

**Carver Select Board  
Meeting Minutes  
Town Hall Meeting Room #1  
March 16, 2021 – 7:00pm**

In Attendance: Chair Sarah Hewins, Vice-Chair Robert Belbin, Jen Bogart, Jim Hoffman, Mark Townsend, Interim Town Administrator Rick LaFond & Assistant Town Administrator Elaine Weston.

The Chair led the Pledge of Allegiance and Belbin read the community prayer.

Citizens participation: Mike Palimeri – posed a question on Plymouth Street Water Line Extension of the neighboring homes- will they be allowed to hook up to the water line without a betterment fee. Questioned what happens if the pipe line is not funded at the Annual Town Meeting.

Belbin asked for Palimeri to submit his notes to the Town Administrator to be forwarded to the Engineer and for the record of the meeting.

Donna Forand: Has had many interactions with the Interim Town Administrator, some have been difficult and stated that though sometimes they disagree, he continues to listen and communicate with her.

Conservation Commission Warrant Article Bylaw Amendment: Savery Moore, Chair of the Conservation Commission present to review changes. Bogart questioned if the word permit will be remaining in the bylaw and Hewins stated yes as well as Order of Conditions so there won't be any confusion.

Discussion on using the DEP link vs. a chart listing the fees. Moore stated that the state can change the fees.

Motion by Hoffman to accept the bylaw as presented and to recommend to Annual Town Meeting, second by Townsend. Belbin would like to clarify that this bylaw allows agriculture on their property, but it does not allow the regular resident to do maintenance on their property without permission from the Commission first. Hewins stated that there is an agricultural exemption in state law. Bogart stated that the destruction of shrubs, flowers or grasses is really specific and this may cause a lot of traffic to come to the Conservation Commission. Moore stated if there is an existing lawn, it can be reseeded, if it is a forest and they are asking to reseed the lawn then they will look into that. Bogart questioned what percentage of variances are granted. Moore stated that they don't have many requests for variances and every case is different. Belbin would like to see wording in the bylaw that residents don't have to go to the Conservation Commission and have the Board vote, but rather submit a letter of intention. Moore stated that almost every situation starts as an informal discussion with the Commission. If there is a tree that is a threat to your home, it will be approved, but if you want to remove shrubs next to a bog and replace them with something else, this disrupts the nutrients in the

soil. The intent is to protect the wetlands and to keep the water clean as well as the surrounding 100'.

Vote 4-1

Chapter 3 of Town Bylaws: Townsend stated there was discussion at the last meeting to not be bound to a minimum term in the event the Board wants to offer a shorter contract. He would like to see the wording as; 'at no time would the contract be more than 5 years.' In the past it was an indefinite appointment. The intent was to clarify and there was not a specific term defined. Belbin would like to see a 3 year contract. Hoffman questioned what other towns do for contract terms. LaFond stated it is all over the place and these specifications can be defined in a contract as well. Townsend stated he is not against a 3 year contract and he would like to see future Select Boards not be bound.

Motion by Townsend to remove wording from the second to last sentence 'less than 3 years or', second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Motion by Bogart to recommend the bylaw as amended, second by Hoffman. Discussion on if there is a placeholder for this on the Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Vote 5-0

North Carver Water Line Extension project: LaFond and the Health Agent are meeting with the engineer to review the bids and make the award. The Health Agent is in discussions with the DEP for the logistics of the tie-ins as well as for other properties that show no impact and how those will be treated by the Town. The Town Meeting Article would propose enough money to tie in those residents and it will be recommended on how to approach that. Within the next few business days we will have an estimated cost from Prime Engineering on the cost of the tie-ins. Hoffman questioned what would happen if a house did not want to get connected to the Town and then sold the house. LaFond stated at that time, the Town would not have the obligation of the expense. There are currently 5 homes that are impacted with a detection of 1,4 dioxane and there are 19 homes that are being tested.

LaFond drafted an article that would allow the town to bond for the water project, Library as well as the Town Hall project. This will allow some fund to stay in the Capital Stabilization Fund in the event that it is needed throughout the year. Townsend stated he recommended this topic for the agenda to give assurance to the residents that there is a funding mechanism being sought and without a betterment fee. Construction must begin by May 30 and completed by November 30.

Belbin would like specifics to be listed. Hoffman would like to see the connections put in and leave the option to the homeowner. LaFond stated that the engineering company will be giving

a firm number to include tie-ins, etc. for 19 homes. Hewins clarified that the portion of the article she read is in draft form and may be changed. Each home has different elements that would contribute to this cost. LaFond stated the challenge is that when you put out a procurement, you need specific information. Hoffman & Townsend questioned why the tie-ins and curb stops weren't included in the bid. Belbin would like to see a letter to residents with a deadline for them to respond if they would like to tie into the water line so the Town has a good idea of the number of tie-ins that will be needed. LaFond stated after Town Meeting a forum should be held with the engineer and the residents.

Planning of hiring a full-time Town Administrator: Bogart would like to start the planning process. She will be sending links to the MMA and MSA for review for the next agenda and would also like the discussion to start on a screening committee. Hoffman would like any decisions made to be after the election in the event there are any new members as that will be the Board selecting one. Townsend agrees that this is best left to the new Select Board since it is about a month away and agrees that it should be an item on the agenda of the first meeting after the election. Townsend stated a formal assessment has not been done for LaFond and would like to see that done as quickly as possible as that will be a valuable tool in the selection process. Belbin would like it put out to the public for interest in being on a screening committee and would like to start the discussions on the make-up of the screening committee. Hewins stated all of these items should wait until after the election and does not want to presume anyone of the current Board members will still be in place after the election. She stated there is a lot to do to get through the Annual Town Meeting and would like to wait. Belbin would like to see 8-12 people on a screening committee. Bogart referenced a webinar in regards to the screening committee make-up and wanted to start the conversation and moving forward with research and process in order to make an educated decision. Bogart would like to hold off on seeking applicants until the Board decides on the make-up of the screening committee. Hoffman believes the new Board should set the parameters of the screening committee. The Board agreed to send out a notice to the public to begin the process to accept applicants to be on a screening committee.

5 minute break at 8:25pm

#### Annual Town Meeting Warrant Article Recommendations:

Motion by Hoffman to table the allocation of FY21 Free Cash and Capital Improvements Budget & Community Preservation Committee, second by Belbin.

No Action Taken

Motion to allow the Draft Article for Plymouth St. Water Line borrowing & Library and Town Hall projects to be put on the warrant by Townsend, second by Hoffman. Belbin stated he does not like bonding and is looking to LaFond for options for funding. Hewins stated the Town does not have the funding and currently interest rates are low.

Vote 5-0

Permit conditions: Townsend recused himself. Hewins stated this problem could come up at the Urban Renewal Site and there are currently potential residents being affected by this now.

Motion to recommend by Belbin, second by Hoffman. Bogart stated that the solar revisions later in the warrant has wording very similar to this.

Vote 4-0

Permitting Authority Bylaw:

Motion to recommend by Townsend, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Select Board Bylaw Change:

Motion to recommend by Belbin, second by Hoffman. Townsend questioned LaFond if the striking out of 'endeavor to' meant that there is an opening and the only person that applies to fill the opening is a previous member of that Board, we cannot appoint them. Bogart questioned what the history was for a Select Board member can't hold another position for one-year after. LaFond stated it is not uncommon for someone to resign from a Board to be eligible for a position in the Town. Hewins stated this may go back to the Ethics law as well.

Vote 5-0

Finance Committee Bylaw Change:

Motion to table by Belbin, second by Hoffman

Vote: 5-0

Capital Outlay Bylaw Change:

Motion to recommend by Belbin, second by Townsend.

Vote: No Action

Motion to table by Townsend, second by Belbin

Vote 5-0

Protection of Recreational Area in Perpetuity: Hewins stated the informational summary needs to be amended.

Motion by Bogart to have Hewins draft an informational summary for this article, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Motion to recommend by Bogart, second by Belbin.

Vote 5-0

Landfills, Dumps, Fly Ash & Facilities Prohibition: Hewins stated that the idea behind this is that there are already 3 landfills in town and they are causing issues with residents. This is a preventative measure that protects the residents and natural resources. It is possible there may be a State regulation that we cannot prevent them.

Motion to recommend by Belbin, second by Hoffman. Belbin stated this does not include a transfer station or recycling facility.

Vote 5-0

Transfer of Property from Select Board to Conservation Commission: Hewins stated these properties were presented in a way that the Town would be allowed to sell several beaches and recreation areas. The purpose is to take these from the custody of the Select Board and to put them in the custody of the Conservation Commission.

Motion to recommend by Belbin, second by Townsend. Belbin questioned why a certain parcel is going to Conservation and Recreation. Hewins stated it could if the Board or Town Meeting chooses to make that change. LaFond & Hewins stated Conservation Commissions are always charged with this type of care and custody.

Vote 5-0

Suprlus Property to be sold to MA Dept. of Fish & Game:

Motion to recommend by Belbin, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

Picnic Isle Land Acquisition by Eminent Domain: This is in the neighborhood of Wenham Shores and the best way to acquire this land is by eminent domain.

Motion to recommend by Belbin, second by Townsend.

Vote 5-0

Cedar Swamp Land Donation:

Motion to recommend by Townsend, second by Belbin.

Vote 5-0

Zoning Articles:

#21: Signs: Several members had questions and the Board did not feel comfortable making a recommendation.

Motion to take no action by Belbin, second by Hoffman

Vote 5-0

#22 Large Scale Ground Mounted Solar Voltaic Installations: Belbin pointed out several issues he had with this article.

Motion to take no action by Belbin, second by Townsend.

Vote 5-0

#23 Solar Canopies: Belbin questioned if this fits in with the rural character of the town. Hoffman questioned if this was only for Town-owned properties- Hewins stated yes.

Motion to take no action by Belbin, second by Townsend.

Vote 5-0

#24 Flood Plain District

Motion to take no action by Belbin, second by Hoffman.

Vote 5-0

#25 Single Family Cluster Development:

Motion to take no action by Belbin, second by Townsend. Bogart recommended for everyone to watch the Zoning bylaw review committee meeting to understand the history of this. That committee was not favorable to this. Hoffman stated this was also the topic on the most recent Planning Board meeting.

Vote 5-0

#26 Non-Medical Marijuana Overlay District:

Motion to take no action by Belbin, second by Townsend.

Vote 5-0

#27 Townhouse Definition:

Motion to take no action by Hoffman, second by Townsend.

Vote 5-0

Town Administrator Update:

Cares Act: Eight applications are submitted and two reimbursement checks have been received to date. Vaccinations were provided by the state and are being administered at the schools.

Budget Process Update: The Finance Committee will be meeting on the 25<sup>th</sup> to make their remaining recommendations on the Town Meeting Warrant Articles. Hoffman questioned if there will be another joint meeting with the Finance Committee. LaFond stated it is up to the Boards.

Council on Aging St. Patrick's Day Dinner: This is a drive through. Mamma Mia's is providing the meal and the cost remains at \$10 and Mamma Mia's is covering the remainder of the cost.

There was recently a health inspection at the Council on Aging and under Connie Kelley's leadership, there is painting and minor changes being done to improve the atmosphere. The Operations and Maintenance Department has been working on this and will also be installing new cabinets and an oven. LaFond encouraged the Board to go down to see it when they feel comfortable. Hewins mentioned that Board is invited to be outdoor greeters between 11-12 tomorrow.

4 Copper Lantern Lane is under Chapter 40B – anytime there is a change in property status, the Select Board has to vote to approve it. The closing is on March 29 and requested a quick meeting to be scheduled prior to that date. Belbin also asked for an Executive Session to be scheduled during that meeting.

Next Meeting: 4/6/21

Select Board Community Announcements:

Townsend: Class of 2024 is sponsoring a Little Caesars Pizza fundraiser. More information is available on the CMHS website

Hoffman: none

Bogart: none

Belbin: Reminded everyone to wear your mask even if you've been vaccinated and to remain vigilant.

Hewins: none

Select Board Notes: n/a

Motion to adjourn at 10:05 pm by Townsend second by Belbin.

Vote 5-0

Mike Palimeri  
164 Plymouth St.

To the Carver Select Board

As requested by Mr. Belbin I am forwarding my thoughts I mentioned at Select board meeting March 16th 2021.

My understanding is those of us who's wells have tested positive for 1,4 dioxin are not paying any fees, betterment , hook up or switch over fees when we are hooked up to the NCWD system . As per my conversation with Mr. LaFond in Nov. 2020 . Confirmed by his email to me on Nov. 11th 2020 .

What about other homes that are in the known contaminated plume area along Plymouth St. , Hines Ave and Captain Perkins . Shouldn't they also get hooked into the NCWD system as well at no cost to them . My thought is it's only a matter off time more wells will test positive .

Will all homes or properties that the Plymouth St. water line extension passes by that are not in the plume areas , if any . Have a 1" service branch with a curb stop tie in point for future use if needed or desired at know cost to property owners ?

My reasons for that are . We are bringing a water line down the road . We do not know if the 1,4 dioxin issue is going to get worse . My money is on that it will . Will other chemicals show up ? It will be less disruptive and more cost effective to be pro active and put service tie in points where ever we can now instead of digging up the road again . It would also be beneficial to get more paying costumers , rate payers on the NCWD system . More revenue .

I am not claiming to be Professional Engineer . Or Civil Engineer . That said I am a Licensed Plumber , Pipe fitter and qualified high pressure pipe welder . I have worked "with the tools" as well as Foreman and general Foreman on the heavy construction side of my profession . Manly I worked on large scale projects with multi million dollar price tags . Some of these projects were for the MWRA , Cities of Boston , Everett , Weymouth , Quincey . Gas fired power plants as well as nuclear plants .

If we are fortunate to have the town approve the funds for the Plymouth St. water line extension . I would urge the town to have a meeting with ALL the property owners to discus and inform us about the project and the a plan to implement it . I would strongly urge we get notified by certified mail ! not just a posting at town hall and town website .

When I read the Consent order with DEP and the town of Carver . If the Plymouth St. water line extension is NOT approved at town meeting page 5 item 9 . talks about bottled water being a short term solution and that another means to mitigate the CEPs must be done .

Lastly . During your discussion the other night . I really wanted to put my two cents in regarding the actual tie into each home . The water main or pipe is a utility when the water line enters the house typically there is a service or shut off valve and directly after that is the water meter .That ends the jurisdiction of , in this case the NCWD . The outlet or downstream side of the meter is



the jurisdiction of the MA uniform plumbing code . Requiring a MA licensed Plumber to do the work after the meter with a permit for each home . Every house is going to be completely different how and when it was plumbed . The cost if estimated separately will be different for each home . My house is going to be a nightmare to switch over . Built in 1790 . The well pump is in a little crawl space area in the back of the house All the plumbing is on the farthest side of the house away from street . The new water service I am sure will enter the front of the house closest to the street . all crawl spaces, no basement etc.

Thank you for you attention in this matter and giving me the courtesy of listening .

Sincerely  
Michael Palimeri