

Town of Cohasset
Select Board FY24
Tuesday, July 25, 2023
91 Sohier Street-Willcutt Commons

Select Board Members Present: Jean Healey Dippold, Chair
Paul Grady
Ellen Maher
Jack Creighton
Chris Plecs

Others Participating: Christopher Senior, Town Manager

Chair Healey Dippold called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. Roll Call Vote; All present.

Pledge-Recited.

Chair Dippold asked for a motion to go into Executive Session Exemption #3 –To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining or litigation if an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the bargaining or litigation of the public body and the chair so declares. The Board will discuss the Navigation Bylaw and PFAS litigation. Executive Session Exemption #6 – To consider the purchase, exchange, lease, or value of real estate, if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating position of the public body. The Board will discuss a potential property acquisition. Motion moved by Select Member Grady, seconded by Select Member Maher. Roll Call Vote, All-aye.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:04 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session and into Open Session at 7:06 p.m.

Public Comment-None.

Eagle Scout Project – Eagle Scout Owen Connell, member of Cohasset Troupe 28, described his proposed project. He will be building a new composting site behind CHS at the backfield. He is working with Sustainability Planner and Grant Coordinator, Montanna Cassel. His goal is to fundraise enough money to build 2-3 bin units then deconstruct the old unit. He described his fundraising efforts and timeline. The Board asked if he needed approval from them and he stated that he didn't. The Board thanked him for his efforts.

Boards/Committees–

Alternative Energy Committee– Barbara Russell, 11 Deep Run, Thomas Daley, 11 Ledgewood Farm Drive and Martha Gangemi, 24 Rust Way described their backgrounds, qualifications and why they should be considered to become committee members. **Motion by Select Member Creighton to appoint all three to the Alternative Energy Committee, seconded by Select Member Plecs. Roll Call Vote. All-aye.**

Community Preservation Committee - **Motion by Select Member Grady to approve Deirdre Hobson as the Planning Board Rep., Virginia Najmi as the Housing Authority Rep. and Mark St. Onge as the Historical Commission Rep. to the Community Preservation Committee, seconded by Select Member Plecs. Roll Call Vote. All-aye.** Mr. Grady volunteered to be the Select Board Rep. to the CPC. **Motion by**

Select Member Maher to appoint Select Member Grady to CPC, seconded by Select Member Plecs. Roll Call Vote. All-aye.

Conservation Commission – Motion by Select Member Creighton to appoint Valerio Romano to the Conservation Commission, seconded by Select Member Plecs. Roll Call Vote. All-aye.

Elder Affairs – Motion by Select Member Grady to appoint Marsha Silvia to Elder Affairs, seconded by Select Member Plecs. Roll Call Vote. All-aye.

Norfolk County Advisory Board - Motion by Select Member Maher to appoint Diane Kennedy to the Norfolk County Advisory Board, seconded by Select Member Plecs. Roll Call Vote. All-aye.

Single Use Plastic Bylaw – Adam Norman, 88 Doane St., described his goal to ban single serving plastic water bottles under 1 gallon by 2025 in Cohasset. He explained his reasoning and statistics regarding disposable water bottles versus reusable containers. The Board explained that their preference would be for him to submit a Citizens Petition to have the petition moved to the Town warrant instead of a Select Board putting it on the Warrant.

Historic District Study Committee – Chair Healey Dippold explained that this agenda item's purpose is to start a discussion on creating a Historic District Study Committee. She stated that there are certain state requirements to become a member. The Cohasset Historic Commission recommended starting with the village. Select Member Maher recommended that the Board, at Special Town Meeting, request CPC funding for the study. Chair Healey Dippold concurred. The Board decided to move forward with advertising and reaching out to the Historic Commission to see who may be interested in becoming a member. Select Member Maher confirmed that the establishment of the committee would be contingent on obtaining CPC funding.

Select Board Goals – Roads and Sidewalks – Mr. Jay Pimpare, 713 Jerusalem Rd., Chair of Sidewalk and Safety Committee, gave an overview/history of the Elm Street Plan they previously presented to the Select Board. He also reviewed costs for the plan, which is currently at \$1.1 million and the grant that they applied for. He did state that they can also pave the street and sidewalks as is. Chief Dockray weighed in with his concerns regarding the proposed parking. He requested that they perform a swept-pass analysis to see if it is even feasible for them to travel on these proposed roads. Chair Healey Dippold asked the Chief if he recommends paving now or later, he explained that the damage the current roads have done to his engines have been very expensive, so he would like the roads paved sooner rather than later. Residents from Elm Street voiced concerns regarding the plans for Elm Street. Some residents were upset that they were just hearing about the new plans. Most residents requested widening the current sidewalks and paving the road as is, not adding the additional proposed parking or green space. Resident George McGoldrick, 107 Border Street, spoke via zoom and stated that he was representing Cohasset Hospitality Partners. He explained that there was a misconception that the group was promoting the proposed plan and that they are not involved at all with the proposed plan. He recommended a safety study to look at parking as they are hoping there will be parking for the new park they are building. Ralph Dormitzer, 111 Atlantic Ave, explained the benefits of the proposed plan. He said the new plan would provide green space and new trees while also providing safer crossing sections for pedestrians. He also stated that the grant proposal that has been submitted would pay for the project and if we do not move forward with the plan, the grant will go away, it is tied to this project and can't be used for other projects. Chair Healey Dippold stated that the residents had spoken and that they need to move forward with this issue. **Chair Healey Dippold stated that she would entertain a motion to repave Elm Street and around the Island as is, have Mr.**

Joyce research expanding the sidewalks but if it is cost prohibitive then pave the sidewalks as is, and add the bike lanes around Cove St. over to Margin (yacht club). Select Member Grady moved the motion but wanted to solidify that there will be no parking on Cove to Whitehead and around the Island, seconded by Select Member Creighton. Roll Call Vote. All-aye. The Chair stated that an update will be done at the August 8th Select Board Meeting unless Mr. Joyce needs more time. Select Member Maher thanked the residence and the Roads and Sidewalk committee for all of their input and time. Chair Healey Dippold discussed the resiliency issues. She asked Town Manager Senior to ensure that when people are applying for the resiliency grants that they include the Roads and Sidewalks Committee in the application process.

Long Term Finance Planning - Chair Healey Dippold gave a summary of what the working group has been doing. She explained that Town Manager Senior and Finance Director Mullen have aided them in their research. The group has been reviewing historic trends as far as spending. They have been looking at free cash, operating budgets, peer community data as well as geographic peer data to determine how much more they can ask from their constituents. They are aiming for a Fall preliminary report to explain the data and their recommendations.

Board Summary/Outreach relating to upcoming Fall Town Meeting - Chair Healey Dippold stated that as soon as they come to a resolution on what to move forward with at Fall Town Meeting they need to begin a plan for outreach both through newspapers and forums. Select Member Plecs explained that he and Assistant Town Manager Leary are already looking to put a forum on the calendar in early August to discuss Fields and Recreation. Chair Healey Dippold recommended adding water filtration systems to the fields and parks project to fill water bottles. She recommended reaching out to the Anchor to advertise the forum. Select Member Maher recommended that they create a very comprehensive schedule to ensure Advisory, CPC and Capital all know what is coming to them for consideration for Fall Town Meeting and to help schedule and communicate voting. Chair Healey Dippold explained that Town Manager Senior has created a "Planning Calendar" to help facilitate the preparation of Fall Town Meeting. Mr. Senior described the calendar. The Chair asked how the Board feels about the potential Town Meeting and Election dates. They decided November 13th for the Fall Town Meeting and November 18th for the Special Town Election. **Motion by Select Member Creighton to adopt these two dates, seconded by select member Grady. Roll Call Vote. All-aye.**

Town Manager Update – Mr. Senior had three topics. First, he stated that excessive heat was coming, and Willcutt Commons will be available to anyone affected by the heat. Second, he said that Justin Shrair, Communication Specialist, was a presenter at a conference for hurricane preparedness. Finally, he addressed rumors on Facebook that plans had been filed for a 120+ development in Cohasset. He stated no such plans had been filed.

Select Board Comments –

Select Member Plecs – None.

Select Member Grady - None.

Select Member Creighton – None.

Select Member Maher – Select Member Maher stated she has reached out to Jason Earls from the Schools Facilities Committee but hasn't been able to connect with him. She will continue to try. Also, in her research of the plastic water bottles she went through the Open Space and Recreation Commission page and reviewed their research and plan. She stated that in their last meeting minutes, they said they were looking for a quarterly update with the Planning Board. She recommended that they present their findings to the Select Board at some point after Special Town Meeting.

Chair Healey Dippold explained that there were still openings available for the Cohasset Kid's Triathlon and she thanked her fellow board members for the very productive meeting.

Approval of Minutes – 7/11/2023 – The Board postponed the approval of the 7/11/2023 minutes.

Motion by Select Member Creighton to adjourn, seconded by Select Member Grady. The vote was unanimous (5-0).

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Healey Dippold, Chair