



Town of Reading Meeting Posting with Agenda

Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

Select Board

Date: 2023-12-05

Time: 7:00 PM

Building: Reading Town Hall

Location: Select Board Meeting Room

Address: 16 Lowell Street

Agenda:

Purpose: General Business

Meeting Called By: Caitlin Nocella on behalf of Chair Jackie McCarthy

Notices and agendas are to be posted 48 hours in advance of the meetings excluding Saturdays, Sundays and Legal Holidays. Please keep in mind the Town Clerk's hours of operation and make necessary arrangements to be sure your posting is made in an adequate amount of time. A listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting must be on the agenda.

All Meeting Postings must be submitted in typed format; handwritten notices will not be accepted.

Topics of Discussion:

	<p><i>This Meeting will be held in-person in the Select Board Meeting Room at Town Hall and remotely on Zoom. It will also be streamed live on RCTV as usual.</i></p> <p>Join Zoom Meeting https://us06web.zoom.us/j/86400342040</p> <p>Meeting ID: 864 0034 2040</p> <p>One tap mobile +16465189805,,86400342040# US (New York) +16465588656,,86400342040# US (New York)</p> <p>Dial by your location • +1 646 518 9805 US (New York) • +1 646 558 8656 US (New York)</p> <p>Find your local number: https://us06web.zoom.us/u/knclySqGE</p>	PAGE #
7:00	Overview of Meeting	
7:05	Public Comment	
7:15	SB Liaison & Town Manager Reports	
7:30	PUBLIC HEARING - Change of Manager Application for Bertucci's	3

This Agenda has been prepared in advance and represents a listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting. However the agenda does not necessarily include all matters which may be taken up at this meeting.



Town of Reading Meeting Posting with Agenda

8:00	Vote to approve annual licenses (delegated to TM Office)	
8:15	Vote to approve annual liquor licenses	12
8:30	Discuss CATO Bill Russell Proposal	13
8:45	Vote to Appoint Acting Town Manager	
9:00	Vote to Appoint At Large Residents to the Town Manager Screening Committee	
9:15	Discuss and Vote on Select Board Comment to DOER Regarding Green Communities Regulation	38
9:30	Discuss Future Agenda Items	40
9:40	Approve Meeting Minutes	43
9:50	EXECUTIVE SESSION - Vote to Approve Collective Bargaining Agreements (Reading Patrol Officers Association - MassCop, Local 191A, AFL-CIO)	

This Agenda has been prepared in advance and represents a listing of topics that the chair reasonably anticipates will be discussed at the meeting. However the agenda does not necessarily include all matters which may be taken up at this meeting.

**Legal Notice
(Seal)
Town of Reading**

To the Inhabitants of the Town of Reading:

Please take notice that the Select Board of the Town of Reading will hold a public hearing on December 5th, 2023 at 7:00 PM in the Select Board Meeting Room at Town Hall, 16 Lowell Street, Reading, MA or also available remotely on Zoom to act on a Change of Manager Application for an Annual All-Alcohol Liquor License for Bertucci's Restaurants, LLC at 45 Walkers Brook Drive.

A copy of the proposed documents regarding this topic will be in the Select Board packet on the website at www.readingma.gov

All interested parties are invited to attend the hearing in person or remotely via Zoom; or may submit their comments in writing or by email to townmanager@ci.reading.ma.us

By order of
Fidel Maltez
Town Manager

To the Chronicle: Please publish on Tuesday, November 21st and again on November 28th, 2023

Send the bill and tear sheet to:

Chrissy Wills
Operations & Licensing Coordinator
*Email: cwills@bertuccis.com
508-351-2562

*Please email the invoice – she is aware it is coming.



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
 239 Causeway Street, Boston, MA 02114
 www.mass.gov/abcc

AMENDMENT-Change of Manager

Change of License Manager

1. BUSINESS ENTITY INFORMATION

Entity Name	Municipality	ABCC License Number
Bertucci's Restaurants, LLC	Reading	00026-RS-1016

2. APPLICATION CONTACT
 The application contact is the person who should be contacted with any questions regarding this application.

Name	Title	Email	Phone
Chrissy Wills	Operations & Licensing Coor	licensing@bertuccis.com	508-351-2562

3A. MANAGER INFORMATION
 The individual that has been appointed to manage and control of the licensed business and premises.

Proposed Manager Name	Shalom Bennett	Date of Birth	07/26/1974	SSN	[REDACTED]
Residential Address	[REDACTED]				
Email	Shalombennett@gmail.com	Phone	9787265253		
Please indicate how many hours per week you intend to be on the licensed premises	40+	Last-Approved License Manager	Charles Andy McLean		

3B. CITIZENSHIP/BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Are you a U.S. Citizen? Yes No *Manager must be U.S. citizen
 If yes, attach one of the following as proof of citizenship US Passport, Voter's Certificate, Birth Certificate or Naturalization Papers.
 Have you ever been convicted of a state, federal, or military crime? Yes No

If yes, fill out the table below and attach an affidavit providing the details of any and all convictions. Attach additional pages, if necessary, utilizing the format below.

Date	Municipality	Charge	Disposition


3C. EMPLOYMENT INFORMATION
 Please provide your employment history. Attach additional pages, if necessary, utilizing the format below.

Start Date	End Date	Position	Employer	Supervisor Name
06/01/2008	06/01/2019	General Manager	Olive Garden	Goshia

3D. PRIOR DISCIPLINARY ACTION
 Have you held a beneficial or financial interest in, or been the manager of, a license to sell alcoholic beverages that was subject to disciplinary action? Yes No If yes, please fill out the table. Attach additional pages, if necessary,utilizing the format below.

Date of Action	Name of License	State	City	Reason for suspension, revocation or cancellation

I hereby swear under the pains and penalties of perjury that the information I have provided in this application is true and accurate:

Manager's Signature  Date 10/26/23

APPLICANT'S STATEMENT

I, Brian Connell the: sole proprietor; partner; corporate principal; LLC/LLP manager
Authorized Signatory

of Bertucci's Restaurants, LLC
Name of the Entity/Corporation

hereby submit this application (hereinafter the "Application"), to the local licensing authority (the "LLA") and the Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission (the "ABCC" and together with the LLA collectively the "Licensing Authorities") for approval.

I do hereby declare under the pains and penalties of perjury that I have personal knowledge of the information submitted in the Application, and as such affirm that all statements and representations therein are true to the best of my knowledge and belief. I further submit the following to be true and accurate:

- (1) I understand that each representation in this Application is material to the Licensing Authorities' decision on the Application and that the Licensing Authorities will rely on each and every answer in the Application and accompanying documents in reaching its decision;
- (2) I state that the location and description of the proposed licensed premises are in compliance with state and local laws and regulations;
- (3) I understand that while the Application is pending, I must notify the Licensing Authorities of any change in the information submitted therein. I understand that failure to give such notice to the Licensing Authorities may result in disapproval of the Application;
- (4) I understand that upon approval of the Application, I must notify the Licensing Authorities of any change in the ownership as approved by the Licensing Authorities. I understand that failure to give such notice to the Licensing Authorities may result in sanctions including revocation of any license for which this Application is submitted;
- (5) I understand that the licensee will be bound by the statements and representations made in the Application, including, but not limited to the identity of persons with an ownership or financial interest in the license;
- (6) I understand that all statements and representations made become conditions of the license;
- (7) I understand that any physical alterations to or changes to the size of the area used for the sale, delivery, storage, or consumption of alcoholic beverages, must be reported to the Licensing Authorities and may require the prior approval of the Licensing Authorities;
- (8) I understand that the licensee's failure to operate the licensed premises in accordance with the statements and representations made in the Application may result in sanctions, including the revocation of any license for which the Application was submitted; and
- (9) I understand that any false statement or misrepresentation will constitute cause for disapproval of the Application or sanctions including revocation of any license for which this Application is submitted.
- (10) I confirm that the applicant corporation and each individual listed in the ownership section of the application is in good standing with the Massachusetts Department of Revenue and has complied with all laws of the Commonwealth relating to taxes, reporting of employees and contractors, and withholding and remitting of child support.

Signature:



Date:

10/30/23

Title:

Sr VP & CFO

CORPORATE VOTE

The Board of Directors or LLC Managers of
Entity Name

duly voted to apply to the Licensing Authority of and the
City/Town

Commonwealth of Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission on
Date of Meeting

For the following transactions (Check all that apply):

Change of Manager

Other

"VOTED: To authorize
Name of Person

to sign the application submitted and to execute on the Entity's behalf, any necessary papers and do all things required to have the application granted."

"VOTED: To appoint
Name of Liquor License Manager

as its manager of record, and hereby grant him or her with full authority and control of the premises described in the license and authority and control of the conduct of all business therein as the licensee itself could in any way have and exercise if it were a natural person residing in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts."

A true copy attest,

For Corporations ONLY

A true copy attest,



Corporate Officer /LLC Manager Signature

Corporation Clerk's Signature



The Commonwealth of Massachusetts
 Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
 239 Causeway Street Boston, MA 02114
www.mass.gov/abcc

RETAIL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES LICENSE APPLICATION
 MONETARY TRANSMITTAL FORM

AMENDMENT-Change of Manager

APPLICATION SHOULD BE COMPLETED ON-LINE, PRINTED, SIGNED, AND SUBMITTED TO THE LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY.

ECRT CODE: RETA

Please make \$200.00 payment here: <https://www.mass.gov/epay-for-online-payments-abcc>

PAYMENT MUST DENOTE THE NAME OF THE LICENSEE CORPORATION, LLC, PARTNERSHIP, OR INDIVIDUAL.

EPAY CONFIRMATION NUMBER

A.B.C.C. LICENSE NUMBER (IF AN EXISTING LICENSEE, CAN BE OBTAINED FROM THE CITY)

ENTITY/ LICENSEE NAME:

ADDRESS:

CITY/TOWN

STATE

ZIP CODE

For the following transactions (Check all that apply):

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> New License | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Location | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Class (i.e. Annual / Seasonal) | <input type="checkbox"/> Change Corporate Structure (i.e. Corp / LLC) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Transfer of License | <input type="checkbox"/> Alteration of Licensed Premises | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of License Type (i.e. club / restaurant) | <input type="checkbox"/> Pledge of Collateral (i.e. License/Stock) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Change of Manager | <input type="checkbox"/> Change Corporate Name | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Category (i.e. All Alcohol/Wine, Malt) | <input type="checkbox"/> Management/Operating Agreement |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Officers/
Directors/LLC Managers | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Ownership Interest
(LLC Members/ LLP Partners,
Trustees) | <input type="checkbox"/> Issuance/Transfer of Stock/New Stockholder | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of Hours |
| | <input type="checkbox"/> Other <input type="text"/> | | <input type="checkbox"/> Change of DBA |

THE LOCAL LICENSING AUTHORITY MUST MAIL THIS TRANSMITTAL FORM ALONG WITH COMPLETED APPLICATION, AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES CONTROL COMMISSION
 239 CAUSEWAY STREET
 BOSTON, MA 02241-3396

Payment Confirmation

YOUR PAYMENT HAS PROCESSED AND THIS IS YOUR RECEIPT

Your account has been billed for the following transaction. You will receive a receipt via email.



Transaction Processed Successfully.

INVOICE #: 3e6f4aaa-536d-4ae3-bc80-222e7a8c9879

Description	Applicant, License or Registration Number	Amount
FILING FEES-RETAIL	00026-RS-1016	\$200.00
		\$200.00

Total Convenience Fee: \$4.70

Date Paid: 10/30/2023 4:00:14 PM EDT

Total Amount Paid: \$204.70

Payment On Behalf Of

License Number or Business Name:
00026-RS-1016

Fee Type:
FILING FEES-RETAIL

Billing Information



Email Address:
licensing@bertuccis.com

Chrissy Wills

From: customerservice@nCourt.com
Sent: Monday, October 30, 2023 4:00 PM
To: Licensing Bertuccis
Subject: Receipt from nCourt

EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe

YOUR RECEIPT >>

Please include the payment receipt with your application. Thank you.

Paid To

Name: Massachusetts Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission - Retail
Address 1: 95 Fourth Street, Suite 3
City: Chelsea
State: Massachusetts
Zip: 02150

Payment On Behalf Of

First Name: Shalom Last Name: Bennett
Address 1: 45 Walkers Brook Dr
City: Reading State/Territory: MA Zip: 01867
Phone: (407) 903-5637

Description	ID	Service Fee	Amount
FILING FEES-RETAIL	00026-RS-1016	\$4.70	\$200.00

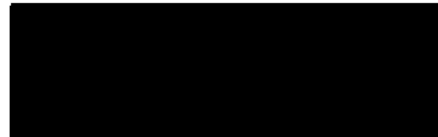
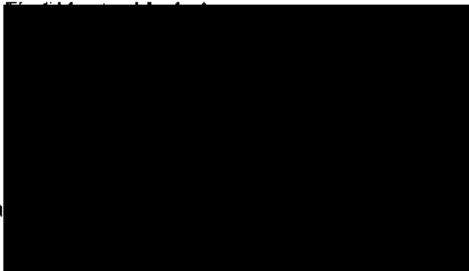
Receipt Date: 10/30/2023 4:00:14 PM EDT

Invoice Number: 3e8f4aaa-836d-4ae3-bc80-222e7a8c9879

Total Amount Paid: \$204.70

Billing Information

Credit/Debit Card Information



Sta

Email licensing@bertuccis.com



Commonwealth of Massachusetts
Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission
239 Causeway Street, First Floor
Boston, MA 02114

DEBORAH B. GOLDBERG
TREASURER AND RECEIVER GENERAL

CORI REQUEST FORM

KIM S. GAINSBORO, ESQ.
CHAIRMAN

The Alcoholic Beverages Control Commission has been certified by the Criminal History Systems Board to access conviction and pending Criminal Offender Record Information. For the purpose of approving each shareholder, owner, licensee or applicant for an alcoholic beverages license, I understand that a criminal record check will be conducted on me, pursuant to the above. The information below is correct to the best of my knowledge.

ABCC LICENSE INFORMATION

ABCC NUMBER: <small>(IF EXISTING LICENSEE)</small>	00026- RS-1010	LICENSEE NAME:	Bertucci's Restaurants, LLC	CITY/TOWN:	Reading
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APPLICANT INFORMATION

LAST NAME:	Bennett	FIRST NAME:	Shalom	MIDDLE NAME:	Shawn
MAIDEN NAME OR ALIAS (IF APPLICABLE):		PLACE OF BIRTH:	Arizona		
DATE OF BIRTH:	07/26/1974	SSN:	[REDACTED]	ID THEFT INDEX PIN (IF APPLICABLE):	
MOTHER'S MAIDEN NAME:	[REDACTED]	DRIVER'S LICENSE #	[REDACTED]	STATE LIC. ISSUED:	[REDACTED]
GENDER:	MALE	HEIGHT:	5	WEIGHT:	175
EYE COLOR:	brown				
CURRENT ADDRESS:	[REDACTED]				
CITY/TOWN:	Fitchburg	STATE:	ma	ZIP:	01420
FORMER ADDRESS:	[REDACTED]				
CITY/TOWN:	Lawrence	STATE:	ma	ZIP:	01842

PRINT AND SIGN

PRINTED NAME:	Shalom Bennett	APPLICANT/EMPLOYEE SIGNATURE:	[Signature]
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NOTARY INFORMATION

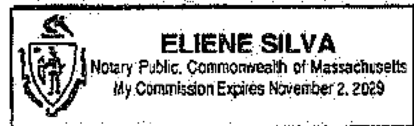
On this October 27, 2023 before me, the undersigned notary public, personally appeared Shalom Shawn Bennett
(name of document signer), proved to me through satisfactory evidence of identification, which were ma DL
to be the person whose name is signed on the preceding or attached document, and acknowledged to me that (he) (she) signed it voluntarily for its stated purpose.

[Signature]
NOTARY

DIVISION USE ONLY

REQUESTED BY:	[REDACTED]
<small>SIGNATURE OF CORI AUTHORIZED EMPLOYEE</small>	[REDACTED]

The OCR Identity Theft Index File Number is to be completed by those applicants that have been issued an Identity Theft PIN Number by the OCR. Certified agencies are required to provide all applicants the opportunity to include this information to ensure the accuracy of the CORI request process. ALL CORI request forms that include this field are required to be submitted to the OCR via mail or by fax to (617) 690-4833.





READING POLICE DEPARTMENT

15 Union Street ▪ Reading, Massachusetts 01867

Emergency Only: 911 ▪ All Other Calls: (781) 944-1212 ▪ Fax: (781) 944-2893

Web: www.ci.reading.ma.us/police/

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Change of Manager-Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza of Reading, LLC

November 13, 2023

Chief David Clark
Reading Police Department
15 Union Street
Reading, MA 01867

Chief Deputy Chief Clark,

As directed by your Office and in accordance with Reading Police Department Policy and Procedures, I have placed together an Executive Summary of the application for Change of Manager at Bertucci's Restaurants, LLC (45 Walkers Brook Drive).

New Manger: Shalom Bennett

I find no reason why the Change of Manager application should not go forward.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lt. Detective Richard P. Abate
Criminal Division Commander

Town of Reading Liquor Licenses **2024 Renewal List**

All Alcohol - Restaurants

Anthony's Coal Fired Pizza - 48 Walkers Brook Drive

Bertucci's Italian Restaurant - 45 Walkers Brook Drive

Café Capri - 355 Main Street

Chili's Grill & Bar - 70 Walkers Brook Drive * ABCC Violation in 2023

Fuddruckers - 50 Walkers Brook Drive

Public Kitchen - 530 Main Street

Longhorn Steak House - 39 Walkers Brook Drive

Mandarin Reading Restaurant - 296 Salem Street

Oye's - 26 Walkers Brook Drive * ABCC Violation in 2023

Ristorante Pavarotti - 601 Main Street

Fusilli's Cucina - 107 Main Street

Venetian Moon Restaurant - 680 Main Street

Bunratty Tavern - 620 Main Street

The Common District Meeting House - Haven Street - NOT RENEWING

Half & Half - 607 Main Street

Wine & Malt - Restaurants

Bangkok Spice Thai Restaurant, 76 Haven Street

All Alcohol - Clubs

Knights of Columbus - 11 Sanborn Street

Meadow Brook Golf Club - 292 Grove Street

Reading Veteran's Association/American Legion - 37 Ash Street

All Alcohol - Package Stores

Reading Fine Wines and Spirits, 25 Walkers Brook Drive

City Wine Spirits and Smoke Shop (FKA Baystate) - 345 Main Street

Rickys Liquors - 214 Main Street

Square Liquors - 13 High Street

The Liquor Junction - 1 General Way

Pamplemousse- 26 Haven Street - NOT RENEWING

Recommendations for Honoring Bill Russell in the Town of Reading



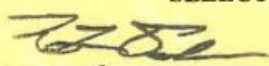
August 9, 2022

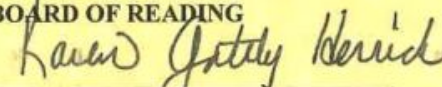
Reading Commemorates Bill Russell Resolution

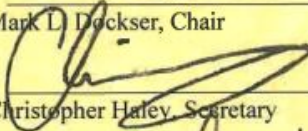
Whereas, The Select Board of the Town of Reading honors his civil rights legacy by actively supporting the vision of an inclusive and welcoming community; celebrates Bill Russell's life, his impact on our community, his impact on race relations, as well as his unparalleled success on the basketball court; and supports efforts to learn from and gain inspiration from his values as he lived them. Our world and our town are better places because of his tireless efforts

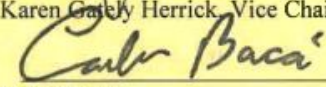
Now, therefore, be it resolved, that we, the Reading Select Board, decree that a day be designated as Bill Russell Day, and that the Town Manager be instructed to designate such date by appropriate recognition and ceremonies.

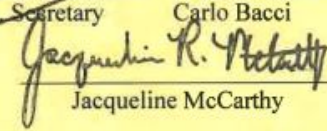
SELECT BOARD OF READING


Mark L. Dockser, Chair


Karen Gately Herrick, Vice Chair


Christopher Haley, Secretary


Carlo Bacci


Jacqueline McCarthy

CATO Conversation

- Held a viewing party at the Reading Public Library on March 2, 2023
- Held a conversation at RPL on March 6, 2023 and discussed the following:
 - Discrimination and harassment the Russell family endured while living in Reading
 - Recommendations for properly memorializing Bill Russell in Town
 - The role the Town of Reading should take

Key Findings

Themes from Breakout Groups

- Bill Russell's family must be notified, and engaged if possible, when events/actions are to be taken in his honor.
- Current and former Black residents and community members' various experiences need to be shared and understood by the community at large.
- Black residents and community members have a very different experience and views regarding racism compared to those of the non-Black communities.
- Any events/actions should prioritize feedback and input from current and former Black residents and community members.
- The best way to honor Mr. Russell and his beliefs is to actively and intentionally ensure positive experiences and outcomes for historically marginalized residents and community members.

Key Recommendation - Create an Ad-Hoc Committee

Bill Russell Ad-Hoc Commemoration Establishment Committee (BRACE)

Purpose - BRACE

- Acknowledge and express accountability for the mistreatment of Bill Russell.
- Develop a long-term plan to implement the Select Board's proclamation presented on Aug. 9, 2022.
- Establish the funding and infrastructure for the long-term action plan.
- Honor Bill Russell's legacy by striving to create a vision of an inclusive, equitable, and welcoming community.

Membership

- Membership will consist of 7 diverse Reading residents, with 3 associate members
 - 1 Select Board Member or designee (ex-officio, appointed by the Select Board)
 - 1 Designee of the Office of Equity and Social Justice (appointed by the Director of OESJ)
 - 1 Employee of the Reading Police Department (ex-officio, appointed by Civil Rights Officer)
 - 2 Reading residents (appointed by the Select Board)
 - 1 Resident student currently enrolled in a school, public or private, funded or partially funded by Reading in Grades 9-12 (appointed by the School Committee)
 - 1 The Coalition of Us (CATO) Member or designee (appointed by CATO)
 - 1 School Committee Member or designee (ex-officio, appointed by the School Committee)
 - 1 Council of Aging Member or designee, with preference to someone who may have been in town during Russell's tenure (appointed by the Council on Aging)
 - 1 Designee of the Reading Public Library and Board of Library Trustees (appointed by BOLT)

Action Plan Creation Process

- Research Bill Russell's history.
- Gather input from the Committee's members, Reading residents, and other information from local DEI related surveys.
- Hold regular meetings and actively seek community engagement.
- Explore ways in which the town can acknowledge and express accountability for the mistreatment of Bill Russell and his family.
- Identify ways that town resources can be more readily accessible to all residents in Reading.

Action Plan Creation Process (cont.):

- Invite members of historically marginalized communities to share their stories to better inform Committee and community decisions.
- Collect and archive these stories in order to develop or add to a database to share these stories with others in the community.
- Encourage relationships between town administration, departments, and organizations that will promote, collaborate, and implement the plans recommended by the Committee.
- Gather, analyze, and organize information for future planning decisions and the best practices related to events, programs, and activities that promote equity, inclusion, and ensure a welcoming community.

Action Plan Creation Process (cont.)

- Research and recommend a structural framework for long-term planning to annually honor and promote the civil rights values advocated and exemplified by Bill Russell.
- Plan and hold at least one choice of community-wide event, program, or activity to launch the annual program.
- Research options for establishing an ongoing town funding source that will ensure continuity for this annual program.
- BRACE will work with the Town Manager to transfer all information and responsibilities in after the Committee's sunset.

BRACE Shall Consider the Following:

- Black and brown voices in the choice of recommendation.
- Ways to engage as many residents as possible, in both the planning and programming.
- Listen to and consider the concerns and ideas of all residents, administration, and volunteers.
- Using public funds and grants to ensure the continuity of the recommendations.
- If possible, establish contact with the Russell family and inform them of the Committee, its purposes, and any related future programming.
- If the Committee aspires to use Bill Russell's name in the title of their recommended plan, the Committee will attempt to obtain permission and invite the Russell family to programming.
- Committee members are encouraged to attend the second CATO Conversation to be held in Feb 2024.

BRACE Deliverables

1. Provide the Select Board with a report exploring the best ways for the Town to acknowledge and express accountability for the mistreatment experienced by the Russell Family.
2. Submit multiple options for program recommendations with rationale and suggestions for funding mechanisms to the Select Board by December 31, 2024, unless otherwise approved by the Select Board.
3. Work with the Town Manager to transfer all information and responsibilities to the town department/leadership that will ensure the continuation of the annual program after the Committee's sunset.

BRACE Sunset

- The Committee will sunset after achieving the specified action items outlined.
- The goal is to be accomplished by December 31, 2024, but may be extended with a Select Board vote.

Conclusion

- Create the Bill Russell Ad-Hoc Commemoration Establishment Committee (BRACE) to honor Bill Russell's life and legacy.
- Consider the options provided by BRACE and schedule the first acknowledgement and commemoration by the end of 2024.
- Committee members are invited to attend the second CATO conversation to be held in February 2024.

Recommendations for Honoring Bill Russell
in the Town of Reading



Abstract

CATO coordinated and hosted a screening of the first part of the Bill Russell Netflix documentary series on March 2, 2023 at the Reading Public Library. Following the documentary screening, a conversation was held where registered participants congregated at the library to discuss the memorialization of Bill Russell's time in Reading, not just as a Boston Celtic, but as a member of the community and as a civil rights activist. This report outlines our key recommendations to provide a meaningful memorial for Bill Russell in town.

Introduction

For 11 years, from 1957 - 1968, Bill Russell and his family called Reading, Massachusetts home. When Bill Russell led the Celtics to win repetitive championships, the Town celebrated him declaring a Bill Russell Day in 1963. However, when the Russell family tried to buy a larger home on the other side of Reading, they were met with resistance from Reading residents and mistreatment, including repeated vandalism to their home, theft, and a lack of protection from law enforcement. This is well-documented in many books, articles, and in the recent documentary, "Bill Russell: Legend".

Recently, upon hearing of Mr. Russell's passing at the age of 88 on July 31, 2022, the Reading Select Board offered a proclamation celebrating Bill Russell, the man, the Boston Celtic basketball player, and the civil rights activist.

The purpose of this report is to present recommendations for honoring Bill Russell in the town of Reading based on the responses gathered from a CATO conversation event held on March 6, 2023. The event was held in response to the Town's decision to honor Bill Russell, a 13-year veteran, 11-time NBA Champion, and civil rights activist, who was racially discriminated against and harassed while living in the town of Reading. The event gathered feedback from 75 participants and the recommendations presented in the report are based on the analysis of those responses.

Some common themes emerged among the various breakout groups, including:

1. Bill Russell's family must be notified, and engaged if possible, when events/actions are to be taken in his honor.
2. Current and former Black residents and community members' various experiences need to be shared and understood by the community at large.
3. Black residents and community members have a very different experiences and views regarding racism compared to those of the non-Black communities.
4. Any events/actions should prioritize feedback and input from current and former Black residents and community members.

5. The best way for any event/action to honor Bill Russell and his beliefs is to actively and intentionally ensure positive experiences and outcomes for historically marginalized residents and community members.

Key Recommendations

Create an Ad-Hoc Committee dedicated to honoring Bill Russell

The responses from the CATO Conversation emphasize the importance of consulting with the Russell family and the Black community in Reading about how to best honor Bill Russell. CATO recommends that an Ad-Hoc Committee be created to advise the Town, as well as engage with the Russell family and Black community members, to understand how to best honor Bill Russell in a manner that is respectful and meaningful. The expectation is that town administrators will follow through with the recommendations of the committee on a continual and on-going basis. This committee will explore and discuss the following items as part of the commemoration of Bill Russell's legacy. Please note this is not an exhaustive list, but some actionable items developed from community members at the CATO Conversation event.

1. Create an exhibit at the Reading Public Library

The CATO Conversations participants recommended an exhibit at the Reading Public Library be created to shed light on the history of what happened to the Russell family, how the neighbors and town at large responded, how Town Meeting responded, and other relevant details. This exhibit could serve as a valuable educational tool for residents to learn more about Bill Russell's life and legacy.

2. Award a scholarship to a student who exemplifies Bill Russell's values

Another recommendation put forth by the participants was to award a scholarship to a student who exemplifies Bill Russell's values. This scholarship could be awarded annually and could provide an opportunity to students to learn more about the life and values of Bill Russell. Establishing a scholarship fund satisfies the responsibility of recognizing Bill Russell, however it only engages a portion of the community while broader community engagement is sought.

3. Publicly acknowledge the mistreatment of the Russell Family

A key issue emerged from the CATO Conversation was the need for the Town to publicly acknowledge and express accountability for the mistreatment the Russell family experienced. It is recommended the town of Reading issue a public statement in a public forum for everyone to respond.

4. Identify ways the town resources can be more readily accessible to all

The Town has a plethora of available services and resources for residents. It is recommended that the Town assess and implement a way for all residents and community members, regardless of the language, religion, disability, etc. to readily access town resources. Discussions during the CATO conversation highlighted that some residents are not aware of the services and resources the Town offers, which are then underutilized.

Conclusion

The recommendations presented in this report are based on the responses gathered from the CATO Conversation event held on March 6, 2023. These recommendations provide a starting point for the Town to honor Bill Russell in a manner that is respectful and meaningful. It is recommended that the Select Board consider these recommendations and others to take appropriate action to honor Bill Russell's legacy in the town of Reading.

We respectfully request that the Select Board establish an Ad-Hoc Committee to determine an on-going plan of action to honor Bill Russell's legacy as a Boston Celtic and as a civil rights activist. The charter of this Committee, developed under separate cover, is to develop a long-term action plan to engage the community in acknowledging and learning from Mr. Russell's mistreatment in Reading and across the country, with the ultimate goal of improving the lives of Black and brown people in Reading. This Committee shall submit the final Action Plan to the Select Board and hold the first event by December 31, 2024.

We hope that those community members who are selected for BRACE will also participate in the screening of the second part of the Bill Russell Netflix documentary and subsequent CATO conversation this February to continue the dialogue.

"Not everything that is faced can be changed, but nothing can be changed until it is faced." - James Baldwin

On August 9, 2022, the Reading Select Board made a proclamation for the town of Reading, Massachusetts to commemorate Bill Russell for his success on the basketball court as a champion with the Boston Celtics and the impact he had as a civil rights activist. In March 2022, CATO: The Coalition of Us organized a screening of the first part of the Bill Russell Netflix series and held a conversation for members of the community to discuss Bill Russell's time in Reading and how to best honor him, not just as a Boston Celtic, but as a member of the community and civil rights activist. The key themes discussed during this conversation included the Town publicly acknowledging and expressing accountability for the mistreatment of the Russell family, awarding a scholarship to a student who exemplifies Bill Russell's values, and identifying ways town resources can be more readily accessible to all.

As a result of this community conversation and additional discussions with the Town Manager and Select Board members, CATO will present to the Select Board a request to establish the Bill Russell Ad-hoc Commemoration Establishment Committee (BRACE) on December 5, 2023. The purpose of the BRACE Committee is to provide the Reading Select Board with recommendations on the best ways to:

- Acknowledge and express accountability for the mistreatment of Bill Russell
- Develop a long-term action plan to implement the Select Board Proclamation.
- Establish funding and infrastructure for the long-term action plan.
- Honor Bill Russell's legacy by striving to create the vision of an inclusive, equitable, and welcoming community.

As part of its charter, BRACE will actively seek diverse representation, ensuring that various backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives are considered. The committee will engage the Reading community through town hall meetings, community forums, and other channels to gather public input and ensure a well-rounded approach. BRACE will actively collaborate with local educational institutions, libraries, and cultural organizations to implement educational initiatives that inform the community about Bill Russell's contributions, the historical context, and the significance of the commemoration efforts. The committee will explore partnerships to sustain community engagement beyond the initial phases, ensuring that the legacy and impact of Bill Russell remain an ongoing conversation in Reading.

To ensure a respectful and meaningful engagement, BRACE will contact the Russell family to inform them of the committee and its purposes, inviting them to participate in any future programming. CATO acknowledges the family does not have a responsibility to the Town or any other entities but hopes to engage with the family in a manner that reflects the values of inclusivity, equity, and respect.

CATO fully acknowledges that Select Board members and the Town Manager have limited time and many other responsibilities to the Town. Establishing BRACE would allow town administrators to work directly with residents to figure out how to best realize their proclamation to honor Bill Russell.

To read the reports and documentation submitted to the Select Board to be presented on December 5, 2023, please see the attached documents.

Respectfully,

Philmore C. Phillip II, Founding Director, CATO - The Coalition of Us
Linda Snow Dockser (she/her) and Tara Gregory (they/them)
Members of CATO: The Coalition of Us

Bill Russell Ad-Hoc Commemoration Establishment Committee

This is the charter of the Ad-Hoc Committee to be approved by the Select Board of Reading, Massachusetts.

Authority **The Bill Russell Ad-Hoc Commemoration Establishment Committee (BRACE)** is an ad-hoc committee.

Membership BRACE will be comprised of at least seven (7) diverse Reading Residents as follows:

- 1 Select Board Member or designee (ex-officio, appointed by the Select Board)
- 1 Designee of Office of Equity and Social Justice (appointed by the Director of the OESJ)
- 1 Employee of the Reading Police Department (ex-officio, appointed by the Civil Rights Officer)
- 2 Reading residents (appointed by the Select Board)
- 1 Resident student currently enrolled in a school, public or private, funded or partially funded by Reading, in Grades 9-12 (appointed by the School Committee)
- 1 Coalition of Us (CATO) Member or designee (appointed by CATO)
- 1 School Committee Member or designee (ex-officio, appointed by the School Committee)
- 1 Council of Aging Member or designee, with preference to someone who may have been in town during Russell's tenure (appointed by the Council of Aging)
- 1 Designee of the Reading Public Library and Board of Library Trustees (appointed by BOLT)

Associate Membership: 3 Associate Members, appointed by the Select Board. Section 3.3.1.6 of the General Bylaw shall apply to the actions of all associates. Four (4) members must be present for quorum.

Our government values diversity as one of its core strengths, and we wholeheartedly encourage individuals from all backgrounds and walks of life to consider applying for membership on BRACE. Diversity not only enriches

our work, but also enhances our ability to serve the diverse needs of Reading residents. Every perspective, experience, and background contributes to more innovative solutions, better decision making, and stronger representation of the community we serve. Our commitment to equal opportunity extends to all, regardless of race, gender, age, religion, disability, sexual orientation, or socioeconomic status. A government that reflects the diversity of its people is better equipped to address the challenges and opportunities of our society.

In order to help the Committee carry out its purpose, the Select Board hopes that the following community leaders will lend their professional guidance and advice to the Committee.

- Town Manager
- Superintendent of Schools
- Director of Equity and Social Justice
- Director of Reading Public Library
- President of CATO
- Assistant Town Manager
- Community Development Director
- Community Services Director
- Civil Rights Officer

Meetings will rely upon administrative support provided by Town Hall staff (scheduling and posting meetings, taking or processing minutes, etc.)

Purpose

The purpose of this committee is to provide the Reading Select Board with recommendations on the best ways to implement the below listed items:

- Acknowledge and express accountability for the mistreatment of Bill Russell.
- Develop a long-term action plan to implement their Select Board's proclamation presented on August 9, 2022, **as shown in Exhibit A.**
- Establish the funding and infrastructure for the long-term action plan.
- Honor Bill Russell's legacy by striving to create the vision of an inclusive, equitable, and welcoming community.

Committee Action Plan Creation Process: In order to recommend an action plan that learns from, educates about, and commemorates Bill Russell's legacy with the Reading community on an ongoing basis, BRACE shall:

- Research Bill Russell's history.

- Gather input from the Committee's members, Reading residents, and other information from local DEI related surveys.
- Hold regular meetings (at least monthly) and actively seek community engagement.
- Explore ways in which the town can acknowledge and express accountability for the mistreatment of Bill Russell and his family.
- Identify ways that town resources can be more readily accessible to all residents in Reading.
- Invite members of historically marginalized communities to share their stories to better inform Committee and community decisions.
- Collect and archive these stories with the goal of developing or adding to a database to share these stories with others in the community.
- Encourage relationships between town administration, departments, and organizations that will promote, collaborate, and implement the plans recommended by this committee.
- Gather, analyze, and organize information for future planning decisions and the best practices related to events, programs, and activities that promote equity, inclusion, and ensure a welcoming community.
- Research and recommend a structural framework for long-term planning to annually honor and promote the civil rights values advocated and exemplified by Bill Russell.
- Plan and hold at least one choice of community-wide event, program, or activity to launch the annual program.
- Research options for establishing an ongoing town funding source that will ensure continuity for this annual program.
- BRACE will work with the Town Manager to transfer the information and responsibilities after the Committee's sunset.

The Committee shall consider the following:

- Black and brown voices in the choice of recommendation.
- Ways to engage as many residents as possible, in both the planning and programming.
- Listen to and consider the concerns and ideas of all residents, administration, and volunteers.
- Using public funds and grants to ensure the continuity of the recommendations.
- If possible, establish contact with the Russell family to inform them of the Committee, its purposes, and any related future programming.

- If the Committee aspires to use Bill Russell's name in the title of their recommended plan, the Committee will attempt to obtain permission and invite the Russell family to programming.
- Committee members are encouraged to attend the second CATO Conversation to be held in February 2024.

Deliverable The Committee's deliverables shall include, but not be limited to, the following:

1. Provide the Select Board with a report exploring the best way for the Town to acknowledge and express accountability for the mistreatment experienced by the Russell Family.
2. Submit multiple options for annual program recommendations with rationale and suggestions for funding mechanisms to the Select Board by December 31, 2024, unless another date is agreed upon by the Select Board.
3. Work with the Town Manager to transfer all information and responsibilities to the town department/leadership that will ensure the continuation of the annual program after the Committee sunsets.

Sunset The Committee will sunset after achieving the specified actions items outlined above. The goal is for these deliverables to be approved by the Select Board by December 31, 2024, but may be extended by a Select Board vote.

Public Body The meetings and deliberations of the BRACE Committee shall be subject to the Open Meeting Law. This committee will abide by Open Meeting Rules. Minutes will be taken and posted as required by law.


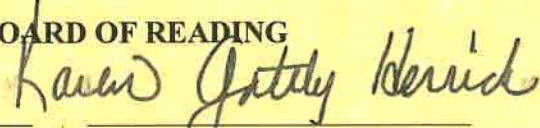
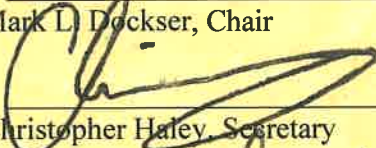
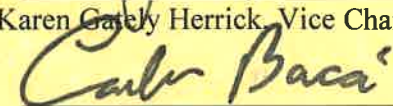
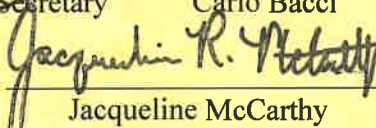
August 9, 2022

Reading Commemorates Bill Russell Resolution

- Whereas,** Bill Russell is widely considered to be one of the greatest basketball players of all time. Bill Russell is known for his contributions on and off the court. During part of the Celtic’s run of success, Russell and his family resided in Reading.
- Whereas,** Bill Russell is the greatest winner in the history of sports - winning 11 NBA championships as a player and a coach – including eight straight between 1958 and 1966 – as well as a gold medal at the 1956 Olympics. Bill Russell is a Five-time NBA MVP, and Twelve-time All Star, and the MVP trophy of the NBA Finals named in his honor. Bill Russell was also the first black head coach of a major league sports team and a strong advocate for mentorship.
- Whereas,** Bill Russell received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award, in 2011. President Barack Obama honored him as “someone who stood up for the rights and dignity of all men.”
- Whereas,** Bill Russell was well recognized as a civil rights icon. Bill Russell took part in the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and was seated in the front row of the crowd to hear the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. deliver his “I Have a Dream” speech.
- Whereas,** Bill Russell died on Sunday, July 31, 2022 at the age of 88.
- Whereas,** The Select Board of the Town of Reading honors his civil rights legacy by actively supporting the vision of an inclusive and welcoming community; celebrates Bill Russell’s life, his impact on our community, his impact on race relations, as well as his unparalleled success on the basketball court; and supports efforts to learn from and gain inspiration from his values as he lived them. Our world and our town are better places because of his tireless efforts

Now, therefore, be it resolved, that we, the Reading Select Board, decree that a day be designated as Bill Russell Day, and that the Town Manager be instructed to designate such date by appropriate recognition and ceremonies.

SELECT BOARD OF READING

 _____ Mark L. Dockser, Chair	 _____ Karen Gately Herrick, Vice Chair
 _____ Christopher Haley, Secretary	 _____ Carlo Bacci
 _____ Jacqueline McCarthy	



Town of Reading
16 Lowell Street
Reading, MA 01867-2685

Email: selectboard@ci.reading.ma.us
Website: www.readingma.gov

Select Board
(781) 942-9043

December 5, 2023

Massachusetts Department of Energy Resources
Green Communities Division
100 Cambridge Street, 9th Floor
Boston, MA 02114
ATTN: Joanne Bissetta, Director

RE: 225 CMR 25.00 – Draft Regulation for Public Comment

Dear Ms. Bissetta,

We write to the Green Communities Division (the “Division”) today as members of the Town of Reading (“Town”) Select Board in support of 225 CMR 25.00 (Draft Regulation for Public Comment) (the “Draft Regulation”). As discussed below, the Draft Regulation will allow communities like Reading that receive electricity service from a municipal light plant (“MLP”) to achieve the sustainability and financial benefits of the Green Communities program. Reading’s adoption of the Stretch Energy Code is in compliance with Draft Regulation requirements. We urge swift adoption of the Draft Regulation.

The Draft Regulation allows communities served by MLPs to access Green Communities’ grants, technical assistance, and local support. Specifically, the Draft Regulation allows municipalities “that receive electric distribution service from a municipal light plant with a service territory that covers more than one municipality and where there are no investor owned electric distribution company customers” to join Green Communities upon a showing that the municipality has adopted the renewable energy charge in M.G.L. c. 25, § 20(b) or M.G.L. c. 25, § 20(c).¹

In November 2020, Reading Town Meeting approved a Stretch Energy Code pursuant to 780 CMR Appendix 115.AA. Adoption of the Stretch Energy Code included the renewable energy charge required by the Draft Regulation, and indicated Reading’s support for building code updates encouraging energy efficiency. Town Meeting’s approval was motivated by its interest in ensuring that Reading would qualify for Green Communities funding and assistance. Now more than three years later, the Draft Regulation finally ensures that Reading (which is served by Reading Municipal Light Department, the Commonwealth’s largest MLP) and similar communities can enjoy the sustainability and financial benefits of Green Communities in the face of significant cost increases and additional Federal and state mandates.

¹ Draft Regulation at 25.05(c).

We respectfully urge you to finalize the Draft Regulation and expand access to Green Communities for municipalities served by MLPs. Thank you for considering our views on this matter.

Best Regards,

Jacqueline McCarthy, Select Board Chair

Mark Dockser, Select Board Vice Chair

Karen Herrick, Select Board Secretary

Carlo Bacci, Select Board Member

Christopher Haley, Select Board Member

CC:

Senator Jason Lewis

Representative Bradley Jones

Representative Richard Haggerty

December 6, 2023		Wednesday	
	Department Budget Presentations - Fire - Police - Health - Public Works - Public Services/Administrative Services	Board	7:00 PM
December 12, 2023		Tuesday	
	Department Budget Presentations - Library - Facilities - Technology - Finance - Shared Costs - Budget Summary	Board	7:00 PM
	Future Meetings - Agenda Items		
	VASC Policy Changes and Recommendations	VASC	
	Discuss Early Sunday Hours at Recreational Fields & Parks	Rec Comm	
	Public Safety Quarterly updates	Board	
	Discuss and Approve Flag Policy	Board	
	Recurring Agenda Items		
	Close Warrant: Annual Town Meeting	March	3/1/2022
	Close Warrant: Subsequent Town	September	9/27/2022
	Appoint Town Accountant	March	Annual
HEARING	Approve Classification & Compensation	May	Annual
	Appointments of Boards & Committees	May/June	Annual
HEARING	Approve Tax Classification	October	Annual
HEARING	Approve Licenses	December	Annual
	Liaison: RCTV members Report		Annual
	Liaison: CAB (RMLD) member Report		Annual
	Liaison: MAPC member Report		Annual
	Liaison: Reading Housing Authority		Annual
	Liaison: Reading Ice Arena Report		Annual
	Town Accountant Report		Qtrly
	Economic Development Director		Semi-ann
	Parking/Traffic/Transportation Task		
	Town Board & Committee visits		
	Town Department visits		
	Review Select Board Goals		
	Review Town Manager Goals		February/March

DRAFT - SELECT BOARD AGENDAS			
2024		Staff Responsibility	Estimated start time
January 9, 2024		Tuesday	
	Overview of Meeting	McCarthy	7:00
	Public Comment	Board	7:05
	SB Liaison & Town Manager Reports	Board	7:15
	Presentation from Edge Sports for Symonds Way	Board	7:30
	Presentation from Council On Aging	Board	8:00
	Discuss Future Agendas	Board	9:15
	Approve Meeting Minutes	Board	9:30
January 23, 2024		Tuesday	
February 6, 2024		Tuesday	
February 27, 2024		Tuesday	
March 5, 2024	PRESIDENTIAL PRIMARY		
March 12, 2024		Tuesday	
March 26, 2024		Tuesday	
April 2, 2024	TOWN ELECTION		
April 9, 2024		Tuesday	
April 22, 2024	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING		
April 25, 2023	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING		
April 29, 2023	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING		
May 2, 2024	ANNUAL TOWN MEETING		
May 7, 2024		Tuesday	
May 21, 2024		Tuesday	
June 4, 2024		Tuesday	
June 18, 2024		Tuesday	
July 16, 2024		Tuesday	
August 20, 2024		Tuesday	
September 10, 2024	STATE PRIMARY		
September 17, 2024		Tuesday	

October 8, 2024		Tuesday	
October 29, 2024		Tuesday	
November 5, 2024	STATE ELECTION		
November 12, 2024	SUBSEQUENT TOWN MEETING		
November 14, 2024	SUBSEQUENT TOWN MEETING		
November 18, 2024	SUBSEQUENT TOWN MEETING		
November 19, 2024		Tuesday	
November 21, 2024	SUBSEQUENT TOWN MEETING		
December 3, 2024		Tuesday	
December 4, 2024		Wednesday	
December 10, 2024		Tuesday	

Select Board Draft Minutes

November 21, 2023

Liaison Reports

Herrick noted the RMLD calendars are out for 2024. Town Meeting has successfully finished up. The Killam School Building Committee had a designer panel vote today. She attended a housing forum sponsored by Senator Lewis noting there are a number of bills on the horizon to help fund affordable housing.

Haley noted Brad Jones put on a wonderful thanksgiving dinner. The Reading Field Hockey team won their state title over the weekend. The Charter Review Committee now has a page on the website. They will be working on Articles 5 and 6 at their next meeting in December.

Dockser noted the town hired a firm to do the feasibility study for the center for active living.

Bacci noted the Tree Lighting is this upcoming Sunday.

McCarthy noted she attended the public forum on the Town Manager search. Next Wednesday the 29th, the board will meet with the at-large residents for the screening committee. The board will then vote on those at-large applicants at their December 5th meeting. The board of health is expecting to receive the results of the community needs assessment and review them next month. Shop the Block for our downtown businesses is next Thursday, November 30th.

Town Manager Report

Fidel noted the Birch Meadow project is slowly wrapping up. The cold weather has delayed line painting but they are hoping to get that done by next week. With the passing of Article 9 at Town Meeting regarding the Grove Street parking lot, they gave the developer the go-ahead to start working on that instead of waiting until spring. The Killam School Building project now has a designer on board. The Senior Center now has a developer on board to do a feasibility study. The tree lighting will be taking place on Sunday on the Town Common.

Public Hearing - Traffic Amendments

Herrick read the hearing notice opening the public hearing for the board to discuss two amendments to the Traffic and Parking Regulations.

The first amendment was to add two stop signs heading southbound and northbound on Bancroft Ave at the intersection of Bancroft Ave at Hartshorn. This amendment came after a resident request.

The board had no issues with this amendment.

The second amendment was to enact a 10-minute pick up and drop off zone on the southerly side of Symonds Way. This amendment is coming after issues with parking at the Little Treasures Preschool.

A number of residents and users of the ice rink came to express their concerns about this amendment.

Susie Swazey noted she is a skating teacher at the rink and the drop off zone is a very dangerous placement. She does not recommend the board do this.

Ed Donnelly noted he is an abutter and this never used to be a problem until recently and he is not sure why. He is concerned kids are going to get hurt.

Shannon Kanuf a skating teacher at the rink agreed with previous comments noting this is a dangerous idea.

Kerri Donnelly, also an abutter, was very adamant this is going to end badly with a child likely being seriously injured.

Mary Grimmer, owner of Little Treasurers, explained they have always done this. This is not new at all. She has a parking lot but it is mostly taken up by her employees. She would love to add more parking but was denied by Conservation years ago due to wetlands behind her property.

Herrick moved to close the hearing regarding the proposed amendments to the Traffic and Parking Regulations. The motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a 5-0 vote.

Herrick moved to approve amendment number 2023-11 as presented. The motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a 5-0 vote.

The board discussed the second amendment noting they feel they need more information surrounding this one before voting.

Chuck Tirone noted Conservation could take a look at the property again and see if there's anything they can do to help create more parking.

The board did not vote on amendment number 2023-12.

ARPA Update from Elder Services

Jenna Fiorente, Community Services Director, gave the board a presentation on the what the Elder Services Department has been using their ARPA funds for. The presentation can be found in the Select Board packet on the town website.

RMLD Update

RMLD General Manager Greg Phipps gave the board an update from the light department with a presentation. The presentation can be found in the Select Board packet on the town website.

Community Preservation Act Study Committee

Economic Development Director Ben Cares gave the board a presentation on the Community Preservation Act Study Committee. The presentation can be found in the Select Board packet on the town website.

Affordable Housing Trust Fund Vote

The board had previously voted an Affordable Housing Trust Fund Home Rule petition; however, the State is asking local communities to vote on amendment to the wording.

Herrick moved to support and approve the proposed floor amendment to House Bill 1341, striking five non-binding "whereas" clauses in lines 1-13, as such amendment is within the scope of the general public objectives of the Home Rule Petition authorized by the Subsequent Town Meeting vote of November 14, 2022. The motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a 5-0 vote.

Vote Department Heads to the Town Manager Screening Committee

The board is discussing which two resident department heads they want to sit on the Town Manager Screening Committee. There are only a few department heads that are also residents.

Dockser suggested Chief Clark and Library Director Lannon. Bacci suggested Chief Clark, Town Clerk Gemme and Chief Burns and only have 1 at large resident instead of two.

The board discussed the makeup of the committee they voted on noting that they stated 'up to two' department heads. Bacci then noted he would suggest Chief Clark and Town Clerk Gemme. It was noted the Town Clerk is not a department head.

Haley suggested Chief Clark and Town Clerk Gemme. Herrick suggested Chief Clark and could see consensus around Lannon or Gemme. McCarthy suggested Chief Clark and Lannon.

Herrick moved to appoint Chief Clark and Library Director Lannon to the Town Manager Screening Committee. The motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a 4-1 vote with Bacci opposing.

Discussion on Acting Town Manager Appointment

The board discussed and had a consensus on appointing Assistant Town Manager Matt Kraunelis as Acting Town Manager until the permanent appointment of a new Town Manager is made. The board will take a vote on this at their next meeting.

Vote on Town Manager Position Statement

The board discussed the position statement and had a few minor tweaks.

Herrick moved to approve the Position Statement as amended. The Motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a 5-0 vote.

Future Agendas

The board discussed future agenda items and the draft 2024 schedule.

Minutes

The board edited the previous set of meeting minutes.

Herrick moved to approve the meeting minutes from November 7th as amended. The motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a 5-0 vote.

At 10:23, Herrick moved that the board go into Executive Session including staff members Fidel Maltez, David Clark, Christine Amendola, Matt Kraunelis, Sharon Angstrom, Sean Donahue, and Caitlin Nocella to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and approve contracts for the Local 1640, Reading Police Supervisory Officers Association - IBPO, Reading Facilities Maintenance Workers and Town Custodians - AFSCME Council 93, Local 1703, MassCop Local 191A, Reading Public Safety Dispatchers. Further the Chair declares that an open meeting could have a detrimental effect on the bargaining position of the body; and the board will NOT reconvene in open session. The motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a unanimous roll call vote.