

**MEETING OF THE SELECT BOARD
TUESDAY, APRIL 4, 2023 6:30 p.m.
SELECT BOARD HEARING ROOM – TOWN HALL**

In attendance Anthony Vegnani, Chair Andrew Goodrich, Vice Chair, Karen Canfield, Karen Connolly

Ms. Curran was not in attendance at tonight's meeting.

Also, in attendance, Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

MEETING CALLED TO ORDER/ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

A motion was made by Ms. Connolly at 6:34 p.m. to accept the agenda for April 4, 2023 second by Mr. Goodrich Unanimous Vote (4-0)

Mr. Vegnani read the following statement:

The Scituate Select Board is committed to providing an environment of respect during meetings. We ask all members to interact in a polite manner even when there is disagreement.

We value the participation of our community and want all participants, including marginalized and minoritized communities, to feel welcomed and respected.

We ask our committee members, and all who participate, to commit to these standards to support and respect our community.

WALK INS – Francis Distasi, 89 Hatherly Road voicing his opposition to outdoor parking at the Galley. It was a good idea during COVID but it ties up 2-3 parking spots during the height of the summer in the harbor.

REPORT OF THE TOWN ADMINISTRATOR-

1. Water update. We are at +5", last week we were +.25". Tack factory Pond is at +4" down from +5". Average daily demand was at 1.077 MGD up from last week at 1.142 MGD.

Rainfall over the last 7 days was 1.1" measured at the Plant.

The water department is planning on continuing spring flushing of the water mains this week as follows:
Finishing Gannet Road today.

Mann Hill Road towards the waterfront and surrounding side streets

Hatherly Road towards Egypt Beach, Norwell Ave and surrounding streets

Celco is starting pipe work at the water treatment plant for the manganese filters to help with brown water issues this summer.

2. Timely announcement, the recreation department will be hosting their annual Easter Egg Hunt this Saturday, April 8 at Widows Walk Golf Course from 9:30-10:30 for children ages 3-6. I heard through the grape vine that there might be a special visitor at the egg hunt. Great event, come on down!
3. The DPW has started work replacing the sidewalk on Ann Vinal starting at the Hatherly School, extending up to and past the intersection with Captain Pierce. This is replacement of an existing sidewalk with new granite curbing and sidewalk. We will install the curbing and put a base coat sidewalk until the gas company finishes installing the new gas line and laterals, then we will do the top coat. Sidewalk is in tough shape, so this project will be a huge improvement.

4. Once again Scituate has partnered with the Great American Rain Barrel Company to provide residents with rain barrels at the discounted price of \$89 per painted barrel (Gray, Green or Brown), \$84 for unpainted and \$80 for Terra Cotta. Scituate residents have purchased more than 300 rain barrels through the promotional event over the last two years. Orders must be received by April 30th at midnight with pick-up May 13th at the Transfer Station. Details are available at the Town web site.
5. Fencing will be going up on Central Field shortly as we begin the project to add a new softball diamond and repair and existing baseball diamond. This is a CPC funded project that will continue until late spring/early summer.
6. The Veterans Advisory Council will have a public meeting on April 12, 2023 at 6:00 pm at the Scituate Senior Center to discuss the proposed LTJG John P. Connors Memorial Project. John was a Scituate native who was killed in action in Panama at the age of 25. The proposal is to construct a memorial on the Town Common to honor John and all veterans who lost their lives in service to their Country.
7. To all the dog walkers and walkers at Widow's Walk Golf Course, the course is now closed for walking. The Course is now open. For Tee Times go to www.widowswalkgolf.com.
8. Annual and Special Town Meeting will be held on Monday, April 10, 2023 at 7:00 pm at the Scituate High School Gymnasium. There are 8 articles on the Special Town Meeting Warrant and 17 on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. As always, the Annual Budget and Capital budget, along with our enterprise accounts will be on the warrants for approval for the next fiscal year. As the sign says "be there or be unheard".
9. Please be advised that per the Division of Marine Fisheries, the Clam Flats in the North/South River are once again closed due to a sewer overflow at the Rockland Wastewater Treatment Plant. Please watch the Town website for information on when they will be re-opening.
10. Nothing to worry about yet, but I wanted to put on people's long-range radar screen that there was an article in the Boston Globe, I believe on Wednesday, March 29, that two men have brought suit In Massachusetts to lift whistle bans at commuter rail pedestrian crossings and require that horns be sounded at these locations. Should this suit be successful, it would have an impact in Scituate and in all the Greenbush communities. Scituate, Cohasset, Hingham and Weymouth recently filed paperwork with the federal government to renew the quiet zones, so this is something that we will continue to monitor.
11. Meetings
 - a. Monday-Con Com and Library Trustees
 - b. Tuesday-Select Board
 - c. Wednesday-Moderators Meeting and Water Resources

Mr. Vegnani said that the Moderators meeting is April 5th at 4 pm here at Town Hall in the Select Board Hearing Room. Town Counsel informed the Select Board and School Committee they need to fill the vacant School Committee seat. Letters of interest are due by 11:30 a.m. on April 7, 2023.

SCHEDULED ITEMS:

Annual Town Election Poll Hours May 20, 2023, Kathy Gardner, Town Clerk

Ms. Gardner said the Town election will be on May 20th. There is one contested seat on the School Committee. Ms. Gardner reviewed the process for early voting and absentee ballots which are posted on the Town website.

Move to set the poll hours from 8 AM-6 PM for the Annual Town Election to be held on Saturday, May 20, 2023 at the Scituate High School gymnasium located at 606 Chief Justice Cushing Way. Motion by Ms. Canfield second by Mr. Goodrich Unanimous Vote (4-0)

If people request a mailed ballot you cannot come to the election day and vote. The Town Clerk has many steps to cancel the original mailed ballot request. It is a very time-consuming person the public needs to be aware of for elections.

Special Event Board 143 Anniversary, 776 Country Way, Mark Curreri, Owner

This is a repeat event and it was successfully held last year.

- Special Event Permit on May 20th 2-6 p.m.

Move to approve a Special Event Permit for Board 143, Anniversary Event on May 20, 2023 from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm Motion by Ms. Canfield second by Ms. Connolly Unanimous Vote (4-0)

- One Day Wine & Malt outdoor patio on May 20th 2-6 p.m.

Move to approve a One-Day Wine and Malt Beverages License for Board 143, Anniversary Event on May 20, 2023 from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm Motion by Ms. Canfield second by Ms. Connolly Unanimous Vote (4-0)

- Outdoor Entertainment Permit May 20th 2-6 p.m.

Move to approve an Outdoor Entertainment License for Board 143, Anniversary Event on May 20, 2023 from 2:00 pm until 6:00 pm Motion by Ms. Canfield second by Ms. Connolly Unanimous Vote (4-0)

New Caterer, Cranberry Vine Catering & One Day Wine & Malt, Michael O'Malley, Owner

Mr. O'Malley has done a lot of work in Scituate at private parties. They do a lot of Hingham events and all over the South Shore. They create menus as requested.

- Add to Town of Scituate Caterer/Bartender List

Move to approve Cranberry Vine Catering to be added to the approved Town of Scituate Caterer/Bartender list. Motion by Ms. Canfield second by Ms. Connolly Unanimous Vote (4-0)

- One Day Wine & Malt @ Scituate Harbor Community Building, July 3rd, 12-4 p.m. private event

Move to grant a One-Day Wine and Malt Beverages License to Cranberry Vine Catering for an event at the Scituate Harbor Community Building, on July 3, 2023 from 12:00 PM until 4:00 PM. Motion by Ms. Canfield second by Ms. Connolly Unanimous Vote (4-0)

Contract for Construction of Access Drive, Parking and Picnic Areas to EM Lofgren for \$67,051 @ Damon site, Bates Lane & Crosby Property for public access, Frank Snow, Chair, Conservation Commission

This contract is a continuation of the Commissions effort to provide public access to the properties in the west end of Town purchased over the years with CPC funds. This contract includes a driveway, parking area and picnic area at the Damon site off Clapp Road and picnic areas for both Bates Lane and the Crosby property for which public access was constructed with previous contracts.

This project is a rebid of the project that was proposed in April 2022 for which there was insufficient funds. At the Special Town Meeting of September 2022, additional CPC funds were approved. In March of this year the project was publicly bid with 8 bids received ranging from a low bid of \$67,051.00 to a high bid of \$198,580.00. References for the low bidder, EM Lofgren Corporation of Hull were reviewed and indicate they are a responsible company capable of completing the project in a professional manner.

Ms. Connolly suggests that we add additional moneys to the beach stickers to also include conservation needs.

Mr. Snow said there was a wide disparity in bid amounts. All references were checked and they met with them on site to review the three areas with the company who won the bid.

Move that the Select Board award the contract for the construction of an access drive, parking area and picnic areas (Contract #17-CON-48C) to EM Lofgren of Hull for \$67,051.00. Motion by Ms. Connolly second by Mr. Goodrich Unanimous Vote (4-0)

DPW Kevin Cafferty, DPW Director, Sean McCarthy, Town Engineer

Mr. McCarthy asked to increase the rate from \$35 to \$50 per mattress or box spring. All the municipalities are doing the same thing and rates are increasing. We do approximately 80 mattresses/box springs per month.

- Increase to Transfer Station Fees for Mattress & Box Spring Disposal & Recycling Cost

Abutting Town Rates:

Hanson - \$45 each

Duxbury-\$40 each

Kingston-\$45 each

Plymouth - \$0.17/lb. plus \$75 each

Win Waste - \$100 each if found in C&D

Handup Curbside Pickup - \$50 each (March 29, 2023)

Move that the Select Board increase the mattress/box spring disposal/recycling fee from \$35 to \$50 effective 04/04/2023. Motion by Ms. Canfield second by Ms. Connolly Unanimous Vote (4-0)

- Grant of Easement for 81 Surfside Road for repair and maintenance of Seawall

In March 2018 the seawall at 81 Surfside Road was damaged by Storm Riley, a declared storm event. The damages were documented and are currently being evaluated by FEMA for 75% reimbursement. The property was in foreclosure and is currently owned by Wells Fargo Bank. We have obtained an easement from the bank to maintain the seawall and allow public access to the beach at this location. The seawall protects the existing dwellings, roadway and utility infrastructure from flooding. The repair can be made from the shore. The damage claim is 70-feet long with an 8-foot repair.

Move that the Select Board vote to accept a Grant of Easement as a gift and for consideration of less than One Hundred (\$100.00) Dollars for the property located at 81 Surfside Road. Motion by Ms. Connolly second by Mr. Goodrich Unanimous Vote (4-0)

- Eversource Gas Presentation 2023 Gas Line Improvements, Follow up from previous meeting, Brian Gillis, Senior Construction Supervisor

Eversource cannot put a new line in Neal Gate they can only replace the existing line on Cornet Stetson. There is no gas currently on Neal Gate. Mr. Cafferty said it would be one crew and they will do their best to add a second crew. They need the strongest crews on this job. They can keep one lane open during the project when feasible. They will be able to assess once they open up the road. The job can be moved later in the year September to November but it will need to be completed in November, 2023 before winter. The length of the project is three months. The Board discussed the best months for the project and the least impact to the residents and businesses in the area. The Board is leaning toward the Fall in September after Labor Day. This will also be after the water main project on route 3A that the water department has scheduled. Eversource said this works for them. The Board instructed DPW to move forward with the project.

2023 Commercial Town Pier Contract, Stephen Mone, Harbormaster & Dave Dinneen, Vice Chair, Waterways

Mr. Mone has been working with the commercial fisherman at the Town Pier. They want to make sure that users are real commercial fishing boats. Vessel length has been updated. The Town Pier will be limited to ten vessels. During weather events a vessel owner must be onsite if a line breaks or a problem arises.

Unauthorized vessels at Town Pier is \$1000 per day fine. Water ban use was tightened up. There is an emergency hoist to be used for emergency's only. Lobster bait can be left overnight but must be removed by 10 am the next morning. Lobster traps can be left overnight for a maximum of 24 hours. Mr. Vegnani asked who will these changes upset. Mr. Mone said there was a 100-foot boat there a few years ago that caused quite a bit of damage to the pier. The boater has since not renewed his slip and has moved on. Dave Dinneen said that the Waterways Commission is in support of these changes. Kevin Norton worked closely with the Harbormasters office to revise these plans.

**Move to approve the 2023 Town Pier Contract. Motion by Mr. Goodrich second by Ms. Canfield
Unanimous Vote (4-0)**

PRESENTATION Plymouth County Commissioners presentation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds, Tom O'Brien County Treasurer & Jared Valanzola, Chair, Plymouth County Commissioners, Jim Cantwell representing Ed Markey, Michael Jackman representing Bill Keating and Patrick Kearney, Scituate State Representative were all in attendance. Mr. Cantwell said everything is done in concert. Mr. Jackman said people don't always get to see the good work this money can do in the communities. Congressman Keating's office said its great to see the funds used for what they were meant for such as infrastructure. He thanked the Plymouth County Commissioners for spearheading this effort. Congressman Keating has chosen the Scituate Water Treatment Plant to be one of his projects representing the ninth district. It is the first highest rated in the ninth congressional district. It is one of fifteen projects. Mr. Boudreau started advocating this as soon as the redistricting was completed. He has been an advocate for this project. At all levels of government, they recognize how important the new water treatment plant is for Scituate. Representative Kearney thanked our federal partners for being involved and prioritizing this project. We are the first community in Plymouth County to get ARPA funds and he thanked Senator O'Connor as well. It was controversial and they received push back. Nancy Holt and Pam Avitabile are fantastic at what they do. Scituate has a great team in place and has been very successful. Mr. Valanzola said there was a lot of controversy with how Plymouth County handled the CARES Act. Scituate received 50% greater than the Town of Concord. We were the only government entity in the nation that did not return money to the federal government. Plymouth County is proud of the work that was done in our communities. Treasurer O'Brien is modest in what he does and he was able to execute savings. They are pleased that these funds will be a start for the road ahead for this water project in Scituate. Mr. Vegnani thanked everyone for coming in. Mr. Vegnani thanked Pam Avitabile, Nancy Holt and Jim Boudreau for all the work they did. They did a spectacular job. Mr. Vegnani thanked our local representatives. This money is going to great projects that are long past due. These funds are going to help tremendously. These are the injections this town needs to keep our infrastructure up where it has to be. Ms. Canfield said this has been the # one priority for at least a decade.

Scituate received over 50% greater than similar sized communities outside of Plymouth County. Scituate Cap \$3,074,934.34 Concord \$1,693,790

Full Care Act Comparison Scituate \$3,074,934.34 Concord \$1,693,790

National Grid Initial Invoice for Athletic Fields Electricity from Revolving Fund, Jim Boudreau, Town Administrator

The Town received the first invoice for the lights at the new athletic field complex in May 2022. National Grid issued an invoice for the usage from May 2020 through March 2022 on March 2, 2023 in the amount of \$83,542.00. The invoice included sales tax of \$4,466.27 which has now been removed. The invoice was received too late to add to the unpaid bill article for the STM.

The Recreation Department came before the Select Board over the summer to adjust the fee schedule to include a separate fee for lights based on actual cost data. The fees collected to date are \$12,550 and the athletic fields revolving fund has paid \$41,033.96 in electricity bills for usage from March 2022 through the current period. The revolving fund has an insufficient balance to pay the electricity bill.

The wind turbine and solar array revolving funds can both be used to pay electrical costs. The wind turbine fund has a balance of \$1,477,498.57 and the solar array revolving fund has a balance of \$1,168,328.89.

Mr. Boudreau is negotiating with National Grid. The Sales Tax was removed. We will continue negotiations. Ms. Holt and Mr. Boudreau are reviewing. This is a very high bill.

NEW BUSINESS:

- One Day Licenses
 - One Day Malt License to Untold Brewing, 6 Old Country Way for outdoor event on May 6, 12-8 p.m. for Ship Shape Day event Matt Elder was here and is partnering with Ship Shape Day and inviting people to Greenbush. They will shut down the parking lot and there will be some booths there from Beautification, Scituate Trashed and North & South River Watershed. People will park at the MBTA lot. People will be invited to Greenbush that day. There will be a police detail there for the event. Ms. Canfield suggested the Water Resources Commission be involved. Matt has reached out to them. There will be music as well and an outdoor entertainment permit will be required. We will add this to the next agenda on April 25th . .

Move to approve a One-Day Malt License to Untold Brewing for an outside event on the premise parking lot on Saturday, May 6, 2023 from 12:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Motion by Ms. Canfield second by Mr. Goodrich Unanimous Vote (4-0)

- One Day Wine & Malt Simply Good Catering @ Scituate Harbor Community Building on April 29th 6-10 p.m. for private event

Move to approve a One-Day Wine & Malt License to Simply Good Catering for an event at the Scituate Harbor Community Building on Saturday, April 29, 2023 from 6:00 PM to 10:00 PM. Motion by Ms. Connolly second by Mr. Goodrich Unanimous Vote (4-0)

OTHER BUSINESS:

1. Liaison Reports

Ms. Connolly said Corey Miles is working with engineering on some steps to stop flooding in Cole Parkway.

Mr. Goodrich met with Scituate Public Schools regarding a new elementary school. They are starting to address issues such as traffic, etc. that people brought up.

Veterans Advisory Council meeting on 4/12.

Town meeting is Monday night at Scituate High School at 7 pm

2. Correspondence

The Board received many letters in support of the new Pier 44 park. West Cork, Sister City, Coastal Advisory, Visitors Center, Cultural Council, Beautification, Scituate Harbor Cultural District
Coastal Heritage Bank 4/15 Peggotty Beach Clean up

Resident with concerns about size and location of the Connors Memorial.

MBTA press release online speed restrictions on their website.

3. Approval of Meeting Minutes

Move to accept the minutes for the Select Board meeting held March 27th. Motion by Ms. Canfield second by Ms. Connolly Unanimous Vote (4-0)

4. Adjournment and Signing of Documents

Motion to adjourn the meeting at 8:32 pm. by Ms. Canfield second by Ms. Connolly Unanimous Vote (4-0)

Respectfully Submitted,

Lorraine Devin, Recorder

List of Documents for the April 4, 2023 Select Board Meeting

- Agenda
- Upcoming Meetings & Events
- Annual Town Election Poll Hours May 20, 2023
 - Special Event Board 143 Anniversary, 776 Country Way
 - Special Event Permit on May 20th 2-6 p.m.
 - One Day Wine & Malt outdoor patio on May 20th 2-6 p.m.
 - Outdoor Entertainment Permit May 20th 2-6 p.m.
- New Caterer, Cranberry Vine Catering & One Day Wine & Malt
 - Add to Town of Scituate Caterer/Bartender List
 - One Day Wine & Malt @ Scituate Harbor Community Building, July 3rd, 12-4 p.m. private event
- Contract for Construction of Access Drive, Parking and Picnic Areas to EM Lofgren for \$67,051 @ Damon site, Bates Lane & Crosby Property for public access, Frank Snow, Chair, Conservation Commission
- DPW Topics
 - Increase to Transfer Station Fees for Mattress & Box Spring Disposal & Recycling Cost
 - Grant of Easement for 81 Surfside Road for repair and maintenance of Seawall
 - Eversource Gas Presentation 2023 Gas Line Improvements, Follow up from previous meeting, Brian Gillis, Senior Construction Supervisor
- 2023 Commercial Town Pier Contract
- **PRESENTATION** Plymouth County Commissioners presentation of American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) Funds, Tom O'Brien County Treasurer & Jared Valanzola, Chair, Plymouth County Commissioners
- National Grid Initial Invoice for Athletic Fields Electricity from Revolving Fund
- One Day Licenses
 - One Day Malt License to Untold Brewing, 6 Old Country Way for outdoor event on May 6, 12-8 p.m. for Ship Shape Day event
 - One Day Wine & Malt Simply Good Catering @ Scituate Harbor Community Building on April 29th 6-10 p.m. for private event
- Correspondence
 - Letters of Support for Pier 44 park from: Cultural Council, Visitors Center, West Cork Sister City, Coastal Advisory Commission, Cultural District, Beautification Commission
 - Coastal Heritage Bank Peggotty Beach Clean-up on 4/15/2023
 - Sister City West Cork St. Patrick's Day Letter March 17, 2023 from John Sullivan
 - Letter from resident Glinski John Connors Memorial
 - MBTA Launches online speed restriction dashboard
- Meeting Minutes for Select Board meetings held March 21st and Public Hearing March 27th, 2023

Select Board Meeting Minutes for April 4, 2023

SELECT BOARD

Anthony V. Vegnani, Chair

Andrew W. Goodrich, Vice Chair

Maura C. Curran, Clerk

Karen B. Canfield

Karen E. Connolly