

Select Board

July 11, 2023

Present:

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

Call to order: 6:30 PM

Chair Klein 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 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.”

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

Executive Session

Declaration by Chair Klein: Before I entertain a motion to go into executive session under item 2 of the agenda, I hereby declare that discussion of this agenda item in an open session may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the Town.

Motion to enter executive session: Mr. Fisher made a motion to enter Executive Session under M.G.L. Chapter 30A, Section 21(a)(6) regarding potential acquisition of real estate by the Hingham Affordable Housing Trust under Town of Hingham General By-law Article 39, Section 2(a)(17) The Board will reconvene in Open Session after the Executive Session. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Return to Open Session 7:03

Pledge of Allegiance

Approval of Minutes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the minutes dated June 27, 2023. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Discussion and possible vote regarding a Regulatory Agreement for two deed-restricted single-family homes located at 302 and 304 Whiting Street

Jennifer Oram, Zoning Administrator, and Noreen Brown of South Shore Habitat for Humanity were present. Jennifer Oram explained that this property was approved by a comprehensive permit three years ago and the construction is now nearing completion. Still left is some work with MassDOT, which is a condition of the comprehensive permit. That work is currently proceeding. The next step in the process is to sign the regulatory agreement so that the property can be assigned to Hingham's affordable housing inventory. Mr. Fisher asked who the monitoring agent is for the project. Jennifer Oram explained that it would be a combination of the DHCD, the Town of Hingham, and Habitat for Humanity. South Shore Habitat for Humanity is the contractor, but they sub out work anytime the work requires a licensed contractor. Otherwise, they utilize volunteers whenever possible.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to authorize the Town Administrator to execute the Regulatory Agreement for two deed-restricted single-family homes located at 302 and 304 Whiting Street, contingent upon final approval by the Executive Office of Housing and Livable Communities. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverages License to Untold Brewing, LLC for Hingham Summerfest

Mike Dyer, 156 Union Street, co-owner of Untold Brewing was present to seek approval for a small self-contained beer garden as part of "Summerfest" in partnership with the Hingham Downtown Association. He explained some logistics regarding barricades, points of egress, etc. Ms. Lynn Barclay, Director of the Hingham Downtown Association, explained that they would like to draw more guests by creating a block party-like feel with the closing off of part of the one-way portion of South Street, having the beer garden, food trucks, and a performance by the Aldous Collins band. Mike Dyer and the Downtown Association have been working with Sgt. Jeffrey Kilroy of the Hingham Police Department with respect to traffic management and safety. Mr. Mayo explained that, pending approval of the One-Day Wine and Malt Beverage License, he would issue an agreement with the Downtown Association for the use of Town property. The aim of the event is to draw more visitors to the downtown. The Select Board members were very enthusiastic about this event. Part of the proceeds from the beer garden would go back to the Downtown Association. This will be part of the annual Summer Sidewalk Series. Police Chief Jones and Sgt. Jeff Kilroy have reviewed and approved the request.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the issuance of a Special (One-Day) Wine and Malt Beverages License to Untold Brewing, LLC for Hingham Summerfest to be held at the one-way section of South Street on Saturday, July 29, 2023 from 12:00 pm to 5:00 pm. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

National Grid Installation of Gas Main: Accord Pond Drive

Mary Mulrone, National Grid Representative, and J.R. Frey, Town Engineer, were present. The proposed work includes installation of a new gas main that will replace existing main that is approximately 68 years old. Mr. Frey explained the specifics of the project. Standard provisions required for this project include the following:

- The work will be completed during the day, 7:00 am to 5:00 pm.
- After patching the trench, they will be required to return and mill and infill the trench with fresh asphalt to restore the roadway.

Engineer Frey expects the work to take up to two months. Work may start at the end of the summer. All abutters have been notified. National Grid will also alert abutters two weeks prior to the start of the work. There was additional discussion on the impacts of the work on the neighborhood. Mary Mulrone explained that National Grid is subject to the requirements of the Town of Hingham with respect to the timing of construction, etc.

J.R. Frey encouraged residents to keep mindful of the work so that they can avoid it as much as possible. Work will start at one end of the street and move towards the other end. If the Town receives any complaints from residents, Hingham can request more signage from National Grid. Because there are bus stops at either end of the street, Hingham will coordinate with the Police and the School Departments to allow busses to pass. Mary Mulrone explained that they plan to have a “walk zone” for the children and as many detail officers as required by the Town.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the request of National Grid to install and maintain approximately 2,095 feet of 8-inch gas main in Accord Pond Drive, connecting at the intersections of Gardner Street and Whiting Street. The gas main in Accord Pond Drive will originate at the intersection with State Highway Layout at Whiting Street, and continuing southwesterly in Accord Pond Dr., to the limit of work at the intersection with Gardner Street. This approval is subject to the stipulations of the Department of Public Works as outlined in the letter dated June 21, 2023. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

National Grid Installation of Gas Main: Hawthorne Road, Sycamore Lane, and Holly Street

Mr. Frey explained that the work consists of 1,700' total feet of 2 inch gas main, replacing various pipes that were installed between 1941 and 1984. Work will be done during the day, but the work will be coordinated so that the safety of children getting to and from the bus stops is a priority. A Police detail will be on-site as well. Unfortunately, given the layout of the neighborhood, it will be difficult for residents to completely avoid the construction. All abutters have been notified at this time and will be notified again two weeks prior to the beginning of the construction. Mr. Ramsey asked National Grid to be cognizant of the fact that the neighborhood is heavily populated with families and small children. Mr. Frey expects the work to take approximately six weeks. National Grid would be required to provide access to resident and emergency vehicles. J.R. Frey said that they could add as a condition to the project that a few steel plates be on site in case they are needed to help provide access to residents or emergency vehicles.

Denise Dockery, 6 Holly Street, thanked the Select Board for highlighting the unique layout of the neighborhood. There was some discussion about the safety during school bus drop off and pick up, especially given that there are no sidewalks in the area. She asked how far in advanced will they receive additional notification. Mary Mulrone noted that abutters would be given notice two weeks prior to the beginning of work. Mr. Ramsey asked that all residents in the neighborhood be notified of the work, since it will be difficult for anyone in the neighborhood to avoid the construction. J.R. Frey said that he would add that to the list of conditions for National Grid.

John Reed, 4 Holly Street, had some concerns about traffic congestion related to cars parking on the street and safety at the bus stops. Ms. Klein noted that the Town will plan to coordinate with the School Department to address all concerns.

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to approve the request of National Grid to install and maintain approximately 1,700 feet of 2-inch gas main in Hawthorne Road, Sycamore Lane, and Holly Street. The gas main in Hawthorne Road Street will originate at the intersection with Bradley Woods Drive, and continuing northeasterly 560 feet in Hawthorne Road, to the intersection with Holly Street. The gas main in Sycamore Lane will originate at the intersection with Hawthorne Road, continuing northwesterly 510 feet to the end of the main. The gas main in Holly Street will originate at the intersection with Hawthorne Road, continuing northwesterly 630 feet to the end of the main. This approval is subject to the stipulations of the Department of Public Works as outlined in the letter dated June 30, 2023. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

National Grid Installation of Gas Main: Main Street

Mr. Frey explained that this request is a more significant effort in length and in terms of the nature of the street in which the work will be done. Work includes the installation of nearly a mile of new 6" gas main in Main Street. This is a continuation of work that National Grid did in Main Street last year. Because of the configuration of this section of Main Street, National Grid will be required to complete this work overnight from Sunday through Friday morning, from 7:00 pm to 5:00 am. Beyond that, the remaining conditions of the work are consistent with the other Grant of Locations approved tonight. He was aware that the Town may receive some concerns about the overnight work and anticipated impacts on no more than 2-3 nights of work any give residence and following that, the impact would significantly diminish. The project could entail up to 5 months of consistent work. There will be a significant Police presence during this job, taking care to allow for access to the South Fire Station, South Elementary School and the entrance to Liberty Pole. Mr. Fisher requested that impacted houses of worship are also notified of the work as well. Mr. Fisher asked National Grid to be cognizant of the potential for high traffic times during the Jewish high holidays in September as worshippers come and go from Congregation Sha'aray Shalom, particularly in the evenings. Ms. Klein also noted that South School has some evening events in the fall as well. The Select Board members requested that the work start as soon as possible. Select Board members had significant concerns about disruption to traffic and impacts to residents, but acknowledged that the work was necessary. The gas main to be replaced was installed in 1929.

Vote: Mr. Ramsey made a motion to approve the request of National Grid to install and maintain approximately 4,975 feet of 6-inch gas main in Main Street. The gas main in Main St. will originate at 774 Main Street, continuing southerly 4,975' to 982 Main Street. This approval is subject to the stipulations of the Department of Public Works as outlined in the letter dated June 30, 2023. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

FY23 Year-End Transfers

Ms. Michelle Monsegur confirmed that no transfers were needed at this time.

Appointments

Ms. Klein said that Hingham is very lucky to have so many and such caliber of volunteers during the Talent Bank process.

Reappointments:

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to reappoint Mary Ann Donaldson as an Alternate Member to the Historic Districts Commission, as the Planning Board's designee, for a three-year term ending June 30, 2026. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Appointments:

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to appoint to the Mike Sutton Affordable Housing Trust for a three-year term ending June 30, 2026. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Vote: Ms. Klein to appoint Arthur Robert to the Commission on Disabilities as the elected or appointed Town Official to fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 2024. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to appoint Leon Merian to the Council on Aging for a three-year term ending June 30, 2026. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to appoint Kate Schembri to the Cultural Council for a three-year term ending June 30, 2026. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to appoint Kathleen Nugent to the Cultural Council for a three-year term ending June 30, 2026. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to appoint Jeannie Ingram to the Historical Commission for a three-year term ending June 30, 2026. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Vote: Mr. Fisher made a motion to appoint Kevin Warren to the Historical Commission for a three-year term ending June 30, 2026. Mr. Ramsey seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to appoint Eric Smoczynski to the Historic Districts Commission to fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 2024. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to appoint Steven Sadler as the At-large Alternate Member to the Historic Districts Commission to fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 2024. Seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Vote: Ms. Klein made a motion to appoint Elisa Fontanes to the Shade Tree Committee to fill an unexpired term ending June 30, 2024. Mr. Fisher seconded.

Roll Call Vote:

Mr. Fisher: yes

Mr. Ramsey: yes

Ms. Klein: yes

Public Comment

There were no comments from the public.

Town Administrator/Select Board Reports

Ms. Monsegur reported that she has been working with the Assessor's Office and Elder Services to conduct outreach on the Senior Means Tested Tax Exemption that Town Meeting recently extended indefinitely. She reported that the Hingham Center for Active Living (Hingham Senior Center) will host an event next Thursday, July 20 at 12:20 pm where people can learn more about this tax exemption. Light lunch fare will be served.

Mr. Mayo reported that he recently approved the following Special One-Day liquor licenses:

- Vitamin Sea Brewing for Sunset Picnics at Weir River Farm - July 6 and July 13, 6:00-9:00 pm
- Barrel House Z for Sunset Picnics at Weir River Farm - July 20, July 27, August 5, and August 10, 6:00-9:00 pm

Pending and approved One-Day Liquor Licenses can be viewed on the Town of Hingham website at <https://www.hingham-ma.gov/1042/One-Day-Liquor-Licenses>.

Mr. Mayo also reported that the Town is hiring a number of positions including a Conservation Officer, a GIS Coordinator, a Heavy Equipment Officer, and a number of DPW positions. Several more jobs will be posted soon. All job opportunities can be found on the Town of Hingham website at <https://www.hingham-ma.gov/jobs.aspx>.

On a sad note, Mr. Mayo announced the passing of long-time Town employee, Mark License. Recently retired, Mark was a long-time employee of the South Shore Country Club and the DPW before that. Mark was a dedicated Town employee who loved working for the South Shore Country Club. His colleagues are very saddened by his passing and he will be greatly missed by the Town. Mr. Mayo urged the public to keep his family in their thoughts.

Mr. Fisher acknowledged that the Town is currently short-staffed and appreciated Mr. Mayo's efforts to hire all open positions soon.

Mr. Ramsey reported that last Tuesday's Fourth of July celebration was wonderful. He thanked Mark Thorell, Recreation Department Director, the Recreation Commission, and all the wonderful volunteers who made the road race such a big success. There were just under 2,000 runners. He also thanked Chair Jim Murphy and the members of the Fourth of July Parade Committee and Police and Fire personnel for their help with the parade.

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

Roll Call Vote:

Bill Ramsey: yes

Joe Fisher: yes

The meeting adjourned at 8:07 PM.

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