

IPSWICH SELECT BOARD
Meeting of Monday, August 5, 2019
Ipswich Town Hall | 25 Green Street

Pursuant to Open Meeting Law M.G.L. Chapter 30A, §§ 18-25, written notice posted by the Town Clerk and delivered to all Board members, a meeting of the Select Board was held on Monday, August 5, 2019 at 7:00pm in Meeting Room A.

Board Members present: William Whitmore, Chair; Linda Alexson, Vice Chair; Dr. Tammy Jones; Kerry Mackin; Nishan Mootafian

Also present: Anthony Marino, Town Manager; Eileen Page, Recording Secretary; School Committee

Abbreviations used: FAA, Federal Aviation Administration

Public Information: Agenda

Welcome/Announcements

The Community Development survey is available online at BridgingIpswich.com.

Parking changes at the MBTA commuter lot that prohibit non-residents from parking in the lot during business hours from Monday-Friday and increased parking fines from \$15 to \$30 will go into effect on September 1, 2019.

The Red Tide ban has been lifted. Clam flats are open for soft shell clamming.

Citizen Queries

Carla Villa (20 Masconomet Road) presented the Board with a letter signed by the owners of several downtown businesses asking that parking spaces be regulated to two-hour limits, instead of varying time allotments. Ms. Villa also stated that she owns Cape Ann Botanicals and acknowledged the help she has received from the Board of Health in helping her navigate new regulations surrounding CBD oils.

KelleyJane Kloub (Mitchell Road) asked for an update on parking on Mile Lane by the Clam Box. Mr. Marino responded that signs will be put up restricting parking and designating a handicapped parking spot. Ms. Kloub also stated that she would like to see a mirror added to the end of Argilla Road to allow for better visibility of oncoming traffic along County Road.

Vote to Open the 2019 Special Town Meeting Warrant

Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to open the 2019 Special Town Meeting warrant, to be closed on August 19, 2019 at 4:00pm. Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Annual Appointment of Election Workers

1. Andrew Apagow (6 Burleigh Avenue)
2. Karen Barney (16 Allen Lane)
3. David Benedix (68 East Street)
4. Joseph Bourque (18 Bush Hill Road)
5. Anne Butterworth (25 Meadowview Lane)
6. Mary Caldwell (30 High Street)
7. Janice Colter (318 High Street)
8. Diana Comeau (6 Kennedy Drive)
9. Michael Curren (6 Maria Drive)
10. Corey Davidson (6 Hodges Way)
11. Priscilla Davis (62 North Ridge Road)
12. Judy Demers (1 Fille Street)
13. Marilyn Eaton (13 Cedarview Road)

14. Denise Esperson (159 Linebrook Road)
15. Ann Fessenden (21 Jeffreys Neck Road)
16. Patricia Flanagan (152 Linebrook Road)
17. Donna Gordon (8 Essex Road)
18. Helen Grant (10 Heard Drive)
19. Ellen Grenier (35 Paradise Road)
20. Marianne Hartford (3 Mulholland Drive)
21. Laura Hoffmann (6 Sand Pebble Drive)
22. Marcia Inman (84 Labor in Vain Road)
23. Constance James (19 High Street)
24. Christopher Lahnston (55 Newmarch Street)
25. Kathryn Leet (19 Agawam Village)
26. Dorothy Levesque (16 Bayview Road)
27. John Lombardi (23 Clark Road)
28. Patricia Morley (500 Colonial Drive #104)
29. Ellen Nich (18 Meadowview Drive)
30. Bernadette Nikitas (14 Sagamore Road)
31. Rita Player (45 Mile Lane)
32. Carol Poirier (11 C Agawam Village)
33. Cynthia Quinn (279 Topsfield Road)
34. Christina Sarantopoulos (7 Brownville Avenue)
35. Marlene Shannon (7 Newmarch Street)
36. Jane Spellman (99 Essex Road)
37. Alice Stasiuk (33 Central Street #2)
38. Phyllis Sukach (6 Dornell Road)
39. Janet Trask (166 Linebrook Road)
40. Joan Vontzalides (49 Howe Street)
41. Jennifer Wile (5 Fairview Avenue)

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to approve and appoint the election workers, and Ms. Mackin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Town Manager Report

HIRING

The position of Conservation Agent has been offered to Brendan Lynch, who will be leaving his position as Assistant Conservation Agent in Falmouth, Massachusetts. His first day will be August 19.

The Town Clerk position is down to two finalists. Mr. Marino is currently checking candidate references.

FACILITIES REPORT

The School Dude report is ready and will be presented and discussed at the August 19 Tri-Board meeting.

GREEN COMMUNITIES

The August 29 Tri-Board meeting will host the first of two Public Hearings on designating Ipswich as a Green Community.

DRONE USAGE

Mr. Marino has applied to the FAA for a drone usage license. Drones can be used by the Police and Fire Departments and ICAM. An official Town policy will also be written to clarify the parameters of Town drone usage.

Approval of Minutes

- a. July 1, 2019
- b. July 15, 2019

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to approve the minutes, and Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Consent Agenda

- a. One Day Liquor License Applications
 - i. Wine & Malt from Old Planters for Bluegrass and Beer Tasting Event at Appleton Farms on 8/10
 - ii. Wine & Malt from TTOR for Beer Tasting Event at Appleton Farms on 8/10 and for Photo Exhibit Opening Reception on 8/23
 - iii. Wine & Malt from PSP Management Co. LLC, True North Ale Co., Beauport Hospitality, Ipswich Ale Brewery, 14th Star Brewing, Latitude Beverage, Evviva Cucina for BONNS Event at Crane Estate on 8/20
 - iv. Wine & Malt for Amy DiAdamo Foster Foundation for Memorial Trail Run at Appleton Farms on 9/21
 - v. All Alcohol for Ipswich Masonic Temple for Polish Picnic on 9/28
- b. Total or Partial Sidewalk or Street Blocking Applications
 - i. Roger LeBlanc review of initial partial street blocking at 27 Water Street. Work expected to continue until 10/1.
 - ii. John Bruni, LAD Co. Inc. for intermittent partial street blocking at 48 County Street to build seawall from 8/15 – 9/15
 - iii. Jordon Griffin for Ipswich Ale for total street and sidewalk blocking at 2 Brewery Place for Oktoberfest Celebration on 9/28
- c. Weekday Entertainment License Application
 - i. Weekday Yearly Entertainment License application from The Brown Dog at 14 Central Street for recorded and live music, trivia, game nights between 6:00 PM and 10:00 PM

Ms. Alexson expressed concern about granting a live entertainment weekday license to an establishment with residential units above it. Mr. Whitmore asked that the request be tabled until it could be determined if this would be a new license or renewal of an existing license.

Vote: Dr. Jones moved to approve subsections A and B of the Consent Agenda, and Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

PUBLIC HEARING: New Seasonal Liquor License Application – Ipswich Clambake, 196 High Street

Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to open the Public Hearing, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Ken Seigal (Ipswich Clambake, owner) appeared before the Board to request a seasonal liquor license. He stated that he would like to serve local beers and wines inside the establishment. Although there is outdoor seating, outdoor alcohol consumption will not be allowed. He also noted that Ipswich Clambake holds a separate liquor license for their catering events, and this license would only apply to the storefront restaurant.

Vote: Ms. Alexson moved to close the Public Hearing, and Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

Vote: Ms. Mackin moved to approve a seasonal wine and malt beverage license for Ipswich Clambake from June 1 to September 30, and Mr. Mootafian seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

School Committee Candidate Interview/Appointment

- a. Greg Stevens
- b. Seraphima McLean
- c. Emily O. Cannon

GREG STEVENS

Greg Stevens said in his opening statement that he was born and raised in Ipswich and currently has four children in the school district. He has served on the Feoffees of the Grammar School since 2012, with six years as the Treasurer. Mr. Stevens is also the President and a coach for Ipswich Youth Football and Vice President of Ipswich Football Boosters. He also runs workout programs for football players before school. If appointed to the School Committee, Mr. Stevens would focus on analyzing the current use and parameters around the Feoffees fund, coming to a

consensus on the one versus two school issue, and improving communication between the communities and Tri-Boards.

When asked why he didn't run for election in May 2019, Mr. Stevens stated that he believed that two of the three candidates seeking election were more than qualified. He believes that an appointment would be a good opportunity to establish a track record to show Ipswich voters next year.

When asked what ideas and issues he would focus on in regard to facility needs, Mr. Stevens stated that he believes infrastructure needs should be a decision made with consideration to the Town's capital plan. He supports one elementary school.

When asked what he considers the strengths and deficiencies of the Ipswich Public Schools, Mr. Stevens stated that the schools' strongest strength is its teachers. He would like to focus on providing resources that implore teachers to stay in the district. He stated that a deficiency of the school is an inability to utilize funds. He believes the Trust Administration Order needs to be revisited so that funds are used more efficiently.

When asked how he would work to build consensus on divisive issues, Mr. Stevens responded that the last override was very helpful in showing residents more about how the school budgets work, and how little is left over for discretionary spending. He believes that educating the public allows for better understanding that financial decisions are not made on a whim.

When asked how he would respond if a vote passed that he did not agree with, Mr. Stevens responded that he could be passionate and debate an issue to the end, but is also able to move on. He stated that Committee members shouldn't be offended when things don't go their way because it is important to present a united front to the town.

When asked if he would run for reelection when his appointment term was up, Mr. Stevens stated that he would.

When asked where he places budget on the list of challenges for the district, Mr. Stevens responded that budgets are an issue everywhere, and he would lean on the expertise of School Committee. He also stated that he works for a wealth management firm and would like to lend a second set of eyes to see where grants could be utilized.

When asked how he would handle the transition from citizen to Committee member who may have to say no, Mr. Stevens responded that in his role as an advisor, he is often telling clients that they don't have enough money to spend. He explains why the answer is no and offers solutions to help them make wise financial decisions. He stated that it is important to be compassionate and communicate in an effective way.

When asked how he plans to dedicate time to being a School Committee member, Mr. Stevens responded that his job allows great flexibility in respect to working hours. He stated that he would not take on the role if he was not able to allocate a fair amount of time to it.

In his closing statement, Mr. Stevens stated that he tries to be an advocate for his own children. He puts time and energy into the community, and a seat on the School Committee would be the next step towards making an impact on how the schools are run and having input on upcoming projects.

SERAPHIMA MCCLEAN

Seraphima McLean said in her opening statement that she is an Ipswich native with two children currently in the schools. She is currently the Special Program Coordinator at Winthrop Elementary School, where she implements enrichment programs. She also works as a school counselor. If appointed to the School Committee, she would focus on building needs in the elementary schools, nurturing the social and emotional health of students, promoting transparency between the schools and families, supporting professional development, and using the Feoffees fund to feed programs that have proven beneficial to the schools. She stated that although she advocated for two elementary schools, as a School Committee member she would act as a voice for the entire community.

When asked why she didn't run for election in May 2019, Ms. McLean responded that she had considered running, but knew that Charles Whitten was running and supported his work. She stated that as she also got to know Sarah Gilliam, she knew Ms. Gilliam would be an excellent candidate.

When asked what ideas and issues she would focus on in regard to facility needs, Ms. McLean responded that she would like to build upon work already done, but believes there is more to do in terms of reaching out to the community and hearing all opinions. She would like to conduct more outreach to build a consensus to determine needs of the entire community. If the elementary schools are combined, Ms. McLean would like to see them in a more central location.

When asked what she considers the strengths and deficiencies of the Ipswich Public Schools, Ms. McLean responded that she believes communication can be improved and would like to see more transparency between teachers and parents. She would also like to see the middle and high school curriculum redone so as to make Ipswich a desirable district for current and potential school choice students. She would also like to promote foreign language curriculum.

When asked how she would work to build consensus on divisive issues, Ms. McLean responded that she believes coming to a consensus is the only way to move forward. She would like to host meetings and forums that involve the entire community that ultimately conclude in a compromise.

When asked how she would respond if a vote passed that she did not agree with, Ms. McLean responded that when working for a Committee that represents a collective voice, you must pick up where you are and work together to come to a consensus.

When asked if she would run for reelection when her appointment term was up, Ms. McLean responded that she would.

When asked where she places budget on the list of challenges for the district, Ms. McLean responded that she believes it is one of the biggest issues. She stated that the Committee must make sure money is being used wisely and appropriately, and that the budget needs to be thoroughly explained to the general public.

When asked how she would handle the transition from citizen to Committee member who may have to say no, Ms. McLean responded that communication would be important in saying no to requests. She also noted that if a policy or program is worth holding onto, there may be an opportunity to seek out grants.

When asked how she plans to dedicate time to being a School Committee member, Ms. McLean responded that her job allows for flexibility and she is able to organize her time as needed. She also stated that she has extended family in the area that provides support, and that giving up some of her volunteer activities would allow time to be appropriately allotted to School Committee duties.

In her closing statement, Ms. McLean stated that she hopes to be considered for the seat. She is ready, able, and willing to work hard.

EMILY O. CANNON

Emily O. Cannon said in her opening statement that she grew up in Hamilton and Wenham, and moved to Ipswich about five years ago. She currently has one child in the Ipswich schools. Ms. Cannon has served on the Payne Grant Committee. She attributed her interest in the School Committee to watching what happened regarding the elementary school debate. She also believes Ipswich has an opportunity to bring the school system in line with the robust community. Ms. Cannon also stated that she does not believe the special education program is particularly accessible and would like to take steps to improve it. She is concerned about the middle school seeing a rise in delinquency and the high school seeing a rise in substance abuse that needs addressing. She would also like to see the School Committee focus on curriculum development, as she does not believe they are equitable between the two elementary schools.

When asked why she didn't run for election in May 2019, Ms. Cannon responded that she was pregnant with her second child, and unable to take on another task at that time.

When asked what ideas and issues she would focus on in regard to facility needs, Ms. Cannon responded that she would like to build upon work already done, and does not believe a split configuration will equalize curriculum.

When asked what she considers the strengths and deficiencies of the Ipswich Public Schools, Ms. Cannon responded that the teachers and administrators of the schools are passionately committed, and parents in the community are a strength in fighting for their children's futures. She believes deficiencies include the special education program and a lack of language-based curriculum. She believes that unless these are addressed, the district could end up paying for outplacement programs.

When asked how she would work to build consensus on divisive issues, Ms. Cannon responded that her job as a prosecutor requires her to work on building consensus on a daily basis. She has been able to hone this skill and believes it would be very useful to the School Committee.

When asked how she would respond if a vote passed that she did not agree with, Ms. Cannon responded that as a member of the School Committee, you represent a town instead of yourself as an individual, and if you allow your ego to get in the way, you should not be a Committee member.

When asked if she would run for reelection when her appointment term was up, Ms. Cannon responded that she would.

When asked where she places budget on the list of challenges for the district, Ms. Cannon responded that she does not believe the budget is much of a deficiency, even with its strict parameters. She believes that there is much that can be done when the Committee thinks creatively, such as looking for grants and being willing to move money around as needed. She also stated that it would be important to communicate to the public how the budget is allocated.

When asked how she would handle the transition from citizen to Committee member who may have to say no, Ms. Cannon responded that in her work as a county district attorney and now a federal district attorney, she has frequently had to hold positions that do not represent who she is as an individual, and she has worked to make sure she is able to separate herself and effectively communicate her position.

When asked how she plans to dedicate time to being a School Committee member, Ms. Cannon responded that being on the Committee is important to her. She stated that she has the flexibility to work either from her office or home and has extended family in the area to provide support. She stated that it is important for her to serve on the School Committee for both her own children and all children in Ipswich.

In her closing statement, Ms. Cannon stated that she is thankful for the opportunity and feels passionately about public education. She stated that parents and residents are fighting to improve education in the community, and she would love to see this School Committee hold the legacy of bringing the school system forward.

Keri Macrae (41 Heartbreak Road) stated that she supports Mr. Stevens for the School Committee because of his understanding of the budget process and his involvement in the community.

Jacob Borgman (27 Northgate Road) stated that he supports Ms. McLean for the School Committee because of her passion and push for collaboration.

Joanna Cooper stated that she supports Mr. Stevens for the School Committee because of his push for a united front, especially during school debates.

Vote: Hugh O'Flynn (School Committee) moved to appoint Greg Stevens for the remainder of the Election Year, and Pavica Kneedler (School Committee) seconded. The motion carried 8-3 via roll call, with Ms. Mackin (Select Board), Sarah Gilliam (School Committee), and Charles Whitten (School Committee) as the dissenting votes.

Symes Linebrook Road New Water Main Installation Agreement Review/Vote

Vicki Halmen (Water and Wastewater Director) stated that the original Subcommittee recommendation was to not waive the water main installation application fees, but the Subcommittee has since met again to discuss the issue, and has voted 4-1 that the application fees be waived, but conditions have been added to ensure that the needs of the community are met. These conditions include that a flow test be conducted before a fire flow approximation is

made, that the Town not be responsible for costs exceeding the estimated amount, and that upon completion of the projects, maintenance responsibilities will be turned over to the Town.

Dr. Jones thanked Ms. Halmen and the Subcommittee for coming up with a recommendation and proposal in a timely manner.

Ms. Alexson asked if the \$136,000 estimate includes sidewalk repair following the excavation. Ms. Halmen responded that the price does include full rehabilitation of the sidewalk. Ms. Alexson expressed concern that if this waiver is granted, the Essex Road development will seek a similar deal, which could be a waiver of roughly \$217,000 based on the number of units in the current plan. Ms. Halmen stated that the application fee is based per pipe, not per unit, and because the Symes development is comprised of individual units, they each have their own pipe and meter. The Essex Road project would only have one pipe and one meter per multi-unit building.

Dr. Jones asked what the reason for the dissenting Subcommittee vote was, and Ms. Halmen stated that it was because the development is for-profit.

Lisa Roth (179 Linebrook Road) stated that she is not in favor of waiving the fee, but was disturbed to hear that her own house would be at risk if a fire occurred with the current fire flow setup. She believes that allowing the waiver will give the Town a good deal and much needed replacement main.

Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to approve the waiver, and Dr. Jones seconded. The motion carried 4-1.

Department Update: Public Health

Colleen Fermon (Director of Public Health) appeared before the Board to provide an update on the Department of Public Health. She stated that the department has recently adopted and implemented the 2013 Federal Food Codes, and held trainings to bring local establishments up to code. The department also recently updating existing smoking regulations as of March 2019. These changes include:

1. Restricted sales of tobacco products to persons under 21,
2. Redefined definitions of tobacco products to include e-cigarettes and vapes,
3. Prohibition of smoking and vaping in Town-owned parks, playgrounds, beaches, membership associations, hotels/motels, transportation, and outdoor areas where food and beverages are served, and
4. Power given to sworn officers to enforce new smoking regulations

Informational signage will be posted at Pavilion Beach, but are currently backlogged by the state. More information regarding new smoking regulations is available on the Board of Health's website, ipswichma.gov/204/Public-Health.

Mr. Whitmore asked what the Health Department is doing to prevent vaping in the schools. Ms. Fermon responded that the department reaches out to the superintendent and principals with information and resources, as well as working with Ipswich Aware, a local substance abuse prevention group. She stated that the department is also part of Youth Prevention Network, a group that works to prevent first usage of substances.

Mr. Marino asked if the part-time inspector's extended hours are helpful. Ms. Fermon responded that when John Morris (Inspector) increased from five hours to twelve hours of work a week, inspections were streamlined and it has been a big help to the department.

Government Study Committee

Craig Saline appeared before the Board to provide an update on the Government Study Committee. He reminded the Board that there are currently four openings on the Committee.

Mr. Saline discussed the Committee's research into the appointment of an Acting Town Manager, and determined that an Acting Town Manager may be designated by the Town Manager when the appointment would be for 30 days or less.

Mr. Saline also discussed the Committee's research into the Waterways Advisory Committee and confusion surrounding how members are appointed. He also expressed concern about preventing conflict of interest, as some of the original Committee members were also members of the Ipswich Yacht Club.

Appointment of the harbormaster was also discussed. The Committee found that Massachusetts General Law states that the harbormaster is appointed by the Select Board, but a 1966 set of Board of Selectmen minutes identified the Town Manager as the appointing authority.

New Business

ACTING TOWN MANAGER

Mr. Marino will be away on vacation from August 9 to 16, with a brief return on August 13 for the Tri-Board meeting. He asked that the Select Board appoint Sarah Johnson (Finance Director) as the Acting Town Manager in his absence.

Vote: Mr. Mootafian moved to appoint Sarah Johnson as Acting Town Manager from August 9 to 16, and Ms. Alexson seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

BUILDING NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Ms. Mackin asked when an update will be provided on the Building Needs Assessment. Mr. Whitmore responded that a presentation would be held at the August 13 Tri-Board meeting.

JUTLAND WAY

Ms. Mackin expressed concern about runoff on Jutland Way and worries that it may be in violation of the Clean Water Act. Mr. Marino stated that part of the issue is that Jutland Way is a private road, not accepted by the Town, and is thus outside of the Town's maintenance jurisdiction. He will speak to Rick Clarke (Director of Public Works) to see what can be done to address this.

300 HIGH STREET

Ms. Mackin informed the Board that the Climate Resiliency Committee has proposed using the Town-owned property at 300 High Street for a solar farm. Mr. Marino responded that a discussion of the property is on the agenda for August 19.

SHELLFISHING

Dr. Jones stated that the Board received a letter from Paul Damon asking that shellfishing allowances be scaled back from 7 days a week to 6 days a week, with the volume of allowed catch increased instead. Ms. Alexson stated that the Shellfish Advisory Board had not weighed in on the Select Board's 7/15/19 decision to open the flats on Sundays this summer because the Shellfish Board had not met since May. The next Shellfish Advisory Board meeting is scheduled for August 20, and this will be on the agenda.

PAVILION BEACH

Ms. Alexson stated that she received an email from a resident containing a photo taken around 5:00pm on Sunday, August 4, that appears to show a motor boat in the middle of the swim zone at Pavilion Beach. The email stated that a police officer on duty in the parking lot did nothing to address the boat. Mr. Marino stated that he will follow up with the Police Chief and officer on duty, but was wary because photos appearing on Ipswich Facebook pages that claim to be recent could actually be several years old. Dr. Jones asked that Mr. Marino also follow up with the harbormaster.

IPSWICH RIVER SPEED LIMIT

Mr. Whitmore stated that he was on the Ipswich River last weekend with his family when they witnessed a boat drive full out of the water and destroy about 30' of marshland. He noted that there are several sharp turns and blind spots in the river, which poses a danger to kayakers and canoers. He also noted that the marshes are the town's primary buffer against rising sea level, and once destroyed, they will not grow back. He proposed discussing implementing a speed limit in the river.

Old Business

None.

Miscellaneous and Correspondence

None.

Vote: Dr. Jones moved to adjourn, and Ms. Mackin seconded. The motion carried unanimously.

The Select Board adjourned at 10:03pm.

*Respectfully submitted by Eileen G. Page
08.09.19*