

Select Board

May 2, 2023

Present:

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

6:15 PM: Call to order

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

“This meeting is being held in person and/or remotely as an alternate means of public access pursuant to Chapter 2 of the Acts of 2023 and all other applicable laws temporarily amending certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law. You are hereby advised that this meeting and all communications during this meeting may be recorded by the Town of Hingham in accordance with the Open Meeting Law. 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.”

No one indicated that they were recording.

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

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes dated April 19, 2023. Ms. Klein seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the minutes dated April 20, 2023. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: abstain

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to approve the minutes dated April 23, 2023. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Re-organization of the Select Board

Mr. Ramsey thanked Ms. Klein and Mr. Fisher and others for their support this past year. He noted that it was a very challenging but successful year. Mr. Fisher acknowledged the incredible effort put forth by Mr. Ramsey during the past year and the difference it made to the Town.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to nominate and appoint Elizabeth Klein as Chair of the Hingham Select Board. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverage license: Stellwagon Beer Company

Mr. Mike Snowdell of Stellwagon Beer Company was present on Zoom but had some technical issues which prevented him from participating in the meeting. Ms. Sharon Perfetti from the Select Board Office explained that Stellwagon Beer Company is requesting a Special One-Day license to serve beer at the Weir River Farm Spring Festival on Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Approximately 1,200 guests are expected throughout the day. Ms. Klein was familiar with the event from past years and stated that she has reviewed the application. It was noted that Police Chief Jones also reviewed and approved the application. There was no rain date proposed for this event.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the issuance of a Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Stellwagon Beer Company for the Weir River Farm Spring Festival to be held on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverage licenses: Break Rock Brewing LLC

Mr. Jake Saulter requested a Special One-Day license to serve beer at the Weir River Farm Spring Festival on Saturday, May 13 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. This is their first time pouring at the Weir River Farm Spring Festival. All of his servers are TIPS certified and he said he was looking forward to participating in the event.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the issuance of a Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverages license to Break Rock Brewing LLC for the Weir River Farm Spring Festival to be held on Saturday, May 13, 2023 from 10:00 am to 5:00 pm. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Application by a Farmer Winery for License to Sell at a Farmer's Market

Mr. Jeff Venuti of Blisspoint Meadery presented. He explained that they would like to serve samples of meade and sell their products at the Hingham Farmers Market. They typically have approximately 16 products for sale at markets. He plans to serve the samples in one ounce compostable cups. Walking around the market with the samples will not be allowed. Mr. Venuti has already received approval from the Hingham Farmer's Market and has filed all the appropriate paperwork with the Town and the State. Mr. Ramsey and Mr. Fisher both felt that this would be a great addition to the farmers' market.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the issuance of a Special Farmer's Market License to Blisspoint LLC, d/b/a Blisspoint Meadery, 1 Fox Run Road, Bedford, MA for the sale of its wine products at the 2023 Hingham Farmer's Market to be held on Saturday's from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm beginning May 6, 2023 and ending November 18, 2023. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Change of Officers/Directors/LLC Managers for the 99 Restaurants of Boston, LLC.

Mr. Tyler Hinsler from Upton Connell & Devlin, LLP represented 99 Restaurants of Boston. He requested approval for a change of LLC managers. They submitted this application to the ABCC via the inverted process where they submitted all 60 applications at once. They have already received approval from the ABCC and are now requesting approval from the Select Board. There will be no visible changes to the Hingham restaurant. All the changes are at the corporate level.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the request of 99 Restaurants of Boston, LLC, d/b/a 99 Restaurant & Pub, 428 Lincoln Street, Hingham for a Change of Officers/Directors/LLC Managers in accordance with the Application for Amendment-Change of Officers, Stock or Ownership Interest filed with the Town of Hingham on April 10, 2023; subject to the approval of the Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Extension of Hingham Senior Means-Tested Property Tax Exemption

Ms. Monsegur explained that the Town would like to extend the Senior Means Tested Property Tax Exemption beyond its initial three-year expiration date. The original legislation was approved in January of 2021. The Town is prepared to petition the MA Legislature to amend the bill by removing the expiration date. Ms. Erin Walsh, Town Assessor, noted that her office receives many calls from neighboring communities who are looking to follow Hingham's lead in implementing this tax relief program. Participation has gone up 300% in Hingham over the past year. She felt that it was a very important program that could be of help to quite a few residents. Mr. Ramsey complimented the Assessor's Office for their dedication to this effort and noted that Hingham is currently participating to the fullest extent possible.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion pursuant to Article 16 of the April 24, 2023 Hingham Annual Town Meeting, the Select Board hereby files a petition with the General Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, in accordance with Article LXXXIX, Article II, Section 8 (M.G.L.A. Const. Amend. Art. 2, Section 8) of the Articles of Amendment to the Constitution of the Commonwealth, to amend Chapter 381 of the Acts of 2020 to delete the expiration date contained in SECTION 6 of said Act in substantially the following form, provided that the General Court may reasonably vary the form and substance of the requested legislation within the scope of the general public objectives of the petition:

**AN ACT TO AMEND THE PROVISIONS OF CHAPTER 381 OF THE ACTS OF 2020
TO CONTINUE THE TOWN OF HINGHAM SENIOR MEANS-TESTED PROPERTY TAX EXEMPTION**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same as follows:

That SECTION 6 of Chapter 381 of the Acts of 2020 is hereby deleted to remove the expiration date of said Act to allow for the continuance of the Town of Hingham Senior Means-Tested Property Tax Exemption.

Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Talent Bank Process and Timeline

Ms. Klein explained that the Town of Hingham is actively seeking volunteers for various Town boards and committees through the Talent Bank process. Talent Bank applications can be found at the back of the Town Meeting Warrant or online at <https://www.hingham-ma.gov/FormCenter/Board-of-Selectmen-15/Talent-Bank-Application-66>. The Select Board aims to appoint volunteers to vacant positions in the month of June. The Select Board members encouraged residents to submit applications in the coming weeks.

Appointments

There were no appointments.

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 and Select Board Reports

Ms. Monsegur thanked Mr. Ramsey for his leadership over the past year and said that she was looking forward to working with Chair Klein going forward.

Mr. Robert announced that a blood drive, in collaboration with the American Red Cross, is scheduled for Tuesday, May 16 at the Hingham Senior Center. Operating hours are 12:00 – 5:00 pm. Those interested can make an appointment online at <https://www.redcrossblood.org/give.html/donation-time>.

Mr. Mayo thanked Mr. Ramsey for leading the Town during a difficult year and said that he really rose to the occasion. He also thanked all the Town staff members and others who helped put together a successful Town Meeting.

Mr. Fisher and Mr. Ramsey both congratulated Ms. Klein on her appointment as Chair of the Select Board.

Ms. Klein reported that over 1,300 people attended the Annual Town Meeting on April 24. She felt that they passed a lot of very important articles in addition to the override. She thanks residents for their engagement and support throughout the process. She also announced that there was a record turnout on the Town Election Day, with 5,600 people casting votes at the polls. She was very happy with the result and said that she feels confident that the override budget is what the town needs in order to continue providing the level of services that residents expect. She said that the Select Board will be aggressively pursuing non-tax revenue sources and economic development going forward.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to adjourn. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

The meeting adjourned at 6:45 PM.

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