

**Minutes of Regular Meeting
Select Board
Tuesday, November 23 2021
Remote Online Meeting (Meeting ID 856*9355-0681)
Called to Order at 7:00 p.m.**

Video Recording: [November 23, 2021 Meeting](#)

Select Board Members	Present	Staff Members	Present
Laurie Bent – SB Chair	Yes	Leon A. Gaumond, Jr., Town Manager	Yes
Harvey Boshart - SB	Yes	Lisa Yanakakis, Assistant Town Manager	Yes
Christopher Houston - SB	No	Jennifer Warner, Library Director	Yes
Susan Scott, BoLT Chair	Yes		
Emily Hutcheson, BoLT	Yes		
Joseph Mullin, BoLT	Yes		
Julie Panagakos, BoLT	Yes		
Christopher Wells, BoLT	Yes		

Chair Mr. Boshart called the remote meeting to order and read the following: *Pursuant to Governor Baker’s March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L. c. 30A, §18, and the Governor’s March 15, 2020 Order concerning imposition on strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place, meetings in the Town of Weston will be conducted via remote participation to the greatest extent possible. We will strive to provide access to such meetings via a link to call in, or other similar option. In the event we are unable to accommodate the same, despite best efforts, we will post recorded sessions of the meeting as soon as possible following the same. No in-person attendance of members of the public will be permitted, but every effort will be made to ensure that the public can adequately access the proceedings.*

Resident Comments

There were no resident comments

Joint Meeting with the Board of Library Trustees to fill the vacancy on the Board

Library Trustees Chair Susan Scott informed the Select Board that the Trustees interviewed three very qualified candidates for the position vacated by former member Linda Delaney and that they are recommending Shaheen Parks to fill the position until the next scheduled Town election. Ms. Scott indicated that Ms. Parks, a ten-year Weston Library patron and a lifelong public library enthusiast, had the most relevant overall experience of the three candidates and will bring additional insight to the Trustees. Ms. Scott also stated that Ms. Parks has volunteered her time in the past year to serve on the Library Long Range Planning Committee.

Ms. Bent asked Ms. Scott what qualities and skills made Ms. Parks the preferred candidate. Ms. Scott first pointed out that Ms. Parks has a business degree and has been a strong business leader in the engineering and scientific community and has served well on the Long-Range Planning Committee.

Ms. Bent then asked Ms. Parks what attributes she believes she will bring to the Trustees and what her interests are. Ms. Parks stated that as a technology researcher, she has a lot of experience finding and using information from a variety of resources which certainly can be applied to library services. She stated she has a perspective on a variety of information management techniques as well as the future of information sharing and use and can help develop and market the services the library provides. In addition, she has money management experience.

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved that the Select Board vote to appoint Shaheen Parks to fill the vacancy on the Library Trustees until the next scheduled Town Election, Mr. Boshart seconded. **Roll call vote: Approved unanimously by the Select Board and the Board of Library Trustees.**

Review request from 4 Old Road for waiver of provision of the roadway moratorium policy

Mr. Gaumond apprised the Board of the facts surrounding this request from Ms. Susan Smick of 4 Old Road. He stated that Old Road was paved in 2019 and that Ms. Smick is seeking permission to allow the gas company to cut into the road this coming spring in order to put in a gas line for a generator and to have the Town waive the \$15,000 permit fee stated in the Street Opening & Occupancy Regulations

Ms. Smick stated on several occasions that she wanted the gas generator in anticipation of power outages as well as that she eventually would like to convert from oil heating to gas heating as her current heating system is old and may fail in the near future. After suggestions from the Select Board about alternative solutions such as heat pumps, gas generators and propane, Ms. Smick rejected those suggestions as inadequate for her needs. When Ms. Smick asked why cutting into the road and then patching it was such a problem and so costly, Mr. Boshart stated that once you cut into a newly paved road, the integrity of the road becomes significantly compromised and will result in accelerated deterioration. He also pointed out that repaving roads is very costly from a materials, engineering and labor perspective. The Board stated that exceptions to the regulations are only granted in emergency situations and that this situation does not rise to the level of an emergency. They added that the Select Board develops policies and regulations for sound reasons and that those policies and regulations must be adhered to, unless there are fundamentally sound reasons to make an exception. The Board also pointed out that the Town has been working closely with Eversource on various fronts to minimize the occurrences and duration of power outages.

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved that the Select Board vote to deny the request to waive the street opening fee as per the Select Board's existing policy, Mr. Boshart seconded. **Roll call vote: Approved unanimously.**

Discussion of Love Lane Traffic Restrictions

Mr. Gaumond informed the Board that Mr. Houston, members of the DPW and Traffic & Sidewalk Committee and he met on Monday, November 22 to discuss the Love Lane traffic restrictions as it pertains to Weston school buses. He stated that when the restriction was put in place, the discussion did not take into account the school bus routes. In short, the new "no right turn" restriction does not allow for the buses to maneuver onto Love Lane. Consequently, the Select Board is being asked to amend the Traffic Rules and Orders to create a school bus exception to the recently enacted turn restrictions on Love Lane. Ms. Bent pointed out that she has heard no opposition from the neighbors and that the parents of school age children are in support of this. Mr. Gaumond confirmed this.

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved that the Select Board vote to amend the Traffic Rules and Orders adopted by the Select Board on October, 12, 2021 by inserting the clause "with the exception of vehicles clearly identified as school buses" after the words "south bound" effective from the date of the amendment, Mr. Boshart seconded. **Roll call vote: Approved unanimously**

Set Dates for Annual Town Meeting/Town Caucus/Town Election

Mr. Gaumond informed the Board that the proposed schedule is based on the traditional pre-COVID 19 schedules. Consequently, he is proposing the following dates: Town Caucus, March 7, 2022; Annual Town Election, Saturday May 7, 2022; and Annual Town Meeting, Monday May 9, 2022 with continuation dates of Wednesday May 11 and Monday, May 16.

MOTION: Mr. Boshart moved that the Select Board vote to set the following dates: Town Caucus, March 7, 2022; Annual Town Election, Saturday May 7, 2022; and Annual Town Meeting, Monday May 9, 2022 with continuation dates of Wednesday May 11 and Monday, May 16. Ms. Bent seconded. **Approved unanimously.**

Consent Agenda

Before voting the consent agenda, Mr. Gaumond asked the Board to recognize additional minutes were added for approval to include the minutes from 4/27/21, 5/14/21, 5/25/21, and 5/27/21. He also added that he is requesting the removal of the Ash Street transfer as authorized under 2021 ATM, Article 29.

MOTION: Ms. Bent moved that the Select Board vote the Consent Agenda as amended. Mr. Boshart seconded. **Roll call vote: Approved unanimously**

Approve minutes of 4-27-2021, 5-14-2021, 5-25-2021, 5-27-2021

Accept the donation of \$100 from Brett & Sarah Rome to the Weston Fire Department

Appoint Alexander Cobb to fill the vacancy on the Recreation Master Plan Steering Committee

Appoint Ford Curran as an Associate Member of the Historical Commission

Mr. Boshart stated that, without the full Board present due to Mr. Houston's work conflict, the Select Board would not be going into Executive Session this evening.

Adjournment

MOTION: *Ms. Bent moved to adjourn at 8:00 p.m. The motion was seconded by Mr. Boshart. Roll call vote: Approved unanimously.*

Chris Houston, Clerk