



TOWN OF BELLINGHAM

10 MECHANIC STREET BELLINGHAM, MASSACHUSETTS 02019

Thursday, February 8, 2024
MBTA (Section 3A) Subcommittee
Meeting Minutes
5:30 pm
Arcand Meeting Room

Subcommittee Members Present:

Sahan Sahin, William F. O'Connell, Elizabeth Berthelette, Robert Lussier, and Jeffrey Scornavacca

Not Present:

Also Present:

Town Administrator, Denis Fraine
Tim Aicardi, Director of Planning, Zoning and Conservation
Amy Sutherland, Assistant Town Planner

Present on Zoom:

The meeting for the MBTA (Section 3A) was opened at 5:30 pm.

Update on Grant Submittal:

At the previous meeting, the Subcommittee discussed seeking a grant which would assist with working with a consultant.

The Assistant Town Planner worked with Co-Chair Subcommittee member Berthelette to secure the grant.

The scope of services is being developed. The initial allotment for the grant is \$25,000.00. There will be a second round of grants if needed.

There is a list of consultants which the State has chosen who will work with the town. There is one consultant interested in working with the Town of Bellingham. This Consultant will also assist with public outreach.

The designation of areas will be run through the compliance models by the consultant.

These agenda items are those reasonably anticipated by the Chair which may be discussed at the meeting. Not all items listed may in fact be discussed and other items not listed may also be brought up for discussion to the extent permitted by law.



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There was clarification that there will not be a warrant article submitted for the Spring Town Meeting for the MBTA (3A) communities. The goal is to work with the subcommittee and consultant to have an article drafted for the Fall Town meeting.

On a motion made by Liz Berthelette, seconded by William O'Connell, the MBTA (3A) Subcommittee voted unanimously to move forward with the Consultant.

On a motion made by Shanan Shahin, seconded by William O'Connell, the MBTA (3A) Subcommittee voted unanimously to have a warrant article ready for the fall town meeting.

It was also noted that there is a technical grant which the town can look into for funding some of the education component which will need to be done with the community. The funds are specifically for community engagement. This is run through CHAPPA.

Funds from Grants:

February 8, 2024 – Finance Office

The Subcommittee is in receipt of documents prepared by the Town Accountant Office and School Department which indicates source of funding from grants. This was presented to the subcommittee to look at what possible funding may be lost if the town votes to not approve the MBTA (3A) proposal. The numbers provided do not include all the funding the town receives.

The following was noted:

- Mass Works: Hartford Ave road widening: \$2 million
- Mass Dot: Hartford Ave road widening: \$2 million
- Green Communities : \$400,000.00 school upgrades (provide money for upgrades)

There was a suggestion to look at what grants the town has received over the last ten years. The Town did receive \$7,000,000.00 from the TIP grant which was for transportation improvements. For the 25–27-year program, there is a look for additional funding for the road improvements from Walmart to Medway line. The Maple and Mechanic improvements were also funded through grant money. There was also grant money awarded to improve the town center. The town does not want to risk the future grant funding.

The following departments will be invited to the February 22, 2024 meeting:

- Department of Public Works (sewer & capacity locations, infrastructure in town)
- Fire Department
- Police Department

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It was explained that the subcommittee wants to be very transparent in the process. There has been no communication with developers. The Town is not soliciting applications from Developers.

The meeting was opened to the public. There were no comments.

Approval of Minutes:

February 8, 2024:

On a motion made by Shanan Shahin, seconded by William O'Connell, the minutes from February 8, 2024, were accepted.

Next Meeting:

- February 22, 2024

The meeting adjourned at 6:50 pm.

Respectfully Submitted,

Amy Sutherland
Recording Secretary

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