



# Town of Bellingham

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street

Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019

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April 11, 2022

The Selectboard meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Vice Chairman Don Martinis. All Board members were in attendance and participating in the Arcand Meeting Room, with the exception of Mrs. McNulty who was participating via the Zoom online option. Also actively participating in the meeting was Town Administrator Denis Fraine and Administrative Assistant Hilarie Allie. This meeting was accessible to the public either in-person or via the Zoom online option.

### Conservation Commission - Reappointments

Mr. Martinis welcomed Cliff Matthews, Neal Standley and Michael O'Herron from the Conservation Commission. All three members are up for reappointment this year. Mr. Martinis stated the Board wanted to speak to the individuals mainly because Mr. Standley no longer lives in Bellingham. Mr. Standley confirmed that he has lived in Medway for the past three years but previously lived in Bellingham for 28 years. He has served on the Commission for 20 plus years and he would like to continue to do so. He stated he was raised in a conservation environment and is truly compassionate about what he does on the Commission. Mr. Martinis stated they do want the best people with the best talent. Mr. Connor stated he has never supported board and committee members who don't reside in Bellingham and will continue to take this stance even though he appreciates all Mr. Standley has done for the Conservation Commission. Mr. Matthews stated Mr. Norton will most likely be reassigning from the Commission and if the Board does not reappoint Mr. Standley, they will be down three members and this will most certainly be a hardship for them. Mr. Connor asked Mr. Matthews if he felt his tenure intimidated others from the joining the Commission and if being chairman was a power thing for him. Mr. Matthews stated that perhaps his knowledge was intimidating but that was it. He further stated he does not vote on permits unless there is a tie and this has only happened a handful of times. But Mr. Connor pointed out as the chair he runs the meeting and decides when to call for a vote. The three gentlemen confirmed they were happy with how things are currently.

On a Connor/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to reappoint Clifford Matthews and Michael O'Herron to the Conservation Commission for a 3 Year term with an expiration date of March 2025.

On a Grant/Connor motion the Board voted 3 in favor with Mr. Connor opposing the reappointed of Mr. Neal Standley to the Conservation Commission for a 1 year term with an expiration date of March 2023.

Under discussion the Board stated that because they wanted to re-align the expiring term dates, they would only appoint Mr. Standley for a 1 year term.

On a McNulty/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to accept the Town Administrator's request for a Special Town Meeting on Wednesday May 25, 2022 at 7:25PM and to sign the warrant to be posted no later than Tuesday April 12, 2022. Under discussion Mr. Fraine explained that he is currently in negotiations with the Police

Department and one of the items they are negotiating is to eliminate Civil Service. This would require Town Meeting approval and petition to the state legislature.

On a Grant/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to award the fee in the amount of \$178,000 to Community Opportunity Group for the administration of the Community Development Block Grant for the Housing Rehabilitation Program.

On a Connor/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to move that Contract 2022-RCS, Road Crack Sealing, be awarded to the low bidder Superior Sealcoating, Inc. of Wilmington, MA in the amount of \$53,030.00.

On a Connor/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to accept the gifts and grants as listed herein, with said expenditures to be under the direction of the parties noted:

Amount	From	For/Purpose	Spending Authority
\$9,100	Commonwealth of MA – Mass Cultural Council	<i>Cultural Council (Town Fund # 4080, State Grant)</i>	Town Administrator
\$22,755	Commonwealth of MA - Exec Office of Environmental Affairs	<i>Community Farm (Town Fund # 2871, State Grant)</i>	Town Administrator
\$2,500	Commonwealth of MA – Exec Office of Public Safety and Security	<i>Automated External Defibrillators (Town Fund # 4385, State Grant)</i>	Fire Chief

Under discussion Mr. Fraine pointed out the wonderful job Micky DeFosses has done and continues to do with the community garden.

On a Grant/Connor motion the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to approve the February 26<sup>th</sup>, March 7<sup>th</sup> and March 21<sup>st</sup> minutes as submitted.

Mr. Martinis publicly thanked the Police Chief for acting quickly at an event that occurred on Saturday April 9<sup>th</sup> in which a new local church was giving away free gas at the Mobile Station at the corner of North Main Street and Hartford Ave. The event caused a traffic nightmare and Chief Daigle spoke to the church and in turn closed down the event.

#### Town Administrator Report

Mr. Fraine stated the Lobisser project at the corner of Route 140 and Walgreens would be starting soon and that the crew planned to work overnight to not disrupt traffic.

He stated the delay in the Town Center project was the result of a relocation issue and that they were waiting on Verizon.

The TIP project happening on Route 126 has been awarded by the State and the project should be starting soon.

Mr. Fraine requested an executive session to discuss contract negotiations. All members of the Board were polled with all voting in the affirmative.

On a Grant/Connor motion, the Board unanimously voted 4-0 to adjourn the meeting at 7:40 PM with no further business to be discussed at the conclusion of the executive session.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilarie J. Allie". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Hilarie J. Allie  
Administrative Assistant