



SELECT BOARD
MEETING MINUTES

MAY 7, 2024

6:00 PM

ACTON-BOXBOROUGH REGIONAL HIGH SCHOOL ROOM 123N
16 CHARTER ROAD

Present: Jim Snyder-Grant, Fran Arsenault, Dean Charter, David Martin, Alissa Nicol

Additional Attendees: Town Manager John Mangiaratti, Assistant Town Manager Thom Begin, Recording Secretary Lisa Tomyl, Town Counsel Nina Pickering Cook

I. New/Special Business

1. Discuss Warrant Articles and Final Preparation and Consider Recommendations for Town Meeting

Members went through remaining warrant articles. Mr. Charter noted that there may be a motion to pull the Community Preservation funding from the Acton Dog Park project on Town Meeting floor, as some consider it as a recreational activity geared to a very small group, and stated that he fully supports the Community Preservation Commission funding. **Mr. Charter moved, seconded by Mr. Martin the Select Board affirms support of the CPC funding for a dog park and approved unanimously 5-0.**

Board members discussed article 16, the citizen petition for a ban on gas leaf blowers. Mr. Martin noted that there will be four different amendments proposed on the article and noted that the anticipated process is essentially passing a law from a citizen petition while simultaneously developing the law on the floor by Town Meeting members. Mr. Martin will be proposing an amendment that will move the matter to the Select Board for future discussions and editing. Mr. Snyder-Grant added that the article could be brought back to a future Town Meeting for further amendments, voiced concern about the amount of fines, and that Town Meeting members may want a discussion on the proposed additional amendments. Mr. Charter added that it could be possible to move to table the article for the Select Board to work on. Ms. Nicol suggested to not engage in discussion at Town Meeting but to bring it back to the Select Board for future public discussion and input. **Mr. Snyder-Grant moved to make no recommendation (no second)**

Mr. Snyder-Grant read the additional proposed amendments, with the last amendment holding the most support from Board members pushing the enforcement date for both landscapers and residents to June 30, 2029. Mr. Charter would accept the proposed date extension, Ms. Nicol commented on not

supporting the proposed extended implementation date. Mr. Snyder-Grant mentioned to Town Counsel there was mention of a petition to change the vote requirement for the MBTA inclusionary zoning article from majority vote to 2/3 vote on the floor.

2. Approve Letter from Select Board to Governor Opposing Hangar Expansion at Hanscom Airfield

Ms. Arsenault updated the Board with the updated letter that includes edits and contributions from Select Board members. Ms. Nicol mentioned taxpayers subsidizing private jets – commercial passengers pay fees and taxes – not a public service but service to the ultra-wealthy subsidized by the public. Mr. Snyder-Grant noted the constraint on time to submit the letter for the public comment period.

Ms. Nicol moved, seconded by Mr. Martin to approve the letter as edited and approved 4-1 (Charter)

Ms. Arsenault moved, seconded by Ms. Nicol to adjourn to Town Meeting and approved unanimously 5-0

Documents Used

- Select Board Agenda, May 7, 2024
- Draft Letter to Governor Opposing Hangar Expansion at Hanscom Airfield