Town of Dunstable Select Board
Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, September 24, 2024

In attendance: Chair Leah Basbanes, Vice Chair Kieran Meehan, Select Board Member Ron Mikol, Town Administrator Jason Silva, Executive Assistant Sue Fayne, Anita Moeller, Board of Health, Maria Amodei Chair, Board of Health; Dawn Theberge, Parks Commission; Erik Hoar, Chief of Police

The meeting was called to order at 5 PM by Chair Basbanes.

Municipal Electricity Aggregation Draft Plan – Public Comment Period Open

Leah Basbanes introduced the subject and presenter, the Town's consultant Paul Gromer to review the municipal electricity aggregation draft plan. They have reviewed the draft plan with EOEEA and the presentation is a kick-off to the open comment period. The draft is also available on the town website. Paul elaborated on the plan, describing it as a form of group electricity buying where residents could benefit from stable electricity prices, potential savings, and more options. Paul clarified that the plan is regulatory, yet aims to remain comprehensible for residents, offering insights into municipal electricity aggregation.

Public Comment

Following the presentation, there were public comments and questions regarding the municipal electricity plan. Members of the public and board discussed the operational aspects and participation choices for residents. Issues regarding billing, solar panel implications, current rebates, and electricity suppliers were discussed. There was consensus on ensuring the draft plan addresses all public concerns before the end of the comment period.

Board of Health – Discussion of Textile Bin Location

A discussion centered on the recent issues with the town's textile bins, currently located at the DPW Garage on Pleasant Street. Concerns about vandalism and potential conflicts with neighboring properties were highlighted by members of the Board of Health. Despite the benefits of maintaining the bins, concerns arose about the safety and community perception associated with their current location. It was agreed that the Board would engage in discussions with relevant town departments to find an appropriate solution and report back to the Select Board.

Sign Policy Discussion

Resident Brian Flynn appeared before the Board to discuss the recent sign policy restricting private signs on town-owned lands. Mr. Flynn expressed his opposition to the policy and believed it was inconsistent with local zoning laws. It was explained to Mr. Flynn that the Select Board has authority over certain property in Town and is able to restrict private signs on

property controlled by the Select Board.

Approval of Meeting Minutes from September 10, 2024

The minutes from the September 10, 2024 meeting were reviewed.

On a **motion** by Member Mikol and **seconded** by Vice Chair Meehan, it was **VOTED to APPROVE** the meeting minutes from September 10, 2024, as submitted. **The vote was unanimous.**

Approval of Exemption of Public Drinking Bylaw at Larter Memorial Field on 10/19/24 for Oktoberfest Event

The exemption request for the public drinking bylaw for the Oktoberfest event at Larter Field was presented by the Dawn Theberge of the Recreation Committee. The purpose of the exemption and event details were discussed briefly.

On a **motion** by Member Mikol and **seconded** by Vice Chair Meehan, it was **VOTED to AUTHORIZE** the consumption of alcohol at Larter Field, purchased at the event on October 19, 2024, between 2 PM and 6 PM, for the recreation commission's Oktoberfest event. **The vote was unanimous.**

Approval of One Day Liquor License for The Beer Guy LLC

A request from The Beer Guy LLC for a one-day liquor license in conjunction with the Oktoberfest event was reviewed and discussed, and confirmation of previous successful operations without issues was noted. Their application was complete and reviewed by the Board.

On a **motion** by Member Mikol and **seconded** by Vice Chair Meehan, it was **VOTED to APPROVE** the request from David Capriati, the Beer Guy LLC, for a one-day liquor license for the Sale of Wine and/or Malt Beverages for the Oktoberfest event on Saturday, October 19, 2024 from 2 PM to 6 PM (set up starts at 1 PM and clean up from 6 PM to 8 PM) at Larter Field, subject to the following conditions:

- Delivery of and receipt by the Licensing Authority of the required fee.
- Delivery of and receipt by the Licensing Authority of Proof that the alcohol will be purchased from an authorized source.
- Delivery of and receipt by the Licensing Authority of Proof of insurance.
- Proof that the applicant can receive proper delivery; provide proper storage and disposal of all alcoholic beverages purchased all in accordance with the requirements of G. L. c. 138.

The vote was unanimous.

Small Towns Collaborative Presentation

Leah Basbanes provided an update on the Small Towns Collaborative, formed to promote six towns in the region as rural destinations for tourism and economic development. The collaborative is working to develop a draft website to showcase town assets and engage regional visitors.

Spectrum/Charter Franchise Agreement

Board members discussed the necessity of a public hearing for the approval of a renewed Spectrum/Charter franchise agreement. The draft agreement remains largely unchanged from the previous agreement.

Approval of Early Voting Hours for State (Presidential) Election

The town clerk proposed a new schedule for early voting hours, citing low turnout during previous sessions. Adjustments to hours were informed by previous voting trends.

On a motion by Member Mikol and seconded by Vice Chair Meehan, it was VOTED to APPROVE the early voting schedule for the Presidential Election, proposed by the Town Clerk as the following:

Saturday, October 19:	8 AM to 12 PM
Saturday, October 26:	9 AM to 5 PM
Monday, October 21 through Thursday, October 24:	9 AM to 1 PM
Monday, October 28 through Thursday, October 31:	9 AM to 1 PM

The vote was unanimous.

Professional Service Agreements

Discussion was held on entering multiple professional service agreements funded by using community compact grant funds. The discussions revolved around using the grants for a wage classification and compensation study and evaluating the shared Treasurer and Collector agreement with the town of Pepperell.

On a **motion** by Member Mikol and **seconded** by Vice Chair Meehan, it was **VOTED to APPROVE** a professional services agreement with UMASS Boston in the amount of $20,000 for a compensation and classification review, and a professional services agreement with UMASS Boston in the amount of $30,000 for a review of the existing shared Treasurer/Collector Regional Agreement between the Town of Pepperell and authorize the Chair to sign the agreements on behalf of the Board. **The vote was unanimous.**

Topics Not Reasonably Anticipated by the Chair

The board briefly discussed matters related to the regional emergency communication center, commending its seamless integration into town operations and expressing gratitude for the support received.

Adjourn

The meeting concluded after discussing all agenda items, thanking attendees for their participation and engagement in the town's affairs.

The meeting was adjourned at 6: 15PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Sue Fayne
Executive Assistant

Approved October 22, 2024