

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES - Final
Donaldson Room
Monday April 23, 2018
7:00 P.M.

PRESENT: Jonathan Dwyer (Chair), James Craig, Jennifer Glass,

STAFF: Timothy Higgins, Town Administrator, Peggy Elder, Administrative Assistant

WELCOME & INTRODUCTIONS:

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

ANNOUNCEMENTS:

- Mr. Craig announced that there will be a Marijuana Study Group Panel Discussion in the Donaldson Room at Town Offices on April 25, 2018 at 7:00 PM.

APPOINTMENTS:

- Beth Ries – The Board welcomed Ms. Ries to the meeting. Ms. Glass gave a heartfelt recap of Ms. Ries' long history of volunteerism with the Town. She worked as a French teacher in the Lincoln school system; a member of the Finance Committee; the Town Pool Committee; as well as being a member of a multi-town Route 128 committee that thwarted a large office complex from being built on the Lincoln/Waltham line. In addition, she served on the animal behavior committee, the handbook committee, the roadway and traffic committee, the personnel board; and the garden club. Ms. Ries also worked many years at the polls. Ms. Glass added that in 1977, Ms. Ries broke the glass ceiling and became the first female Selectmen in the Town. The Board extended their thanks again to Ms. Ries.
- DeCordova Museum – Linda Hammett Ory, President and John Ravenal, Executive Director, joined the meeting. Ms. Hammett Ory thanked the Board for the opportunity to come before the Board. Mr. Ravenal began by reminding the Board that six months ago he came before the Board with an annual DeCordova update. He continued that he came tonight to build on that report and update the Board further on the museum's plans to create long term fiscal stability. He reported that programmatically, DeCordova continues to thrive. He went on to report that they opened a new round of exhibitions last week that include new sculptures that were made in the galleries over the past three weeks. He added that they have new commissions and loans in the park, and that there were several more coming over the spring and summer. The museum's Learning and Engagement programs continue to attract strong attendance noting that their summer camp, called The Hive, is already sold out. Next week he noted that there are 185 people registered to hear the New York Times Pulitzer Prize winning art critic Holland Cotter who grew up in this area. He added that their annual gala is coming up in three weeks where they expect 300 guests to help them honor long-time Lincoln residents Phyllis and Jerry Rappaport for their contributions to the arts. Mr. Ravenal also reported that they recently signed a contract with British Earth Artist Andy Goldsworthy and are back on track commissioning a work of art scheduled for completion in

2019 and welcomed the Board to come and visit any time.

Continuing Challenges for the Museum – Mr. Ravenal reported that most non-profits have a similar financial model which combines endowment, earned revenue and contributed revenue. He added that historically, DeCordova's model has a structural weakness due to a very small endowment that currently only provides 7% of their annual revenue needs. This compares to 22% for the typical US art museum, and well more than 50% for better endowed museums like the Peabody Essex Museum and the Harvard Art museums. The museum's earned revenue is solid at more than 25% of the operating budget. He added that they manage their expenses very tightly and have done so for decades. As an independent mid-sized museum, they have fixed costs that can't be reduced any further. The result of the small endowment, along with substantial fixed costs, is an over-dependence on contributed income. Each year they raise 70% of their annual budget through contributions from individuals, foundations, and corporations. In addition, more than half of the individual gifts come from just two or three donors making six figure gifts. After decades of making this model work, as these top donors pass away, retire, or shift priorities, this model is not sustainable. . Over the past 18 months, Mr. Ravenal worked with the Board of Trustees to explore options for achieving financial stability while continuing to deliver their mission. The museum studied three options: Downsizing substantially which was unworkable as income falls faster than savings, Steady-state Model – this would require 50% increase in donors over the next three years, Partnership Model – seeking a mutually beneficial integration with another organization. The Trustees of Reservations, represented tonight by President and CEO of the Trustees of Reservations Barbara Erickson, is that organization. The Trustees of Reservations is bringing substantial resources to the table which in turn helps motivate the Museum's donors. Mr. Ravenal also noted that the Town has a governance role at DeCordova through the makeup of their Board. He added that any change in the museum's structure requires approval of the Town. Mr. Ravenal reported that the museum expects to propose a change to their by-laws and they are looking forward to including this proposed change in the warrant for the March 2019 Annual Town Meeting. Mr. Ravenal commented that DeCordova looked forward to working together with the Town in a constructive, collaborative, and transparent manner. In addition, Mr. Ravenal said that the Museum looks forward to offering ample opportunities for conversations, open meetings, and posting frequently asked questions on their website.

Mr. Craig commented that it was to DeCordova's credit that they are sharing their financial struggle. He added that a Working Group needs to be formed. Mr. Dwyer agreed and said he looked forward to engaging with a collaborative task force and have that group present at the State of the Town meeting in the Fall.

OPEN FORUM:

- None.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT:

- June 9, 2018 Special Meeting – Mr. Higgins reported that the legal deadline for posting for the June 9, 2018 meeting is 14 days prior to meeting. The Board will need to sign the Warrant at May 21st Board meeting. Right now, the Board is focused on the April 30, 2018 meeting and to use every facet of public outreach to let residents know what the day of the

meeting will look like. The goal is clarity for June 9th.

- Stormwater Planning—Mr. Higgins reported that the FY19 budget included \$50,000 for the first phase of the Stormwater Planning. He added that cities and towns across the state are also being forced to comply. He continued that this is real and something that the Town will be needing to deal with going forward. He added that there would be periodic updates made to the Board.
- DPW Feasibility Study – Mr. Higgins reported on the work being done by the DPW and Weston & Sampson engineers. There was a meeting and they talked about Lincon and they will report back in May. This will come up through SLPIC, but they are looking for the Board approval.

DISCUSSION:

- Liaison Reports:

Marijuana Study Group – Mr. Craig reported that the Group met last week (April 18th) and they finalized their Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ) which is now up on the Town webpage. He added that there will be a panel discussion happening this Wednesday at 7:00PM in the Donaldson Room and will be videotaped. Mr. Craig also reported that there is a survey that has been mailed Town wide and will be a great way to collect feedback on the topic.

ACTION ITEMS:

- Old Winter Street Restriction— After the temporary six month restriction and following the process, which included data collection, Ms. Glass moved to continue the restriction on Old Winter Street indefinitely. Mr. Craig seconded. It was unanimously approved.
- Annual Appointment Process – Ms. Glass moved to approve the consent list of appointments as presented. Mr. Craig seconded. It was unanimously approved.
- Planning Board Associate – Ms. Glass moved to approve Craig Nicholson as an Associate Member of the Planning Board. Mr. Craig seconded the motion. It was unanimously approved.
- Board Meeting Schedule –Mr. Craig suggested that it would be a good time for the non-profits in the Town to come in for an update and touch base with the Board. Mr. Craig also would like to continue the Selectmen's road trip and hold a regular Board meeting in another location some time in the Fall.

Mr. Dwyer wanted to move the July 16th meeting to July 17th. Ms. Glass and Mr. Craig agreed.

CORRESPONDENCE:

- Mr. Higgins reported that there was some feedback regarding Town Meeting and how to make it easier for attendees to understand the protocol for Town Meeting.

MEETING MINUTES:

- March 19, 2018 – Ms. Glass moved to approve the March 19, 2018 minutes as amended. Mr. Craig seconded. It was unanimously approved.

WARRANTS:

- Ms. Glass moved to sign the warrants. Mr. Craig seconded. It was unanimously approved.

A motion was made by Ms. Glass to adjourn. Mr. Craig seconded. It was unanimously approved. The meeting adjourned at 8:25P.M.

Submitted by Peggy Elder

Approved 05/21/18