

Select Board

March 15, 2022

Present:

- Select Board: Mr. Joseph Fisher (Chair), Ms. Liz Klein, and Mr. Bill Ramsey
- Mr. Tom Mayo, Town Administrator
- Ms. Michelle Monsegur, Assistant Town Administrator for Finance
- Mr. Art Robert, Assistant Town Administrator for Operations

6:04 PM: Call to order

Mr. Fisher called the meeting to order and read the following statement:

“This meeting is being held remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to an Order issued by the Governor of Massachusetts dated March 12, 2020 Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law may record this meeting and all communications during this meeting. If any participant wishes to record this meeting, please notify the chair at the start of the meeting in accordance with M.G.L. c. 30A, § 20(f) so that the chair may inform all other participants of said recording.”

Mr. Fisher asked if any participants were recording the meeting. No one indicated they were recording.

Select Board members participating in the meeting were himself, Mr. Bill Ramsey and Ms. Liz Klein

Special (One-Day) license-Hingham Sports Partnership Comedy Night

Mr. Ray Estes, 92 Fort Hill Street, presented on behalf of Hingham Sports Partnership. He requested a Special One-day Wine and Malt Beverage license for their annual fundraiser, to be held on April 3, 2022 at the Loring Theater. Hingham Sports Partnership has held this event for about 6 years, with the exception of the past several years, due to the pandemic. In the past, 250-270 people have attended the event. Mr. Estes expected a similar crowd this year. The event will start at the Loring Theatre with a performance by professional comedians and will adjourn to Tosca for dinner afterwards. Tickets can be purchased online at www.hinghamsports.com. Police Chief David Jones voiced his support for the event and noted that it has gone smoothly in the past.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the issuance of a Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Raymond Estes on behalf of Hingham Sports Partnership, Inc. Hingham Sports Partnership Comedy Night 2022 to be held at the Loring Theater on April 3, 2022 from 6:00 pm to 8:30 pm. Seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Special (One-Day) license-Hingham Youth Hockey Fundraiser

Mr. Kevin McDevitt explained that this is an annual event held by Hingham Youth Hockey. They plan to have auction items to raise money for uniforms, ice time, and other expenses. They will hire two

bartenders, have a cash bar, and plan for a Police detail. They also plan to hire a solo performer, such as an acoustic guitarist or singer. Police Chief David Jones had no issues with the event but requested that they hire a police detail.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the issuance of a Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Kevin McDevitt on behalf of Hingham Youth Hockey for the Hingham Youth Hockey Fundraiser to be held at the Hingham Community Center on April 2, 2022 from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Warrant Article BBB: Zoning By-law: Requirements for Accessory Uses

Mr. Fisher explained that the Select Board had voted on this Article at their previous meeting, but would like to correct the language of the vote to read as follows:

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to open the Town Meeting Warrant and re-insert the original Zoning Article BBB as filed on December 1, 2021 by the Zoning Board of Appeals back into the warrant and to close the warrant. Ms. Klein seconded

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Debt Exclusion Question on the Ballot

Mr. Mayo reminded the public that the Select Board had previously voted unanimously to support Article Q in January 2022. Tonight's discussion would concern the Town's plan for a debt exclusion to finance the project. The Town must follow the State's formal process to pass a debt exclusion. Ms. Monsegur went through a presentation that explained an overview of the debt exclusion, funding sources, the projected tax impact of the pool project and the proposed ballot question. She explained that the pool project would require a temporary property tax increase with required approval by a 2/3 vote of the Select Board, a 2/3 vote at Town Meeting and a majority vote on the ballot. The project estimate is currently \$7.9 million. The Community Preservation Committee has already recommended an ATM award of \$550,000 for this project. Annual Town Meeting approval of CPC funds and any private fundraising would offset the impact on the taxpayer. Ms. Monsegur noted that the Department of Revenue has a helpful guide to Proposition 2 ½ Ballot Questions that can be found on their website. Ms. Monsegur also noted that the average tax bill for the median home price of \$703,600 would see an additional tax bill amount of no more than \$49 annually over the course of the 20-year repayment schedule for the project.

Ms. Klein and Mr. Ramsey both voiced their support for the pool project. Mr. Fisher added his support and stated that the proposed Select Board vote would not allow the project to circumvent any permitting board actions or permissions that might be required.

Ms. Christine Smith, 2 Park Circle, thanked the Select Board and the Advisory Committee for their support for the pool project.

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to include the following question on the ballot for the upcoming Town of Hingham 2022 annual election:

Ballot Question

Shall the Town of Hingham be allowed to exempt from the provisions of proposition two and one-half, so-called, the amounts required to pay for the bond issued for the design and construction of a new pool at the South Shore Country Club, 274 South Street, Hingham, MA?

Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

Public Comment

“The Hingham Select Board encourages community engagement and welcomes questions and comments as agenda items are discussed at the meeting. In addition, we have set aside up to fifteen minutes for public comment for items that fall under the purview of the Select Board and are not already on tonight’s agenda. If any guests wish to speak, please seek to be recognized. Once recognized, state your name and address and address your comments to the Chair. Comments will be limited to three minutes per speaker and must relate to topics within the scope of the responsibilities of the Select Board. Speakers are encouraged to present their remarks in a respectful manner and not to indulge in personalities. The Public Comment period is not a time for debate by members of the Select Board. The Select Board is not adopting or endorsing any of the comments made during the Public Comment period.”

There were no comments from the public.

Town Administrator/Select Board Reports

Ms. Klein reminded the public that the Hingham’s Human Rights Commission is still accepting Talent Bank applications and that the deadline has been extended until March 25, 2022. She also reported that the Commission on Disabilities has been working with the Police and Fire Departments to update registration forms.

6:38 PM: Mr. Fisher announced that the Select Board would recess until 7:00 PM.

7:01 PM: Mr. Fisher called the meeting of the Select Board out of recess.

7:01 PM: Ms. Julie Strehle Chair of the Advisory Board, called the meeting of the Advisory Committee to order.

7:00 PM: Joint Session with the Advisory Committee: Discussion of 2022 Annual Town Meeting Warrant Articles:

Article CCC: Zoning By-law: Special Permits and Site Plan Review Procedures

Mr. Kevin Ellis, Chair of the Planning Board, presented. Ms. Emily Wentworth, Community Planning Director, was also present. Mr. Ellis stated that Article CCC is a comprehensive reconfiguring of the process for submittal, review and issuing of special permits. It also incorporates significant aspects of the proposed Tree Preservation By-law. The Planning Board has held eight public hearings related to this Article between January and March, with approximately 18 hours of discussion. He felt that the changes made in this proposed Article would streamline the process for both applicants and the Board. He noted that they received a significant amount of input from business owners, council, staff and residents, in particular, Ms. Priya Howell, who had submitted a citizens petition related to the Tree Preservation By-law.

Ms. Emily Wentworth gave an overview of the changes, which include the following:

- All site plan review applications would now require public notice, improving transparency with abutters.
It has updated the site plan application, intended to better explain to applicants what is expected of them.
- It has updated requirements for special permits, specifically the approval for parking determinations.
- The Zoning Board will now be able to act in advance of the Planning Board, which should speed up the process.
- Site Plan approval will be required to be recorded at the Registry of Deeds.
- The Article also includes modifications to what triggers a site plan review, specifically the removal of the requirement for site plan approval for non-residential construction over \$20,000. Ms. Wentworth felt that this would remove potential delays while also keeping the Board's focus on projects that are potentially more meaningful to the community.

The Planning Board unanimously recommended adoption at their meeting the previous night. The intent of the overall article is to streamline the current processes required in the application for special permits. She felt that the Article would help in the readability of the current zoning regulations. The process would include different levels of site plan review for minor or major projects, making the process easier for minor residential projects. Article CCC would result in an increase in notice to abutters.

Ms. Wentworth also explained some of the additions to the Zoning By-law regarding Tree Preservation. It would apply to any non-invasive tree over six inches. On residential properties it would apply to trees over six inches that are within 10 feet from all property lines or any significant tree that is greater than 30" in caliper that could be anywhere on a lot.

Mr. Ramsey felt that the proposed changes would make the process easier for applicants because they would no longer have to wait for the Planning Board to go through their approval process before applying for Special Zoning Permits.

Article DDD: Zoning By-law: Citizens Petition re: Tree Preservation

Ms. Priya Howell, 26 Del Prete Drive, member of the Tree Preservation Committee, presented. She thanked the Planning Board for listening to the points she brought up during the process and felt that Article CCC is a good first step in tree preservation. She hoped that the Planning Board would implement a Tree Fund in the future, as she felt it could be a great way to fund the replacement of trees lost due to construction and other reasons. She plans to withdraw Article DDD. Ms. Julie Strehle noted that the Advisory Committee would discuss the recommended motion in a separate zoom meeting. Mr. Bob Curley of the Advisory Committee thanked Ms. Howell for all her work on the Tree Preservation Committee.

7:29 PM: Chair Strehle called the meeting of the Advisory Committee into recess and announced that they would reconvene in a separate zoom meeting as posted on their agenda.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to adjourn. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Fisher: yes

The meeting adjourned at 7:29 PM.

Documents: A complete meeting packet of supporting documentation is on file and available for public review in the Board of Selectmen's office