

**TOWN OF CONCORD
SELECT BOARD
MINUTES
MARCH 15, 2021**

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the Concord Select Board convened in a meeting via video conference on March 15, 2021 at 4:00pm.

Present were Linda Escobedo, Chair; Susan Bates, Clerk; Terri Ackerman, Jane Hotchkiss, and Matthew Johnson. Also present was Stephen Crane, Town Manager.

Call to Order

Roll call vote

Ms. Escobedo: Present
Ms. Ackerman: Present
Ms. Bates: Present
Ms. Hotchkiss: Present
Mr. Johnson: Present

Consent Agenda

- Minutes to approve: February 1, 2021; February 1, 2021 Executive Session (not to be released); February 8, 2021
- Proclamation: Race Amity Day – June 13, 2021

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED: to approve the consent agenda.

Roll call vote

Ms. Escobedo: Aye
Ms. Ackerman: Aye
Ms. Bates: Aye
Ms. Hotchkiss: Aye
Mr. Johnson: Aye

Town Manager's Report

The Council on Aging and Health Division staff were delighted to hear from the West Concord Pharmacy that they had 50 doses of COVID vaccine available and offered to provide the vaccine for Concord seniors. A mini-clinic is being scheduled. Additionally, the effort to establish a nine-town regional vaccination clinic continues as feedback on the application is received from DPH. The health directors and emergency managers in the towns (Acton, Bedford, Carlisle, Concord, Lincoln, Maynard, Sudbury, Wayland, and Westford) have been meeting to discuss logistics including locations, administrative support, supply management, and clinic staffing.

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Nagog Pond Water Rights: The Supreme Judicial Court (“SJC”) issued its decision on Littleton and Acton’s appeal of the Land Court decision holding that the Water Management Act impliedly repealed the 1884 Act which gave priority water rights to Nagog Pond to those two towns. The SJC upheld the Land Court’s decision that Littleton and Acton’s priority rights in Section 10 of the 1884 Act were repugnant to the registration system established in the WMA. This decision provides assurance to Concord that continued stewardship and improvements associated with this important water resource will not be at risk.

Engineering has put out to bid a contract for roadway reconstruction including pavement reclamation, milling and overlaying for the neighborhood that includes Prescott Road, Peter Spring Road, Arrowhead Road, Minuteman Drive, and Cranefield Road. Last Fall, a major utility project to replace the water main occurred on these streets. It is anticipated that the road work will be completed during the coming construction season.

Filed sub-bids for the Gerow Park restrooms were received and viewed on Friday March 5. There were eight in total. Four roof and flashing, two electrical and two plumbing. No award has been granted yet as estimates are still under review.

Chair’s Remarks

Ms. Escobedo noted that the COVID-19 Pandemic has been significantly impacting the United States for a year. Governor Charlie Baker declared the COVID-19 State of Emergency on March 10, 2020. Ms. Escobedo thanked the Town Manager, Senior Management Team, and all Town employees for their efforts during this time and for continuing to deliver services to residents, given the uncertainties and enormous amounts of change during this time period.

Junction Village Park Pedestrian Safety Concerns

Pedestrian safety at Junction Village Park was discussed at the Transportation Advisory Committee meeting on March 10. Ms. Escobedo stated that for the benefit of public, it would be helpful for the Select Board to have a brief discussion about what the issues are impacting pedestrian safety at the park.

Dorrie Kehoe of 51 MacArthur Road gave a brief history of the issues at Junction Park, and commented that bikes, skateboards, and scooters are impacting pedestrian safety. Ms. Kehoe asked who and what group has ownership of finding solution to these issues?

Nancy Crowley of 5 Concord Greene commented that residents need to be able to safely enjoy outdoor recreational space, and shouldn’t have to worry about bikes and skateboards traveling at high speeds in a pedestrian area.

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Ellen Quackenbush of 206 Prairie Street commented that there no need for a formal study on this issue, and advised that the Select Board should determine actions that will require people to dismount their bikes and skateboards in this area.

Nat Welch of 141 Stow Street voiced his support for the Select Board taking up this issue, citing the need to make fundamental changes to make the park safe for pedestrians.

Phil Posner of 223 Laws Brook Road voiced his agreement for the sentiments of previous speakers, and said he hopes the Select Board will set a clear defined time for which decisions should be made on this issue.

Mr. Crane stated that similar feedback was heard at the March 10 Transportation Advisory Committee meeting. Mr. Crane continued that residents and committee members agreed at that meeting that cyclists are not properly notified that they are not allowed to bike or skateboard in this area, so the solution would be to improve signage and pavement markings to make sure that the rules of the area are clearly posted. Furthermore, the group discussed if there was a structural issue that is impacting the safety of the park for pedestrians, which he noted is inconclusive at this time. This is the area that needs more study and data collection. This can take place after the new signage and markings are put in.

Nashoba Regional Greenways Project

Ms. Escobedo noted that mobility and transportation issues were cited frequently in the Envision Concord long range plan, with the goal of increasing connectivity to the three commercial centers in town.

Phil Posner, Chair of the Bike Subcommittee of the Transportation Advisory Committee, explained that the Nashoba Regional Greenway project is an outgrowth of an idea called the [landline project](#) through the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. At present, NRG is an alliance of 14 communities with the goal of designating and promoting safe regional connections for access by cyclists and pedestrians on shared use paths, on road paths, and community centers in the region. Mr. Posner explained that there are grants available through MAPC for technical and administrative assistance for project planning. Mr. Posner concluded that the goal of this initiative is to generate support among the public, Town officials, and boards and committees to develop a priority list of actions, and the implementation would be taken on by Concord Public Works.

Ellen Quackenbush of 206 Prairie Street stated that safety is not well articulated in the NRG goals, and recommended that safety be a priority. Additionally, Ms. Quackenbush offered that rare species preservation should be a bigger focus in this initiative.

Tanya Gailus of 62 Prescott Road stated that this agenda item should not have been added after the initial posting of the agenda on Thursday, March 11. Ms. Gailus stated that she asked

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whether Reformatory Branch Trail would be on the agenda last Monday. Ms. Gailus stated that there are many members of the public that are interested in this agenda item. Ms. Gailus stated that just because Phil Posner is a proponent of this project, it does not make him an official Concord representative. Ms. Gailus stated that other communities appointed official representatives for this project. Ms. Gailus stated that this should not have been discussed with such a short notice and without proper representation from Concord.

Mark Gailus of 62 Prescott Road stated that he was concerned that MAPC has a trail maps web page and there are many errors on the page. Mr. Gailus stated that the MAPC landline coalition does not appear to have any posted meetings, agendas, or minutes on their website. Mr. Gailus stated that it is unclear whether it is a public group or a private group. Mr. Gailus stated that there is an absence of transparency in reaching out to the public to gain their input.

Joseph Stine of 21 Thoreau Street commented that not all cyclists want paved trails, and urged the Select Board to think about hard pack stone dust for trails wherever possible to protect ecosystems from runoff.

Mr. Crane noted that the NRG initiative was in the very early stages of planning and it was brought to the Select Board by the Bike Subcommittee Chair Phil Posner so it could be publicly acknowledged as being in progress.

Town Manager's FY22 Budget & Capital Budget

Deputy Town Manager Kate Hodges and Town Manager Stephen Crane presented the proposed FY22 Budget & Capital Budget. The full budget presentation can be found in the [meeting materials](#).

Committee Nominations

There were no committee nominations.

Committee Liaison Reports

There were no committee liaison reports at this meeting.

Miscellaneous Correspondence

Correspondence was included in the [meeting materials](#).

Public Comments

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Mary Hartman of 16 Concord Greene commented that the proposed capital plan of FY22 of \$5.1 million offers a lot that addresses community needs and suggested that it be framed with that sentiment in mind.

Tanya Gailus of 62 Prescott Road commented that while she acknowledges no final decisions have been made in regards to the cycling and pedestrian projects discussed at the meeting, once a grant is applied for then it is final in a way at that time.

Sherry Litwack, President of the Library Corporation, commented that while it has been a difficult year with loss of revenue and delays due to COVID-19, the library renovation is still on schedule and on budget. The project is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2021. Ms. Litwack commented that the one position that is not funded in the proposed budget is the staff person for the maker space. The Library Corporation may be able to fund this position temporarily, but Ms. Litwack stated they wanted to work with the Town to try to get that position funded in the future.

Pamela Dritt of 13 Concord Greene commented that the Town should not make infrastructure investments in gasoline powered vehicles.

Adjourn

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY
VOTED: to adjourn.

Roll call vote

Ms. Escobedo: Aye
Ms. Ackerman: Aye
Ms. Bates: Aye
Ms. Hotchkiss: Aye
Mr. Johnson: Aye

Minuteman Media Network Coverage: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G1m7rTnSopY>

Meeting Materials: <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/28347/March-15-SB-Packet>