

**Board of Selectmen
Meeting Minutes of January 24, 2023
Town Hall, Douglas G. Willett Board of Selectmen's Chamber, First Floor**

Present: Alison Genest, Chairman, Joseph DiRocco, Jr., Vice-Chairman, Jennifer Kopcinski, Clerk, Tony Archinski, Member, Heather Santiago-Hutchings, Member, Ann Vandal, Town Manager, Victor Garofalo, Assistant Town Manager, Attorney David Deluca and Recording Secretary Shannon Rowe

Mrs. Genest called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

The Pledge of Allegiance was recited followed by a moment of silence being observed for those serving in our Military and those who have given the ultimate sacrifice.

CITATION:

* The Dracut Wreckers – In Recognition of their State Flag Football Championship Win for Age Group 10 and Under – Coach Matt McHue, Coach Mike Bornstein and the Team appeared before the Board and introduced themselves and Coach McHue gave a brief background of the Team. Coach McHue stated that the Team would be competing in Las Vegas on February 4th, 2023 for the National Team Championship. The Board wished the Team and Coaches good luck in Las Vegas.

Mrs. Genest read the Citation to the Team from the Board of Selectmen.

TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT – Mrs. Vandal stated that many employees are participating in the CPR Certification being held at Town Hall today and tomorrow. Mrs. Vandal stated that she and Mr. Garofalo attended the MMA Conference last week and discussed there being no answer from the State on the budget and they are hoping to have the numbers by March 1st. Mrs. Vandal explained that Kenwood Water had another water main break and the Board of Health is currently dealing with TB cases. Mrs. Vandal stated that Dave Ouellette, Board of Health Director, is the local liaison for Homeland Security and Human Resources is finishing the Town's Employee Handbook. Mrs. Vandal stated that the W-2's and 1099's have been issued and the Murphy's Farm 40B Development Application has been submitted to the State. Mrs. Vandal explained that the Murphy's Farm 40B has not been officially submitted to the Town and discussed impacts to the school system, etc.

Mr. DiRocco asked about the sewer and water capacity for the Murphy's Farm 40B? Mrs. Vandal stated that their sewer and water capacity was included in the capacity numbers, and they are also looking at the capacity numbers as well.

Mrs. Vandal stated that the Town Clerk's Office has sent out the Annual Census and discussed the Dracut Library pushing more teen activities. Mrs. Vandal stated that the Library's 100th year is upcoming with many events to come to celebrate.

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Attorney Deluca stated that his Firm would be hosting an Open Meeting Law Workshop for Boards/Committees at Town Hall on January 31st, 2023.

Mr. DiRocco discussed Dracut Water Supply District (DWSD) collecting money that is put aside for water main breaks, etc. Mrs. Vandal explained that is not sustainable for Kenwood Water as they do not have enough customers.

Mr. Archinski asked how many customers from the DWSD are in the Program? Mrs. Vandal stated that she would get that information from the DWSD.

Mr. DiRocco discussed revisiting the mattress and boxspring disposal numbers by address. Mr. DiRocco suggested maybe limiting the number of mattresses and boxsprings put out for disposal per household.

COMMUNITY CALENDAR: - Mrs. Genest read the information in the Community Calendar.

AGENDA ITEM:

* Jayne Boissonneault, Town Clerk – Review & Discuss Changing the Annual Fall Town Meeting Date – Mrs. Jayne Boissonneault, Town Clerk, appeared before the Board to discuss changing the Annual Fall Town Meeting date. Mrs. Boissonneault discussed changing the Annual Fall Town Meeting date from the first Monday in November to the second Monday in November. The Board reviewed and discussed the Town Charter and Dracut Town By-Laws. Mrs. Boissonneault stated that she would like the Board’s support in the meeting date change to prepare a Warrant Article for the June Town Meeting.

Mr. Archinski asked if this is a Town By-Law or Town Charter change? Attorney Deluca explained that the Town Charter refers to the Town By-Law and that a vote is needed at Town Meeting for the Town By-Law change.

The Board discussed supporting Mrs. Boissonneault’s request for the date change at the June Town Meeting.

* Jayne Boissonneault, Town Clerk – Review, Discuss & Vote to Authorize In-Person Early Voting for the May 6, 2023 Town Election – Mrs. Jayne Boissonneault, Town Clerk, appeared before the Board and discussed In-Person Early Voting for the May 6, 2023 Town Election. Mrs. Boissonneault discussed the new Election Laws and reviewed her memorandum to the Board dated January 24, 2023, regarding the vote to authorize early voting dates and location.

Mrs. Vandal discussed the new Election Law and the upcoming costs, equipment costs, staffing costs, etc.

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Motion made by Mr. Archinski to Authorize In-Person Early Voting Dates and Location Indicated by the Town Clerk. Motion seconded by Mrs. Kopcinski. Motion passed unanimously.

* Owen & Ollie's Restaurant & Pub, 91 Mill Street – Requesting Approval of a One-Day Outdoor All Alcohol License on Sunday, March 12, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. – Mr. Harry Gorman, the Applicant, appeared before the Board to request a One-Day Outdoor All Alcohol License to coincide with the Irish Clover Road Race. Mr. Gorman stated that he has hosted the Irish Clover Road Race over the last few years with no issues.

Motion made by Mr. Archinski to Approve the One-Day Outdoor All Alcohol License on Sunday, March 12, 2023 from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. Motion seconded by Mrs. Santiago-Hutchings. Motion passed unanimously.

* Ann Vandal, Town Manager – Requesting Acceptance of a Donation from The Lowell Five to Purchase Safety Equipment for the Fire and Police Departments – Mrs. Vandal explained that the Fire Department would use the donation for AED Equipment and the Police Department is looking into safety equipment they can purchase.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to Accept the \$5,000.00 Donation from The Lowell Five to Purchase Safety Equipment for the Fire and Police Departments. Motion seconded by Mrs. Kopcinski. Motion passed unanimously.

* Ann Vandal, Town Manager – Requesting Acceptance of a Donation of SMART Boards from the Greater Lowell Technical High School – Mrs. Vandal stated that the Greater Lowell Technical High School has offered two SMART Boards to the Town with one being used at the Police Department and one at the Dracut Library.

Mrs. Genest stated that she believes the Greater Lowell Technical High School may be donating three SMART Boards to the Town.

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to Accept the Donation of SMART Boards from the Greater Lowell Technical High School. Motion seconded by Mrs. Kopcinski. Motion passed unanimously.

* Chairman Genest – Discuss a Date for the Annual Fireworks Event – Mrs. Genest discussed possibly having the Annual Fireworks Event on June 29th this year at Veteran's Memorial Park (VMP), which is the same night as the Police Department's Public Safety Night.

Mr. DiRocco asked if anyone has reached out to the neighborhood to discuss having fireworks at VMP, as they were promised in the past that there would be no lighting, noise, traffic, etc., at VMP.

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Mrs. Genest discussed this being preliminary and yes, they would absolutely reach out to the neighborhood.

Mr. DiRocco stated that he was concerned about fireworks at VMP due to the small area and the neighborhood.

Mrs. Kopcinski asked if the Fire Chief has been involved in the preliminary discussions? Mrs. Genest stated yes. Mrs. Genest discussed initial conversations with the Police Chief, Fire Chief and Mrs. Vandal.

Mr. DiRocco stated that even though the fireworks company would use smaller rounds, they are still noisy and discussed firework fall outs, etc.

Mrs. Genest stated that she would be meeting with the Fire Chief, Police Chief and Town Manager and would put this on the next agenda for further discussion.

* Chairman Genest – Appointment of Varnum Day Award Sub-Committee – Mrs. Genest stated that in the past, the Varnum Day Award Sub-Committee has been Dr. Rebecca Duda, Cathy Richardson and the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen.

Mrs. Santiago-Hutchings questioned if the Nominator and Nominee had to be a Dracut residents?

Mrs. Genest explained that the Recipient of the Varnum Day Award has to be a Dracut resident, but the Nominator does not. Mrs. Genest stated that she would look at revising the Application Form to make that clearer.

Mrs. Genest asked if any other member of the Board would like to be on the Sub-Committee?

Mrs. Genest Appointed Cathy Richardson, Dr. Rebecca Duda and herself to the Sub-Committee.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS:

* Beaver Brook Farm Ad-Hoc Sub-Committee – Mrs. Genest stated that the Sub-Committee had a site visit last week and have been discussing parking and an ADA trail location at recent meetings. Mrs. Genest stated that they should have an upcoming date for the ice rink opening.

* Economic Development Committee – Mrs. Genest stated that the Committee has discussed looking into doing a Summer Activity like the Holiday Activity and discussed the recent Ribbon Cutting Ceremonies.

* Education Sub-Committee – Mrs. Santiago-Hutchings discussed the School Committee sharing their presented budget but the State numbers are not ready yet.

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Mrs. Santiago-Hutchings stated that the School Committee would like to have a Tri-Board Meeting and possibly having another Joint Budget Task Force Committee. Mrs. Santiago-Hutchings stated that the feasibility study for the Campbell School would be on for the June Town Meeting and that the Greenmont Avenue School was not picked up by the MSBA but could be included with the Campbell School.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion made by Mr. DiRocco to Approve the Minutes of January 10, 2023. Motion seconded by Mrs. Kopcinski. Motion passed unanimously.

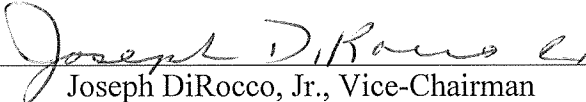
ADJOURNMENT:


Motion made by Mr. Archinski to Adjourn the Meeting. Motion seconded by Mrs. Santiago-Hutchings. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting adjourned at 7:44 p.m.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Alison Genest, Chairman


Joseph DiRocco, Jr., Vice-Chairman


Jennifer Kopcinski, Clerk


Tony Archinski, Member


Heather Santiago-Hutchings, Member