

Meeting Minutes of the Regular Meeting of Hanover Board of Selectmen held in a hybrid approach via teleconference as well as in person at Hanover Town Hall on Monday, May 17, 2021 @ 6:30 PM.

Present at Town Hall, Chairman David Delaney, Vice Chair Rhonda Nyman, and Selectman John Tuzik, Selectwoman Vanessa O'Connor, and Selectman Steve Louko. Also present, Town Manager (TM) Joseph Colangelo, Executive Assistant Janet Tierney, and Assistant Town Manager (ATM) Ann Lee.

Call meeting to order

The Chair opened the meeting and in accordance with MGL Chapter 30A Section 21(a)2, requested a roll call vote to enter into executive session to conduct a strategy session related to the ongoing negotiations being conducted between the Town Manager, Assistant Town Manager and Finance Director who are representing the Town of Hanover/Board of Selectmen in the collective bargaining agreement negotiations with the Police Union, and also contract negotiations with non-union personnel, namely the Community Services Director, as he had determined that a discussion in open session would have a detrimental effect on the negotiations.

The Chair announced that the Board will be returning to open session.

Roll Call Vote: Selectwoman O'Connor, aye, Selectman Tuzik, aye, Vice Chair Nyman, aye, Selectman Louko, aye, Chairman Delaney, aye.

At 7:04pm the Board returned to Open Session, and arranged for the inclusion of remote participants to the meeting. All being present, at 7:10pm the Chair called the meeting to order and mentioned that Ray Miller has announced that the Memorial Day Parade will be happening this year.

The Chair went on to address the Open Meeting Complaint filed by the Town Clerk stating that the Town had received an open meeting complaint concerning the placement of an article on the Town Meeting Warrant. While this article was inserted in the Warrant consistent with all articles over the last several years and the Town Clerk has never raised any concerns, the Chair has asked the Town Manager and Town Counsel to review and draft a response and provide the Board any guidance. The Chair addressed a tweet sent by Mike Ciccone a formerly of Channel 25 claiming that he had submitted a public records request to the Town of Hanover and did not receive the requested information. The Chair clarified for those listening that the Assistant Town Manager and Town Counsel had in fact prepared and released the portion of the requested information that could be made public to Mr. Ciccone back in November.

The Chair asked for public comments, seeing none.

The Board congratulated and welcomed newly elected Selectman Steve Louko and also congratulated Chairman Delaney on being elected for his third term on the Board of Selectmen.

The Board commented on the recent Hanover Farmer's Market, noting that it was a smashing success, it was great to see people get out and support local businesses, and informing those listening that the vendors will be back in June. The Chair asked for any public comments or questions, seeing none.

Board of Selectmen Organization

The Board voted to re-elect David Delaney as Chair, Rhonda Nyman as Vice Chair and Vanessa O'Connor as Clerk of the Board of Selectmen.

The Board agreed to continue to hold their meetings in a hybrid format, with both live attendees and others in attendance via the Zoom teleconference platform, for as long as they see fit and State Law allows for it. The Board Members agreed that they will be attending the meetings in person whenever possible.

The Board discussed tightening up the agendas going forward, limiting the number of presentations per meeting, and possibly developing a policy regarding time limits on presentations which takes into account the delicate balance of those who wish to speak on issues important to them and those who cannot stay on long enough to hear the issues of importance being discussed.

The Board discussed holding their meetings on the first and third Mondays of the month beginning at 7:00pm with Executive Sessions, as needed, beginning at 6:30 pm. The Board discussed possibly opting out of holding meetings in August as has been the practice in recent years. When asked for his opinion, TM informed the Board that he will know more regarding the need, or lack thereof, of a meeting in August in mid-July and will share that information with the Board.

Selectwoman O'Connor informed the Board that with the upcoming arrival of her baby, she will more than likely be unavailable for a couple of weeks in late September or early November.

Minutes

The Board voted to approve the meeting minutes of May 3, 2021.

The Board voted to approve the Executive Session Meeting Minutes of May 3, 2021 not yet for public release.

Selectman Louko abstained from the above votes as he had not yet been elected to the Board on May 3rd.

Licensing & Permitting

Hanover Farmers Market - Melissa Smith and Jill Donelan joined the meeting and provided an overview of the recently held Farmer's Market and agreed to work with Parks and Rec and the Athletic Department on how to coordinate parking when team sports games are held the same day as the market. They further informed those listening that it was such a success, the Vendors sold out of their merchandise, and are prepared to bring double the amount of merchandise to the next Farmers Market on June 20th. The Board thanked them for their efforts. The Board voted to approve the public gathering permit request from the Hanover Farmers Market, per Hanover Bylaw 6-4, to hold the Farmer's Market on the third Sunday of every month at Hanover High School.

Chairman Delaney recused himself from the next agenda item as he works in the automotive industry. Licensing Coordinator Janet Tierney presented the Mortland Motors LLC Application for a Class II Auto License to the Board. The Board discussed the application with the Licensing Coordinator. The Vice Chair asked for any questions or concerns, seeing none. The Board voted, pursuant to Hanover Bylaw §6-7 and Selectman Policy 9-9 Licensing Process, to approve the application from Mortland Motors LLC located at 1102 Hanover Street, Unit I, Hanover, MA 02339 for a Class II Auto License subject to the 13 conditions set forth by the Planning Board.

Public Hearing – S& J Hanover Inc. dba Mamma Mia of Hanover’s application for a change of Liquor License Category. Mr. Tony Viscariello, on behalf of Mamma Mia’s of Hanover, and the Licensing Coordinator spoke with the Board regarding the application. The Chair asked for any questions or concerns, seeing none. The Board voted to approve the application from S& J Hanover Inc. dba Mamma Mia of Hanover located at 333 Columbia Road, Hanover, MA 02339 for a change of liquor license category from a Section 12 On Premise Wines and Malt Beverages License to a Section 12 On Premise All Alcoholic Beverages License pursuant to MGL Chapter 138 Section 12 and Selectmen’s Policy 9-9 Licensing Process.

The Licensing Coordinator spoke with the Board regarding the renewal of the Cumberland Farms Inc 24 Hour Business Operations License. The Board discussed the application with the Licensing Coordinator. The Chair asked for any questions or concerns, seeing none. The Board voted to approve the renewal of the 24-Hour Business License Renewal for Cumberland Farms Inc located at 0, 1969, & 1987 Washington Street, Hanover, MA 02339.

Appointments

Viola Ryerson and Ryan Delaney appeared before the Board and discussed their interest in serving on the Transfer Station Study Committee. Selectwoman O’Connor informed the Board that the Transfer Station Study Committee had held it’s first meeting just prior to tonight’s Board of Selectmen meeting and the Committee had voted tentatively to appoint Viola Ryerson as the Chair of the Committee pending Mrs. Ryerson’s appointment to the Committee. The Board voted to appoint Viola Ryerson, Ryan Delaney and Bonnie Clarke to the Transfer Station Study Committee.

The Board voted to appoint Tammy Murray as Delegate to the Old Colony Elder Services Advisory Board.

Hanover Historical Commission’s request for the formation of a Local Historic District Study Committee

Caleb Estabrooks and Peter Johnson spoke with the Board regarding the request for the formation of the Local Historic Study Committee. The Board agreed that there is interest in the overall idea, however there isn’t a rush to vote right away. TM agreed to reach out to Caleb and Peter Johnson and work on a mission statement for the Committee and the Board agreed to put this item on a future agenda as the mission statement takes form.

Conservation Land Donation of 18.8 Acres (Parcel 79-8) on Water Street

Hal Thomas, Co-Chairman of the Open Space Committee spoke with the Board regarding the above-mentioned Conservation Land Donation from the Leonard Realty Trust, Philip Johnson Trustee. The Chair asked for any questions or comments, seeing none.

With the Conservation Commission having voted on March 31, 2021, to support the acceptance by the Board of Selectmen for the parcel of land located off/near Meadow Drive and designated on the Town of Hanover Assessors Map as Map 79, Lot 8, for the purpose of passive recreation, including walking trails, and that the parcel be placed under the care and maintenance of the Conservation Commission, the Board voted to accept the donation of land from the Leonard Realty Trust, Philip Johnson Trustee, consisting of 18.8 acres located on Water Street as shown on Map 79, Lot 8 of the Hanover Assessors Map, Leonard Realty Trust, Philip Johnson Trustee, owner of record, for conservation purposes pursuant to MGL chapter 40 section 8(c) , and Town of Hanover General Bylaws Section 4-12(2) (3), and Section 4-3 (4). Subject to the Deed Restrictions for Conservation purposes being to the extent that Mass General Law Allows.

Response to the Open Meeting Law Complaint filed by the Town Clerk

As this was the next Agenda item, the Chair spoke regarding the open meeting law complaint filed by the Town Clerk and received by the Board of Selectmen in the past several weeks, reiterating that the Town has received an open meeting complaint concerning the placement of an article on the Town Meeting Warrant. Noting that while this article was inserted in the Warrant consistent with all articles over the last several years and the Town Clerk has never raised any concerns, Town Counsel has recommended that the Chair ask the Town Manager and Town Counsel to review and draft a response and provide the Board any guidance. The Chair stated that he has done so.

Consider Amending Board of Selectmen Policy 11-1 to Allow for the Disposal of Construction & Demolition (C&D) Debris at the Transfer Station Effective July 1, 2021

TM discussed amending the policy with the Board, informing the Board that the DPW is prepared to start accepting C&D disposal July 5th if the Board amends the policy effective July 1st.

The Board discussed the amendment with TM and Deputy DPW Superintendent Kurt Kelley. TM agreed to look into the forms of payment that will be accepted at the Transfer Station. TM informed the Board that he will provide the edited policy language to the Board for a vote at their next meeting.

Consider Appointing the Evaluation Committee for the Sylvester School RFP

Chairman Delaney and Selectman Louko expressed their interest and qualifications to serve on the RFP Evaluation Committee. The Board discussed the appointments.

The Board voted to appoint Chairman Delaney and Selectman Louko to the Sylvester School RFP Evaluation Committee.

Tm informed the Board that approximately 6 to 8 RFPs were requested. Of those, 4 were possibly serious. There was a site visit on May 7th and only TM, the Finance Director and Peter Johnson attended. May 14th was a deadline for questions and there were none.

TM stated that the RFP proposals are due on May 28th and the opening is scheduled to take place on June 2nd. Any submissions will be sent to the Evaluation Committee and the Committee will meet to make their evaluations.

Discuss Board of Selectmen Policy Regarding the Disposal/Sale of Town Owned Land

Selectwoman O'Connor offered to work with the Finance Director and TM to look into what is out there for policies like this and work on something to bring back to the Board.

Annual & Special Town Meeting Review

Some of the Board Members expressed an interest in encouraging the Moderator to put a cap on the number and length of PowerPoint Presentations at Town Meeting. The Chair inquired as to how people go about getting permission to make a presentation at Town Meeting, and how to make it a smoother process in the future.

TM informed the Board that they can make friendly recommendations to the Moderator, but once Town Meeting begins these issues are completely under the control of the Moderator, and it is up to the Moderator to determine how things go. The Board further discussed the desire to make a friendly recommendation to the Moderator regarding PowerPoint presentations at Town Meeting.

Adjourn

The meeting ended and adjourned at 9:14 pm.