



Town of Reading Meeting Minutes

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Board - Committee - Commission - Council:

Select Board

Date: 2024-01-09

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:**

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

Members - Not Present:

Others Present:

Executive Assistant Caitlin Nocella, Peter Kramer, Matt Kraunelis, AJ Capano, Jason Carron, Nancy Ziemiak, Jane Kinsella, Sharon Angstrom, Sean Donahue, Chris Cole

Minutes Respectfully Submitted By: Executive Assistant Caitlin Nocella

Topics of Discussion:

This meeting was held in person and remote via Zoom.

Chair McCarthy called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM.

Public Comment

Peter Kramer expressed his dissatisfaction with the DPW's job snowplowing this past storm.

Liaison Reports

Herrick noted there is a Killam kick-off community meeting this Thursday. She explained the next steps in the MSBA process including upcoming important dates. She attended a meeting to get a BID update this morning at Whitelam Books. She visited the Council on Aging.

Haley noted the School Committee met last week and went over the FY25 budget. Reading Field Hockey Champions were there. The Charter Review Committee met last night and has completed their first pass through the entire Charter. They will meet again at the end of January and will look to start scheduling a public forum to get more input.

Dockser noted that ReCalc has brought the architect up to speed. They are working on planning a bunch of public meetings. PAIR had a meeting in late December where the new Director of Equity got to meet everyone and see what the group does. He noted on Monday, the Towns' annual Martin Luther King Jr. Day celebration breakfast will take place at the Highschool.

Bacci had no updates for this meeting.

McCarthy thanked DPW and first responders for their ongoing work during the storm this weekend. CPDC met last night and approved a sign for the Dollar Tree and the McDonalds renovations. They continued their hearing on the Pinevale development project. Staff is hosting MBTA Communities informational session tomorrow and will have a few more. The Governor announced budget cuts which we will have to keep an eye on to see if/ how it will affect Reading's aid. The Town Manager screening committee met with candidates last week and they will announce the finalists at a special Select Board meeting next week.

Town Manager Report

Acting Town Manager Matt Kraunelis noted he reached out to the Delegation about the budget cuts and it looks like Reading's earmarks are safe at the moment but we will see the final budget soon. He also mentioned the Killam Community meeting this Thursday and the MLK breakfast on Monday. Reading received more than 10" of snow between Saturday and Sunday; DPW has been out working diligently to get roads and sidewalks cleaned up as fast as possible. Because of the duration of the storm, some staff were out for over 24 hours and delayed some sidewalk clean ups. He was working on finalizing union contracts; two of which are scheduled for Executive session tonight.

New Liquor License Application

The town received a new liquor license application for 136 Haven Street for 1917 POST; a new steakhouse that will be opening in the spring. Attorney AJ Capano and Owner Jason Carron were present and explained their plans for the restaurant.

Mark Dockser explained that the board takes alcohol compliance very seriously and he hopes this new establishment will as well.

Herrick moved to close the hearing regarding the new liquor license application. The motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a unanimous roll call vote.

Herrick moved to approve the annual all alcohol liquor license for Parc Restaurant Group d/b/a POST 1917 at 136 Haven Street, Reading, MA. The motion was seconded by Dockser and was approved with a unanimous roll call vote.

Edge Sports Presentation

This has been postponed until a further meeting.

Update from the Council on Aging

Nancy Ziemiak gave the board a presentation with updates on what the Council on Aging has been working on. The presentation can be found in the Select Board packet on the town website.

Future Agendas

The board discussed future agenda items.

Minutes

Herrick moved to approve the meeting minutes from December 12th, 2023 as written. The motion was seconded by Dockser and approved with a roll call vote.

Executive Session

At 8:11 PM, Herrick moved that the board go into Executive Session including staff members Matt Kraunelis, Jane Kinsella, Chris Cole, Sharon Angstrom, Sean Donahue, and Caitlin Nocella; and previous Town Manager Fidel Maltez, to discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining and approve contracts for the Public Works - AFSCME Council 93, Local 1703 and Public Works Supervisory Union, AFSCME Council 93, Local 1703. 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.