

**TOWN OF CONCORD
SELECT BOARD
APRIL 16, 2020
MINUTES**

Pursuant to notice duly filed with the Town Clerk, the Concord Select Board convened in a video conference call on April 16, 2020 at 4:00pm.

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

Call to Order

Select Board Chair Michael Lawson called the meeting to order at 4:00pm.

Mr. Lawson read the following statement:

“We all want the residents to know that we are aware of the situation on Estabrook Road that landowners have unilaterally and without consulting with the Town closed the unpaved part of the road. In addition, they have instructed their attorney to post no trespassing sign at two locations on the unpaved part of the road. The signs state that the landowners will take legal action against so called trespassers. You should know that the Town has asked the landowners to remove the impediments to using the unpaved portion of the road, but they declined to do so. The Town is actively trying to resolve the matter mindful of the public’s right to access the road, and also mindful of the ongoing litigation. I hope residents will be patient with the Town as at this difficult time, our primary focus is to work to help ensure the public’s health and safety.”

Town Manager Update

Town Manager Stephen Crane stated that the Bruce Freeman Rail Trail was awarded by the American Public Works Association as one of their 2020 Projects of the Year. Mr. Crane noted Planning and Land Management Director Marcia Rasmussen’s work on this project, along with the work and support of many other Concord citizens.

Mr. Crane stated that the Town is still getting reports from residents about crowded recreational areas. Although most people are doing a good job, Mr. Crane cautioned that residents should continue to practice social distancing measures.

Patriot’s Day activities have been cancelled, but noted that there will be Patriot’s Day content on channel 8 and on the Minuteman Media Network website for residents to enjoy.

The Commonwealth has updated the list of cases for municipalities. At the time of the meeting, there were 23 confirmed cases in Concord. The state also posted the numbers of both ICU and non-ICU beds available in hospital, and Mr. Crane stated that the list of COVID-19 virus numbers

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in Metro West look favorable. Mr. Crane cautioned that these numbers could turn quickly, and residents need to continue to practice social distancing.

The Fire Department is continuing to order PPE supplies for institutions in Town. Mr. Crane stated that if you are a local institution, please reach out to Chief Tom Judge in the Fire Department.

The Concord Municipal Light Plant has done upgrades on the broadband network to help ensure those working from home have high-speed internet access. If you are a customer and that is not happening, please contact CMLP.

The Economic Vitality Committee met and is having conversations about how to support our local businesses and beginning to think about strategies for reopening. Mr. Crane noted that the Town is looking to help local businesses, and if you are a local business looking for resources, reach out to Beth Williams, our Tourism and Visitor Center Director, at bwilliams@concordma.gov

There are new federal laws that affect employment status and employee benefits, and the Town is amending employee policies to reflect these changes in federal law.

Mr. Crane pointed out that the Town Clerk's Office and Finance Department, who might not be considered essential during an emergency, have continued their operations, and he commended the excellent job they are doing.

Letter of Support for the nomination of the Battle Road Scenic Byway to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration National Scenic Byways Program for "All-America Road" designation

Mr. Lawson stated that other communities have already taken this action. Ms. Escobedo commented that this nomination would help the Battle Road Scenic Byway in grant applications moving forward.

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to support the nomination of the Battle Road Scenic Byway to the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Highway Administration National Scenic Byways Program for "All-America Road" designation.

Cancellation of the Holocaust Memorial Observance planned for May 5, 2020

This event will be cancelled due to the need for continued social distancing to help slow the spread of COVID-19.

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Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to cancel the Holocaust Memorial Observance planned for May 5, 2020

Approve Concord School's letter of interest to the MSBA

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: Having convened in an open meeting on April 16, 2020 and February 4, 2020, prior to the SOI submission closing date, the Select Board and the School Committee of Concord, in accordance with its charter, by-laws, and ordinances, has voted to authorize the Superintendent to submit to the Massachusetts School Building Authority the Statement of Interest Form dated April 9th for the Concord Middle School located at 835 Old Marlboro Road and 1231 Old Marlboro Road which describes and explains the following deficiencies and the priority category(s) for which an application may be submitted to the Massachusetts School Building Authority in the future for priorities #2, #5, and #7, with deficiencies as follows: Priority #2. Elimination of severe overcrowding, this condition has been addressed by use of an elementary school being converted to use as the second middle school building in 1967, Priority #5. Replacement, renovation or modernization of school facility systems, such as roofs, windows, boilers, heating and ventilation systems, to increase energy conservation and decrease energy related costs in a school facility, the two buildings that serve as the Middle School have significant capital requirements with roofing, HVAC and other systems reaching obsolescence after nearly 50 years, Priority #7 Replacement of or addition to obsolete buildings in order to provide for a full range of programs consistent with state and approved local requirements; having two buildings located a mile apart requires duplication of many services and increases staffing costs significantly; these funds could be used to improve the direct educational experiences of the Middle School students housed in the Peabody and Sanborn buildings; and hereby further specifically acknowledges that by submitting this Statement of Interest Form, the Massachusetts School Building Authority in no way guarantees the acceptance or the approval of an application, the awarding of a grant or any other funding commitment from the Massachusetts School Building Authority, or commits the City/Town/Regional School District to filing an application for funding with the Massachusetts School Building Authority.

Roll call vote

Susan Bates: Aye

Linda Escobedo: Aye

Mike Lawson: Aye

Terri Ackerman: Aye

Jane Hotchkiss: Aye

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Committee Nominations: Remon Karian of 24 Walden Street to the Economic Vitality Committee for a term to expire April 30, 2023

Nominate Remon Karian of 24 Walden Street to the Economic Vitality Committee for a term to expire April 30, 2023

Miscellaneous Correspondence

Mr. Lawson noted that the Town gotten a large volume of correspondence during this time, with the overwhelming majority in response to the previously mentioned situation at Estabrook Road. Mr. Lawson noted that all of this correspondence has been posted on the Town website.

Executive Session to discuss ongoing litigation regarding Estabrook Road. Doing so in Open Session would have a detrimental effect on the Town's litigation strategy

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to enter executive session to discuss ongoing litigation regarding Estabrook Road, not to return to open session. The Executive Session is needed to protect strategy discussions affecting litigation on the stated matter.

Roll call vote

Susan Bates: Aye

Linda Escobedo: Aye

Mike Lawson: Aye

Terri Ackerman: Aye

Jane Hotchkiss: Aye

Adjourn

Upon a motion duly made and seconded, it was UNANIMOUSLY

VOTED: to adjourn

Meeting Materials: <https://concordma.gov/DocumentCenter/View/24558/April-16-2020-Packet>

Minuteman Media Network Coverage: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cCistL5GoKc>

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