

# Select Board Minutes

August 8, 2023

Town of Cohasset  
Select Board Meeting  
Tuesday, August 8, 2023  
41 Highland Avenue

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

**Others Participating:** Christopher Senior, Town Manager

Chair Dippold called the meeting to order at 6:00 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 Plecs. Roll Call Vote, All aye.

The Board went into Executive Session at 6:05 p.m.

The Board came out of Executive Session and into Open Session at 7:33 p.m.

Public Comment-None

Licenses/Permits/Events-St. Stephen's Annual Picnic-Chief Quigley advised the Board that these 3 events are annual events. The plans have been vetted and they are all good to go. **Motion by Select Member Maher to approve the St. Stephen's Annual Picnic on Sunday, September 10, 2023, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote; All aye.**

McCourt Foundation-Tour De South Shore-Motion by Select Member Grady to approve the McCourt Foundation-Tour De South Shore on Saturday, September 23, 2023, from 8-11 a.m., seconded by Select Member Plecs. Roll Call Vote; All aye.

Thanks-for-Giving 5k Race-Motion by Select Member Creighton to approve the Thanks-for-Giving 5k Race on Thursday, November 23, 2023, from 7:30-10:00 a.m., seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote; All aye.

Board/Committee Appointments-Affordable Housing Trust-Select Board Representative-Chair Dippold ask the Board if anyone was interested in serving as the representative. She tabled the appointment for a future agenda.

Cemetery Proposed Rules & Regulations-Mr. Senior asked the Board to postpone the discussion and advised the Board this proposal will need to go to Town Meeting for approval. They need to discuss with counsel.

**Legal Services Agreement-William Solomon-Verizon Cable License Renewal**-Mr. Senior advised the Board the Town used William Solomon for prior cable license renewals and is recommending the Town use him for the Verizon renewal. **Motion by Select Member Grady to approve the agreement with William Solomon for the Verizon Cable License renewal, seconded by Select Member Plecs. Roll Call Vote; All aye.**

**Select Board Goals-Fields & Courts-Update**-Select Member Plecs advised the Board there was a great public forum on Fields & Courts on August 2, 2023, it was well attended, and they got great feedback. One of the suggestions was to be prepared for STM and he advised everyone that the Board's goal is to get to STM with a package about infrastructure investments. The takeaway from the group was that they want the Select Board to come to STM with a real proposal that includes town hall, fields, recreation, and schools. The Board had a brief discussion and agreed to have CPC in for a conversation regarding funding early. Select Member Maher encouraged everyone to watch the forum. It was quick and informative. She suggested that they make sure all the money approved by town meeting with CPC funds is tracked and accounted for. Also, she stated there are parking and traffic flow issues at Deer Hill School that should be considered. She mentioned the wall that is going up at the library will not eliminate middle/high school kids from using the wall there. They may want to look at putting a wall at the Middle/High school in the future. Chair Dippold agreed that they should get updates on CPC projects and see if money for projects needs to be reauthorized or turned back.

**Elm Street-Sidewalk Update and Vote**-Director of DPW Brian Joyce stated at the last meeting there was a vote taken by the Select Board for paving the surface of the road and surface of the sidewalks but did not include resetting any curbing. The Board requested that he look at the sidewalks and see if there was any room to expand it in the current footprint. After walking the area with the contractor and the Superintendent of DPW the recommendation would be to reset the curbing in its current location along with paving the sidewalk and street. The price of this is \$743,000. The sidewalks are still in ADA compliance. **Motion by Select Member Grady to approve Option #2 to reset curbing and pave sidewalk and street, seconded by Select Member Creighton. Roll Call Vote; All aye.**

**School Capital Needs/Stabilization Fund**-Mr. Senior advised the Board he has spoken to the School Committee Chair a few times. The Facilities Director Nick Berardi who has been working with the A13 Assessment and is updating it and the schools are doing the same. The goal is to have both come together and discuss. This will allow them to put together the plan for a School Stabilization Fund. The process is moving forward. Brian Joyce discussed the sewer blockage that needs to be repaired at the Middle/High School. They are looking to use ARPA funds for the repair. It would cost \$35,000 and take two weeks to repair. They are looking to do it before school opens. **Motion by Select Member Grady to approve spending \$35,000 in ARPA funds for sewer repairs at the Middle/High School, seconded by Select Member Maher. Roll Call Vote; All aye**

**Town Manager Update**-Mr. Senior advised the Board they are looking to fill 3 positions with the town. They are looking for a part-time Kitchen Coordinator at the Senior Center, an IT Technical Support Specialist and an HR Generalist and Special Assistant to the Town Manager. On August 17<sup>th</sup> there will be a groundbreaking ceremony at 808 Jerusalem Road by South Shore Habitat for Humanity. The Milliken Field project is finally nearing completion. They are working on dates in the fall for the ribbon cutting on Michael T. Ernst Square. He will update the Board as he gets details.

**Select Board Comments-**Select Member Creighton stated the Board had another good meeting tonight. It is nice to address Elm Street. He thanked Select Member Grady for doing a great job on the Sidewalk Committee. He reminded the Board that they need to look at all streets not just certain ones. Select Member Maher asked if the Board could revisit the conversation on water bottle ban. She doesn't think it should be a citizen's petition. She thinks the idea should be properly vetted and propose to ATM if they believe they were too hasty in their decision. Select Member Plecs agreed and said they should hear both sides. Select Member Grady stated he is dead set against it. It should be all bottles not just water. Select Member Grady said he is thrilled that the Board came up with a solution for Elm Street and ready to move forward on other projects. He thanked Chris Senior and Michelle Leary for all the work they have been doing. Chair Dippold stated the Board has been putting in a tremendous amount of work in open and executive session to set the Town up for success in the future. The residents should start to see the fruits of that labor publicly in September. They are trying to look at the big picture and financial implications. She appreciates the hard work and multiple meetings this Board and other boards have held.

**Approval of Minutes-Motion by Select Member Creighton to approve the minute of 6/27/2023, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote; All aye.**

**Motion by Select Member Creighton to adjourn, seconded by Select Member Grady. Roll Call Vote; All aye.**

The meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Jean Healey Dippold, Chair