

Approved: February 1, 2021

Select Board Meeting: January 4, 2021

Present: Freiman, Ulfelder, Olney, Sullivan Woods, Aufranc

Also Present: Jop, Frigulietti

Warrants approved: none

Meeting Documents:

1. Agenda
2. Draft BOS Calendar
3. Tentative Agreement – Wellesley Free Library Staff
4. Correspondence re: Free Parking Extension
5. Draft Warrant Articles
6. Draft SB Minutes: 12/21/20
7. COA Gift Information

1. Call to Order

Ms. Freiman, Chair, called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm online.

Ms. Freiman announced the meeting was being streamed live on Comcast channel 8 and Verizon channel 40 and by Wellesley Media and recorded for subsequent viewing on the cable channels or at wellesleymedia.org.

2. Citizen Speak

Mr. Hutchinson joined the meeting. He noted the special permit before the Zoning Board of Appeals for Gravestar to expand and redesign the Whole Foods parking lot. He stated that he believed an expansion of the Whole Foods parking lot as designed would create greater crash rates in the area. He discussed the design noting that the driveway apron near Atwood Street would have no signal and be believed would create a dangerous intersection. Mr. Hutchinson relayed several discussion points from ZBA meetings regarding the permit request.

3. Announcements

Ms. Freiman thanked Ms. Webb, long time Wellesley Animal Control Officer, who was retiring on January 5th. She noted Ms. Webb's many accomplishments and long history with the Town as a resident and Town employee. The Board congratulated Ms. Webb on her retirement and wished her well.

Ms. Sullivan Woods stated that the School Department and Health Department reminded the community to follow guidelines regarding social distancing, masks, and gatherings. She added that the Health Department would begin vaccinations of Wellesley's first responders in the upcoming week. She added that large scale community vaccinations were not available at this time and Newton Wellesley and the Health Department would alert the community when information became available.

4. Discuss and Vote Contracts

Ms. Jop stated that the tentative agreement for Library Staff had been approved at Town Meeting. She added that the changes had been incorporated into the contract from the tentative agreement. She noted that the other contracts would be presented to the Board in the upcoming meetings as the tentative

agreements were incorporated and language was finalized. Ms. Jop stated that no substantive changes were made in the contract language that had been previously reviewed and approved by the Board. The Board discussed the contract.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to approve the contract with the Wellesley Free Library Staff Association Supervisor Unit.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Freiman – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

5. Discuss and Vote Free Parking Extension

Ms. Jop stated that the Town sponsored free 2-hour parking meters ended at the first of the year. She noted that several merchants and residents had requested an extension of the meters. She reviewed several comparable communities parking meter programs noting that Needham had been the only community contacted that was considering extending free parking meters after January 1st. Ms. Jop provided an overview of historical collection of the parking meter revenue and the loss of revenue due to COVID and providing free parking. Ms. Freiman noted that even providing free parking, many spaces remained open. Ms. Sullivan Woods stated that the merchants had been very appreciative of the free parking and they believed it helped support their efforts to keep business in Town. Mr. Ulfelder stated his concerns that the free parking was not driving business and believed that given the current budget constraints he would prefer to end the free meter program. Ms. Olney stated she would favor an extension of the free meter program and believed it would help drive customers. Ms. Aufranc stated she would like to have an official end of the free meter program if it were extended again. Ms. Freiman agreed that the Board wanted to support the merchants however the budgetary shortfalls continued to be assessed and addressed. The Board continued to discuss providing an extensions of the free 2-hour meter programs with an official end time. The Board expressed agreement to extend free 2-hour meters through the end of February and asked Ms. Jop and Ms. Frigulietti to let the merchants know that there would be no additional extensions for free meters. Ms. Freiman reminded residents that store pick-up was available throughout Town and curbside and take-out were helpful ways to support local businesses.

6. Annual Town Meeting Preparation

Ms. Jop stated that the warrant had closed on December 23rd and provided a brief review of the anticipated article list. She noted several potential articles that would require additional Board discussion prior to approval of the warrant.

Ms. Jop provided a review of the Budget Summit held earlier in the morning. She noted that the information discussed would be incorporated into the budget book. She added that the Board was not able to complete the review of all of the departmental budgets and would schedule a second budget summit to complete the process. Ms. Jop stated that a new budget model would be provided as capital projects continued to be reassessed.

7. Executive Director's Update

Ms. Jop noted the minutes and the gift for the COA for approval.

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to approve the minutes of December 21, 2020.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

Freiman – Aye

Upon a motion by Ms. Sullivan Woods and seconded by Mr. Ulfelder the Board was polled and voted (5-0) to accept the grant of \$10,000 from the Metrowest Health Foundation to the Council on Aging.

Sullivan Woods – Aye

Olney –Aye

Ulfelder – Aye

Freiman – Aye

Aufranc – Aye

8. New Business and Correspondence

The meeting was adjourned at 7:24 pm.

The next regular meeting is scheduled for January 11, 2021 at 6:00pm online.