

**SELECT BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
July 16, 2019  
Swampscott, MA 01907**

ATTENDANCE: Select Board Member Laura Spathanas, Chair Peter Spellios, Vice Chair Naomi Dreeben, Select Board Member Don Hause, Select Board Member Polly Titcomb, Town Administrator, Sean Fitzgerald

Meeting was held at the Library  
Library Board of Trustees and Library Staff were in Attendance

Peter opened by welcoming everyone to the library. All summer meetings will be held in different Town locations starting with the library. The library is very important but, is underfunded and over resourced. Today is a chance for the library to share what they want and what they are excited by. We want to know what you are thinking. The last few years have been spent not just thinking about the nuts and bolts. Little things in this town such as the new bathroom here in the library gets people talking. Alyce Deveau, Library Director, has embraced forward thinking. Tonight, is a free-flowing agenda. We will take a tour the library and they can show off spaces and talk about things they want and take the dialogue where they want to.

Update on the Library Programs and Goals

Alyce Deveau introduced the staff: Ellen Winkler, John Tripp – both Library Trustees, Janina Majeran , Izzy Abrams, Anne Nechtem, Susan Connor

Alyce sees the library as a community center since there is not one in town. Some of the programs the library offers include, 7 book groups, knitting group, ukulele group, writer group, history group, collecting for the food bank, collecting glasses, winter coats and sneakers. There is a lot of programming outside of book group. The library is ever changing and needs to change with the times. We enjoy showing what we have but know where we need to go.

John Tripp, Library Trustee, spoke of the towns vision and engaging with a library programmer. The town needs to be engaged to what the community wants. After the feedback comes back from the residents, the library programmer will walk the facility and find out how the spaces requested by the residents would fit. Ellen says right now there is no plan on how the library space should be utilized. Starting with a design vision is really not the first step, having a design programmer is. The library has limited parking and probably will not receive funding because they don't have enough parking.

Peter spoke about relocating town staff parking to help the library out with their difficulty in parking. Will reach out to the traffic study committee to help with street parking.

Peter asked how many spaces would be needed to qualify for parking? John Tripp will look into that.

Town Administrator Fitzgerald said there is opportunity to be strategic with the parking.

Library Trustee are committed to making the library the best it can be.

The Library has an RFQ, but received feedback that the Library trustee can't proceed with it. The library trustee want it published and want to know the steps they need to take to move forward.

Select Board Member Spathanas is the Liaison for the Library Trustee and Chair Spellios said the liaison will help with the RFQ process and they should be reaching out to her.

Ellen said the library staff represents extremely high-quality service to this community and there is great leadership. Every penny of the programs comes from the Friends of the Library. No matter what the building looks like and how beautiful it is, it all comes back to the programming and the people who work here at the library.

Izzy spoke about the move down to the basement and how that move became something extraordinary. The library is a leader in Northshore for creating a space for a place, to come and play and talk and the team is very proud of it.

Discussion on what's next? There needs to be more workshops, more programs for the kids inside and outside, need to engage the young families because they are future of our town.

Janina would like a better space for the teenagers. They have decorated more to make the teenage space more friendly but need a quiet space to study.

Discussion on the staff room that is in currently in the basement, being converted into a program room.

Robert Pasersky sent on the eve of the idea exchange a slide presentation of 40 ideas and a lot of those slides were of the library.

Patio out front is such a nice area with a lot of donated items but there is a need for more.

There was a discussion on a cafe and what great place to drink coffee and change to craft beer in the evening.

Don't let the perfect be the enemy of the good, it is fundamentally doable, but you need to find the persons that want to do this.

Select Board Member Dreeben spoke about the advantage of doing this now is that the Board is very supportive.

Select Board is innovative and using spaces creatively, support zoning changes is all a benefit for the town.

Need additional resources, muscle the board will brainstorm with you all

Alyce said they function as a social service agency. They are not people who just check out book, they help people get their license, set up an email- work with residents with disabilities.

Volunteers who come very week that cover books, shelf books, count statistics, create newsletter and thank them at the end.

Social interaction for the seniors.

Naomi how much are you linked with the senior center. They don't usually run in the same day and she works closely with Marilyn, borrowing her van. Also, works with Reach Arts. The library is not an island.

The room we are currently in is one of the biggest spaces in town, allocation of 50k from Capital improvement- need to change the flooring now that the bathroom is done- want to see the space better utilized. Very important location for the town.

Peter- as schools will move from library to media center, does that change your way of how this library will interact with the schools? Alyce said Reading has movable shelving, so the books are still there but they can be pushed out of the way. Library understands they need to change with the times, but they are still a hub of information that is what the library is all about.

The library is place that has so much for everyone. Rate of change is quick.

Peter- Old Police station- trying to complete thoughts on underutilized vacant town buildings. Begin the process of exploring ideas- cultural corner library, reach arts and maybe the old police station being part of that- train station, waterfront- thinking about with a blank pallet-Investments will need to made into that building- right now historical items are in there and HC trying to digitalize all that.

Community Garden, creating a seed library- creating synergy- anytime there is something happen interest library is thinking how we connect the dots.

Max Kasper worked with Alyce on the bathroom project- Sean thanked him

7/30 – Tour of DPW yard

8/6- Senior Center – Marilyn programming date- Peter will reach out to her

8/20- Select Board will make a suggestion and send to Peter

- Discussion on BOS Goals

Sean sent his goals for FY19 to the Select Board

### **Big Goals for the Select Board**

- MSBA process continuing- agreement with Project manager just was inked- don't have a representative because Pat was the rep. failure from the last go- part was the failure of the Select Board
- DPW relocation and reuse of the old DPW
- Old Police Station reuse
- Continuing discussions of Veterans services- relating to the VFW – enhancing the VFW

#### **Select Board Member Hause**

Implementing and further developing the Harbor Plan- money being allocated- **Public Forums- Don/ Sean working with Jackson**

Board needs to accept the plan and adopt it- then prioritizing –

Still unclear who is taking directive leadership of the Fish House? Balconies are falling apart- Peter stated remaining funds from roof repair in order of repair is- trim and siding and then painting – as per Gino- doesn't think there is enough money for both - can a private fundraising campaign take place?

Answer is yes

Making the Yacht club completely accessible to everyone- difficult because how the space is encumbered- might not be something right now because of the complication

#### **Select Board Member Spathanas**

Vinnin Square- started with complaints about carriages and trash- but they are not willing to keep up – opened her eyes to the possibilities – talked about the non-opening of the Mexican restaurant- different era- and we need more – talk to the planning board/ and community development staff

Wants to be part of the conversations with the new Veterans and Senior abatement and outreach plan - volunteer opportunities and using that program to the maximum -activating/ supporting and contributing

#### **Select Board Member Dreeben**

Economic development- upgrading and filling in storefront and redeveloping the train station area  
Would love to see denser development, use train more, more affordable housing, busses maybe connecting to trains

Marzie suggested that Tiffs come to speak in August-

#### **Select Board Member Titcomb**

Waste management advisory committee

Developing a Select board handbook

Short term rental tax- developing bylaws – planning board

Developing financial policy and guidelines- official handbook- working possibly with DLS

Johnson Park- engage community on that vision

Community Center- keeping that in mind as we start looking at reuses

Committee handbook – at the next meeting

#### **Select Board Member Spellios**

New resident on line information packet/gift

Peter will assemble send back out to the Board and will discuss further on the 30<sup>th</sup>.

Ask everyone to think about their roll and their energy.

### **VOTE OF THE BOARD**

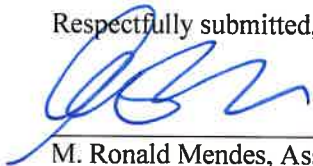
Approval to accept a \$150.00 Tree Fund Donation from the Green Sanctuary Ministry Team of the Unitarian Universalist Church of Greater Lynn

Approve meeting minutes from May 1, 2019 and May 15, 2019

Motion made by Naomi seconded by Laura. 11

Motion to adjourn the meeting was made at 9:40 by Selectman Hause and second by Selectman Spathanas; all BOS members were unanimously in favor.

Respectfully submitted,



M. Ronald Mendes, Asst Town Administrator/Admin & Finance

Minutes APPROVED by vote of the Select Board October 17, 2019.