



Advisory Committee & Select Board Meeting Minutes
Monday, March 27, 2023
Zoom Video/Audio Conference and Select Board Hearing Room at Town
Hall– 7:00 pm

Pursuant to Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2021, Chapter 22 of the Acts of 2022 and Chapter 107 of the Acts of 2022, Scituate Advisory Committee & Select Board members held the March 27, 2023 meeting via a hybrid Zoom Video and/or Audio (Dial-in for those with only phone access) and in-person meeting. Participants participated remotely and in person in the Select Board hearing room at Town Hall.

Advisory Committee Members Present: Jamie Gilmore, Chair; Missy Seidel

Advisory Committee Members Participating Remotely:

Patrice Metro, Jerry Kelly, Dan McGuiggin, Elise Russo, Lynda Ferguson

Advisory Committee Members Not in Attendance:

Marc DiCosimo and Conor Doherty

Select Board Members Present: Anthony Vegnani, Chair; Andrew Goodrich, Karen Connolly and Maura Curran

Select Board Members Participating Remotely: Karen Canfield

Also in Attendance: James Boudreau, Town Administrator; Nancy Holt, Finance Director/Town Accountant; Seth Pfeiffer, SCTV Facilitator (remote participant); Paul Bartkiewicz, Scituate Harbor Redevelopment Commission Chair;

Mr. Vegnani called the Select Board meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Ms. Connolly made a motion to accept the agenda which was seconded by Ms. Curran and voted unanimously in favor (5-0) by roll call vote; Mr. Vegnani-yes, Mr. Goodrich-yes, Ms. Canfield-yes, Ms. Connolly-yes and Ms. Curran-yes.

Mr. Vegnani read the following statement.

The Scituate Select Board and Advisory Committee are 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.

Mr. Vegnani thanked the public safety personnel and other communities for their assistance during the massive fire on Glades Road last Friday. Mr. Boudreau noted the work of the first responders to keep the fire from spreading further. Ms. Curran commented on the outpouring of support from the community to those affected.

Mr. Gilmore called the Advisory Committee meeting to order at 7:06 p.m.

Ms. Seidel made a motion to accept the agenda which was seconded by Ms. Russo and voted unanimously in favor (5-0) by roll call vote; Mr. Gilmore-yes, Ms. Russo-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Ms. Seidel-yes and Mr. McGuiggin-yes.

Ms. Russo made a motion to accept the minutes of the March 9, 2023 meeting which was seconded by Ms. Seidel. The minutes were voted unanimously in favor (5-0) by roll call vote; Mr. Gilmore-yes, Ms. Russo-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Ms. Seidel-yes and Mr. McGuiggin-yes.

Mr. Vegnani provided a brief overview of the budget process to date and the public hearing this evening.

Joint Public Hearing on FY24 Proposed Budget

Mr. Boudreau reviewed his presentation on the FY24 operational and capital budgets. Ms. Canfield noted that the Select Board had allocated funding for land use enforcement and she wanted to confirm if it was a position or if it could be contracted services. Mr. Boudreau stated that it was in part-time salaried for now but it could be either. Ms. Connolly commented on the continued commitment to funding of the town-wide facilities study. Mr. Goodrich asked Mr. Boudreau to comment on the work of the finance offices to act as good stewards. Mr. Boudreau responded that the first priority is security but there was an ongoing balancing act to maintain liquidity while obtaining the highest return possible. Ms. Curran acknowledged the effort to address the summer police needs with the additional school resource officer. Mr. Vegnani noted that it is a conservative budget and it is a fine line with any additional funds being able to address the capital needs. Mr. Vegnani thanked the Advisory Committee for their work on providing information to the voters at town meeting with their booklet.

Ms. Metro and Ms. Ferguson joined the meeting.

Mr. Gilmore noted that the earlier start to the budget process allowed the committee members to have sufficient time to provide the best information possible and he thanked the departments for assisting in that schedule. Mr. Gilmore queried his members for questions and none were received.

Review of Special and Annual Town Meeting Articles

Mr. Vegnani noted that it was a small warrant and many housekeeping articles were on the consent agenda. Mr. Vegnani read through the special town meeting articles and there were not any questions from the Advisory Committee members nor Select Board.

Mr. Vegnani read out the first eleven financial articles of the annual town meeting and there were no comments from either group. Mr. Vegnani moved onto to the Community Preservation article and listed out the projects. Mr. Gilmore commented that the Advisory Committee did not agree on the Pier 44 project and had voted 0-8 against the project. Ms. Russo stated that the Advisory Committee was concerned about the amount of funds being requested with the lack of adequate parking to attract people to the site. Ms. Russo said that there was additional information provided at the Community Preservation Committee (CPC) meeting on March 23 concerning a potential new parking option and that the Advisory Committee will meet with CPC on the night of town meeting to see if the Advisory Committee will reconsider their recommendation. Ms. Russo reinforced that the members support green space in that area.

Mr. Gilmore commented that the recent survey for the Pier 44 park was too restrictive and all the options included a canopy structure and not an option for a phased process starting with just a green space to see how people would use the space. He acknowledged the hard work that had been done by other committees that may not have all been shared with the Advisory Committee. Ms. Ferguson stated that the initial presentation to them noted that there were significant costs to determine if a structure could be on the site. She also noted the lack of parking available and the lack of infrastructure and that the harbor area did not have parking to spare. Mr. Kelly commented that the members were very enthusiastic about repurposing the property but very concerned about not being able to address the demand it may create. Ms. Metro stated that the cost was substantial to date and what that might foretell for the overall cost of the project. She noted that there had been significant dollars spent to date on one acre and the seemed to be out of proportion to the size of the project.

Ms. Connolly noted the great number of meetings that had occurred on the project and the due diligence in hiring the design firm to address a complicated project for which the citizens expected all available options to be evaluated. Ms. Connolly noted the input that had been sought from the public and multiple town committees and boards. Ms. Connolly stated that the \$400,000 to date for Phase 1 and 2 came from MBTA funds. The next phase will be funded with grant funds and CPC funds which will include final design and bid documents.

Ms. Curran clarified that the funding was for design and not for continued feasibility studies. She noted that parking is an issue and will need to be addressed as part of the project development. Mr. Goodrich stated that the potential popularity of the park is a good issue to have and that the narrowing of the desired use of the area by citizens over the three different surveys over the last ten years. Ms. Canfield commented on the process for this project is a model for how projects should be done going forward. Mr. Vegnani stated he wants to ensure that the town meeting members are provided with the correct information as to what they are actually voting for t town meeting.

Mr. Bartkiewicz, Chair of Scituate Harbor Redevelopment Commission (SHARC) stated that without the Community Preservation funding, the project will falter. He noted that the Advisory Committee had brought their concerns to the Community Preservation Committee and the latter continued to support the project. He noted that by town meeting, SHARC will have had 60 meetings. He stated that their goal is to find grant funding for the construction of the project in its final design once determined. He stated that there is ongoing research by multiple people into the parking issues and there are many different ideas about the amount of parking required. Mr. Bartkiewicz noted that the farmers' market, art shows, small weddings and other small events were indicated in the survey and that would be helped with a structure of some sort to shield attendees from weather. He noted the cost of the geotechnical work is \$26,000 and the MAPC grant funds could pay for those studies. He finished by stating that the design is not final including inclusion or exclusion of a pavilion.

Ms. Metro concurred that there needs to be a clear explanation as to what had been done to date and spent on the project and what this next phase will accomplish. She also said it is important to know the estimated costs of the different options and the possible sources for funding. Ms. Russo summed up the awarded contract and the additional design work in the CPA project and the grant as having an overall cost of \$700,000; \$303,000 under contract to the present consultant and an additional \$400,000 of CPA and grant money being requested. Ms. Connolly responded that she would prefer to record that on paper and that any unused funds would be returned to the CPA fund and the amount will be determined by the designs that move forward. Ms. Ferguson asked for clarification about the expense for geotechnical studies for determining the ability to provide a structure without the access to enough parking. Mr. Bartkiewicz responded that a structure was something they were hoping to provide based on the surveys and they had learned through the process that an enclosed structure was not possible due to zoning. Mr. Goodrich noted that the feasibility study for the elementary school was \$1.1M. Ms. Russo commented that \$700,000 was a lot of money for a \$2-3M project. Mr. Vegnani stated it was a good discussion bringing forward questions to be answered for town meeting.

Mr. Vegnani read through the remaining projects and no questions were received.

Mr. Gilmore called for a motion to adjourn the Advisory Committee meeting at 8:08 pm which was made by Ms. Seidel and seconded by Mr. Kelly and voted unanimously in favor (7-0) by roll call vote; Mr. Gilmore-yes, Ms. Russo-yes, Mr. Kelly-yes, Ms. Seidel-yes, Ms. Metro-yes, Mr. McGuiggin-yes and Ms. Ferguson-yes

Mr. Vegnani called for a motion to adjourn the Select Board meeting 8:08 pm and sign documents which was made by Ms. Connolly and seconded by Ms. Curran and voted unanimously in favor (5-0) by roll call vote; Mr. Vegnani-yes, Mr. Goodrich-yes, Ms. Canfield-yes, Ms. Connolly-yes and Ms. Curran-yes.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nancy Holt
Recorder