

SUDBURY SELECT BOARD

TUESDAY APRIL 30, 2024

7:00 PM

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

ZOOM Meeting

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 convened at 7:01 PM via Zoom telecommunication mode.

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, Dretler-present, Roberts-present

Opening remarks by Chair

- Mosquito Prevention seminar tonight
- Flag at half-staff in honor of Billerica Police Officer Ian Taylor
- Annual Town Meeting to begin Monday, May 6th at LSRHS; Town Warrant can be viewed on the website

Reports from Town Manager

- Thanked DPW and contractor, Blue Diamond, for completing drain repairs on Concord Road

Reports from Select Board

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian

- Announced she would be recusing herself from discussion and vote on Item 6 on tonight's agenda

Board Member Russo

- Had no comments

Board Member Roberts

- Announced her presence
- Finance Committee met last night and addressed the Warrant Article for the EV Charging Station to be installed at the Goodnow Library

Board Member Carty

- Catch Connect Transit Service Launch Event June 6, 2024 at the Senior Center at 1:00 PM
- Thanked State Representative Carmine Gentile and his staff for assisting in securing of the related \$62,500 grant

Public comments

None

Consent Calendar

1. Vote to enter into the Town record and congratulate Hannah Delaney of BSA Scout Troop 65 for having achieved the high honor of Eagle Scout.

2. Vote to approve execution by the Town Manager of a Charter Transportation Agreement between the Town and First Student, Inc. for Sudbury student transportation services for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, with extensions as may be agreed by the parties, said contract subject to approval by Town Counsel.

3. Vote whether to approve an increase in the abatement amount for both veterans and seniors in the Tax Work off program to \$2,000 annually, for a maximum of 133.3 hours of work, effective January 1, 2025.

Board Member Roberts requested additional discussion regarding agenda item 3.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to approve Consent Calendar Items 1, and 2 as included in the 4/30/24 Select Board agenda packet. Board Member Russo seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To approve Consent Calendar items 1, 2 and 3 as presented in the 4/23/24 Select Board agenda packet

Interview candidate for appointment. Following interview, vote whether to recommend Mary K. Farris, 35 Canterbury Drive, for appointment to the Energy and Sustainability Committee for a term expiring 5/31/27.

Present: Mary K. Farris

Ms. Farris provided summary of her background which includes some 15 years of energy/sustainability employment with several international corporations. She stressed resiliency factors.

Board Members discussed related sustainability/resiliency topics with Ms. Farris. Ms. Farris stated that she was looking forward to assisting Sudbury with the advancement of the approved Sudbury Climate Change Proclamation aspects.

Chair Dretler stated she was happy to see volunteers advancing.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian read in the words of the motion. Board Member Roberts seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To appoint Mary K. Farris, 35 Canterbury Drive, to the Energy and Sustainability Committee for a term expiring 5/31/27

Discuss letter regarding Pedestrian Easement in the Tall Pines community

Present: Tall Pines resident Robert Crane, 17 Trail Side Circle

Mr. Crane explained that Eversource had contacted direct abutters regarding work within such easement/s and Tall Pines residents were addressing alteration of view. He added the traffic on the Rail Trail would be increasing, thus installation of proposed fencing was most important. Mr. Crane detailed that the easement was installed in 1986 in connection with Lot B granting, along with another pedestrian easement, which would now be difficult to use due to current conditions. Mr. Crane requested that fencing be located on the property line and asked that the Select Board consider the release of that easement.

Town Manager Sheehan stated that he had discussed the matter with Town Counsel, and the initial inclination involved approval at Town Meeting.

Board Member Carty referenced the Tall Pines Definitive Subdivision Plan, dated September 9, 1986, with focus on the Lot B easement. Board Member Carty opined that because no monies were exchanged with the original easement granting, a Town Meeting vote appeared to be unnecessary.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian stated she had no problem with the proposal.

Board Member Russo indicated in general he prefers to not give up easements but in this case would support the easement release because it is adjacent to the Rail Trail. He asked if department heads would be willing to provide input.

Chair Dretler stated that she was not interested in blocking any Town-owned land and looked forward to hearing from department heads.

Board Member Roberts asked if fencing could be installed within the easement. Town Manager Sheehan stated that such easements could not be obstructed.

Mr. Crane stated that at this time, access is limited to Conservation.

Chair Dretler stated that review of the topic would continue.

As the Licensing Authority for the Town of Sudbury, vote whether to approve a new Class 1 License to Buy, Sell, Exchange or Assemble Second Hand Motor Vehicles or Parts Thereof for Mercedes Benz of Sudbury, 141 Boston Post Road, as requested in an application dated April 4, 2024.

Present: Faha Arshad, Manager - Mercedes Benz of Sudbury; Attorney Josh Fox – representing the Applicant

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian recused herself.

Attorney Fox provided summary regarding the process involved with the new Class 1 License, adding that all has been going smoothly at the site.

Town Manager Sheehan commented that Staff had no issues with the proposal. Mr. Fox addressed efforts with Eversource.

Board Member Russo asked if anything would be going under the road. Mr. Fox stated not.

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

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

VOTED: To approve a new Class 1 License to Buy, Sell, Exchange or Assemble Second Hand Motor Vehicles or Parts Thereof for Mercedes Benz of Sudbury, 141 Boston Post Road, as requested in an application dated April 4, 2024

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian rejoined the meeting at 7:54 PM.

Discussion on Town Meeting Article 28 regarding GLT/Library EV Chargers

Present: Combined Facilities Director Sandra Duran

Board Member Roberts confirmed that the Finance Committee thought the EV charging station funding should come from the revolving solar funds.

Board Member Carty acknowledged that the Library Trustees would not be attending this meeting.

Ms. Duran confirmed she had spoken to Library Trustees on April 26th and noted that Historical District Commission approval was unnecessary; the Town was awaiting Eversource approval of the design plan. She noted that this process might take some time, but the wait would result in lower costs.

Board Member Roberts indicated that not taking position this evening would be the best way to go in consideration of lower cost.

Chair Dretler felt that taking no position on the article would be best in consideration that the project is progressing.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian indicated that Indefinitely Postponing (IP) the article would be the wise option.

Board Member Russo recommended that the Board conduct a brief pre-Town Meeting session on May 6. Board Member Carty agreed with discussing the topic during a brief Select Board Meeting on May 6, and he offered to convey this plan to the Library Trustees.

Discussion regarding 2024 Annual Town Meeting: consent calendar, positions on articles; other

In regarding to Article 16 – Amend Zoning Bylaw: Firearms Safety Business Use, Chair Dretler indicated a Select Board minority report would not be presented at Town Meeting. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian indicated that she and Chair Dretler could speak as residents on this topic at Town Meeting.

Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that Town Counsel Lee Smith would address Article 8 – FY24 Snow & Ice Transfer at Town Meeting.

Discussion on Vocational Education

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian asked Board Members if they wanted her to send another letter to the vocational education schools being considered by the Board. She asked if the Board would endorse school visits by she and the Town Manager. Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian suggested the Board consider a proclamation/resolution in support of vocational education.

Board Member Carty did not agree with such proclamation but stated that written follow-up with the mentioned four vocational schools would be appreciated. Board Member Carty stated that all the mentioned schools should be visited and not just one or two of the schools.

Board Member Roberts supported reaching out to the four schools, indicating that a proclamation might not be necessary in light of the fact that vocational education has been a main goal for the Select Board for the last few years. She agreed with visits to the four schools.

Board Member Russo was in agreement with Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian reaching out to the vocational schools again. He indicated that Town Manager should not be expected to visit the schools at this time.

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian offered to compose a draft letter to be sent to the four schools and submit the draft to the Town Manager for review.

Consent Calendar Item #3

Board Member Roberts stated that she supported such an increase and asked about related funding. Town Manager Sheehan detailed that such funding came from the Assessors Overlay Fund.

Board Member Russo recommended receiving a confirmation letter from the Board of Assessors before voting on this.

Town Manager Sheehan confirmed that such a confirmation/sign-off letter would be requested. He noted that as of the December hearing, \$150,000.00 was in the Assessors Overlay Fund.

Adjourn

Vice-Chair Kouchakdjian motioned to adjourn the Select Board Meeting; Board Member Carty seconded the motion.

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

VOTED: To adjourn the Select Board Meeting

There being no further business, open session ended at 8:50 PM.

SB Meeting – 4/30/24 Documents & Exhibits

1. Vote to enter into the Town record and congratulate Hannah Delaney of BSA Scout Troop 65 for having achieved the high honor of Eagle Scout.

Attachments:

1.a Delaney Hannah_BSA Troop 65

2. Vote to approve execution by the Town Manager of a Charter Transportation Agreement between the Town and First Student, Inc. for Sudbury student transportation services for the period July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025, with extensions as may be agreed by the parties, said contract subject to approval by Town Counsel.

Attachments:

2.a Extension MA Sudbury Charter Agreement_

2.b First Student Voc School Bussing Agreement with COI Town of Sudbury 23_24
6-16-23 FINAL SIGNED AJS

3. Vote whether to approve an increase in the abatement amount for both veterans and seniors in the Tax Work off program to \$2,000 annually, for a maximum of 133.3 hours of work, effective January 1, 2025.

Attachments:

3.a Memo to Select Board Property Tax Work off Change

4. Interview candidate for appointment. Following interview, vote whether to recommend Mary K. Farris, 35 Canterbury Drive, for appointment to the Energy and Sustainability Committee for a term expiring 5/31/27.

Attachments:

4.a Mary_Farris_resume.redact

4.b Mary_Farris_application_redact

5. Discuss letter regarding Pedestrian Easement in the Tall Pines community.

Attachments:

5.a Tall Pines easement email thread DCarty 04252024

5.b Sudbury Select Board 24-Apr-24

5.c Tall Pines Plot Plan

5.d 61514922_10_14_1986 (1)

5.e Tall Pines (2)

6. As the Licensing Authority for the Town of Sudbury, vote whether to approve a new Class 1 License to Buy, Sell, Exchange or Assemble Second Hand Motor Vehicles or Parts Thereof for Mercedes Benz of Sudbury, 141 Boston Post Road, as requested in an application dated April 4, 2024.

Attachments:

6.a Mercedes Class 1 Application_SB

6.b Department Feedback_Mercedes Benz Class 1

8. Discussion regarding 2024 Annual Town Meeting: consent calendar, positions on articles; other.

Attachments:

8.a 2024 ATM_Articles_for website