Select Board
Minutes
Tuesday, May 7, 2019 at 7:00pm
Town Hall Meeting Room, Harvard, MA

The meeting was called to order at 7:00pm by Chair Lucy Wallace in the Town Hall Meeting Room. Select Board members Kara Minar, Rich Maiore, Alice von Loesecke and Stu Sklar were in attendance as well as Town Administrator Tim Bragan and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet.

Appointment to the 4th of July Committee
Committee Chair Anne Hentz introduced Christopher Chalifoux for appointment. On a Minar/Maiore motion, the board voted unanimously to appoint Christopher Chalifoux to the 4th of July Committee.

Junior Girl Scout Troop 64818 – turtle sign request
Junior scouts Isabel, Tegan, Sophia, Melissa, Lainey, Meghan, Phoebe and Siena came to present their idea to protect Harvard's turtles. They have observed endangered Blanding turtles that have been killed by cars while they were crossing the street during nesting season. The 5th graders have been caring for these turtles in their classroom for a whole year and would hate to see them killed. They are requesting approval to place turtle crossing signs that will alert drivers and bikers to look out for turtles. These signs would go up during turtle nesting season (in May), and can come down in early fall, after the hatchlings are born. In addition, the scouts plan to educate Harvard's citizens on how to watch out for turtles and to stay safe in the process by making flyers and having an information session for the public. They will place a total of 14 signs at Under Pin Hill, Stow, Littleton Cnty, Shaker, Eldridge, Finn and Still River Roads. On a Sklar/Minar motion, the board voted unanimously to allow Girls Scout Troop 64818 to place turtle crossings at sites specified with direction from the DPW.

Public communication
Jim Breslauer, Poor Farm Road, complimented DPW Director Tim Kilhart for the department's prompt response to his concerns about clogged storm drains.

Minutes
On a Sklar/Minar motion, the board voted unanimously to approve minutes of 4/23, as submitted.

Town Administrator report
Bragan distributed a copy of the upcoming events being held at the Harvard Unitarian Universalist Church.

Bragan reported a member of the Permanent Building Committee completed a disclosure form because one of the architectural applicants that has applied to Fire Station Project is working on a project that her husband is the General Contractor for. This is not an issue and just necessary per Massachusetts General Law.

Bragan reported the Governor has officially appointed Duncan G. Chapman III to the Devens Enterprise Commission as a member.

Bragan announced an environmental forum will be held on Thursday, May 30, 2019 in the town Hall Meeting Room starting at 7PM.

Bragan reported the Board of Health is looking to have DEP come to Harvard to talk about PFAS and they are trying to tie down a date and are looking at June 19 and want it to be a BOH and SB organized talk.

Bragan received notice from Al Futterman regarding the Nashua, Squannacook, and Nissitissit Wild & Scenic Rivers Study Council and the fact that they will be morphing into a Stewardship Council in the near future. At the Board's next meeting we will need to make the necessary appointment(s).

Bragan asked the Select Board members to forward topics for the Strategic Planning Session being held on June 12, 2019 from 9:00AM to 12noon at the Shaker Hills Golf Course.

Entertainment license
On a Sklar/Minar motion, the board voted unanimously to approve an Entertainment license for the Harvard Schools Trust Hootenanny at the Community Harvest property on June 1, 2019.

Old library project payment request
On a Sklar/Minar motion, the board voted unanimously to approve payment to Rinaldi Inc. in the amount of $83,043.93.

Old Library
Bragan reported a meeting was held with members of the Cultural Collaborative (Fivesparks) to discuss their reentry to the building upon completion of the accessibility project. Assistant Town Administrator Marie Sobalvarro, Board members Wallace & Maiore and collaborative representatives Mark Mikitarian and Willie Wickman attended the meeting. They discussed the building being ready for July 1st. One question that came up was who is responsible for repair and painting of the walls in the Gallery. Until the roof is repaired the collaborative is concerned this will continue to happen. Bragan offered the idea of using the cost for the repair/paint as a credit toward initial rent payments with the understanding if the roof repair does not pass at the annual town election it will be their responsibility for future painting. They decided to prepare a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for action at the next meeting. On a Maiore/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to approve pending MOU.

Meeting schedule
The Select Board moved their next meeting in May to the 28th and their meetings in June to the 11th and 25th.

Select Board Reports
Maiore and Sklar met to review letters of interest for the Ginny Thurston Scholarship. They were sorry to report the applicants did not meet the scholarship criteria. They brainstormed ways to improve exposure of the scholarship with help from the guidance department.

Maiore will meet with the Planning Board to discuss next steps with respect to erosion control.

Von Loesecke reported on dirt removal and soil testing for the Hildreth Elementary School project. A groundbreaking ceremony will be held on June 13th 6pm.

Minar said on May 30th a listening session will be held by the Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness (MVP) on May 30th.

Minar reported the Council on Aging has received $49,000 in volunteer hours.

Sklar reported the War Monument Restoration Committee is deciding where to put their efforts next.

Sklar noted the SMART (Save Money & Reduce Trash) program will begin in July with purchase of bags and stickers beginning on June 3rd. He complimented DPW Director Tim Kilhart and the Board of Health for their efforts is moving this program forward. They will have volunteers in June at the Transfer Station to talk to residents and answer questions. Information will be posted on the town website and a town wide mailing is going out as well.

Wallace reported the Old Library Accessibility Committee is meeting regularly and hopeful for the project to be complete by July 1st

Wallace said the Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee is working to set up framework for a smaller working group that would include chairs from the other boards to discuss needs of each community.

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05pm.

Documents referenced:
Chalifoux vol form – dated 4.12.2019
Turtle sign request – dated 4.12.2019
Ent License application – dated 4.22.2019
Old Library payment request – dated 5.1.2019