

Hull Board of Selectmen

Minutes

June 2, 2015

The meeting of the Hull Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Tuesday evening, June 2, 2015, at the Hull Municipal Building, 253 Atlantic Ave., Hull, Massachusetts.

Present: John C. Brannan, Chair; Domenico Sestito, Vice-Chair; Christopher Mitchell, Clerk; John D. Reilly, Jr., Member; and Kevin Richardson, Member. Also present were Philip E. Lemnios, Town Manager; James Lampke, Town Counsel; and Catherine Goldhammer, recording secretary.

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A moment of silence was held for Myron Klayman, a former Selectman and active member of the community. Town Counsel Lampke offered an expression of appreciation for Mr. Klayman and his many contributions to the town of Hull.

AGENDA

7:30 p.m. Priority Setting Exercise

The selectmen engaged in a brainstorming exercise, enumerating the following list of items that they would like to see the board work on. Each member made a few recommendations and then the next member did so, and so on with each member given several opportunities to make recommendations until the listing was ended for the evening. The inclusion of a name below refers to the Selectman who first mentioned the topic; on many of them other members indicated that they too had that topic on their list.

1. Remote participation in Board of Selectmen's meetings – July (Brannan)
2. Written notes by absent Selectmen read at meetings – July (Brannan)
3. How to fund capital expenses (Sestito)
4. Policy/procedure for social media (Sestito)
5. Put out an RFP for school consolidation and town building study (Reilly)
6. Start process for hiring Fire Chief (Reilly)
7. Start process for hiring Police Chief (Reilly)
8. Provide more housing for veterans – Harborview (Reilly)
9. Provide more housing for the elderly – HRA (Reilly)
10. HRA status (Reilly)
11. Roadway improvement plan (Mitchell)
12. Explore roadway grants (Mitchell)
13. Become active in flood insurance issue and relief (Mitchell/Richardson)
14. Aggressive approach to pothole repair (Reilly)
15. Promoting the positive in town with awards and recognition (Richardson)
16. Partner with Chamber for upcoming events (including town's upcoming 375th anniversary (Richardson)
17. Fill all vacancies on boards and committees (Brannan)
18. Meet with boards, committees, department heads three times per year (Brannan)
19. Semi-annual with Retirement and Veterans' Boards (Brannan)
20. Revive annual State of Town with Board of Selectmen / Town Manager (Brannan)
21. Timely presentation of Board of Selectmen minutes within 30 days of meeting (Brannan)

22. HRA – DCR collaboration regarding land swap and other (with Planning Board and public involvement) (Sestito/Richardson)
23. Explore long term strategy for regionalization of services (Sestito)
24. Get DCR Trust Fund update – expenditures (Reilly)
25. Explore reconfiguration of H. S. fields for better utilization (parking and other) (Reilly)
26. Increase Pemberton parking (Reilly)
27. Plan for birth anniversary of Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. (Reilly)
28. Debt exclusion discussion (Reilly)
29. Explore getting a turf field at H. S. (Richardson)
30. Capital plan for 5/10/15 years (Mitchell)
31. More recreational opportunities / develop open space recreation plan (Mitchell)
32. Establish dog park committee (Reilly)
33. Maximize grant opportunities; explore hiring of consultants for this (Sestito)
34. Develop academic institute in town (Sestito)
35. Pemberton parking program, including bus coordination (Brannan)
36. Town-wide parking program (Brannan)
37. Sign directing commuters to additional Helen St. parking (Richardson)
38. Pemberton parking fee (Brannan)
39. Island shuttle to Steamboat/trolley (Richardson)
40. Explore zero-emission bus grants (Sestito)
41. Comprehensive stabilization fund policy (Brannan)
42. Town-wide building study including all town properties (Brannan)
43. Allocate hotel/meals tax to capital fund/Chamber (Brannan/Sestito)
44. Pursue sale of town-owned properties – direct funds (Brannan)
45. Hire PR firm to promote town (Brannan)
46. Pursue sale of “orphan” lots (Reilly)
47. Selectmen conduct site visits to all town buildings (Reilly)
48. Dissolve Capital Planning Committee and institute Capital Outlay Committee (Reilly/Richardson)
49. Boat ramp at Pemberton maintenance (Reilly)
50. Restroom at waiting area (Reilly)
51. Replace Pemberton playground and town-wide playground review (Reilly)
52. Parking (Beach/out-of-towners)
53. Approach MBTA about commuter ferry - “Port of last resort” (Mitchell)
54. Develop three-year moving budget for more effective planning (Brannan)
55. Cost reduction review (Brannan)
56. Tax delinquency program (Brannan)
57. Re-establish communication with DCR (Brannan)
58. Meet with major property owners in town (Brannan)
59. Consolidation of buildings (services) (Brannan)
60. Develop Plan B for Town Hall in event of sudden inability to use (Brannan)
61. Investigate status of Aquarion Water purchase by Hingham (Sestito)
62. Short-term rentals discussion (Sestito)
63. MA Highway regarding removing the Jersey barriers at Mezzo Mare (Reilly)
64. Comprehensive town-wide trash/recycling solution (Mitchell)
65. Work with schools to create best school system in MA (Mitchell)
66. Work with Chamber to encourage success (Mitchell)
67. Identify low-hanging fruit for beautification (Mitchell)
68. Hire shared HR director (Richardson)
69. Solution regarding A St. gas station (Richardson)
70. Investigate status of Aquarium building (Richardson)

- 71. Revisit DCR land swap (Richardson)
- 72. Cost of capping landfill (Richardson)
- 73. Solar panels (Richardson)
- 74. Beach renourishment (Richardson)
- 75. Clarify beach ownership (Richardson)
- 76. Cemetery – condo land swap (Richardson)
- 77. RFP for grant writers (Brannan)
- 78. Railroad bed discussion (Brannan)
- 79. Continued implementation of abandoned property program(Brannan)
- 80. Move town election from May to November (Brannan)
- 81. Develop Plan B for Hingham Courthouse (Brannan)
- 82. Review town vision statement (Richardson)

9 p.m. Continuation of discussion on remote meeting participation

Brannan presented for consideration the idea of having remote participation capability so that absent selectmen might contribute and legally vote in meetings. He noted that this could be accomplished via conference call, Skype, or other meeting applications. Lampke had distributed a memo on the subject prior to the meeting.

Lemnios said that it was a matter of adopting a policy that would extend to all boards in town. He has met with Peter Seitz and Judy Saide on the issue. They thought that conference calling would not be an issue, but positioning a monitor for Skype calls could pose a problem of visibility for board members and meeting attendees. They had also expressed a concern about dropped calls with video.

Richardson noted that when he is at a meeting he wants to be able to see faces, reactions, and any supplemental documents that might be distributed. He also noted that meeting attendees and the television audience would not be able to see the absent member. Sestito said that he did not feel that the technology was dependable or works as well as it sounds, and that the public was better served without it. Mitchell said that it is a good technology but he would like to push the discussion to another meeting in order to get more information. Reilly said that he was philosophically against it, as the feeling in the room needs to be experienced.

Richardson made a motion against the use of remote participation, which was passed, 3-2.

Motion	Richardson	That the board does not allow remote participation at this time
Second	Sestito	
Vote	Passed	Richardson - Aye Sestito - Aye Reilly - Aye Mitchell – Nay Brannan - Nay

Brannan said that as an alternative, if a board member has to miss a meeting, but writes down his opinions on agenda items, he would like them to be read at the meeting.

The board members unanimously voted to institute such a policy.

Motion	Reilly	To add to the Board of Selectmen’s Policies and Procedures that if a member of the board is unable to attend a meeting and prepares a statement or position on a particular agenda item, that position can be forwarded to the Chairman, Vice-Chair, or Town Manager, and his thoughts and comments will be added into the discussion or read into the record.
Second	Mitchell	
Vote	Unanimous	

9:15 Town Counsel reappointment

It was explained that per Town Charter and Bylaws the Town Counsel’s position is an annual appointment. Lampkewas re-appointed following expressions of gratitude for his work ethic, his dedication to the town, and his availability to the selectmen, other board and committee members, and town departments.

Motion	Richardson	To reappoint James Lampke as Town Counsel
Second	Sestito	
Vote	Unanimous	

9:30 Tentative meeting schedule

Brannan presented a three-month meeting schedule, with was adjusted to accommodate religious holidays and finalized as follows:

- June 9, June 23, June 30
- July 7, July 14, July 28
- August 11, August 18
- September 1, September 8, September 21 (Monday)

NEW BUSINESS

Reilly thanked the Highway Department for work on the cemetery and ask the Town Manager if he could express the board's thanks.

Sestito expressed thanks to the Harbormaster Bornheim for painting work that has been done at Pemberton Pier. He also congratulated the Class of 2015 and wished them the best.

Lemnios gave an update on last week's land auction. He said one lot on Barnstable was sold for \$5,000 to an abutter.

He further noted that a meeting had been held with Hull Youth Football, Public Safety, the Harbormaster, and DPW in preparation for the upcoming carnival.

He also said that he had received an email from National Park Service on the rededication of Boston Light and stating that they may run Boston Light tours out of Hull at that time.

Brannan said that he had met with a member of Garrett Bradley's staff at Fort Revere. There had been some feedback from consumers regarding the graffiti there. They discussed how the discussion about the fort can be moved to Washington and the possibility of reaching out to Congressman Lynch.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:50 p.m. The board will meet again on June 9, 2015.

Recorded by Catherine Goldhammer

Approved June 23, 2015

Documents

The following documents were included in the Board of Selectmen's packets or were presented during the meeting and are available in the Board of Selectmen's office upon request:

- Board of Selectmen agenda for May 12, 2015
- Town Counsel's memo regarding the remote participation process
- Meeting Schedule