



Town of Bellingham

BOARD OF SELECTMEN

10 Mechanic Street
Bellingham, Massachusetts 02019
Tel: 508-657-2800 * 508-966-4425

October 19, 2020

The Board of Selectmen meeting was called to order remotely at 7:00 PM by Chairman Michael Connor using Zoom Technology. A roll call confirmed all members were participating. Also actively participating in the meeting was Town Administrator Denis Fraine and Administrative Assistant Hilarie Allie. The remote meeting was being monitored by Jim Kupfer, Town Planner and Zoning Officer. It was determined by Governor Baker's March 12, 2020 Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, and the Governor's March 15, 2020 Order imposing strict limitations on the number of people that may gather in one place that no in-person attendance of Board members or any member of the public would be permitted at this meeting. This meeting was accessible to the public via the Zoom online option.

Public Hearing – Application of Terri's Treasures for a Second Hand Dealers License. Premises located at 799 South Main Street Unit 11A.

Mr. Connor read the public hearing notice.

Ms. Terri Lamontagne introduced herself to the Board and stated she created the idea of this store in honor of her mother who had passed away in August. She described it as a boutique and thrift shop and said it would also sell stress and anxiety healing remedies. She has found a location in the WOW plaza and has met with Detective Provost to go over the rules and regulations of selling second hand items. He will be installing a monitoring system at the store. Ms. Lamontagne will be taking in donations and hopes her store will benefit the Town. She stated she is not planning on opening Sundays but Mr. Martinis advised her to request that her license include Sundays in the event she changes her mind. Terri's Treasures will operate Monday through Saturday 10-7 and Sunday 12-7.

On a McNulty/Martinis motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to close the Public Hearing.

On a Grant/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the Second Hand Dealers license for Terri's Treasures at 799 South Main Street Unit 11A.

Alternate Member Zoning Board of Appeals Interview

Mr. Jason Berthelette introduced himself to the Board and stated he has lived in Bellingham for the past 7 years and is a licensed electrician working for the TJX Corporation as their maintenance electrician and would like to use his skills to assist the Zoning Board of Appeals.

Mrs. Grant asked Mr. Berthelette what areas of electrical work he had experience with and he said all types.

Mrs. McNulty asked Mr. Berthelette if he would have the time to serve on the Board and he said he would as his hours are flexible.

Mr. Martinis asked what roll an Alternate Member of the Zoning Board of Appeals would have and Mr. Gabrielle & Mr. Kupfer both confirmed he would participate in all the meetings and if a member was absent and not there to vote and if Mr. Berthelette had been at all the other Public Hearings for that applicant he would be asked to vote.

On a Martinis/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to appoint Mr. Jason Berthelette to the Zoning Board of Appeals as an Alternate Member for a 3 year Term.

Sunoco Update

Amy Kwesell from KP Law joined the call to update the Board on the status of the unregistered vehicles being stored at Sunoco on Hartford Ave. The property operator has an exorbitant number of unregistered vehicles on his property which is a violation of the Bellingham Charter Code. Mr. Aicardi building inspector has made several visits and has spoken to the property operator and has been promised many times that the vehicles would be moved. At Mr. Aicardi's most recent visit the property operator stated he had rented another location and would have access to move the unregistered vehicles to that location in about 3 weeks. If the vehicles are not moved Ms. Kwesell stated she could file a complaint of enforcement of the general bylaw. Mr. Connor recommended, and the Board agreed that Ms. Kwesell would write a letter stating the property owner must be in compliance by November 2nd or KP Law would file a complaint in court.

Larry Sposato – Town Clerk

Mr. Sposato joined the call to speak to the Board regarding sign standouts at the polling location. He was under the impression that the Board did not want people holding up polling signs at the end of the High School driveway causing a bottleneck of traffic. Mr. Connor stated their main concern is unattended or unoccupied signs. Mr. Sposato said he would speak to the police and will have them monitor the situation and will have them remove any signs left unattended.

On a Grant/Spencer motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the application for a grant under the Building Resilient Infrastructure in Communities (BRIC) FEMA grant program to construct drainage improvements and mitigate flooding in the Green Acres Neighborhood (Newland, Prairie, Dalmor, Lizotte, etc.) and that the DPW Director is hereby authorized to sign the formal grant application.

On a Martinis/Grant motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the September 21st minutes as submitted.

On a Grant/McNulty motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the October 5th minutes as submitted.

Town Administrative Report

Mr. Fraine presented to the Board an amendment to the mitigation agreement the Town has with Fafard for the Lakeview Estates 40B project. The original agreement called for a turning lane at Easy Street on Route 126 but the TIP project scheduled for 2021/2022 calls for a turning lane at that intersection. Mr. DiMartino and Mr. Kupfer worked with Fafard to come up with something of the same value and as a result Fafard has agreed to repair the roads in the Easy Street/Douglas Street neighborhood. Mr. Spencer asked if these roads were originally on the road plan and Mr. Fraine confirmed they were.

On a Martinis/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to approve the amendment to Section 1 Paragraphs B, C, D & E of the mitigation agreement between the Town and South Center Realty LLC (Fafard).

Mr. Fraine reported the State came up with some Halloween guidelines which the Board of Health released and are available on the Town website.

The Veteran's Day/Memorial Day committee has been working on a program to celebrate Veteran's Day and it will take place on Wednesday November 11 at the gazebo in the Town Common. A limit of 100 people can be present. More information will be available as the date approaches.

The Fall Town Meeting will now take place in the High School gymnasium. Chairs will be set up like they were at the Town Meeting on the football field and the gymnasium doors will be open to help circulate the air. The auditorium or cafeteria will be set up for possible overflow.

On a Grant/Spencer motion the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to abate the capital improvement, sewer, trash and water charges for the month of September in the amount of \$2,257.91.

August Abatements

Mrs. MacKinnon stated that she had received additional information on the two abatement requests for the month of August that were previously held by the Board. The abatement request for \$1,200 included 3 penalties and the meter was replaced and this fell within the range of the regulations. She is recommending the Board abate these penalties. With regard to the \$9000 abatement request, these penalty charges stem from a series of dates over a 2 year span and according to the Water Use Regulations these charges are in excess of what would automatically be abated. Numerous attempts were made to the property owner stating that the bills were being estimated and the meter needed to be replaced but no response was received. She is recommending the Board not abate these charges.

On a Grant/McNulty motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to abate the water penalty charges of \$1,200 from the August Abatements as they fall within the Water Use Regulations.

On a Martinis/Grant motion, the Board unanimously voted 5-0 to deny the abatement request for the water penalty charges for 115 Lake Street in the amount of \$9000.

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On a Spencer/Grant motion, the Board unanimously voted to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Hilarie J. Allie". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Hilarie" being more prominent than the last name "Allie".

Hilarie J. Allie
Administrative Assistant