

Board of Selectmen – May 13, 2013

Present: Tsagaris, Gibbs, Searle, Babson, McCauley (Ms. Babson was absent for agenda item #5 and the initial portion of agenda item #6, as she was required to meet with the Natural Resources Commission at that time)

Also present: Larsen, Robinson

Call to order: 7:00 pm

Warrants approved: #2013-045 in the amount of \$1,269,292.63.

Ms. Tsagaris made announcements regarding the Wonderful World of Wellesley weekend including the Rotary Pancake Breakfast, Open Houses and Veterans Parade. Ms. Tsagaris also announced the upcoming Memorial Day Observances.

1. Citizen Speak

None.

2. National Grid Safety Update

Victor Santana of National Grid joined the Board. Mr. Santana gave a summary of gas main replacement work done in recent years, and noted that approximately 2,500 linear feet of main is replaced each year. He also noted that approximately one third of the gas network is inspected each year and he explained how the inspection work is done. Lastly, he explained the process for determining which sections of main are to be replaced.

Mr. McCauley questioned how many miles of gas main National Grid has in Wellesley and the age of that infrastructure. Mr. Santana responded that he does not have a precise estimate of the extent of the gas network and he noted that most of the network dates from the mid 1900's. Given the age of the infrastructure, Mr. McCauley believes National Grid needs a more proactive approach to the gas main replacement, i.e., they should be replacing something closer to 5 miles of main each year.

Mr. Larsen committed to follow up on this issue with National Grid.

3. National Grid Petition to Install Gas Main on Webb Avenue

Dennis Regan, Permit Representative from National Grid joined the Board and explained the request for installation of a new gas service on Webb Avenue.

The Board voted (5-0) to approve a petition from National Grid to install and maintain approximately 110 feet, more or less of 2 inch gas main in Webb Ave, Wellesley from the existing 2 inch gas main at house #14 to house #19 for a new gas service.

4. Patio Extension Alta Strada – 92 Central Street

Nick Heilmann General Manager of Alta Strada joined the Board. Mr. Heilmann is requesting permission to extend his licensed premises to include a patio at the rear of their building. The patio is on private property and is bounded by the building and private parking. They are hoping to incorporate this into their operation later this summer. Ms. Babson questioned whether the Board needs to see a specific seating plan. Mr. Larsen responded that we are primarily concerned with the number of seats, and given the patio area does not encompass any public sidewalk, we are less concerned with the actual seating arrangement. Ms. Babson questioned whether the patio area could be viewed from inside the restaurant. Mr. Heilmann responded that it could and they will have a hostess stationed outside during business hours.

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the application of Alta Strada, Wellesley, LLC located at 92 Central Street to extend the premises for their Common Victualler License to sell all alcoholic beverages by installation of 375 sq. ft. +/- of outdoor seating (Hours 11:00am – 9:00 pm.) with 30 seats to be located at rear exit of building.

5. Board of Health (BOH) Update

Members of the Board of Health, Marcia Testa Simonson, Lloyd Tarlin and Shepherd Cohen, as well as Health Director, Lenny Izzo joined the Board. Mr. Cohen made a few brief remarks regarding the Health Department's organization. Mr. Shepherd then described some of the accomplishments of the Health Department in the last year. The BOH continues to make mental health services a priority. They were able to acquire funding to create a new community social worker part-time position. This individual will be out in the community doing outreach and referrals to make sure needs are taken care of. Ms. Simonson briefly discussed the Medical Reserve Corp. Mr. Izzo described some of the upcoming activities/programs at the Wellesley Health Department. Mr. McCauley questioned how they publicize their programs. Mr. Izzo responded that they use local media sources as well as the Senior Newsletter, the website and the Recreation Brochure.

6. Historical Commission – Wellesley Inn Cottage

Members of the Historical Commission, David Wright, Josh Doran, Larry McNally, Peter Fergusson, Joel Slocum and Dwight Lueth joined the Board. Mr. Wright made brief remarks regarding the redevelopment plan, and the Commission's function in making sure town history is preserved during projects in Town. The Commission conducted a historical assessment of the Beebe House. Mr. Wright gave an overview of the three historical elements of the Beebe House, which include historical persons, architecture and location. Mr. Wright then discussed possible alternative uses for the Beebe House. Mr. Dwight Lueth gave a brief overview of the structural issues with the Beebe House.

After further discussion, the Board asked Mr. Larsen to contact the developer and request that he "take another look" at the possibility of preserving at least some portion of the Beebe House in the Wellesley Inn redevelopment.

7. Town Counsel

Mr. Robinson announced that he would be retiring at the end of June 2014. He was first appointed as Town Counsel in 1977, and he wishes to give the Board ample time to find his successor. Ms. Babson said the Board will first focus on the requirements of the position and then work on a process for selecting a successor. It will be challenging for the Board to evaluate other service models, what they like and want to replicate and what changes they might want to make. The first step will be for the Board to interview other board members and staff to better understand what has worked well and what suggestions they may have for changes in the future.

8. Executive Director Update

The Board voted (5-0) to accept the gift of \$3,000 donated by the Wellesley Hills Junior Women's Club for the purpose of funding transportation for persons in the Town of Wellesley ages 60 and older.

The Board voted (5-0) to approve the request from Babson College for a One Day Special License in accordance with their request dated April 30, 2013, for Female Athletic Conference Event to be held on June 8, 2013.

Mr. Larsen invited the Board's feedback on a draft memorandum to the Planning Board summarizing the results of the Selectmen's review of the traffic study for the Babson First Year Residence Hall PSI

project. He noted that the attorney for the applicant had suggested alternative language regarding the recommendation that the applicant make “best efforts” to coordinate the timing of construction vehicle trips together with Wellesley Country Club, to avoid adverse impacts on the Wellesley Avenue / Forest Street intersection during the peak commuting periods. The Board was in favor of leaving the report as currently drafted.

Mr. Larsen discussed the final changes to the licensing agreement allowing Dunkin Donuts to provide seating on the public sidewalk at 98 Central Street. The changes require the licensee to provide a trash receptacle in the licensed area and empty the adjacent Town trash receptacle when circumstances warrant. Mr. Larsen circulated the agreement for the Board’s signature.

Projects and Other Updates

- Tolles-Parsons Center – Ms. Tsagaris noted the Planning Committee met last week and discussed next steps. They will be meeting to discuss next steps for advancing the fundraising campaign. The PBC has chosen a new OPM (Owner’s Project Manager).
- Wellesley Square Initiative – Ms. Searle will start to interview landlords further down Washington Street this summer as part of the Go Local Initiative. They are moving forward with the Go Local website, which will be linked to the Town’s website.
- Fuller Brook Park Project – Ms. Babson noted that they had their third hearing before Wellesley Wetlands Protection Committee. They will be meeting again on May 30 and working on technical comments received.
- Regional Matters/Transportation – Ms. Gibbs distributed the latest letter to be submitted to the House Senate Conference Committee in support of the senate version of the Transportation Finance Package. The Board expressed unanimous support for the draft letter.
- Sustainability – Ms. Searle gave an account of her own personal Power to Save energy audit. Ms. Searle gave favorable reviews and felt it was a very positive experience. Ms. Babson also discussed her experience with a Power to Save audit.

At 9:22 pm the Board was polled all aye to go into Executive Session to discuss the War Memorial Scholarships.

Documents Presented: 53 Grove Street Beebe House by the Wellesley Historical Commission.