



Tuesday, November 14, 2023
Hanson Select Board
Select Board Meeting Room, Town Hall
Open Session

Members Present: Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, Joseph Weeks, Edwin Heal, David George, Ann Rein

Members Absent:

Others Present: Lisa Green, Town Administrator; Lynn McDowell, Executive Assistant; Emily Sprague, Administrative Assistant; Lee Gamache, Denise Alexander, Board of Assessors; Steve Moberg, IT Department; Katherine Feodoroff, Town Counsel; Kurt M. Tarvis, Hanson Historical Society; Chick Cushing, Miles Prescott, Pembroke Historical Society; Joyce Cameron

I **CALL TO ORDER**

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett called the meeting to order.

II **PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENTS AND UPCOMING MEETINGS**

Ms. Rein read the public announcements and upcoming meetings.

III **HEARINGS**

1. Board of Assessors Classification Hearing

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett opened the Board of Assessors Classification hearing.

Ms. Gamache shared that her board is unable to be in attendance due needing to be present for classification hearings in each member's respective town.

Ms. Gamache also stated this is her last classification hearing as she is retiring in June 2024. She acknowledged her pleasure working with the Town and Town Hall, but she is ready to move on. Though she may be taking a position on the Board of Assessors, so stay tuned. The Select Board thanked Ms. Gamache for her service and noted she will be greatly missed.

Ms. Gamache continued, stating the Board of Assessors, during its regularly scheduled November 6, 2023 meeting, voted its recommendations presented this evening:

1. Selecting the Residential Factor for Fiscal Year 2024. Vote Required

The Board of Assessors has consistently recommended a factor "1" meaning that the tax rate should NOT be split in order to shift more tax burden to the Commercial Class.

2. Will Hanson adopt a Residential Exemption? Vote Required

The Board of Assessors has consistently recommended that a residential exemption NOT be adopted.

3. Whether or not to adopt a Small Business Exemption? Vote Required

The Board of Assessors has consistently recommended that the Small Business Exemption NOT be adopted.

Ms. Alexander informed the Board the excise levy capacity for 2024 is currently \$21,945.03. As this is a notification no vote is needed. On behalf of the Board of Assessors and the Assessing department, Ms. Alexander thanked the Town Accountant and the Town Treasurer/Collector and their respective offices for their assistance.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Mr. Heal to adopt a uniform tax rate across all the properties, residential, commercial and industrial. **Voted 5 – 0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein to not adopt residential tax exemption. **Voted 5 – 0**

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein to not adopt small commercial exemption. **Voted 5 – 0**

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett closed the hearing.

Please view the hearing here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwxV-zcPDTc&t=3666s> at 2:29.

2. Layout Hearing:

a. Alden Way, Stinger Lane and Gray Way

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett opened the hearing for the taking of Alden Way, Stinger Lane and Gray Way to complete the layout as public ways.

Mrs. Crawford questioned the need for the hearing. Ms. Feodoroff explained what was needed in detail related to the Town taking of property from private owners, including the roadways and drainage easements. She further stated, if all goes through, residents of the streets will receive notice how documents were recorded with the Registry of Deeds. All will be on record and officially public ways.

No opposition noted. No further discussion.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett closed the hearing.

Please view the hearing here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwxV-zcPDTc&t=3666s> at 15.16 and reopened at 34.57.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to move that the Select Board acquire by eminent domain, for municipal purposes, more specifically to complete

the layout and acceptance of Alden Way, Gray Lane and Stringer Lane as a public way, as authorized pursuant to Article 30 of the October 2, 2023 Session of the Hanson Special Town Meeting and further to authorize the Chair, Laura FitzGerald-Kemmett, to execute and enter into any and all documents necessary to effectuate the acquisition of said property:

A permanent easement for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Hanson, including the installation and maintenance of utilities, over, in, under, through, and upon those parcels of land depicted as Alden Way, Gray Lane and Stringer Lane shown on a plan of land entitled “Definitive Subdivision Plan of Alden Way” prepared by SITEC Inc. 13 Welby Road New Bedford, MA. 02745 dated April 22, 1997 last revised on July 14, 1997 and recorded with the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds as Plan 803 of 1997 in Plan Book 40, Pages 652-659; as modified by a plan entitled “Modification of Definitive Subdivision Plan of Stringer Lane” prepared by SITEC Inc. 13 Welby Road New Bedford, MA. 02745 dated February 3, 1998, and recorded with the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds as Plan 701 of 1998 in Plan Book 41 Page 706; and as modified by a plan entitled “Modification of Definitive Subdivision Plan of Gray Lane” prepared by SITEC Inc. 13 Welby Road New Bedford, MA. 02745 dated November 20, 1998, and recorded with the Plymouth County Registry of Deeds as Plan 20 of 1999 in Plan Book 41 Page 956 and any appurtenant drainage, utility or other easements related thereto;

And further, the Select Board award no damages for said eminent domain taking.

Voted 5 – 0

Roll call –George-Aye; Rein-Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Weeks -Aye; Heal-Aye

b. Litchfield Lane and Proud Foot Way

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett opened the hearing for the taking of Litchfield Lane and Proud Foot Way to complete the layout as public ways.

No one spoke in favor nor to oppose. No further discussion.

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett closed the hearing.

Please view the hearing here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qwxV-zcPDTc&t=3666s> at 1:05.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to move that the Select Board acquire by eminent domain, for municipal purposes, more specifically to complete the layout and acceptance of Litchfield Lane and Proud Foot Way as public ways, as authorized pursuant to Article 31 of the October 2, 2023 Session of the Hanson Special Town Meeting and further to authorize the Chair, Laura FitzGerald-

Kemmett, to execute and enter into any and all documents necessary to effectuate the acquisition of said property:

A permanent easement for all purposes for which public ways are used in the Town of Hanson, including the installation and maintenance of utilities, over, in, under, through, and upon that parcel of land depicted as “Litchfield Lane” and “Proud Foot Way” on the plans of land entitled “As-Built Plan “Stonewall Estates” Litchfield Lane, Hanson, Mass (Sheet 1 and 2), Dated December 21, 2004, revised: September 19, 2005, further revised: December 20, 2005 (Sheet 2 only), prepared by Robert C. Bailey Co., Land Surveyors, 199 Plymouth Street, Pembroke, Mass.” and “As-Built Plan “Stonewall Estates” Proud Foot Way, Hanson, Mass (Sheet 1 and 2), Dated December 21, 2004, revised: September 19, 2005, prepared by Robert C. Bailey Co., Land Surveyors, 199 Plymouth Street, Pembroke, Mass.”, which plans are to be recorded with the Order of Taking (collectively, the “Plan”) and any appurtenant drainage, utility or other easements related thereto;

And further, the Select Board award no damages for said eminent domain taking.

Voted 5 – 0

Roll call –George-Aye; Rein-Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Weeks -Aye; Heal-Aye

IV NEW BUSINESS

1. Pembroke Resolves discussion

Mr. Tarvis introduced the members of the Pembroke Resolves.

Mr. Cushing and Mr. Prescott, co-chairs of the Pembroke Resolves, wanted to invited the Select Board to the annual Pembroke Resolves Day. It includes reading the ten resolves, a document that was considered most innovative in its time. There were five signers, including one– Abel Stetson – from Hanson. They created a reenactment, which the Select Board of Pembroke reading the Resolves. Mr. Prescott would like to invite the Hanson Select Board to attend and share the readings with the Pembroke Select Board. The Select Board agreed to partner.

Mr. Cushing shared some of the history of the Boston pamphlet, which led to Pembroke creating one of the strongest responses for independence. He is pleased the Hanson Select Board will participate in the next celebration.

The event will be on January 7, 2024 at the First Church, 105 Center St, Pembroke, MA, where the Resolves were originally signed. The event will start at 11:30am for about an hour, followed by refreshments at the Pembroke Historical Society. For those who cannot attend in person, it will be televised.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, for the Town of Hanson to participate in the Pembroke Resolves, January 7, 2024 at 11:30am. ***Voted 5 – 0***

Mr. Prescott also shared that it is the 250th anniversary of the Boston Tea Party. There are plans to celebrate by collecting loose tea to be dropped into Boston Harbor. Anyone wishing to participate needs to deliver loose tea – no tea bags will be accepted – by December 2, 2023 to the Pembroke Historical Society, 116 Center Street, Pembroke, MA. On December 16, 2023, there will be a reenactment of the event in Boston. Those wishing to participate please reach out to the Pembroke Historical Society via Facebook.

2. Reminder of audio/video recording of meetings

Ms. Green wanted to remind all of the bylaw – Article 2021 – that was accepted at the May 2022 Annual Town Meeting, that all committees, boards and commissions must either videotape or audiotape all meetings. Once done, Whitman Hanson Community Access (WHCA) will provide the respective chair with a link to upload the recording to the respective webpage on the Town's website. Those not doing so are in violation of the bylaw.

Some of the challenges faced was lack of equipment available. She noted, however, there is now equipment in the building available for any committee, board or commission to borrow. WHCA is available to train as well.

Also, she reminded all committees, boards and commissions need to post all agendas and minutes to the respective webpage on the Town's website. It is one of the first items on the auditors' list to review. For assistance with posting, please reach out to Mr. Moberg. Ms. Green will forward all this information via email.

WHCA's Executive Director Eric Dresser is available for streamlining the process for any committee, board or commission needing direction. And Mr. Milisi can be used as a resource when using google docs and drop box for the audio version.

3. Discussion for Town Administrator signoff of documents

Ms. Green informed the Board that USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service is requiring a vote by the Select Board for Ms. Green to be an authorized signer for the documentation related to the grant received by the Conservation Department for restoration work for Smitty's Bog.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein to empower Ms. Lisa M. Green, Esquire, to sign on behalf of the Town of Hanson for the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service contract. **Voted 5 – 0**

4. High Street Park/Recreation Committee discussion

Mr. Weeks noted only one person is on the Recreation Committee, and believed it's due to no clear mission or goals outlined. As a member of the High Street Park Committee, he discovered grant funding requests a person needed to oversee the facility/property. To provide the beginning of objectives, he suggested assigning the Recreation Committee as the responsible entity.

The Select Board agreed in principle, but also does not want to interfere with other committees' activities. It suggested scheduling time with representatives from Parks and Fields, Camp Kiwanee Commission, High Street Park Committee and Recreation Committee to discuss what should be the Recreation Committee's mission and goals that enable it to work with the other committees.

It was noted there are several small playgrounds with no ownership. Volunteers maintain them, but it is not organized.

Mr. Weeks offered to draft a framework. Ms. McDowell will add this conversation to the December 12, 2023 meeting as well as inviting the respective committee members. Mr. Weeks will ask if another member of the High Street Park Committee would like to attend. Please note, if several members wish to attend, the committee will need to post a meeting announcement.

5. Request by the Hanson Community Christmas Committee for Needles Lodge to sort and package Christmas gifts (12/13/23 – 12/14/23, 9am – 6pm)

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein to allow the Hanson Community Christmas Committee to use Needles Lodge at Camp Kiwanee on December 13 and 14, 9am – 6pm, to sort and package Christmas gifts. **Voted 4 – 0 – 1**

V OLD BUSINESS

1. Select Board calendar

Ms. McDowell presented the updated Select Board calendar for review. She added the dates suggested previously, including 2024 elections. She will reschedule the Board's strategic planning session from March 5, 2024 to February 6, 2024, and invite Ms. Donner to attend.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein to accept 2024-25 Select Board calendar, changing the strategic planning session from March 5, 2024 to February 6, 2024. **Voted 5 – 0**

2. IT/Alarm proposal

Mr. Moberg, after reviewing the alarm system proposals, shared with the Board the best option for Town Hall.

He noted the process started a few months back, with both he and Mr. Baker researching pricing. He then reached out to the Town's current vendor. It offers a similar product with additional features at a similar price point.

Mr. recommended choosing the panic alarm system as it will work with a better with what is installed.

As it is not currently a budget line item, he questioned how best to fund. It may need to be an article for the Annual Town meeting, but the Board suggested he confirm with Mr. Kinshurf for

any funds in the budget and Ms. Green/Mr. DeFrias for a possible grant. Going forward Mr. Moberg will include this expense as a line item in his department budget.

3. Appoint Joyce Cameron to the Maquan School Reuse Committee

Ms. Cameron introduced herself to the Board and shared her reasons to be part of the committee, including the seeing the value open spaces are needed in Town to continue making it appealing to new and young families. Her ideas include paved walking paths and the ability to host events and activities. She has no conflicts.

The Board shared with her who the other participants will be and why citizens at large are an important need on the committee.

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein to appoint Joyce Cameron to Maquan School Reuse Committee. ***Voted 5 – 0***

VI ONE DAY LIQUOR LICENSES

1. 11/25/2023 – 6:00pm – 11:00pm – Jacquelyn Morris – Birthday Party
2. 12/08/2023 – 6:00pm – 9:00pm – Stefani Lydon – Craft Fair

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein to approve the one-day liquor licenses, as presented on the agenda. ***Voted 5 – 0***

VII COMMITTEE UPDATES

1. Economic Development Committee

Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett shared it was a great meeting, with Melissa Johnson presenting a plan to revitalized the space in front of the Food Panty to make it available for rent. There are ADA and fire issues to be addressed. Mr. DeFrias is researching grants to cover the cost. Also, as it is a rehabilitation of the building, it is eligible for Community Preservation funding support.

Also, the committee discussed with FXM refreshing the economic outlook report created in 2019. The report, through the partnership with the South Shore Chamber of Commerce, will target businesses most likely to relocate to the Town of Hanson as a place for business. Mr. DeFrias is searching for a grant to cover expenses.

South Shore Chamber of Commerce will also meet with the Economic Development Committee to provide some guidance to the committee to grow and develop its mission and goals.

2. High Street Park Committee

Mr. Weeks reminded all that the Bonney Hill/Bay Circuit Trail Open House is scheduled for Saturday, November 18 at 10am, with a rain date of Sunday, November 19. Details are posted on Facebook.

3. Highway Committee

No updates. Ms. Rein will meet with Ms. Green and Mr. Shave to learn the holdup of the report.

4. Maquan Property Reuse Committee

No updates.

5. Recreation Committee

No updates.

6. Transfer Station Taskforce

No updates.

7. Other Committee updates

No updates.

VIII TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORT

- Ms. Green shared that the Maquan demolition will soon be completed. All buildings will be down by the end of this week, with the foundation and rubble being the last phase. Mr. Glass and Mr. Baker review the site daily, checking with the demolition company about the noise levels and the debris and dust levels.
- She attended the Veterans Breakfast on Thursday, November 9, 2023. She thanked Mr. Gumbakis, Ms. Collins, Mr. Baker and Mr. Waters for all the work they did coordinating the event. And a shout out to the Senior Center chorus “Swingin Singers”, who sang the theme songs to every division of the military. It was wonderful celebration honoring the Town’s Veterans.
- The Select Board office has begun the annual licensing process for Common Victuallers, Class II Auto Dealers, Liquor Licenses and Entertainment licenses, which this year will be through PermitEyes online. The program is up and running, however if anyone is having issues, please contact the Select Board office.
- The annual budget memo was delivered to all departments successfully on November 8, 2023, noting a December 1, 2023 submission deadline.
- Ms. Green and Whitman Town Administrator Ms. Carter will meet tomorrow with Superintendent Jeff Szymaniak to discuss the school budget.
- She will attend the Annual Mass Municipal Manager Association conference in Worcester later this week. The professional development workshops include Managing Civility and Strategies for Collaboration and Consensus.
- Regarding the One-Stop for Growth program grants, Mr. DeFrias shared that the Town was awarded three out of the five grants he applied for, totaling \$273,576. They are the Lite Control Brownfield grant, Community Planning grant for development of started home district and Site Readiness that will support redevelopment of town owned property located on West Washington St. Continued great work by the Town Planner.

- Please noted, Town Hall will be closed Thursday, November 23, Thanksgiving Day and Friday, November 24.
- She shared the Town has been approved to use ARPA funds towards the Maquan Demolition. A check in the amount of \$418,801.16 will be during December 12, 2023 Select Board meeting. The total cost of Maquan demolition was \$994,901; the ARPA funds covered about half of that amount.

Lastly, Ms. FitzGerald-Kemmett shared with the Board she reached out and had a great conversation with the chair of Town of Hanover's Select Board regarding the fireworks site. Both chairs agreed to attend each town's respective meetings and work together. Ms. O'Connor would encourage the Hanover Town Manager to work with Ms. Green in the planning and coordinating of the respective meetings. Ms. O'Connor also shared, as the town has been hosting meetings for some time, it is expected to originate in Hanover, and a continuation of its best practices.

IX ADJOURNMENT

MOTION by Mr. Weeks, seconded by Ms. Rein, to adjourn to Executive Session.

Voted 5 – 0

Roll call – George-Aye; Rein-Aye; FitzGerald-Kemmett-Aye; Weeks -Aye; Heal-Aye

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn McDowell