

SUDBURY SELECT BOARD
TUESDAY OCTOBER 24, 2023

7:00 PM - ZOOM

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

Hybrid Meeting

Lower Town Hall, 322 Concord Road, Sudbury, MA

Present: Chair Janie Dretler, Vice-Chair Lisa Kouchakdjian, Select Board Member Daniel Carty, Select Board Member Jennifer Roberts, Select Board Member Charles Russo, Town Manager Andrew Sheehan

The statutory requirements as to notice having been compiled with, the meeting was convened at 7:03 PM via Zoom telecommunication mode and in-person.

Chair Dretler announced the recording of the meeting and other procedural aspects included in the meeting.

Call to Order

Select Board Roll Call: Kouchakdjian-present, Carty-present, Russo-present, Roberts-present, Dretler-present

Opening Remarks by Chair

- Announced that a successful and efficient Fall Town Meeting took place last night

Reports from Town Manager

- Thanked all who attended Town Meeting last night; recognized Mark Thompson/IT team, Patty Golden, Leila Frank, Elaine Jones, Town Clerk Beth Klein, Lynn Puorro and SudburyTV staff, Department Heads, Town Boards/Committees, LSRHS for hosting the meeting, and anyone omitted
- Announced Halloween drop-in event for kids and parents on October 31st at the Flynn Building and Town Hall from 3:00 PM to 4:00 PM, with employees in costume and treats.
- Announced Town Manager Office Hours on October 30th from 2:00 PM to 3:00 PM at the Silva Room in the Flynn Building, where comments, questions, and suggestions will be discussed

Reports from Select Board

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian

- Announced Special Fall Town Meeting was great and thanked all involved
- Thanked all who attended the Town Forum “Shaping Sudbury’s Future,” and thanked Town Manager Sheehan, Leila Frank, Kirsten Roopenian, the IT team and DPW staff for assistance in setting up the room.

Board Member Carty

- Thanked all involved with a successful Fall Town Meeting last night
- Acknowledged this is the first time all Select Board Members have been together in-person for a long time (with the exception of Town Meeting)

Board Member Russo

- Recognized that Town Meeting went very well

Board Member Roberts

- Thanked all for a great Fall Town Meeting and looking forward to getting back to non-meeting business

Public Comments

Resident Sasha Papalilo, 11 Bowen Circle, addressed the current dire situation in Israel and how it is affecting Sudbury residents. She explained that she immigrated from Israel as a young girl. Ms. Papalilo spoke frankly of hardships growing up a Jew in this country. She stressed that all residents cannot ignore what is happening and the world is not standing with Israel in solidarity. Ms. Papalilo asked that Sudbury stand in unity.

Resident Chris Papalilo, 11 Bowen Circle, likened the recent terrorist actions in Israel to the 9/11 attacks on the US. He stressed the increased antisemitic violence taking place, and stated that we can't stay silent this time and we are asking the Town to stand in solidarity with the Sudbury Jewish community.

Resident Sharon Schmidt-Gross, 298 Maynard Road, stated that she recently spoke with Town Manager Sheehan about support in Sudbury. She noted that many residents are afraid to put up supportive signage to stand with Israel. Ms. Schmidt-Gross suggested that Town Hall be lighted with the Israel national colors and that a Menorah be put up in Town Center. She noted that the Town included lights for Ukraine and for domestic violence and should now do the same for Israel.

Resident Manish Sharma, 77 Colonial Road, stated that today is a holiday in India, stressing that we are all one. He noted that he attended Town Meeting and had questions about Town funding, and requested more in-depth information regarding funding associated with Town services. He thanked all involved with the recent Town Meeting, and commended Select Board Members for taking questions from residents at Town Meeting.

Consent Calendar

Chair Dretler confirmed that Consent Calendar – Item #5 would be discussed later in the meeting.

#1 - Vote to Grant a Special Permit to Sudbury Family Network to hold the "Witches Ride" on Sunday, October 29, 2023, from 4 PM through approximately 5 PM, subject to compliance with conditions outlined by the Police and Fire Departments, DPW and Park and Recreation, subject to receipt of a certificate of liability.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to Grant a Special Permit to Sudbury Family Network to hold the "Witches Ride" on Sunday, October 29, 2023. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To Grant a Special Permit to Sudbury Family Network to hold the "Witches Ride" on Sunday, October 29, 2023, from 4 PM through approximately 5 PM, subject to compliance with conditions outlined by the Police and Fire Departments, DPW and Park and Recreation, subject to receipt of a certificate of liability

#2 - Vote to Grant a Special Permit to Pete Gottlieb to hold the "Bowker Neighborhood Turkey Trot" on Thursday, November 23, 2023, from 8 AM through approximately 9 AM, subject to compliance with conditions outlined by the Police and Fire Departments, DPW and Park and Recreation, subject to receipt of a certificate of liability.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to Grant a Special Permit to Pete Gottlieb to hold the "Bowker Neighborhood Turkey Trot" on Thursday, November 23, 2023. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To Grant a Special Permit to Pete Gottlieb to hold the "Bowker Neighborhood Turkey Trot" on Thursday, November 23, 2023, from 8 AM through approximately 9 AM, subject to compliance with conditions outlined by the Police and Fire Departments, DPW and Park and Recreation, subject to receipt of a certificate of liability

#3 - Vote to reappoint the following Cultural Council members all for a term ending 10/30/26: Erica O'Brien, 3 Country Village Lane, Diana Peters, 62 Maynard Road, Bethany Shaw, 850 Boston Post Road.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to reappoint the following Cultural Council members all for a term ending 10/30/26: Erica O'Brien, 3 Country Village Lane, Diana Peters, 62 Maynard Road, Bethany Shaw, 850 Boston Post Road. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To reappoint the following Cultural Council members all for a term ending 10/30/26: Erica O'Brien, 3 Country Village Lane, Diana Peters, 62 Maynard Road, Bethany Shaw, 850 Boston Post Road

#4 - Vote to accept a \$5,000 grant donation from the Sudbury Foundation toward the Goodnow Library Collections Diversity Audit, as requested by Esme Green, Library Director.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to accept a \$5,000 grant donation from the Sudbury Foundation toward the Goodnow Library Collections Diversity Audit, as requested by Esme Green, Library Director. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To accept a \$5,000 grant donation from the Sudbury Foundation toward the Goodnow Library Collections Diversity Audit, as requested by Esme Green, Library Director

Interview candidates for appointment to the Sudbury Cultural Council. Following interviews, vote whether to appoint Rich Gallup, 11 Shady Hill Lane, and Kanika Pandey, 112 Bigelow Drive both for a term ending 10/30/25.

Present: Rich Gallup

Mr. Gallup provided summary of related experience, including his employment as a video game producer who wants to promote all cultural aspects in Sudbury.

Board Members thanked Mr. Gallup for volunteering.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to appoint Rich Gallup, 11 Shady Hill Lane, to the Sudbury Cultural Council for a term ending 10/30/25. Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To appoint Rich Gallup, 11 Shady Hill Lane, to the Sudbury Cultural Council for a term ending 10/30/25

Present: Kanika Pandey

Ms. Pandey provided summary of related experience, including her employment as a classical vocalist who hopes to help promote a cultural bridge via the arts in Sudbury.

Board Members thanked Ms. Pandey for volunteering.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to appoint Kanika Pandey, 112 Bigelow Drive, to the Sudbury Cultural Council for a term ending 10/30/25. Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To appoint Kanika Pandey, 112 Bigelow Drive, to the Sudbury Cultural Council for a term ending 10/30/25

Discussion on response to recent world events

Chair Dretler stated at this time it was important to discuss what the Town could do to indicate that Sudbury is a welcoming community and denounces terrorists' attacks, as taking place in Israel. She confirmed the Select Board would discuss with Town Manager Sheehan what can be done in Sudbury. Chair Dretler stated that she valued comments from the public at this time as presented tonight.

Town Manager Sheehan suggested installation of a banner across Town Hall to reflect a theme of peace, which could remain up as long as the community wanted. He also stated that shining the national light colors on Town Hall would recognize what is happening in the world as well. He encouraged that people reach out to other groups in town also (houses of worship, other anti-racism organizations).

Board Member Carty stated putting up a banner was fine but he believed we needed to do something for Israel such as lighting Town Hall blue or installing the Menorah.

Board Member Russo stressed that he wanted everyone to know Sudbury is a welcoming community and agreed to the Town Manager's actions around Town Hall to display that support.

Board Member Roberts expressed that she had reached out to local synagogues, and the Town does have a lighting precedent, as set by support for the Ukraine. She indicated her support for Town Manager Sheehan leading such planning.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian expressed her support for related planning by Town Manager Sheehan and was appreciative to those residents who shared their personal comments this evening. She emphasized that everyone should feel safe, and the community must support each other.

Board Member Roberts mentioned that she would reach out to DEI and the coordinators of the live story project as brought forth by that Commission and would provide update to the Board and Town Manager. Chair Dretler suggested that citizens reach out to DEI and similar community organizations.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian stated that she renounced all acts of terrorists, stressing that we must learn to respect each other. She spoke of injustices/atrocities in other parts of the world, such as Armenia. She detailed that in 2022 Armenians were brutalized and many Armenians faced tremendous atrocity. She indicated that the US should be helping Armenia, as well as other parts of the world. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian urged everyone to ask questions and support efforts to bring communities together.

Mr. Russo indicated that he was not qualified to address world events, but wanted the Sudbury community to know the Town has full support and will express that commitment in Town, with action steps as discussed.

Chair Dretler suggested that those who are reluctant to speak at the meeting could send messages to the Board.

Chair Dretler led the Board in a moment of silence.

Special Town Meeting debrief

Town Manager Sheehan mentioned possible Town Meeting considerations going forward:

- Daytime Meetings
- Weekend meeting possibilities
- Possible modifications to related Town Meeting Bylaws
- All day meetings
- Potential Bylaw – more flexibility with scheduling, earlier start time

Ms. Roberts mentioned results of the Town Meeting flash vote taken some time ago.

Board Members indicated that PowerPoint presentations at Town Meetings were helpful. Board Member Russo mentioned the importance of adequate vetting of articles.

Review and possibly vote to approve open session minutes of 9/12/23 and 9/26/23

9/12/23 Minutes

Chair Dretler noted that the 9/12/23 were being reviewed by the Board a second time due to date error by Member Carty.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the 9/12/23 Select Board minutes, as edited. Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve the 9/12/23 Select Board minutes, as edited

9/26/23 Minutes

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve the 9/26/23 Select Board minutes, as edited. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve the 9/26/23 Select Board minutes, as edited

Review draft Select Board meeting schedule for 2024

Chair Dretler noted that the Joint Meeting with the Planning Board on November 20, 2023 would include MBTA Communities discussion and Master Plan update.

Chair Dretler mentioned planning aspects for the 250th anniversary of the founding of the United States, and the signing of the Declaration of Independence (July 3, 2026). She requested that Board Members review what other local communities are doing, and confirmed a planning committee would be created, and asked Board Members to present ideas.

Consent Calendar Item #5

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian recused herself from the discussion and left the meeting at approximately 9:03 PM.

#5 - Vote to accept a \$3,050 donation from various donors to the Commission on Disability in support of Town-wide efforts, as requested by the COD Chair

Board Member Russo motioned to accept a \$3,050 donation from various donors to the Commission on Disability in support of Town-wide efforts, as requested by the COD Chair. Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

It was on motion 4-0; Roberts-aye, Russo-aye, Carty-aye, Dretler-aye

VOTED: To accept a \$3,050 donation from various donors to the Commission on Disability in support of Town-wide efforts, as requested by the COD Chair

Adjourn

Chair Dretler motioned to adjourn the Select Board Meeting. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

It was on motion 4-0; Roberts-aye, Russo-aye, Carty-aye, Dretler-aye.

VOTED: To adjourn the Select Board Meeting

There being no further business, the meeting ended at 9:06 PM.

SB Meeting 10/24/23 - Documents & Exhibits

1. Vote to Grant a Special Permit to Sudbury Family Network to hold the "Witches Ride" on Sunday, October 29, 2023, from 4 PM through approximately 5 PM, subject to compliance with conditions outlined by the Police and Fire Departments, DPW and Park and Recreation, subject to receipt of a certificate of liability.

Attachments:

- 1.a Witches Ride 2023 Application_SB
- 1.b Witches Ride Dept Feedback 2023

2. Vote to Grant a Special Permit to Pete Gottlieb to hold the "Bowker Neighborhood Turkey Trot" on Thursday, November 23, 2023, from 8 AM through approximately 9 AM, subject to compliance with conditions outlined by the Police and Fire Departments, DPW and Park and Recreation, subject to receipt of a certificate of liability.

Attachments:

- 2.a Bowker Turkey Trot Application 2023_SB
- 2.b Bowker Turkey Trot Dept Feedback 2023

3. Vote to reappoint the following Cultural Council members all for a term ending 10/30/26: Erica O'Brien, 3 Country Village Lane, Diana Peters, 62 Maynard Road, Bethany Shaw, 850 Boston Post Road.

Attachments:

- 3.a SCC reappts

4. Vote to accept a \$5,000 grant donation from the Sudbury Foundation toward the Goodnow Library Collections Diversity Audit, as requested by Esme Green, Library Director.

Attachments:

- 4.a SudFdn Grant Goodnow Lib

5. Vote to accept a \$3,050 donation from various donors to the Commission on Disability in support of Town-wide efforts, as requested by the COD chair.

Attachments:

- 5.a COD Sponsorship Money

6. Interview candidates for appointment to the Sudbury Cultural Council. Following interviews, vote whether to appoint Rich Gallup, 11 Shady Hill Lane, and Kanika Pandey, 112 Bigelow Drive both for a term ending 10/30/25.

Attachments:

- 6.a Sudbury Cultural Council Connection.Gitelman.email
- 6.b Gallup_Rich_rd app_SCC 2023
- 6.c Kanika_Pandey_application_rd

9. Review and possibly vote to approve open session minutes of 9/12/23 and 9/26/23.

Attachments:

- 9.a Final_SB_draft_9.12.23_for_review

10. Review draft Select Board meeting schedule for 2024.

Attachments:

- 10.a 2024 Select Board meeting schedule_draft