Committee has endorsed the budget and had a split vote on the Capital Plan.

Ms. Turner noted that there was some budget expansion and growth, although a directive was given to town boards and committees that they were to prepare level service budgets. She thinks that if some departments did not submit level funded budgets, then other departments should have been given the opportunity to do so.

Mr. Nutting replied that many of the changes were about properly funding items rather than level funding. He stated that in the past items such as property and casualty insurance as well as the legal budget, had been greatly under-funded. He stated that the only real expansion was in the Fire Department, adding a part-time administrative person, and that other changes were minimal.

Ms. Turner reiterated that other departments like the DPW or the Police Department might really need additional help but didn't ask for it. She would like the Select Board, in the future, to be more involved with the School Department budget, stating that in the past it was more of a cooperative effort, with input from all three towns. She would also like to explore the Minuteman Vocational School budget, stating that they have limited the number of students accepted, making it difficult for some Lancaster students to attend.

Mr. Allison would like the Select Board to act on endorsing the budget at the meeting prior to the ATM. Mr. Nutting will add this to the agenda.

8. National Grid Easement for 103 Hollywood Drive

Mr. Nutting explained that the easement for National Grid to install the EV Charging stations was approved at Special Town Meeting, and that the next step is for the Board to vote and sign the contract/agreement.

Ms. Turner moved to grant the easement to National Grid at 103 Hollywood Drive for the purpose of the EV Chargers. Mr. Moody seconded. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].*

9. Dissolve Memorial School Committee until area is back to previous zoned designation (Moody)

Mr. Moody explained that there is nothing for the committee to do at this point. Mr. Allison asked if it was in the hands of Town Counsel. Ms. Turner would like the committee to meet and come back with suggestions, and would like to find out where it stands legally per Chapter 97 restrictions.

Mr. Nutting explained that he has forwarded this as an action item for the new Town Administrator, stating that there needs to be an overall plan. Mr. Allison stated that this would be tabled to a future meeting.

10. Safety cameras for public buildings (Moody)

Mr. Moody brought this up again, introducing Police Chief Moody to speak to the issue. Mr. Nutting noted that he had suggested \$75,000 from ARPA money for cameras but the Board had wanted to wait. He suggested that Chief Moody and the IT Director could gather costs. Mr. Nutting suggested including all the buildings on the Town Common. Mr. Nutting said that he would like to work with the Chief to call some vendors, noting that some buildings would be external only, unlike the Police Department or schools. He stated that it would be most sensible to have one system overall to get the best bang for the buck.

Mr. Allison moved to authorize Chief Moody and the IT staff to do due diligence and investigate for future upgrades to the video surveillance cameras. Mr. Moody seconded.

Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].

11. Request to get quotes for the generator for the Lancaster Community Center (LCC) (Moody)

Mr. Moody reported that Fire Chief Hanson has been having residents sign up for emergency needs if there is a problem in Town. Mr. Moody would like to at least see a price on what a generator would cost for the Community Center. Mr. Nutting will get some pricing.

12. Economic Development Committee (Turner)

Ms. Turner reported that she had invited the Chairman of the Economic Development Committee to attend to speak about their work, but he is unable to attend tonight, so she asks that the topic be tabled to another meeting. Mr. Allison asked that going forward, if a Board member would like somebody to appear before the Board, to please advise so that it is placed on the agenda.

VIII. APPOINTMENTS AND RESIGNATIONS - NONE

Appointments

Agricultural Commission – Stephen A. Mudgett as member, term to expire 6/30/2024

Chairman Allison recognized applicant Stephen Mudgett. Ms. Turner asked the applicant what he hopes to do on the Agricultural Commission and if he had any questions. Mr. Mudgett replied that he has been involved with other boards in town and as a 4th generation Lancaster farmer he thought this would be a good fit. He has no particular goals but will get involved and see what's happening, hopefully adding some insight and helpfulness and trying to keep agriculture in the Town of Lancaster as long as possible. The other two Board members thanked Mr. Mudgett for having to sit through this lengthy meeting and for volunteering. Ms. Turner offered a motion to appoint Stephen A. Mudgett as a member of the Agricultural Commission, term to expire 6/30/2024. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].*

IX. LICENSES AND PERMITS - NONE
--

X. OTHER/UNFINISHED BUSINESS

XI. NEW BUSINESS

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

Mr. Moody wanted information on how trees are planted on the Common. Ms. Turner explained that trees were planted to celebrate Earth Day, and she has spoken extensively with Heather Lennon of the Historical Commission. The Commission has a vision for how they would like to

see tree planting. Mr. Nutting stated that the Select Board oversees the land and should have a protocol for planting. Ms. Turner has called Dig Safe to ensure that there were no issues with Earth Day plantings. Mr. Moody thinks there should be a policy so that every time somebody wants to plant a tree they're going to put it up. Ms. Turner explained that for Earth Tree they will be planting a hybrid elm. Mr. Nutting noted that the budget includes some money for the DPW to plant trees. Ms. Turner volunteered to draft a policy for the next meeting. Mr. Nutting suggested that at the next meeting the Select Board vote on the specific tree for Earth Day.

XII. COMMUNICATIONS

- The next meeting of the Select Board will be on Monday, May 2, 2022.
- Annual Town Meeting scheduled for Monday, May 2, 2022, beginning at 7:00 pm
- Annual Town Election will be held on Monday, May 9, 2022, from 7am-8pm at the Town Hall Auditorium, located at 695 Main Street

XIII. ADJOURNMENT

Mr. Moody moved to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Turner seconded. *Vote taken, Jason A. Allison, Aye; Jay M. Moody, Aye; Alexandra W. Turner, Aye. [3-0-0].*

Respectfully submitted

Kathleen Rocco
Executive Assistant

APPROVED

Alexandra W. Turner, Clerk
Approved and accepted: June 6, 2022