

Hull Board of Selectmen

Minutes

July 27, 2017

The meeting of the Hull Board of Selectmen was called to order at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday evening, July 27, 2017, at Hull Municipal Building, 253 Atlantic Ave., Hull, Massachusetts.

Present: Kevin Richardson, Chair; Christopher Mitchell, Vice-Chair; Domenic Sestito, Clerk; John Reilly, Member; and Jennifer Constable, Member. Also present were James Lampke, Town Counsel and Acting Town Manager; and Catherine Goldhammer, Recording Secretary.

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APPOINTMENTS

Charles Gould, regarding commentary on ZBA process

Charles Gould was present at the meeting to discuss a situation he encountered recently with the Board of Appeals in which he felt that his concerns were not heard. He also felt that he was treated distrustfully in a case involving a property at 6A Street. He read a prepared statement and asked that the Board of Selectmen address this issue.

Neil Kane, Chairman of the Board of Appeals, stated that Mr. Gould was given ample opportunity to voice his concerns and opinion and that he was treated respectfully. He noted that the Board of Appeals follows an order of operations regarding the order in which attendees can speak, and stated that Mr. Gould was informed of this at the meeting. Mr. Gould stated that he did not hear this and that people should be provided with a written copy of the order of operations.

Selectman Reilly informed Mr. Gould that the selectmen took his concerns very seriously, but that they cannot intervene with the decisions of other boards. He assured Mr. Gould that the selectmen respect his concerns and statements.

Chris Krahforst, DirectConservation Administrator, regarding Straits Pond update

Chris Krahforst was at the meeting to give a presentation on the condition of Straits Pond. He stated that there have been a lot of concerns of late regarding a brown algae that is covering a large portion of the pond, as well as some reports of a return of midges. His presentation included, but was not limited to the following points:

- The tidal gates are operating well. He stated that it took a couple of years to achieve this but they are functioning at an optimal level at this time.
- The salinity of the pond has been tested and ranges from 29-31%. By comparison, he stated that the water off Nantasket beach is 32% salinity. He stated that this level of salinity does not support midges.
- On a recent trip on the pond by boat, a large quantity of ruppia grass was observed. This is a highly desirable vegetation. The water had a high degree of clarity and various forms of sea life were observed.
- The invasive phragmites are in retreat and native spartina is returning.
- It is unclear what the origin of the brown algae is.

The presentation is available on the website of the Conservation Department

The board took at five minute recess at 8:45 p.m.

Robert DeCoste, Chairman of HRA, regarding two-way street grant request

The HRA was present for a joint meeting with the Board of Selectmen regarding the two-way road project, which is in design phase with TEC. The HRA sought endorsement from the board for a \$4.13 million grant application to MassWorks for funding for the project. DeCoste provided an overview of the project, which creates a two way road system on Hull Shore Drive and Nantasket Avenue.

Kevin Dandrade from TEC gave a presentation to the board. The project is designed to provide two lanes north and south on both streets, improve pedestrian safety, slow traffic, increase economic development, and help with beach egress in the summer. It will provide on-street parking, bike lanes, streetscaping, and will add 28 feet to the HRA development property. It will also reduce response time and egress time for emergency vehicles. TEC will have public hearings and will reach out to business owners for planning for deliveries. They have met with utilities. The survey is 90% complete.

Reilly suggested that TEC also reach out to the Police and Fire Departments and stated that he would like to see a written report from these departments.

The board voted as follows to endorse the project:

Motion	Reilly	Motion to endorse the parameters and concept proposed in the attached sheets, with the stipulation that the Board of Selectmen in its role as traffic commissioners have hearings within 60 days, or by September 30, and to authorize the Town Manager or other town staff as needed to file on behalf of the town.
Second	Sestito	
Vote	Unanimous	

MINUTES

The board approved the minutes for its June 15, 2017 meeting.

Motion	Sestito	Motion to approve
Second	Mitchell	
Vote	Unanimous	

LICENSES/APPROVALS

Motion	Reilly	Hull Knights of Columbus, 440 Nantasket Avenue, for a one-day liquor license for Saturday, August 12, 2017 from 4-8 p.m. for a graduation party.
Second	Sestito	
Vote	Unanimous	

Motion	Reilly	Judith Barry, Secretary, Green Hill Improvement Association, regarding Gala Day, scheduled for Saturday, August 12, 2017, at 10 a.m. at the Gunrock playground and on the beach. The Police and Fire and Highway Departments will be notified.
Second	Sestito	
Vote	Unanimous	

NEW BUSINESS

Lampke updated the board on the acquisition of Aquarion Water by Eversource, which is filing petitions to acquire the water company. He stated that public comments must be submitted by 2 p.m. on August 16.

Mitchell thanked all of those who planned and participated in the clean-up and painting day at Fort Revere.

Constable noted that the MAPC has a new South Shore Coalition Sub-regional Coordinator. She also requested that the board’s communications policy be put on a future agenda.

Reilly suggested that the board send a bill for a public parking permit to the contractor running the DCR lots. He also noted that they have been charging for parking after 4 p.m., which is hurting some of the local restaurants. He further stated that there has been no accounting regarding the Trust Fund and suggested that the town make a Freedom of Information request.

Reilly further commented on the closing of Riddles and noted that this constitutes a hardship for the population that does not have good access to bus service, which he stated is substandard. He made the following motion:

Motion	Reilly	Motion that we direct the Town Manager to look into the bus situation and do what’s possible to improve the situation.
Second	Sestito	
Vote	Unanimous	

Sestito requested a parking discussion in September.

Richardson stated that he, Lemnios, and Constable went into the State House to receive a grant of \$579,000 which the town has been awarded for the Bay Avenue East project. In addition he reminded those present and watching that Harbor Illumination will occur on Saturday night. He also offered congratulations to Mike Devine, who has been appointed the new Superintendent of Schools.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15 p.m. The board is scheduled to meet next at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday, August 10, 2017.

Recorded by Catherine Goldhammer

Approved by:

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's agenda and added agenda for July 27, 2017
- License application from Hull Knights of Columbus
- Approval request from Judith Barry, Secretary Green Hill Improvement Association, regarding Gala Day
- Project maps for two-way road project
- Board of Selectmen minutes for 6/15/2017
- TEC packet regarding MassWorks grant application
- Packet from Charles Gould regarding Board of Appeals