

SUBJECT TO APPROVAL

MEETING DATE: THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2019
5:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: TOWN CAMPUS ROOM A

BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES

5:00 p.m. Special Session

First Selectman Banisch called the Special Session of Thursday, February 21, 2019 to order at 5:03 p.m. Present were First Selectman Banisch, Selectwoman Ferris, Selectman Goldberg, Selectman Murphy, and Selectman Wilson.

Pledge of Allegiance.

First Selectman Banisch led the Pledge of Allegiance.

1. Public Comment:

Kathryn Hunter of Scotland Ave. stated that she asked the Board when it is commissioning the new members of the Ad-Hoc Committee to encourage the new board to build off of the work already done by the prior Ad-Hoc Committee and Colliers. Also, the public session should be aimed at informing the public and receiving input from the public.

2. Discuss and take action to approve proceeding with Eminent Domain proceedings for easements at 693, 703 and 725 Boston Post Road.

DISCUSSION: First Selectman Banisch stated that our attorney had provided the procedural steps. He also provided background information on what had happened to-date. Deputy Public Works Director, Rob Russo, also provide a status report of the issue. He stated that the equipment installed as part of the project to protect Eversources' property, has received push back from the property owner as it would take over one parking space. However, the Town created a plan that would resolve this and actually would provide more parking. Also, the Town has paved their parking lot at the cost to the Town.

Selectman Goldberg questioned why a resolution could not be achieved prior to this date and Mr. Russo stated that he was not sure why an agreement has not stuck between the two parties. The Town has worked with the Town attorney and the property owner's attorney to create a more lasting agreement which seemed to be the solution, however, the property owner had taken exception to standard language in Eversource's agreement. Eversource has accommodated some language changes but there were some standard clauses that Eversource could not change.

The Board reviewed that the process would involve calling a Town Meeting and then if the eminent domain was approved at Town Meeting, then the Town would have to fund appraisal studies of the area. The Board also reviewed that they should continue to attempt to come to a resolution of the issue with the property owner outside of eminent domain proceedings. They also confirmed that this is the final issue to taking down the polls on the north side of the downtown project.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** proceeding with Eminent Domain proceedings for easements at 693, 703 and 725 Boston Post Road.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

3. Discuss and take action to approve members of the Ad-Hoc Academy School Community Center Design Committee.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** tabling this item.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

4. Discuss and take action to call a Public Information Session pertaining to the Academy School on Tuesday, February 26, 2019.

DISCUSSION: the Board thanked Kathryn Hunter for helping to present the information to the public and noted that it will ensure that the next steps build off of the work of the prior Ad-Hoc Committee and Colliers.

MOVED by Selectman Wilson and seconded by Selectman Murphy to **APPROVE** calling call a Public Information Session pertaining to the Academy School on Tuesday, February 26, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. in the auditorium at Polson Middle School.

VOTE: the motion was approved unanimously.

5. Review draft Strategic Plan document.

Selectman Wilson stated that this is simply a working draft document. He stated that there were wordsmithing clarifications needed in this working draft. Selectman Wilson provided an example from another town which provided a broad-stroke overview which is community-friendly and aesthetically appealing. The Board reviewed that this can become a “brand” or symbol for the Town and the graphic could be distributed to businesses, hung at Town Campus, etc.

Selectman Wilson also stated that the goals could be prioritized as well. Selectwoman Ferris stated that she felt that the document encompassed a great deal of work by the stakeholders. Selectman Goldberg stated that he agreed but felt that the goals lacked a series of milestones to accomplish said goals. Selectman Murphy stated that the overall goal should be to create a document that can be used to create actions for the Town. The Board reviewed that they needed to ensure that anything missing was inserted into the

plan and that these gaps should be filled with concrete concepts. The Board reviewed that they should produce thoughts for their next meeting on Monday, February 25th.

6. Citizen Comments.

None

7. Adjournment.

There being no objections, First Selectman Banisch adjourned the meeting at 5:48 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lauren Rhines
Executive Assistant