



Town of Bellingham

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

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March 25, 2019

The March 25th meeting of the Board of Selectmen was called to order by Chairman Spencer at 7:00 PM with all members in attendance.

Jennifer Altomonte – 300th Committee Update

Mrs. Altomonte thanked the Board for having her at the meeting and stated the purpose of her coming before the Board was to update the residents on the activities the committee has scheduled for the 300th anniversary celebration. She presented the Board with a list of activities – please see attached. Mrs. Altomonte stated the only hiccup with the whole planning process has been trying to connect with all of the residents. The committee has been communicating through the Bellingham Bulletin, The Milford Daily News, the Woonsocket Call, Facebook and also via the Town's website. Of special note in the upcoming activities is the Old Home Days, being chaired by Denis Fraine and Adam Thorell, and the Zip Trip that will be coming to Bellingham on July 5th. For the first time in over 20+ years Bellingham will not have the 4th of July fireworks in July. This year the fireworks will be celebrated during the Old Home Days. This event is scheduled to take place July 19 - 21st. Mrs. Altomonte described this as the "biggest block party" Bellingham has ever had with things like fireworks, bands, and vendors, just to name a few. Mrs. Altomonte's goal tonight is to spread the word of all the upcoming activities. Mrs. McNulty asked how the Board could help and Mrs. Altomonte suggested they participate in the activities or considering being a sponsor. Mr. Connor asked if there was some way we could mail the list of upcoming activities to the residents perhaps in the tax or water/sewer bills. Mr. Fraine said that the Town could not do that but he would think of something else. Denis pointed out that the committee was running a half page ad in the Bellingham Bulletin's April edition. Part of the ad will be the advertisement for the brick fundraiser. The committee hopes to sell 300 bricks that will be placed in the new park being constructed at the site of the old police station. The other half of the ad will show a picture of the park. The Board thanked Mrs. Altomonte for all the time and effort she has put into running this committee.

LMP Discussion

Amy Kwesell from KP Law, the Town's counsel, explained that in January the Board of Selectmen voted to not issue a bulk storage license to J.D. Raymond of LMP Properties for 169/174 Maple Street for reason of not being in compliance with the town. A cease and desist was filed by the building inspector in 2017 and it was upheld by the zoning board of appeals for the extension of bulk storage without proper permits and for noncompliance for storm water, noise and odor. Additionally a cease and desist was filed by the conservation commission in 2017 and in 2018 for working within

jurisdictional areas without proper permits. They were given 30 days to establish compliance. Tim Aicardi Building inspector said as far as the cease and desist nothing has changed. They have made some concession as far as the conservation piece is concerned but that's it.

Mrs. Kimberly Kroha who represents LMP properties spoke on behalf of her client. She stated as far as the cease and desist orders these are being worked out in court and they will continue their operations until a decision is made. She stated that the licensing structure for the bulk storage licenses isn't valid and her client will challenge the bylaw.

Mr. Spencer stated that J.D. Raymond has not been a great neighbor going back years. They haven't ever been willing to work with the Town. He continues to stand by the recommendation of the zoning officer to not issue them a bulk storage license at this time.

Mr. Martinis stated that they have heard concerns from residents about noise, odor and sight lines and promises have been made to fix things but nothing has been done and now they are threatening to sue us. As far as he is concerned the Town does not need this type of business in town.

Mrs. Kroha argued that they are running a safer operation than before and as far as the requests from the residents like a fence, stonewall, gate and traffic lines these are all in connection with the settlement disputes.

Mr. Kupfer and Mr. Aicardi stated that J.D. Raymond has submitted development plans that don't comply with zoning and an agreement cannot be resolved on the expansion they have erected.

In conclusion Amy Swesell stated the bottom line is that this bulk storage bylaw was enacted at town meeting and was then approved by the attorney general. The purpose of the bylaw is to protect the health and safety of our residents, not just a zoning issue. It is in her firm's opinion that the final decision can be placed with the Board of Selectman.

Therefore, no further action was taken at this meeting.

Jim Kupfer – Update on TIP Project

Denis Fraine asked Mr. Kupfer to give the Board an update on the South Main/Douglas TIP project. Mr. Kupfer advised the Board that he was at the last MPO meeting in Boston along with Mr. Soter and that Bellingham did a great job representing. The Town has the opportunity to move up a year to 2021 so he asked that the BOS submit a letter reiterating its commitment to this project. Mr. Spencer will submit a letter immediately.

On a Connor/Martinis motion, the Board unanimously voted to award the Hartford Ave Replacement Well 7R Project to the low bidder Dennis L. Maher, Co. LLC of Ayer, MA in the amount of \$93,360.

On a Connor/Martinis motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the Seasonal Restaurant All Alcohol, Common Victualler and Weekday/Sunday Entertainment Licenses for New England Country Club, 180 Paine St, as submitted.

On a Martinis/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve a Common Victualler License for Bellingham Youth Baseball, April 1st – October 31st, fees waived.

On a McNulty/Martinis motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the poll workers for the May 2019 town election as submitted by the Town Clerk's office.

Daniel Spencer read a press release from The Norfolk County Registry of Deeds which stated they will hold office hours in Bellingham in the Arcand Meeting room, 10 Mechanic Street, on Thursday April 4th from 10AM-12PM. The press release is also posted in the municipal building and available on the Town's website.

On a McNulty/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to approve the February abatements for residential water, residential sewer, residential trash, and municipal water in the amount of \$34,991.68.

On a McNulty/Connor motion, the Board voted to approve the January 28th, February 4th and February 25th minutes as submitted with Mr. Martinis abstaining.

Mr. Fraine reported that Mrs. MacKinnon along with the Finance Committee have been flying through the budget hearings and stated that Mrs. MacKinnon is doing a great job and has been providing them with lots of added information. The Capital Improvement Committee has been hearing requests and will prioritize and put everything on hold until the fall except for the request to replace the copper lines as Verizon will no longer be providing service to those lines. Mr. Fraine also stated that a lot of road work will be beginning soon specifically the stretch of Hartford Ave that is in bad shape and the top of Lake Street by Prospect.

Mr. Connor asked for an update on the current cable contracts. Mr. Fraine stated that Town Counsel has been working on the contracts and are trying to get both Verizon and Comcast to end at the same time which should be in about 8 months.

Mr. Martinis asked if something could be done about the pole on the corner of 126 and Maple Street. Trucks are taking the corner wider now that the pole has been moved back and continue to scrape the pole which is just steps away from the resident's front steps. This is a very dangerous situation.

Mr. Martinis also stated that the light at the intersection of Lake Street and Pulaski is a godsend. He would like to see a light put in at the intersection of Depot Street and Hartford Ave. Mr. Fraine stated there are plans to redo that entire intersection but the

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funding isn't there right now. Mr. Connor pointed out that had the residents voted to rezone that area at the Special Town Meeting this past fall it could have been paid for by one of the developers.

Mr. Spencer reminded residents and encouraged everyone's participation in the 3 upcoming activities scheduled in April to celebrate the Town's 300th anniversary.

On a McNulty/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Hilarie J. Allie".

Hilarie J. Allie
Administrative Assistant