

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

National Grid Pole Petition Hearing - Sherry Road

Alice von Loesecke opened the hearing by reading the legal notice. Executive Assistant Julie Doucet confirmed abutters were notified with no responses. The DPW Director reviewed the request and did not have any issues with their request.

National Grid Rep. Javiar Morales explained the request is to install 3 SO Poles on Sherry Road beginning at a point approximately 140' feet west of the centerline of the intersection of the Boxborough town line and continuing approximately 220' feet in a westerly direction. The 3 poles are located in the public way along Sherry Road in Harvard beginning 140' from the Boxborough town line and continuing westerly another 220' to the 3rd and last pole. He said the request to supply power to a new home being built. He confirmed their arborist will contact the DPW Director if any trees need to be removed. He expects only trimming however until they get out there they really do not know.

On a Wallace/Minar motion, the board voted unanimously to close the public hearing.

On a Wallace/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to approve request for permit for three poles on Sherry Road.

Complete Streets proposal

Von Loesecke invited DPW Director Tim Kilhart, Planning Board Chair Erin McBee and the Community and Economic Development Director Chris Ryan to go over the plan for the Complete Streets grant program. She is aware there has been discussions about the proposed plan therefore she thought it was prudent for the Select Board to review it at a meeting. In addition, the Select Board received a letter signed by a number of residents outlining their concerns and suggestions on how to improve pedestrian movement in the Town Center.

Planning Board Chair Erin McBee explained the Complete Streets and Mass Works grants were being handled during the same timeframe which made things a bit confusing and in addition the department was short staffed with changes being made to the Planner position. McBee and DPW Director Tim Kilhart explained the Complete Streets Prioritization Plan includes various recommendations from the Master Plan. The improvements identified in the Town Center for pedestrian/bicycle safety, sidewalk connectivity and ADA compliant crosswalks were a top priority thus why the center was chosen for this round of Complete Streets funding. The additional projects outlined in the plan will be completed in phases allowing for additional grant funding opportunities. Kara Minar asked if the sidewalks can be 4' instead of 5'. Kilhart will request a variance from the state. He confirmed no parking spaces will be lost by this project simply reconfigured. There will be one entrance and exit onto Still River Road with an exit only onto Mass Ave. Kilhart noted the Town Center Action and Master Plans advocated for these improvements. Kilhart has meetings schedule with the Historical Commission and Zoning Board of Appeals to get the necessary feedback and approvals for the project. They discussed concrete versus asphalt as the material to be used for the sidewalks. Kilhart plans to utilize Chapter 90 funds for paving of the roadways after the project is completed. He expects to have the design out for bid this winter so the project can be started next spring. The Select Board members thanked Kilhart, McBee and Ryan for their work on this. They understand and agree improvements in the town center are important and necessary. Kilhart will follow up with the board about the 4ft variance request.

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Von Loesecke invited General Store owner Scott Hayward to speak on behalf of the residents who signed the letter to the Select Board regarding the Complete Streets plan. Hayward reiterated the priorities outlined in their letter and spoke about some issues in the plan that are inappropriate such as the 5ft concreate sidewalks. They have concern parts of this plan will change the historic character of the town center. He supports the 4ft variance request. Hayward understands the Master Plan calls for safety improvements in the center however another plan may be better suited for Harvard. Hayward also noted there has never been an incident to date in the General Store parking lot.

Von Loesecke explained areas that are not included in this first phase will be considered in the future. There is also an opportunity for grant funding through the Safe Routes to School Program for sidewalks down to the schools. She acknowledged the challenges concerning the General Store nonetheless this plan will improve safety in the town center.

Public Communication

Jared Wollaston, 1 Elm Street, has resided in Harvard for 20 years. In general he feels the plan stinks. In his option it does not respect the flow of traffic and creates a barricade to the General Store parking lot. He believes the new design will back up traffic on Still River Road. He believes it is safer for people to have the ability to drive in and out. He asked the Select Board to table this project and seek more input. He does not think the grant funding should hold the town hostage. He is certain one entrance for the General Store will be a big mistake.

Carlene Phillips thought it was ironic the Historical Commission had not been consulted sooner especially since the center is a historic district. She cannot imagine granite curbing in front of the general store. This will not make things friendlier but will demean the historic nature of the building. Phillips does not want this taken lightly. She said the grant asks for things we do not need. She is in favor of safety but does not want to jeopardize the remarkable town center we have.

Craig Kilmer, CK Bikes owner, is concerned of the impact this may have on cyclists coming through town. He wished he had heard more about the plans as no one had approached him about it. He asked the board to consider how this plan my hinder cyclists.

Deer Management Program

Subcommittee members Bob Douglas and Jason Cole came requesting the Select Board vote on the program they presented at the last meeting. Douglas and Cole envision the program beginning next fall. They will provide maps to all qualified hunters on where hunting is allowed. To inform members of the public signs will be posted at trail heads, in parking areas and information posted on the town website. They will also notify immediate abutters. Select Board member Sklar expressed his reluctance about the program. He does not understand the logic behind it. He believes deer will migrate creating a need to expand areas where hunting is allowed. Rich Maiore asked when and how we will be able to determine if this program is working. Douglas said monitoring will allow them to compare year to year and the Dept of Fish & Wildlife can assist. Maiore was impressed with the committees work and emphasis on safety. He can support the program as a trial dependent on a comprehensive method for evaluating success. He also noted program sustainability will be critical. Douglas and Cole are confident this approach will have positive results. Minar, von Loesecke and Wallace were impressed with the committees work. Police Chief Ed Denmark commented the committees work is very comprehensive. He reported in the 16 years he has worked in Harvard no calls have come in related to hunting. On a Wallace/Minar motion, the board voted to support proposed Deer Management Program from the Deer Management Subcommittee appointed by the Conservation Commission. (Sklar – nay – 4-1).

Town Administrator Report

Bragan reported on the following items:

- The Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director, Marie Sobalvarro, has provided the attached update regarding the Facilities Manager/Building Inspector position. In a nutshell, the position was re-advertised, we currently have three applications, and there are at least four other searches going on as noticed by the MMA and one of those is Littleton.
- The Land Court ruled in the Town's favor regarding the Old Mill Road case and it will become effective 30 days
 from the date the decision is filed. This case means that we can now proceed with any enforcement on any
 other landscape companies that are operating in residential area.
- Attached the warrant with Finance Committee Recommendations for review later in the meeting.
- He is still in the process of investigating the complaint from HCT regarding the DPW and possible violation of the Scenic Road Bylaw.
- The Harvard Water Department is working with Skillings Well and Pump out of Sterling to try and abate the bacteria in well #5. They are super chlorinating the well this week and will test it again next week. Well 5 has been offline since July/August and we are running with just well #2.
- Capital Budget process is underway (see attached summary) and the FY 2021 Budget Documents (see attached) have gone out as well.
- The official mailing has gone out for the Community Aggregation Program and **October 26, 2019** is the opt-out deadline for notifying Dynegy (our supplier). The official document has the Town's seal (a drawing of Old Library). No one is going door to door or calling residents. There are other companies out there now that are trying to get people to sign up for other energy programs and this is causing confusion.
- The Moderator is currently looking for two people to serve as Associate Members on the Finance Committee.
- Quarterly budget report will be reviewed at the next meeting.

Split of Annual Town Meeting (ATM) into two sessions

The Select Board members received interesting feedback from the public and Town Clerk about their idea to consider splitting the ATM into two sessions. The members agree trying a start time in the afternoon for each session instead of first thing in the morning can accommodate spring/fall sports as well as first communion.

They talked about not limiting the type of articles to a specific session and possibly changing the order of the articles. On a Sklar/Wallace motion, the board voted unanimously to split the ATM into two session spring and fall.

Senior Tax Relief Program asset limit

Sklar asked to move this item to the next agenda allowing time for a meeting with the Assessor.

Conservation Restriction - Maxant Land

On a Wallace/Maiore motion, the board voted unanimously to sign the deed of conservation restriction granted by Ted Maxant and Valerie Delker.

House bill 3976 "An Act Promoting Awareness of Sewage Pollution in Public Waters

Wallace explained the intent of the house bill is to limit storm overflow from wastewater treatment plants and to require notification for those residences downstream. On a Wallace/Minar motion, the board voted unanimously to sign letter of support dated October 22nd.

Open Space Committee charge

Sklar and Maiore worked on the draft charge. They made changes to the composition of the committee by having a member or designee of the Select Board, Conservation Commission, Harvard Conservation Trust, Parks and Recreation Commission School Department, The Harvard Athletic Association and the planning board. The board members offered a few other suggested changes. Resident Peter Dorward, 78 Still River Road, (past Cons. Trustee) also offered some recommendations on the five year action plan and having recreation land still remain under the purview of the Park & Recreation Commission. A final draft will be completed for action at the next meeting.

Police Contract

On a Sklar/Wallace motion, the board voted unanimously to approve the police contract as negotiated.

One-day Liquor License - True West Brewery

On a Wallace/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to grant a one day liquor license to True West Brewery for the annual bonfire event at Fruitlands Museum to be held on Saturday, November 2nd.

Vote on Special Town Meeting Articles

The Select Board took votes on their support of the twenty two articles.

On a Sklar/Maiore motion, the board voted unanimously to support page 1 articles 1-4.

On a Wallace/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to support articles 5-7.

On a Wallace/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to support articles 8-11.

On a Wallace/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to take no position on article 12. This article was submitted by the Park & Recreation Commission requesting \$15,000 for spring field maintenance to be performed prior to Fiscal Year 2021. The Select Board were in agreement with the Finance Committees recommendation they use the money they have currently for the fields and not on a field study. In addition, a long term study would be appropriate and necessary before any funding is sought for substantial rehabilitation or enhancement of our recreational facilities.

On a Wallace/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to support articles 13-15.

On a Majore/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to support articles 16 & 17.

The Select Board does not take a position on Citizens Petition therefore no vote was taken on article 18.

On a Wallace/Sklar motion, the board voted unanimously to support article 19.

On a Wallace/Maiore motion, the board voted to support article 20. (Minar - Nay 4-1)

On a Maiore/Wallace motion, the board voted unanimously to support article 21.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:15pm.

Documents referenced:

National Grid Pole Petition request – dated 10.2.2019
Complete Streets plan – dated 2019
Maxant Cons Restriction – dated July 2019
House Bill 3976 letter – dated 10.22.2019
Open Space Charge – dated 10.18.2019
True West Brewing application – dated 10.1.2019
STM warrant – dated 10.21.2019