

**BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES–Final**  
**Donaldson Room**  
**Monday March 4, 2019**  
**6:30 P.M.**

**PRESENT:** Jonathan Dwyer, Chair, James Craig, Jennifer Glass  
**STAFF:** Timothy Higgins, Town Administrator

**WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:**

- Mr. Dwyer opened the meeting and reviewed the agenda.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

- Mr. Craig thanked the DPW and Public Safety for all that they do during storms like the one that hit today.
- Mr. Dwyer reminded everyone about the deCordova Public Forum being held on Wednesday the 13<sup>th</sup> in the Donaldson Room from 7:00-9:00PM.

**APPOINTMENTS:**

- Citizen Petitioners Commission to Study State Seal & Flag – Christine Damon, Lenka Zbruz, and Mary Stechshulte joined the meeting and introduced themselves. They explained they would like Lincoln to support of MA House bill HD.2968 and MA Senate bill SD.1495 which call for the creation of a Special Commission to examine the symbols of the Seal and Motto of the Commonwealth. It was noted that Senator Michael Barrett and Representative Thomas Stanley, both representing Lincoln have supported the bills.

**OPEN FORUM:**

Leafblower Group – Peter Von Mertens (Conservation Commission), John Koenig (Leaf Blower Study Group), Jamie Banks (Leaf Blower Study Group), and Larry Buehl (Conservation Commission & Leaf Blower Study Group) joined the meeting. The Leaf Blower Study Group has sent the Selectmen a revised draft of their proposed bylaw. Mr. Von Mertens reported that they had a public forum last Thursday that was well attended and created a good deal of discussion. He added that there were residents as well as landscapers in attendance and that all asked good questions. The sense that they got from the meeting was that electric leaf blowers are the future as they reduce both the amount of noise and pollution. Mr. Dwyer commented that the group has come a long way with the revision of their proposed bylaw. He noted that the changes came as a result of conversations over a long period of time as well as feedback from their public forum last Thursday. Ms. Glass noted that the description of the proposed bylaw in the BOS newsletter, which has already gone to print, does not match the updated version of the newsletter, and she encouraged the group to be proactive in sharing the updated language with the community in advance of Town Meeting.

## TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- Property Tax Study Committee – Mr. Higgins reported that appointment letters and thank you letters have gone out. He added that the first meeting has been scheduled for March 13th, 8:00 a.m. Ms. Glass and Mr. Higgins are developing the agenda and meeting materials.
- BOS Newsletter – Mr. Higgins reported that the newsletter and the Marijuana fact sheet have been sent to the printer and will be mailed town-wide next week.
- deCordova – Mr. Higgins reported that the Working Group's public forum has been scheduled for Wednesday evening, March 13th, 7-9 pm, in the Donaldson Room at Town Offices.

## DISCUSSION:

- Town Meeting Preparation – Mr. Higgins reported that we are down to two items. The first task is to finalize the Motions, which is a work in progress right up until the week of Town Meeting. He added that he will continue to forward the latest drafts as the changes come in. Second, the Board needs to finalize its assignments and decide whether or not to take positions on various articles. He noted that Planning Board' Parking Benefit District article will be passed over.

- Liaison Reports

Bicycle & Pedestrian Advisory Committee (BPAC) – Mr. Dwyer reported that the committee had their kick-off meeting last Tuesday night. He said the committee was enthusiastic about being activated considering the upcoming Route 2A construction and the Route 126 train bridge reconstruction. The committee is looking forward to working more with the Roadway and Traffic Committee.

Hanscom Area Towns Committee (HATS) – Mr. Dwyer reported that they met Thursday. They had the Chiefs of Police and Chiefs of Fire Departments from the four Towns in attendance. In addition Massport Police, Minuteman National Park Security, and Hanscom Police and Fire were also there. There was an overview as to how these entities work together, especially if there was a catastrophic event at either the Base or the Airfield. Mr. Dwyer noted that the entities worked seamlessly with one another and he felt he could ask any of them a question regarding their interactions and he would receive a similar answer.

De Cordova Working Group – Mr. Craig reported that the group met last Friday morning to walk through the remaining steps until Town Meeting. In addition they were going over their presentation for their Public Forum on March 13th.

Housing Coalition – Mr. Craig reported that he will be attending a meeting of the Housing Coalition which is made up of the Affordable Housing Trust, the Housing Commission, and the Lincoln Foundation this Wednesday. He said that the Coalition will be doing some strategic planning about where the Town goes from here, now that the development of Oriole Landing

addresses the minimum threshold for affordable housing in the near future. They will look into what type of needs the Town has, and what opportunities are available to fill those needs.

School Building Committee (SBC) – Ms. Glass reported that the Committee met last Wednesday. She noted that they saw many updated images of the outside of the building and some interior studies as well, which are available for viewing on the the SBC website. Ms. Glass reported that tomorrow evening the SBC goes before the Historict District Commission for its second hearing under the Demolition Delay Bylaw. The Historic Commission has already deemed parts of the existing school “historically and architecturally significant,” and will now take a vote to determine whether the proposed plans are “preferably preserved” in comparison to the existng school. If so, a 12 month delay is issued, if not, the SBC may apply for a demolition permit from the Building Inspector. This is a key permitting milestone for the project. Ms. Glass reported that FinCom Chair, Jim Hutchins, gave a presentation at the last meeting regarding the tax impact of the project now that the Bond rate has been locked in..

## **ACTION ITEMS:**

- Constable Re-Appointment - Mr. Craig made a motion to re-appoint Joseph Topol as Constable. Ms. Glass seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.
- Warrant Article Positions – Mr. Dwyer began by bringing up the idea of a set of guidelines to consider when looking at the article positions. Mr. Craig added that in some instances one Selectman might have more insight into a particular article from being a liaison for the committee for example. Ms. Glass added that some articles fall into gray areas when they do not fall into the purview of the Board but may have an effect on various Town Departments. She added that she believed is is important to maintain maximum flexibility and keep the option to weigh in or not weigh in available, and also noted that the discussion underscored the importance of having this discussion each year before decisions are made

Article 27 deCordova Bylaw Amendment: Proposed Governance Changes – Ms. Glass made a motion that the Board of Selectmen support the proposed deCordova governance changes. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved. Ms. Glass suggested that a written statement of the Board’s support for this Article should be created.

Article 28 Solar Energy Systems General Standards Bylaw Amendment – Mr. Craig made a motion to support the Planning Board’s Solar Energy Systems General Standards Bylaw Amendment. Ms. Glass seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Article 29 Non-Conforming Lots Amendment: Regarding Land Takings – Mr. Dwyer made a motion to not take a position on this Article. Mr. Craig seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

Article 31 Historic District Bylaw Amendment: Modernist Homes – The Board voted to support this article at a previous meeting.

Article 32 Demo Delay Bylaw Amendment – The Board voted to support this article at a previous meeting.

Article 33 Proposed General Bylaw: Use of Leaf Blowers – Mr. Craig made a motion to not take a position on this Article. Mr. Dwyer seconded the motion. With Mr. Craig and Mr. Dwyer voting yes and Ms. Glass voting no, the motion was approved.

Article 34 Resolution in Support of Changing the State Flag & Seal of Massachusetts - Ms. Glass made a motion to not take a position on this Article. Mr. Craig seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.

#### **CORRESPONDENCE:**

- Mr. Higgins reported on the initiatives that Jen Burney (Director of Planning & Land Use) and Paula Vaughn (Assistant Director of Planning & Land Use) are putting into place, and on their work with the South Lincoln Planning and Implementation Committee (SLPIC). They have been making efforts to bring together property owners and small business owners/entrepreneurs in the area. Mr. Craig added that this is a very important piece of what the Committee does.

#### **MEETING MINUTES:**

- None

#### **WARRANTS:**

- None.

A motion was made by Ms. Glass to adjourn. Mr. Craig seconded. It was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at approximately 8:15 P.M.

Submitted by Peggy Elder  
*Approved 03/18/2019*