

SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

MONDAY, OCTOBER 24, 2022

ANNUAL SELECT BOARD GOAL SETTING DISCUSSION

(Meeting can be viewed at www.sudburytv.org)

Present: Chair Charles Russo, Vice-Chair Janie Dretler, Select Board Member Daniel Carty, Select Board Member Lisa Kouchakdjian, Select Board Member Jennifer Roberts, Interim Town Manager Maryanne Bilodeau.

Town Senior Staff /Department Heads Present: Planning & Community Development Director Adam Duchesneau, Combined Facilities Director Sandra Duran, Senior Center Director Debra Galloway, Finance Director Dennis Keohane, Health Director William Murphy, DPW Director Dan Nason, Police Chief Scott Nix, Fire Chief John Whalen

Also Present: Mel Kleckner, Moderator – UMass Collins Center for Public Management

The statutory requirements as to notice having been compiled with, the meeting was convened at 8:33 AM via Zoom telecommunication mode.

Chair Russo announced the recording of the meeting and other procedural aspects included in the meeting. Select Board roll call: Kouchakdjian-present, Carty-present, Dretler-present, Roberts-present, Russo-present

Public Comments on items not on agenda

None

Annual Select Board Goal Setting discussion with Town senior staff

Welcome and Introductions

Mr. Kleckner introduced himself, adding that he had been the Town Manager in Brookline for 41 years before joining the UMass team. Mr. Kleckner shared the “Town of Sudbury Select Board Annual Goal Setting Session” Power Point presentation.

Review of Mission/Values Statements/Priority Goal Categories

Mr. Kleckner asked each Board Member why they joined the Select Board.

Chair Russo stated his children and the future of Sudbury were his primary incentives in joining the Select Board.

Vice-Chair Dretler stated the primary reason behind why she joined the Board was to provide as much information to Sudbury residents, in order to make the best decisions, with a focus on transparency.

Board Member Roberts confirmed that public service was very important in her Town, including good financial management, infrastructure advancements (currently the Fairbank Community Center and the Town extension of the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail) and efforts to promote sustainability and fighting climate change.

Board Member Carty stressed that the important areas concerning clean water, public safety, excellent schools, efficient Town government, and helping maintain “what makes Sudbury, Sudbury.”

Board Member Kouchakdjian stated as a former Sudbury School Committee Member, she strives to build inclusion in Sudbury Public Schools and the general population; inclusive of older residents and disabled residents. Her number one reason for joining the Select Board was to advance all areas of public safety in Town.

Discussion of SMART Goals

Mr. Kleckner spelled out the acronym SMART: S = Specific, M = Measurable, A = Attainable, R = Relevant, T = Time Bound, and its importance to the goal process.

Board Member Carty commented time bound did not necessarily equal one year. Board Member Roberts was in agreement. Board Member Carty mentioned the differences between goals and deliverables.

Interim Town Manager/Department Head Input

Mr. Duchesneau recommended two goals related to the BFRT Project -- the advancement/completion of BFRT project, and extending the BFRT further into Framingham. He also recommended there be a strong focus on the Transportation Program with emphasis on sustainable funding sources.

Ms. Duran stressed her continued support for the BFRT advancement/completion goal, and a Select Board vote to ensure funding for a related trail maintenance program in perpetuity would be beneficial. She also recommended that the Select Board support the emerging Sudbury Sustainability Program, including investment in renewable energy options (wind, solar and biofuel).

Ms. Galloway recommended the Select Board seriously consider age-friendly incentives, such as accessibility to Town buildings, transportation to necessary services, and advancements in the education related to dementia.

Mr. Murphy expressed the need for additional Medical Reserve Corp. (MRC) volunteers, as demonstrated during the pandemic. He hoped that the Board would consider the importance of such trained individuals.

Fire Chief Whalen echoed the comments made by Mr. Murphy regarding the shortage of MRC volunteers and other essential volunteers. He noted the new Town shelter space would require additional volunteers, and educating the community on safety communications/mechanisms was very much needed. Fire Chief Whalen stressed that keeping track of the Town's most vulnerable residents was essential.

Mr. Nason requested the Select Board goals include aspects of sustainability, the advancement of the Comprehensive Waste Water Management Plan (CWMP), which would also help with growth on the Rte. 20 Corridor in particular. Interim Town Manager Bilodeau mentioned that \$250,000 was recently awarded to help fund the CWMP initiative.

Police Chief Nix reiterated safety needs as brought forth by Chief Whalen and Ms. Galloway; he stressed additional attention must be demonstrated for the vulnerable populations in Town to include Sudbury youth.

Interim Town Manager Bilodeau emphasized the importance of transportation programs in Town for seniors, disabled residents, and other groups in Town. She stressed the need to advance the ADA initiatives.

Interim Town Manager Bilodeau mentioned recreating small cell communication incentives in areas of Sudbury, and the implementation of regulations. Ms. Bilodeau confirmed a Select Board Small Cell Communications Subcommittee had been formed in consideration of a Select Board sponsored article to be included on the upcoming Annual Town Meeting Warrant.

Identification of 2023 Goals

Advance to Construction Phase – Bruce Freeman Rail Trail – Evaluate consultant findings of Phase 3A-CSX/Rte. 20 to determine funding options, including consideration of the TIP Process. Engage with Rail Trail Committee and staff to understand ongoing maintenance costs

Vice-Chair Dretler confirmed the primary BFRT goal was accomplished, and now it was important to go forward include the CSX section (the quarter mile) - Phase 3A of the project. Board Members agreed, and hoped government funding could be considered.

Mr. Duchesneau detailed the topic of related CSX section funding would be better understood in December when the consultants provide results of additional related research.

Plan and support remaining ARPA Funding, including a process to track and reallocate existing funding

Chair Russo confirmed that most of the ARPA funding had been allocated. He hoped that some contingency funding might be realized by the Town. He mentioned increased fuel/heating costs, additional health department considerations, and other trends. Board Member Roberts mentioned the ARPA deadlines, and mentioned that much of the funds had not yet been spent, and monitoring of ARPA funding was necessary. Vice-Chair Dretler recommended a quarterly ARPA update.

Evaluate current state and future best use of Sewataro

Chair Russo stated the signed 5-year Sewataro contract was a milestone, and Sewataro financials continue to be monitored; reporting compliance/additions being part of the contract. Board Member Roberts mentioned the use study; the importance of results from the Open Space and Recreation Plan study. Vice-Chair Dretler advocated for a full-use study to be presented before 2025.

Refine issues/research/make decisions regarding LS Regional and Assessment Process/Vocational Education Access

Board Member Kouchakdjian stated that the Town was seeking to become a member of a vocational school community again. She confirmed that she has been investigating various vocational school options.

Related Board discussion took place.

Chair Russo indicated the topics of LSRHS decisions and vocational education should be regarded as two separate topics, and the Board needed guidance from experts. Both Board Members Roberts and Carty recommended the two topics not be separated.

Sustainability and Climate Change Initiatives

Board Member Roberts mentioned the Select Board had voted to advance the Sustainability and Climate Change Initiatives by signing a Climate Emergency Declaration, supporting sustainability measures as a multi-year goal, and would have a Sudbury Sustainability Director in place.

Expand (Normalize) and Fund Transportation Option especially for vulnerable populations. Determine funding stability and regional options

Board Member Carty confirmed that related funding was voted at 2022 Annual Town Meeting. He noted that associated goals are still in process, getting closer to transportation Master Plan directives. Board Member Carty mentioned the possibility of a regional transportation plan, and a five-year plan is being presented to the Board.

Space needs assessment for staff

Board Member Kouchakdjian mentioned that the new Town Manager should be considering such space needs. Vice-Chair Dretler was in agreement. Interim Town Manager Bilodeau opined that this discussed goal was more of a Town Manager goal and the Select Board could support such a goal.

Hiring a new Town Manager who gets onboard prior to 2023 Annual Town Meeting

Chair Russo mentioned the hiring of a new Town Manager, and acknowledged that critical processes must be addressed before a Town Manager employment agreement is signed. He stated there are several large capital projects in Sudbury at this time, and strong leadership will aid in project completion.

Mr. Kleckner recommended Board Members prioritize six major goals. He recognized that prioritization of goals did not mean that other items were not being considered.

Identification of Possible 2023 Goals

Chair Russo suggested Board Members review the top ten Select Board goals, and also consider the six-some additional goals mentioned today. Board Member Roberts repeated the importance of the public health initiative goal.

Break

Chair Russo read in the words of the motion. Board Member Roberts moved in the words of the Chair. Board Member Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Carty-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye, Roberts-aye, Dretler-aye, Russo-aye

VOTED: To recess and reconvene at 11:30 AM.

The meeting resumed at 11:32 AM.

Ranking of 2023 Goals

After considerable discussion, Board Members listed primary Select Board goals (without ranking, necessarily) at this time.

Chair Russo asked if Board Members wanted to break to choose top Select Board goals on an individual basis.

Chair Russo read in the words of the motion. Vice-Chair Dretler moved in the words of the Chair. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Carty-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye, Roberts-aye, Dretler-aye, Russo-aye

VOTED: That Select Board Members break in order to individually choose and prioritize Select Board goals.

When Board Members resumed from break, top goals were identified:

- Advance to Construction Phase – Bruce Freeman Rail Trail – Evaluate consultant findings of Phase 3A-CSX/Rte 20 to determine funding options, including consideration of the TIP Process. Engage with Rail Trail Committee and staff to understand ongoing maintenance costs
- Plan and support remaining ARPA Funding, including a process to track and reallocate existing funding
- ADA Plan – Integrate Town-wide, including website, etc.
- Vocational Education Access
- Refine issues/research/make decisions regarding LS Regional Agreement
- Sustainability and Climate Change Initiatives
- Expand (Normalize) and Fund Transportation Option, especially for vulnerable populations. Determine funding stability and regional options

Board Members agreed to announce priority of goals at the next Board meeting.

Public Comment

Resident Manish Sharma, 77 Colonial Road, stated the Select Board conducted a great goal-setting session, and wanted to hear more regarding the Town Transportation program.

Adjourn

Chair Russo read in the words of the motion. Board Member Dretler moved in the words of the Chair. Board Member Kouchakdjian seconded the motion.

It was on motion 5-0; Carty-aye, Kouchakdjian-aye, Roberts-aye, Dretler-aye, Russo-aye

VOTED: To adjourn the Select Board Goal Setting Meeting.

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 12:17 AM Tuesday, 10/25/22.