

Tuesday, August 31, 2021
Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes
Town Hall, Gala Room
7:00 p.m.

Members Present: Leah Gibson, Chair
Stephanie McGowan, Vice Chair
Seth Ferguson, Clerk
Ed O’Leary
Mark Elfman

Also Present:
William Keegan Jr., Town Manager
Mike Johns, Assistant Town Manager
Christina Metcalf, Community Info. Specialist
Katie Lang, Executive Assistant*
*Attended remotely

1. 6:00pm Executive Session

Subject 1.1 To conduct strategy session in preparation of negotiations regarding upcoming contracts for the Local 379-MCOP AFL-CIO, United Steelworkers Unit A and Unit B, Union AFSCME - DPW, and Boyden Library Employee Union

Motion to enter into Executive Session to conduct strategy session in preparation of negotiations regarding upcoming contracts for the Local 379-MCOP AFL-CIO, United Steelworkers Unit A and Unit B, Union AFSCME - DPW, and Boyden Library Employee Union

Roll Call Vote: EO-Yes, ME-Yes, SF-Yes, LG-Yes, SM-Yes.

Seth Ferguson recused himself from Executive Session due to a Conflict of Interest.

2. 7:00pm - Citizen's Input – Karen Annberg – Foxborough Rotary Club regarding Peace Day

KA – We’ve informed the Town Manager about our Peace Day celebration that we are holding on September 19th on the Common from 2-4pm. Part of the celebration is a multicultural event is music, kids crafts and signing the Foxborough Peace pledge. We have two peace poles and one will be going in at the YMCA and we’d love to discuss where another one could maybe Town Hall or another town department/piece of land.

LG – This is a Citizen’s Input but we have this on our agenda later on as an action item and will talk about this now. I will read the Peace Pledge that we are being asked to sign.

Motion to that the Board of Selectmen sign on to the proposal put forth (Peace Pledge for Foxborough) and read by the Chairman by E. O’Leary, 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

3. 7:05pm - Rodman for Kids Discussion and vote to approve a 1-Day Beer and Wine License for Rodman for Kids event on 9/25/21 Marissa Collins*

MC – The ride for kids is on Saturday, September 25. The beer (the only alcohol) will be delivered the night before, locked up with security overnight and the barbeque. All volunteers will ask for ID. They servers will be 25 years old+ any beer leftover we will be returning to donor.

BK – With regard to the serving, I would encourage to have awareness of making sure that they aren’t handed off to underage drinkers.

MC – We are going heavy on volunteers so that shouldn’t be a problem.

SM – I would suggest to only serve a maximum of 1-2 beers per person as well.

SF – Please be aware of possible over serving as well.

Motion to approve two 1-Day Beer and Wine Licenses for Rodman for Kids event on September 24th and 25th, 2021 by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

4. 7:10pm POW/MIA Vigil Event - Veterans Services Director/VSO Ally Rodriguez to event information on the POW/MIA Vigil Day event on the common from 4:00pm on 9/17/21 to 4:00pm on 9/18/21

AR – We have been doing this for 10 years. We are going to be on the Common. We'll have volunteers with coffee and tea and snacks. The Chief will be loaning us a vehicle with the blue lights on. I'm working on getting a bag piper and trying to get Johnny Mitchell who did this 10 years ago as his Eagle Scout project.. The Sharon Patriot Riders will be coming as well and pull the overnight shift. It is an event to honor those who weren't lucky enough to come home.

5. 7:15pm Public Event Application - Foxborough Knights of Columbus -Discussion and vote to approve the Foxborough Knights of Columbus Annual Tootsie Roll Drive on 10/9/21 from 8:00am-1:00pm Greg MacDonnell Sean Whyte

Greg – We are looking do to our annual tootsie roll drive, the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend, from 8am-1pm. All of the proceeds will go towards helping adults and children with mental and physical disabilities. We are looking to get about 20-25 volunteers with gloves and masks. We weren't able to do this last year and this is our biggest fundraising event. It is critical for us to get back on track.

LG – We are in a much better place than we were last year with Covid. It wasn't the same in St. Mary's parking lot.

SW- Any changes that would should accommodate with the changes in the rotary?

LG- Those are all fine and business as usual. It may be safer as you have an island to stand on now.

Motion to approve the Foxborough Knights of Columbus Annual Tootsie Roll Drive on October 9th, from 8:00am-1:00pm around the Town Common entrances by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

6. 7:20pm Conservation Land Transfer -Discussion and vote to accept a Land Transfer of Parcel #1 on Map 58 at from Michael Trowbridge to the Town of Foxborough

LG - This is 0 Twilight Drive from last Annual Town Meeting.

BK – This makes sense for us to take as it abuts the land and it the amount of money that we would normally collect on this is normally small. Mr. Trowbridge doesn't have any use for this and this belongs with Conservation. We'll clean it up and take it off the books.

LG – This was a piece of a bigger parcel that was donated to the town. This is cleanup on what was intended to be donated. We have a letter from Jane Pierce our Conservation agent and she agrees with accepting this land.

Motion to accept a Land Transfer of Parcel #1 on Map 58 from Michael Trowbridge to the Town of Foxborough by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

7. 7:30pm Lamar Advertising - Mitigation Agreement -Discussion and vote to approve the Lamar Advertising Mitigation Agreement for 91 Washington Street

BK – There was a by law that was passed by the Town a few years ago. This is one of the first billboards that has been built since this by law was passed. This is located on Route 1 at 91 Washington Street. We had come to an agreement back in 2019 for \$12,500 that were similar and consistent to other agreements we've seen. The agreement was never finalized. Lamar Advertising is willing to honor it retroactively. Leah brought up there is no provision for a CPI increase, which I'm happy to discuss with them and see if that is consistent with other agreements.

LG – We do get 6 hours of community message and this is something that we took advantage of for Shop Local. This is something we should include on our communications plan. We should have a cost escalation plan in place as well and I'm not sure why it's 17 year contract.

BK – This is on private land not town land. This came along to get electronic billboards in place. I don't think that we would get much more than that as it is comparable around the area.

LG – Can we ask the question to adjust that?

ME – We can tentatively approve it with that question in mind.

LG – The Town Manager could approve this and we could ask as well.

SM – How do you determine that number to escalate?

BK – There is another company looking at this on a different location on Route 1.

ME – There was mitigation (or impact fee) when the casino went in to surrounding towns.

BK – We're getting this mitigation fee because it's an electronic billboard rather than a regular/stagnant one.

LG – If you could get some comp and see some prices and terms. We'll put it on for next meeting.

8. 7:40pm BOS - Special Town Meeting (STM) Warrant -Discussion and vote by BOS to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant September 1, 2021

LG – We are opening the warrant tonight and not getting into the details. The Special Town Meeting will be Monday, November 15th.

BK – If we have to spend any free cash in this warrant, it may not be certified in time for the November STM. We believe that it should be ready in time. We are looking to minimize the use of Free Cash and use the federal funds instead.

LG – How many article are currently on the STM warrant?

Katie Lang – We have 13 articles, so far.

Motion to open the Special Town Meeting Warrant for the November 15, 2021 Special Town Meeting by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

9. 7:50pm Assistant Town Manager's Update

Personnel Board Policy review – I will be bringing 3 polices to the Personnel Board. The 3 polices are the Employee evaluation policy, remote meeting participation policy (and that they are able to adopt it as well) and the electronic computer use policy (which is over 15 years old)

LG – We need to make sure the new members is sworn in for that Personnel Board Meeting

Christina – His appointment letter will go out tomorrow.

MJ – We have hired a new HR Specialist, Kathryn Levesque, to fill that vacancy and she will start September 13.

10. 8:00pm Town Manager's Update

- Update regarding options for Trash & Recycling for Town – I did have a conversation with the preferred Town trash provider that most residents use (not a Town trash provider) and we have a local person to handle our area in Foxborough. I did discuss with him we were looking at if we want to continue this way for the town and I'd like to get a working group together to look at this further. The market itself is consolidated.

LG – Maybe we could get into the paper or put a post to get people who want to be on this working group as well as their feedback about the process. We should also update the website on who to contact.

BK - Update on American Rescue Plan Act Funds – We did have a meeting with Norfolk County and they explained how the process will roll out. There will be a portal for us to make requests for funding. Norfolk will be

working with Bristol and Norfolk county for auditing and ensure all the funds are accounted for. The 3rd level is to make sure there is a legal interpretation that it is a legal request. This will occur at the county level in a week's time. The portal will be created and then we will be allowed to make requests. We may ask for stormwater work, and discuss using that money for paying down OPEB as well. Once we get back the interpretation of what we can use. We do have a few years to use the money. Once we know more we'll keep you apprised of that.

Subject 10.3 Introduction of Use of Town Property Policy- We've never had this before and it will provide guidance and structure for who can use town property and how to rent the space. I encourage the Board to look at it and we can take action on it at the next meeting.

- I met with MIIA (Massachusetts Interlocal Insurance Agency) Board of Directors. We dealt a lot with the new police reform act and how that will affect insurance. We also looked at evaluating health insurance on a long term scale. We are seeing claims starting to increase again and that claims are now the same numbers they were pre-Covid. The MIIA Board thought about that this year while raising rates we increased ours minimally and a number of other purchase groups did not raise their rates at all. If our utilization continues to climb it could be an issue.

SF – Who was the meeting that you were with?

BK – It was the MIIA Board of Directors, is an oversight committee and we meet periodically to discuss issues and how programs are running. We are discussing a new unemployment process.

SF – What is the impact of your participation and outcome?

BK – I've served as a member as I've been involved in doing insurance for about 30 years. It helps us because of my established connection.

11. 8:10pm - Selectmen's Update

Subject 11.1 New Business - New online application for Town Property Common Use – the applications will be going online within the next few months.

LG – To tie into our first item on Selectmen's update for an online application for Town Property Use. This won't impact town fields but it will apply to Town Common and Town Property use.

MJ – The Policy is ready for review but the online portal is not ready yet.

SF – Do we often charge private groups to use public land, because there is a mention of fees.

BK – For-profit use is a policy question. We can look at rates and add them to policy as we need to.

SM – This policy didn't exist before in writing and we've had instance where someone was charging for it and didn't know they could or couldn't.

LG – Anything that has happened before Bill can approve that use of the Common. They can come to the meeting to talk about the event but would not require

KL – The Board will approve any use of way.

Subject 11.2 Old Business - 119 Morse Street Site Visit Recap and next steps – We had all BOS members attend as well as some public. We will be discussing that on our September 14th meeting next.

ME – We received invitation and the YMCA and Lions club invitations.

LG – The Foxborough Lions are having an event and the Y is having a breakfast.

ME – It is the Lions 90th Anniversary Gala.

BK – We worked through the temporary Certificate of Occupancy for the Burrell School.

12. Action Items

12.1 Personnel Board Appointment - Appoint Scott Yankee to the Personnel Board for a term to end May 31, 2023

Motion to appoint Scott Yankee to the Personnel Board for a term to end May 31, 2023 by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman.

Discussion: LG – I did approach Scott and he has great experience with HR and when that spot opened up I thought it was great to get a new volunteer on board.

Approved, 5-0.

12.2 BOS Approval of BOS Minutes from 7/20/21

Motion to approve the July 20, 2021 Board of Selectmen Meeting Minutes by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

12.3 BOS - Peace Day Pledge approval and signature

Motion to support and sign the Peace Pledge for Foxborough Peace Day on September 19, 2021 by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.

13. Adjourn – 8:16pm

Motion to adjourn by S. Ferguson 2nd by M. Elfman. Approved, 5-0.