



Posted 4.1.2021 at 4:00pm by JAD

**SELECT BOARD
AGENDA
Tuesday, April 6, 2021
7:00pm**

The Select Board Regular Meeting is being held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A. S.20. Interested individuals can listen in and participate by phone and/or online by following the link and phone # below.

UpperTH ProWebinar is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: Select Board

Time: Apr 6, 2021 07:00 PM Eastern Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82505102980?pwd=bmJnd2NsZlRlQ2RtbmxvcEJ6aUdDZz09>

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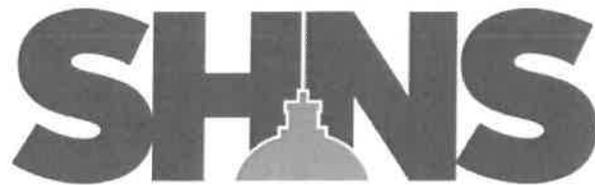
+13126266799,,123906012# US (Chicago)

+19294362866,,12390012# US (New York)

Agenda Items

- 1) Discuss statewide mosquito spraying (7:00)
- 2) Approve minutes 3/16 (7:10)
- 3) Public Communication (7:15)
- 4) Staff Report/Updates (7:20)
- 5) Action/Discussion items: (7:30)
 - a) Act on request from the Town Clerk to reduce hours of the town election
 - b) Discuss and finalize ballot question for the old library roof
 - c) Act on Revenue Ideation Committee charge
 - d) Vote to endorse Community Project Funding support letter for Fruitlands Museum
 - e) Act on Bare Hill Pond Watershed Management Committee conflict of interest
- 6) Select Board Reports

***Next Regular Select Board Meeting
Tuesday, April 20, 2021
7:00pm***



STATE HOUSE NEWS SERVICE

<http://www.statehousenews.com>

Muni Matters: Mosquito Season Nears | Agawam's Electric Charge | Extreme Muni Impacts

Mosquito Spray Opt-Out Window Open Through May 15 | Charging for Charge-Ups in Agawam | UMass Survey Illuminates Significant Municipal Impacts of the Pandemic | Beckwith: Pandemic, Prop. 2 1/2 Will Hold Back Local Budgets

State House News Service | 3/23/21 12:42 PM

- Mosquito Spray Opt-Out Window Open Through May 15
- Charging for Charge-Ups in Agawam
- UMass Survey Illuminates Significant Municipal Impacts of the Pandemic
- Beckwith: Pandemic, Prop. 2 1/2 Will Hold Back Local Budgets

Mosquito Spray Opt-Out Window Open Through May 15

Summertime mosquitoes will be buzzing soon enough and state officials have laid out the process cities and towns must follow if they want to opt out of spraying meant to control mosquito-borne illnesses. Municipalities have until May 15 to file an opt-out application with the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs, but they must first develop a local alternative management plan that wins local support and state approval. "A municipality may only opt out of spraying activities conducted by the [State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board], whether done aerially or by other means, provided it has a Plan approved by EEA," the state wrote in guidance it shared with cities and towns. "The approval of a Plan means that the SRMCB will not perform any spray activities in that municipality. It does not extend to

activities conducted by Mosquito Control Districts ('MCD') or any spray activities the MCD may perform within a municipality that is a member." Before the opt-out application can go to EEA for review and approval, the city council or select board must hold a public meeting to vote on the intention to opt out, and accept input on an alternative plan from local health authorities and the public. A law that Gov. Charlie Baker signed last summer gave the SRMCB new powers to fight mosquito-borne illnesses like EEE and West Nile virus when public health officials determine there is an elevated risk. It also required EEA to develop a process for municipalities to opt-out of SRMCB spraying, aerial or otherwise. The state said aerial spraying, which uses the pesticide Anvil 10+10, "generally results in negligible exposure to humans. As a result, the potential for adverse health effects to the general public is likely to be very low... Responsiveness in some sensitive individuals is hard to predict." - Colin A. Young/SHNS

Charging for Charge-Ups in Agawam

Want to juice up your electric vehicle at one of the public charging stations in Agawam? It could soon cost you. The Agawam City Council recently voted 9-1 to approve the first reading of a resolution that would charge electric vehicle owners 60 cents per kilowatt hour to use the city's charging stations. Agawam has a total of seven such stations that are currently free to use, and officials had previously discussed a fee of \$1 per kilowatt hour in order to offset the city's subscription and upkeep costs. Councilor Dino Mercadante said the reduction in the proposed rate was an attempt to encourage use of the stations without requiring taxpayers to subsidize their costs. "You have to find that happy medium to allow the vehicles to start flourishing, to move in that direction, and then that will bring the demand rate down and make the bottom line more competitive," he said. Zero-emission vehicles, including electric cars and trucks, are a major part of the Baker administration's greenhouse gas emissions reduction strategy. Meeting the administration's goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions by at least 45 percent from 1990 levels by 2030 will "require that about 1 million of the 5.5 million [passenger vehicles] projected to be registered in the Commonwealth in 2030 be" zero-emission vehicles, the administration said in its 2050 decarbonization plan, which also calls for a requirement that all new cars and passenger trucks sold in Massachusetts be zero-emission vehicles starting in 2035. The only councilor to vote against the resolution in Agawam was Mario Tedeschi, who said he believes the city should charge something to use the stations, but that the proposed rate is too high compared to residential electricity costs. "Is it such a convenience that someone is going to pay two or three times more because the electricity is so much faster and so much more convenient at the dog park?" he said Monday. Councilor Robert Rossi was absent for the vote.

The Council will vote on a second reading of the resolution at its next meeting, at which point it will take effect if approved. - Meg McIntyre/SHNS

UMass Survey Illuminates Significant Municipal Impacts of the Pandemic

The COVID-19 crisis has caused "significant to extreme" impacts on municipal operations in 78 percent of municipalities that participated in a recent survey, while about 68 percent of respondents said the same severity of impacts were seen in their local economies. The University of Massachusetts Amherst survey conducted between Feb. 22 and March 2 covered a range of topics, including the pandemic's impact on specific business sectors, municipalities' public health outreach efforts and local and regional collaborations among cities and towns. When it came to vaccine distribution, 75 percent of communities said they had the financial resources to mount a vaccination clinic, but 72 percent said they lacked adequate vaccine supply to do so. A total of 117 municipalities participated in the survey, or about a third of the state's cities and towns. "This survey allowed our team to collect abundant data and we plan to pursue our analysis toward the publication of a research paper that includes spatial analyses," Marta Vicarelli, assistant professor of economics and public policy, said in a news release from the Massachusetts Municipal Association. "This will allow us to assess how needs, priorities and resources are distributed across Massachusetts municipalities as they respond to the COVID-19 crisis." - Meg McIntyre/SHNS

Beckwith: Pandemic, Prop. 2 1/2 Will Hold Back Local Budgets

Cities and towns face a long road out of the COVID-19 recession, with property tax revenue likely suppressed for a period of several years, the head of the Massachusetts Municipal Association told lawmakers. Testifying last week before the members of the House and Senate Ways and Means committees, MMA Executive Director Geoff Beckwith said that cities and towns face "acute and short-term" financial questions because of the loss of direct revenue from local meal and lodging taxes and parking and water fees. He also asked that the budget-writers keep in mind the longer-term challenges ahead for municipalities as new development is delayed because of the economic downturn. "As you know, under Proposition 2 1/2, cities and towns, they're capped with the property taxes they can increase or collect at a two-and-a-half percent increase each year, plus new growth," Beckwith said during the virtual hearing. "When we go through a period when there's no new growth, that means it takes a very long time for the property tax to spring back. It doesn't spring back. It fights its way back over many years to get where it would have been otherwise, because the development is not going to happen -- the commercial development, the industrial development, even a lot of the residential development is not going to happen until capital comes back into our economy, and so these projects are

delayed." Property taxes are a major revenue source for municipalities in Massachusetts, and Beckwith said anticipated slower property tax growth will leave cities and towns "particularly dependent going forward on local aid." Gov. Charlie Baker's \$45.6 billion budget for fiscal 2022 proposes to increase general local aid by \$39.5 million, a 3.5 percent bump that amounts to an additional \$112,535, on average, for all 351 municipalities. - Katie Lannan/SHNS

[Muni Matters reports on key issues and breaking news affecting cities and towns in Massachusetts. Send news, material and tips to munimatters@statehousenews.com]

-END-

3/23/2021

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EMERGENCY ALERTS

Coronavirus Update

Sign-up for COVID-19 alerts: Get notified by text, email, or phone in your preferred language. *Feb. 1st, 2021, 10:00 pm*

[Read more](#) ♦

For the latest information on COVID-19: Vaccines, Cases, Restrictions *Mar. 22nd, 2021, 5:00 pm* [Read more](#) ♦

HIDE ALERTS

Mass.gov

Application for Municipality Opt-Out of SRMCB Spraying

Overview of process by which municipalities can submit an alternative mosquito management plan, required for a municipality to opt-out of spraying conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board.

Municipal opt-out applications for calendar year 2021 season are due to EEAopt-out@mass.gov (mailto:EEAopt-out@mass.gov) by May 15, 2021.

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Overview of Process

M.G.L. Chapter 252, Section 2A(b)(2) allows a municipality to opt out of spraying, either aerial or other mosquito control spraying, conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board ("SRMCB") conducted under M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A(a). For the SRMCB to recognize a municipal opt out, the municipality must first have an alternative management plan ("Plan") approved by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs ("EEA"). In accordance with the M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A(b)(2), EEA has developed the following guidance on the development and approval of a Plan.

The following steps must be completed by the municipality prior to submitting a Plan to EEA for its review:

1. The municipality must hold a meeting of the City Council or Select Board, at which a vote must be taken indicating the municipality's intention to opt out of spraying (including aerial or other mosquito control spraying) conducted by the SRMCB.
2. This meeting should include input on the Plan from the local board of health and allow for public comment.
3. The vote should include the following:
 - a. The date and time of the public meeting
 - b. That the board of health was consulted;
 - c. That public comment was allowed;
 - d. Whether the municipality is opting out of all spraying or only certain spray activities, such as aerial spraying. If a vote does not include that it is for a specific type of spraying, the vote will cover all spray activities conducted by the SRMCB under M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A; and
 - e. That the vote to opt out will only be honored if an alternative mosquito management plan is submitted and approved by EEA.
4. The municipality must provide a copy of the certified vote as part of the application for approval of a Plan.
5. The municipality must complete this application for approval of a Plan and submit it to EEA at the following address: EEAopt-out@mass.gov (mailto:EEAopt-out@mass.gov)
6. All applications must be received by May 15th of the year for which the request is being made.
7. This process applies only to municipalities. Any other requests to opt out of spraying or exclude private property must be made in accordance with M.G.L. c. 252 or 333 CMR 13.00. More information on these options is available on the SRMCB web page: [How to Request an Exclusion or Opt-out from Wide Area Pesticide Applications](#) (/how-to/how-to-request-an-exclusion-or-opt-out-from-wide-area-pesticide-applications)

Important notes:

- A Plan must be approved in order for the SRMCB to recognize any municipality's request to opt out of spraying.
- Approval of a Plan does not extend to any spraying conducted by a mosquito control project or district ("MCD") of which a municipality may be a member. Any questions related to services provided by an MCD should be directed to its attention.
- A Plan shall be effective from the date of approval through December 31st of the year in which it was approved.

Application Details

By May 15, 2021, municipalities must send the following items as an email attachment to EEAopt-out@mass.gov (<mailto:EEAopt-out@mass.gov>)

1. Confirmation of certified vote, including:
 - a. The date and time of the public meeting;
 - b. That the board of health was consulted;
 - c. That public comment was allowed;
 - d. Whether the municipality is opting out of all spraying or only certain spray activities, such as aerial spraying. If a vote does not include that it is for a specific type of spraying, the vote will cover all spray activities conducted by the SRMCB under M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A; and
 - e. That the vote to opt out will only be honored if an alternative mosquito management plan is submitted and approved by EEA.
2. A completed alternative mosquito control management plan application
[Application for Municipality Opt-Out of SRMCB Spraying](#)
(</doc/application-for-municipality-opt-out-of-srmcb-spraying/download>)

Municipal Opt-Out Frequently Asked Questions

Below are frequently asked questions (FAQs) regarding the application process for producing an alternative mosquito management plan as part of the requirement for a municipality to opt out of spraying conducted by the State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board (SRMCB).

Who approves the application for an alternative mosquito management plan when a municipality requests to opt out of mosquito spraying?

An alternative mosquito management plan ("Plan"), required by M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A(b)(2), must be approved by the Executive Office of Energy and Environmental Affairs ("EEA").

What does having an approved Plan do, and what spraying activities can a municipality apply to opt out of?

A municipality may only opt out of spraying activities conducted by the SRMCB, whether done aurally or by other means, provided it has a Plan approved by EEA. The approval of a Plan means that the SRMCB will not perform any spray activities in that municipality. It does not extend to activities conducted by Mosquito Control Districts ("MCD") or any spray activities the MCD may perform within a municipality that is a member.

What if the municipality that wishes to opt out is currently a member of an MCD?

Municipalities that are part of an MCD that wish to opt out of spraying conducted by the SRMCB would apply by submitting a Plan for approval as well - there is no separate process. Note that the opt-out request relates to SRMCB activities only, and does not extend to activities conducted by MCDs including any spray activities an MCD may perform within a municipality that is a member.

What is the difference between mosquito control activities conducted by the SRMCB and MCDs?

While MCDs operate under the oversight of the SRMCB, M.G.L. c. 252, and enabling legislation, MCDs conduct year-round arbovirus control operations for their member municipalities. These services include but are not

limited to: larvicide treatments (including ground or aerial spraying), adulticide treatments (including ground spraying), public education and outreach, and water and wetland management. Under M.G.L. c. 252, Section 2A, the SRMCB may conduct mosquito control operations under its own authority anywhere in the Commonwealth when DPH has determined there is an elevated risk of arbovirus such as Eastern Equine Encephalitis (EEE) for that year. In the event that DPH issues a Certificate of Public Health Hazard, the SRMCB has historically responded by conducting aerial spraying of adulticide in limited areas in order to address the arbovirus risk.

If the municipality has an approved Plan, will the municipality be sprayed in the event there is a public health hazard?

No. If EEA has approved a Plan then the municipality will not be sprayed in the event the SRMCB conducts spraying, whether aerial or ground.

Will exclusion requests submitted by private property owners seeking to be excluded from spraying be honored if the SRMCB decides to spray in response to a public health hazard?

While private property owners may opt out of spraying activities conducted by the SRMCB, or can request to exclude their property from wide-area applications of pesticides, including those performed by MCDs, such requests are not honored by the SRMCB during a certification of a public health hazard.

What will EEA consider when reviewing a municipality's application for an alternative mosquito management plan?

Each municipality's application will be individually reviewed, with consideration of historical arbovirus risk, the regional impact of excluding the municipality from spraying, and the ability of the municipality to successfully implement an alternative mosquito management plan.

What are the minimum requirements for an alternative mosquito management plan?

In order for the Plan to be considered, it must contain at a minimum a detailed public outreach and education component. Municipalities should also make sure to provide an appropriate level of detail for any other components of the Plan they intend to provide.

What is the deadline for submission of an alternative mosquito management plan?

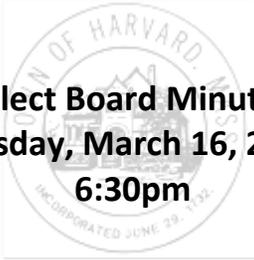
The deadline to submit a request is May 15th.

Contacts

If you have any questions, please email EEAopt-out@mass.gov (mailto:EEAopt-out@mass.gov)

Additional Resources

- [State Reclamation and Mosquito Control Board](#) (/state-reclamation-and-mosquito-control-board-srmcb)
- [How to Request an Exclusion or Opt-out from Wide Area Pesticide Applications](#) (/how-to/how-to-request-an-exclusion-or-opt-out-from-wide-area-pesticide-applications)
- [Mosquito Control Projects and Districts](#) (/service-details/mosquito-control-projects-and-districts)



Select Board Minutes
Tuesday, March 16, 2021
6:30pm

The Select Board Regular Meeting was held virtually in accordance with the Governor's Executive Order Suspending Certain Provisions of the Open Meeting Law, G.L.c.30A. S.20.

Select Board participants:

Alice von Loesecke, Stu Sklar, Lucy Wallace, Rich Maiore, Kara Minar

Town Department attendees:

Town Administrator Tim Bragan, Assistant Town Administrator/HR Director Marie Sobalvarro and Executive Assistant Julie Doucet

Additional participants:

Energy Advisory Committee Chair Brian Smith, Ellen Leicher, Sharon Cronin, Kristen Cullen, Tyler Ellis

Energy Advisory Committee: update on the Energy Stretch Code & electric car charging stations

Committee member Ellen Leicher explained the request for support letters on the energy stretch code came out back in December. She said legislation on climate resolution is moving forward therefore the letters are not necessary at this time. Committee Chair Brian Smith noted the stretch code has not been updated since instituted in 2010.

Brain Smith has been working with Chris Collins President of Energy Conservation Inc. to attain grant funding for electric car charging stations and infrastructure. The MassEVIP Public Access Charging Program provides incentives for property owners or managers with publicly accessible parking to acquire and install Level 1 and Level 2 EV charging stations. Smith reviewed five potential locations: new HES school, Bromfield back parking lot, Harvard General Store, behind the Town Hall and the library. They discussed pros and cons to each site. Smith will be meeting with the School Committee and Library Trustees for their feedback as well. Smith has learned they are unable to utilize green community funds for the additional costs not covered within the grant. They would need to figure that piece out as well. The contract term with Charge Point is for five years.

Discuss Finance Committee recommendations

Alice von Loesecke asked the board members for their input on the Finance Committee budget recommendations from the last meeting. She noted the outstanding variables are the DPW and Harvard Teachers Association (HTA) contracts and finalization of the state budget. Lucy Wallace stated her position that the proposed small articles and additions to the budget are necessities. She is comfortable supporting their recommendations and her fellow board members agreed.

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Maiore – aye, Minar – aye, Sklar – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted to accept recommendations presented on March 2nd.

Public Communication

Bonnie Chandler, Prospect Hill Rd, vehemently objects to her taxes being used and the town forcing on its employees any sort of diversity and inclusion policies and training. They are calling it “anti-racism”

these days but it is essentially reverse racism. The way it is being done is destroying our constitutional freedom of speech. Our town employees' opinions should be their own, and they should be private. All this "training" does is fuel class hatred and divisiveness. The politically correct partisans are no longer satisfied with virtue-signaling and moral shaming; now they have to run encounter sessions where they force everyone to pretend to hate themselves and mouth insincere, pious platitudes under the threat of being accused of racism. The participants know that if they don't go along, they will get punished. The news has been full of people who have been fired from their jobs or failed in school for not going along. First of all, I don't believe there is much racism left in America. The whole racial climate has completely changed over my lifetime alone, and changed even more over our history. There is always opportunity for improvement, but I believe there isn't much – certainly much less than the rest of the world. We will never completely get rid of it, because there is no field of human endeavor where there aren't at least a few bad apples. We certainly won't get rid of them by forcing everyone else to feel bad about themselves. We're more likely to boost their influence by enfeebling their opposition from overdoing the brainwashing. Furthermore, these policies have the opposite effect from what is intended: You are chasing away the people you should want to keep and rewarding the ones you don't want, because the strong, honest people are the ones who will object to forced political education, and you don't want the ones who lie just to get along. Also, constantly telling whole classes of people they are doomed to fail, will always be victimized, and need to rely on special help harms the poor, destroys their futures, and fuels class hatred. It takes away ambition, hope, and the energy to educate themselves, all of which would have given them just as much opportunity to create value in our society as anyone else. I think reverse racism training and policy, no matter what euphemism you call it by -- "inclusion," "diversity," or whatever – is a terrible idea, and all of my fellow citizens with whom I have talked about this agree with me.

STAFF UPDATE and REPORT

Covid-19 Vaccination Update:

The Harvard Board of Health in working with Acton Pharmacy was able to get the residents at Foxglove vaccinated last week and Bowers Brook worked with Ayer Family Pharmacy and was able to get their population vaccinated too. Both had excess vaccines and worked with the COA and our Director to make sure the vaccine was not wasted. This allowed Debbie and her team to get more senior Harvard residents vaccinated. Debbie and her staff have done a wonderful job advocating for and making sure that when opportunities arise that she and her staff are ready to provide a list of seniors (oldest to youngest) to those with available vaccines and to also utilize the Hildreth House as a vaccination site when necessary. Kudos to the BOH and the COA Director and her staff.

There has been no response yet from the Governor or DPH to the letter Nashoba Health Communities sent regarding the lack of vaccines in this area of the State.

Town Clerk Marlene Kenney has been successfully certified by the Town Clerks Association and this is remarkable given the issues and hurdles Marlene has faced with numerous elections and virus implications. We are very fortunate to have Marlene as our Clerk and she deserves our congratulations.

The State has extended Vote-By-Mail through June.

We have received applications for the transfer of the Grapevine liquor license (Malt and Wine) and for a new license (All Alcohol) for the Grapevine location. We will be having a hearing on both requests in the near future.

The American Rescue Plan allows among other things to make necessary investments in water, sewer, or broadband infrastructure. We will be checking in with the former broadband group at the point where there is a clearer understanding of funding which will be distributed (based on census pop!) to Harvard.

The IAC will be meeting later this month at a time TBD, in deference to the group's concerns that the process to evaluate a different insurer felt rushed last fall. At this time, we are *not* doing a claims sweep to see if we are still a viable/attractive match to MIIA.

Effective 7/1/21, we will be implementing a one-month waiting period for health insurance enrollment for all new-hires (e.g., enrollment effective dates can be no fewer than 30 days following date of hire).

Our Procurement Officer, Marie Sobalvarro, has recouped \$50.4k from sale of surplus equipment (2.9k from HES Solar, 47.5k from tanker truck) and currently has a MSW compactor box (\$1 at present) on gov.deals

DPW Director Tim Kilhart has been successful in getting the State to agree to use the excess grant funds from the Slough Road project to repave the other portion of Slough and possibly Woodchuck and Oak Hill as well. The funds have to be used on roads that are contiguous to the original project.

Budget Update: There have been no changes to the budget since the last meeting. On the State level there was an uptick in tax collections in February.

Town Hall will open to limited capacity on March 22, and will be open completely on April 5th. These will continue to utilize social distancing, face masks, and hand sanitizer. The potential issues we see are what happens with the variants and thus the number of infected individuals and the fact that with individuals being vaccinated having problems with individuals not wanting to wear masks or socially distance. The key for me is that the staff and public stay safe. We have not had a Covid positive person at Town Hall and this is due to our diligence and safety measures. Unlike some of my counterparts, who will wait until their staff can get vaccinated to open Town Hall, I believe we can do this safely.

The Planning Board has been working on changes to the General Bylaw for Scenic Roads and I was not aware of this until last week and would argue that in keeping with the Board's policy for spring and fall town meetings that it would have to wait until the fall, but this is the Board's decision if it will keep with your policy or allow this to move forward. The board members agreed this item will be on the fall town meeting warrant.

A draft of the ATM warrant will be distributed to the Board on March 29th. Any questions or concerns can be directed to Tim Bragan. The Board will formally review and approve the document on April 6th so the warrant booklet can be printed in preparation for the annual town meeting. The board members decided to not mail the booklet to every household this year. A postcard will be sent in its place with pertinent information about the town meeting with the booklet posted on the town website. Hard copies will be available at the town meeting or can be mailed prior if requested.

Minutes

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Maiore – aye, Minar – aye, Sklar – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to regular and executive session minutes of 3/2, as presented.

Proclamation

A proclamation was prepared for presentation to resident Tony Shaw for his 40 years of service on the

Fire Dept. By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Minar – aye, Sklar – aye, Maiore – aye von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously endorse proclamation for Tony Shaw in recognition of his years of service to be presented to him on April 7th.

Inter-Municipal Agreement(IMA) for a regional housing consultant

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Minar – aye, Maiore – aye, Sklar – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to approve and sign the IMA.

Discuss need for a temporary Moderator for the May 15th Annual Town Meeting

Moderator Bill Barton is unable to attend on May 15th. The board members considered other dates however no other dates work therefore a temporary Moderator will be necessary.

Town wide clean-up

By a roll call vote, Wallace – aye, Minar – aye, Maiore – aye, Sklar – aye, von Loesecke – aye , the board voted unanimously to approve the town wide clean-up for April 29th – May 2nd.

Senior Tested Exemption

Stu Sklar received a request from the Assessing Department to consider moving the deadline dates.

By a roll call vote, Sklar– aye, Wallace – aye, Maiore – aye, Minar – aye, von Loesecke – aye, the board voted unanimously to move the deadline from May 1st to September 1st.

Review and discuss Town Diversity Statement

Alice von Loesecke explained this did not come before the board because of any issues in Harvard. She was approached by the local community group Arm & Arm whose mission is to promote and uphold a safe, inclusive social climate that values diversity and fosters respect for one another. Rich Maiore offered to draft a statement for consideration. Von Loesecke invited Arm & Arm members Sharon Cronin and Ellen Leicher to join in the discussion.

Sharon Cronin encouraged the board to keep their statement clear and strong so it is not open to misinterpretation. She indicated the main objective of the statement is to make it a living thing not just a statement but something more actionable. Arm & Arm offer their help and want to contribute in any way they can.

HR Director Marie Sobalvarro suggested the statement be expanded to include not only employees of the town but those volunteers appointed by the Select Board.

Kara Minar and Lucy Wallace find value in an overall statement for the town that sets expectations. The board members will review statements agreed upon by the Library Trustees and the School Committee. They will revisit this item at an upcoming meeting.

Review draft charge for Revenue Ideation Committee

Rich Maiore drafted the charge utilizing examples from other communities facing similar challenges. Maiore said the committee will identify how to diversify the towns' revenue sources. They can prioritize recommendations for new sources of revenue, offer considerations and estimated revenue projection for each option, potential timing and recommended next steps/action items. Some possibilities outlined in the charge are sale of town land, sale of surplus buildings and equipment, leasing of town property for use of solar or wind power, leasing of cell towers on town land and secure corporate sponsorship of

Town assets such as ballfields/trails. He described this committee's work as short term acknowledging a longer term strategy is imminent. Maire will finalize the charge for action at the next meeting.

Select Board Reports

Lucy Wallace reported the Harvard Devens Jurisdiction Committee is seeking advice/guidance from our Rep. and Senator.

Stu Sklar said the Civic Cup organized by the League of Women voters virtually was a great success.

Kara Minar reported the Fields sub-committee will begin meeting on a more regular basis.

Alice von Loesecke has met with the Finance and School Committee Chairs to begin discussions on long term financial solutions regarding the towns budget.

Presentation from Commonwealth Fusion Systems (CFS)

Head of Public Affairs and Communications Kristen Cullen and Senior Advisor Tyler Ellis from CFS gave a presentation on their track to bring clean fusion energy technology to the planet. CFS is collaborating with MIT to design and build fusion power systems that will provide clean fusion energy to combat climate change. They will be building a campus in Devens, MA that will be home to the birthplace of commercial fusion energy and include manufacturing facilities, a research facility, and CFS corporate offices. Cullen and Ellis explained why Devens was chosen and the company's overall vision for the future.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:30pm.

Documents referenced:

Charge point info & charging station maps – dated March 2021

IMA – dated July 2020

Town-wide clean up request – dated 3.3.2021

Revenue Ideation Committee Charge – dated 3.3.2021

----- Original Message -----

-
-
- Message Thu, Mar 18, 2021 1:05 PM
- From: Marlene Kenney
- To: Tim Bragan
- Cc: Marie Sobalvarro
- Subject: May 18 Town Election hours

Hi Tim,

I respectfully request that the Select Board vote to reduce the hours of the Town Election from 7:00 AM - 8:00 PM to 3:00 PM - 8:00 PM, the same hours which they voted for the 2020 Town Election.

Due to the ongoing State of Emergency and Governor Baker's recent decision requiring schools to reopen for full time in-person learning, Middle School students and possibly High School students will be in attendance at Bromfield during the election. To reduce the negative impact of election officials and voters having contact with the students, teachers and staff, the reduced hours will allow time for Bromfield students to be dismissed for the day and voters to enter and exit the school grounds and polls unimpeded.

In 2020 I noticed no negative impact to the reduction in Town Election hours. Almost 500 voters voted in person at the polls and 680 voted by mail, for a turnout of 27% of voters in town, a higher turnout than in town elections in the past 6 years, with the exception of the 2018 Town Election/ Elementary school override. Now that the the legislature has extended Vote by Mail through June 30, 2021, all voters who choose to can again take advantage of this popular and safe alternative on May 18.

Many thanks for your assistance,
Marlene

Harvard Town Hall is currently closed due to the State of Emergency, but open by appointment for some services. Please call or email for more information.

Marlene Kenney, CMMC
Harvard Town Clerk
13 Ayer Road
Harvard, MA 01451
Tel (978)456-4100 * Fax (978)456-4113
mkenney@harvard.ma.us
Monday-Thursday 8:00 AM - 4:30 PM

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts Secretary of State has determined that e-mail is a public record. Privacy should not be expected.

Town of Harvard Revenue Ideation Committee Charge

April 1, 2021

Background

- Town of Harvard is facing long-term financial challenges
- Residential property taxes are nearly all (93%) of the town's revenue source
- This approach is not sustainable given the town's financial obligations to deliver basic level of services to its residents

The Need

- The Town must identify additional revenue sources to diversify its revenue sources

The Charge

- Research, vet and prioritize potential non-tax revenue sources for the Town based on the town's existing assets. This may include but not limited to:
 - Leasing of town property for use of solar or wind power
 - Leasing of cell towers on town land
 - Securing corporate sponsorship of Town assets—ballfields, trails, etc.
 - The sale of surplus buildings, equipment and land
 - Other opportunities as identified by the committee
- Conduct benchmark research of comparable towns (size, assets, geography) to gain insights and ideas on approaches to non-tax revenue sources
- Develop and deliver an initial report to the Select Board by October 2021 outlining research methodology; prioritized recommendations for new sources of revenue, considerations and estimated revenue projection for each option, potential timing and recommended next steps/action items

Committee Composition

The committee will include 7 members made up of the following:

- One member of Finance Committee
- One member of SelectBoard
- One member of School Committee
- One member of Park & Recreation
- One member of Energy Advisory Committee
- Two residents at larg

**OFFICES OF THE
SELECT BOARD AND
TOWN ADMINISTRATION**

13 Ayer Road, Harvard, Massachusetts 01451
(978) 456-4100

www.harvard.ma.us
(978) 456-4107 fax



April 6, 2021

Congresswoman Lori Trahan
Lowell Office
126 John Street, Suite 12
Lowell, MA 01852

Dear Congresswoman Trahan,

It is with great enthusiasm the Harvard Select Board offer their support on behalf of Fruitlands Museum's request for Community Project Funding to improve critical infrastructure at the Museum, which is an educational leader in our community and a National Historic Landmark.

The Museum has significant cultural impact for the residents and students in our community and beyond. Steeped in literary, philosophical, and theological history, as well as on 215 majestic acres of open space, Fruitlands is an active partner for our schools in enhancing education through hands-on experiences. Additionally, Fruitlands serves as a terrific partner for numerous beloved community events, including summer band concerts and the annual Fourth of July celebration, a beautiful year round setting to experience nature through its extensive trail system, and a team member for nonprofit fundraisers with the schools, local organizations and businesses.

We firmly believe in the potential of the Museum to continue to be a place for creativity, solace, and gathering that is extremely important to a thriving community. However, infrastructure improvements to the driveway, parking, and pedestrian walkways are badly in need of repair, and these funds could make a big impact for our community for years to come.

Thank you for considering this request to support Fruitlands Museum in Community Project Funding.

With warm regards,

Kara McGuire Minar, Vice Chair
On behalf of the Harvard Select Board