



Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

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Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

Select Board

Date: 2022-07-19

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: Reading Town Hall

Location: Select Board Meeting Room

Address: 16 Lowell Street

Session: Open Session

Purpose: General Business

Version: Final

Attendees: **Members - Present:**

Mark Dockser, Carlo Bacci, Chris Haley, Jackie McCarthy, Karen Herrick

Members - Not Present:

Others Present:

Town Manager Fidel Maltez, Caitlin Nocella, William Sullivan, Tom Gardiner, Dan Baptiste, Town Engineer Ryan Percival, Conservation Administrator Chuck Tirone, Keith Bergman, Ivria Fried, Bill Brown,

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Caitlin Nocella

Topics of Discussion:

This meeting was held in person and remote via Zoom.

Mark Dockser called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

Liaison Reports

Bacci mentioned that the contractor who did Veteran's Way is now MIA with the project not fully complete. Staff is aware and it is being looked into.

Haley noted RAAC will be shutting down requests for ARPA funds in August. They amount in requests already far exceeds the amount of funds left.

Herrick noted the Killam School Building Committee met for the first time and elected a Chair and Vice Chair. She also gave a shoutout to the group painting Mattera Cabin, Next Step Ministries.

McCarthy explained that FINCOM recently approved a request from DPW for more funds due to the high gas prices. The Health department also received a grant.

Dockser noted that RECALC met last week and they will be doing focus groups next week.

Town Manager's Report

Maltez noted that the remote meeting policy was extended until March of 2023. Early voting and mail in voting passed permanently. The State budget passed and the green communities legislation passed thru the senate.

71 Middlesex Ave Driveway Request

Town Engineer Ryan Percival and the homeowners were present. The request is to abandon their current driveway and relocate it to the other side while asking for a waiver from the 50 FT setback requirement. They are trying to save their neighbors tree which would put their driveway 46 FT from the intersection. Engineering department and the neighbor have no objections.

Haley moved to approve the driveway request for 71 Middlesex Ave as presented. The motion was seconded by Herrick and approved with a 5-0 vote.

ARPA Request – Trails Committee

The trails committee requested \$11,600 in ARPA funds for time sensitive items.

RAAC noted they approved this request with a 7-0 vote.

Haley moved to approve \$11,600 in ARPA funds to the trails committee as requested. The motion was seconded by McCarthy and approved with a 5-0 vote.

ARPA Request – Town Forest Committee

The town forest committee also had a time sensitive request for \$100,000. This request is to get rid of the dead trees in the town forest.

Haley moved to approve \$100,000 in ARPA funds to the town forest committee as requested. The motion was seconded by Herrick and approved with a 5-0 vote.

Affordable Housing Trust Fund

Town Counsel Ivria Fried was present for this. This was an instructional motion from Town Meeting. The town currently has a special act dealing with affordable housing but it has been noted that the act may not be serving the town as it needs now. Counsel has presented a few options for the board including a draft bylaw to adopt the trust fund and a special act repealing the existing current act and transferring the funds to the new trust fund.

Keith Bergman runs the affordable housing trust fund in Concord and explained what Concord is doing to the board.

The board discussed the right structure moving forward and a committee with at least 5 voting members. Counsel was going to come back with some language regarding the committee.

Board/Committees Presentations to the Board Discussion

The board discussed having all the town boards and committees take turns coming to visit them each meeting to give updates.

Select Board Policies – VASC Process Discussion

The board noted after this last VASC process it was clear the board needed to revisit their policies regarding the candidate interviews aspect.

The board agreed to let Haley take a first pass at drafting new language that would make sure every candidate, incumbent or not, would get interviewed every year.

Bacci asked about the removal process and if we can make it any easier. Counsel noted they would look into that more.

Future Agendas

The board discussed future agenda topics.

Minutes

The board edited their previous meeting minutes.

Haley moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 14th, 2022 as amended. The motion was seconded by Bacci and approved with a 5-0 vote.

Haley moved to approve the meeting minutes of June 28th, 2022 as amended. The motion was seconded by McCarthy and approved with a 5-0 vote.

RFP Reponses Review

The town put out a request for proposals on a temporary lease space for a senior center. The town received one response from the old Walgreens building not far from the current Pleasant Street center. Members noted that it was an interesting proposal and something that should be considered.

The board decided they needed to enter Executive Session to discuss further details.

Haley moved to go into Executive Session at 9:13 PM, including staff members Fidel Maltez, Caitlin Nocella and Town Counsel Ivria Fried, under Executive Session Purpose 6 to discuss the lease or value of 17 Harnden Street in relation to the submitted Proposal for Lease of Space for Town Senior Center, as the Chair declares that an open meeting could have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the body; and under Purpose 7, to comply with Section 22 of the Open Meeting Law, by reviewing and approving for release the minutes for the December 29, 2021, February 15, 2022, May 3, 2022 and June 28, 2022 executive session meetings; and that the board will NOT reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded by Herrick and approved with a unanimous roll call vote.

Documents Used:

2022-07-19 Select Board Packet