

Scituate Board of Selectman Retreat Meeting Minutes
July 14, 2020
Maritime Center

Board Present: Chair Karen Canfield, Maura Curran, Karen Connolly, Tony Vegnani, Andrew Goodrich

Also attending Town Administrator James Boudreau, School Committee Chair Peter Gates, and two members of the public. (Names were recorded for the purposes of contract tracing.)

6:36 Meeting called to order; motion to accept agenda – moved by Mr. Vegnani – seconded by Mrs. Curran – 5-0 vote in favor Unanimous

BOS to discuss FY2021 Priorities

Mrs. Canfield reported that there was much overlap in priority lists submitted independently by BOS members. The discussion was ordered by those issues which most of the BOS identified as needing urgent attention.

Old Gates - Overview: building sits idle and needs to be renovated or rebuilt to enhance the site and utilize this asset. Discussion indicated that BOS is open to all ideas and partners but whatever is done on site must be appropriate with the other uses on the property. Mr. Vegnani suggested putting together a committee to discuss options for reuse. Mrs. Canfield would like to craft a request for interest as soon as possible. Town Administrator was directed to ask Town boards and committees for input and then draft an RFI recognizing the other uses on the site.

North Scituate Sewer/Regional Plan – Negotiations with Cohasset and Hull have stalled. Mrs. Canfield will put together executive summary of each community needs/benefits of a regional expansion to assist in furthering the regional conversation; discussed launching a PR campaign to encourage support. Mr. Goodrich presented some action plan suggestions including letters to the editor; Mr. Vegnani suggested that a BOS representative meet with the Cohasset and Hull Sewer Commissions and BOS about the project. Discussed having the sewer department consider Plan B plans should regional plan not be successful.

Water Treatment Plant Replacement – 2 to 3 years away - \$1.5 planning – 5 year project if we started now. \$30 to \$40 million dollars. This fiscal year the OPM should be hired and we should get a design by the end of the fiscal year. Already have \$4 million allocated. At some point need to approve OPM contract. This will not be a FY21 action priority because the ball is rolling and the process of design and oversight is well under way.

Pier 44 – Harbor Community Center – Board discussed many possible reuse plans including creating a park with bathroom facilities, recreational facility, adding splash pad, selling it back to MBTA. Further discussed adding the facility onto to a request for interest package with the Old Gates building.

Inclusion committee – Discussed the commitment to creating a town wide committee to address inclusion and diversity concerns. Ideas for next steps included putting out a survey; deciding who we can get involved; defining the ultimate goals. Mrs. Curran to lead the effort on behalf of BOS. School Committee Chair Gates reported that the Schools have created their own internal group, including a wide range of school community representatives that will be examining school policies concerning inclusion, equity, and racial justice.

Wind Turbine -- Mrs. Canfield indicated that she wants Epsilon to be present to review the completed study. Mr. Vegnani suggested that BOS and Scituate Wind meet to discuss specific concerns with the operation. Town Administrator was asked to define and schedule a meeting. Mr. Vegnani further suggested that Scituate Wind needs to have more solutions to help residents that are experiencing issues due to noise. BOS agreed that a public meeting needs to be scheduled quickly and directed TA to explore meeting options (virtual, zoom, in person).

Financial Flexibility: Mr. Goodrich outlined importance of fiscal flexibility with the uncertainty of municipal budgets in the coming year. Discussed the possibility of reducing CPC funding. Mrs. Curran thought CPC might have run its course. Mr. Vegnani would not like to reduce CPC unless it was tied to the need for funding another project.

Master Plan has not moved forward because meetings had to be canceled due to Covid and – since Brad Washburn left, it has stalled. Needs to be resurrected.

Facilities Plan – need more time to digest. Ms. Connolly suggested incorporating information with the Gates and Harbor Community Building evaluation.

Charter Review – need to resurrect the committee – and need a new member.

Logistics for meeting: board discussed the ongoing obstacles for having public meetings during the pandemic. Mr. Goodrich proposed a tele town hall for gathering public input and relaying important information. Meeting sites are limited by state guidance. Board was open to zoom or other meetings to keep the town moving forward.

Board Moves to go into Executive Session @ 8:20 p.m. and not return to open session – Moved by Mr. Vegnani, seconded by Ms. Curran Purpose to review non-union contract negotiation strategy for Town Administrator's contract. Roll Call Vote: 5-0 in favor.

Ms. Canfield – yes

Mr. Vegnani – yes

Ms. Connolly – yes

Ms. Curran – yes

Mr. Goodrich - yes

Respectfully Submitted,

Andrew Goodrich, Recorder

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BOARD OF SELECTMEN

Karen B. Canfield, Chairman

Anthony V. Vegnani, Vice Chairman

Karen E. Connolly, Clerk

Maura C. Curran

Andrew W. Goodrich