

Select Board
April 27th, 2023

Stanley Wysocki, Chair
Robert Czekanski

Via Zoom Remote Conferencing

Don Lowe, Town Administrator
Jenny Jacobsen, Administrative Assistant

Mr. Wysocki called the meeting to order at 7:00 pm. The meeting was recorded.

SENIOR APPRECIATION MONTH

Mary Ciummo appeared before the Board with a request from Friends of Bolton Seniors (FOBS) for Proclamation of May 2023 as Senior Appreciation Month, "Aging Unbound". FOBS will be working in conjunction with the Counsel on Aging to provide a variety of activities including May baskets from the Florence Sawyer School 2nd grade classes, a cupcake drive through and a health fair with over twenty vendors.

Mr. Wysocki read the proclamation, "Aging Unbound".

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote 2-0 to approve the proclamation declaring the month of May 2023 as Senior Appreciation Month. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

3-WAY STOP SIGN

The Board discussed the 6-month stop sign trial period of the 3-Way Stop Sign at South Bolton/Spectacle Hill Intersection. The recommendation from the DPW and Police Chief Nelson. Mary Ciummo was in attendance and reported that the Public Ways Safety Committee voted at their meeting on April 12th. Ms. Ciummo explained that the Highland Commons and Century Mill Estates has changed the volume of traffic on the road and it is an uposted road at 45 miles per hour. There is very little that can be done for traffic calming and the stop signs seem to be doing the job.

Mr. Wysocki opened the discussion for public comment.

Mr. Balewicz of Cider Circle requested data and opined that the signs have made it much less safe. The sight lines are not good and the stop sign is placed in an unnatural place to stop. There is no line demarcation at this time. Mr. Balewicz recommended lowering the speed limit.

Mr. Wysocki recommended defer the decision on the continuation of the signs until the Board can visit the site for fact finding. Mr. Lowe will have a discussion with the Chief. Mr. Lowe reported that the Town does not have the authority to change the speed limit on the road as that can only be done by the Massachusetts Department of Transportation.

Mr. Stan Smith of 5 Spectacle Hill Road offered the data that he presented to the Public Ways Safety Committee at the time of his initial street sign request.

PERSONS PARK.

Bob Busch was in attendance to represent the Historical Commission. Mr. Busch commented that the DPW did an amazing job cleaning up the site after the demolition of Persons Park. Mr. Busch reported that the Historical Commission would like to use the excess in their budget to do something at Persons Park. The Commission proposes placement of a pair engraved granite benches at the crown of the hill spaced closely together. One bench will be engraved with Persons and the other with Park. A sketch of the cottage will be engraved into the top of one of the benches. The cost of the project will be \$5K. It will consume the lion's share of the budget due to the Historic District signage slipping into FY24. The Commission wanted to take advantage of the opportunity to do something positive for the park.

The Board had no concerns and was in favor of the project.

FILMING PERMIT

Ted Omo was in attendance to request a permit to film an independent film at the Phineas Wright House located at 5 Harvard Road on April 29th and April 30th. The filming will run from 8am until 6pm on Saturday and Sunday. The team will only spend ½ day filming outdoors. The permit received approvals from all requisite departments.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote 2-0 to approve the filming permit as requested. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

TOWN MEETING REMOTE VOTING DEVICES (“CLICKERS”)

Moderator Doug Storey was in attendance and reported a nostalgia for voice voting but was interested in hearing the opinions of the Board. Mr. Wysocki reported that the clickers were a timesaver for close votes. Mr. Wysocki also commented that it will be good to get used to the devices now. Mr. Storey committed to using the devices but will decide whether to use them for every vote. Mr. Czekanski opined that with the light agenda it would be a good opportunity to give the devices a workout and test them in a non-controversial setting. Town Clerk Pam Powell agreed stating that the more people use them the more they will feel comfortable with them. Mr. Czekanski stated that he would rather a glitch this spring than in the fall.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR REPORTS

ARPA Funding

Mr. Lowe reviewed a project summary for the projects committed to use ARPA funding. The summary listed the spent and remaining funds breakdown of committed funds. \$155,595.46 funds are remaining for public safety building/library well pump, public safety building generator, DPW Furnace Replacement, Master Planning consultant, flooring replacement at Florence Sawyer and Sawyer Road Culvert. The two items which resulted in the greatest reallocations were the \$70K committed to the Master Plan for which a grant has been secured and \$72,966.99 for the flooring replacement at Florence Sawyer due to the quotes coming in lower than estimated.

Mr. Lowe explained that the two earmarks from FY22 and FY23, once received, may also be applied to the Sawyer road culvert which will free up additional funds.

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote 2-0 to recommit ARPA funds totaling \$155,595.46 and to reduce the Culvert Road commitment from \$400K to \$117,322.50. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote 2-0 to approve the ARPA funds for the covid tests in the amount of \$8,816 and the administrative costs associated with those tests for \$28.88. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

SELECT BOARD BUSINESS

Public Service Announcements

Mr. Czekanski reminded that the Annual Town Meeting is scheduled for Monday May 1st with Town election scheduled for May 8th from noon until 8pm. A greater attendance brings better validation of the results.

Request for feedback on MVP Grant

Mr. Wysocki commented that they should dovetail with what the Master Plan Steering Committee is doing.

Mr. Czekanski commented that he spoke with Conservation Agent Rebecca Bucciaglia. Mr. Czekanski responded to the question about how the Board would feel about changing bylaws to respond to landscape issues and climate resiliency. Mr. Czekanski commented that he is generally in favor but requests that the changes be very specific so you know what you can and cannot do with a piece of land before you buy a piece of land. Mr. Czekanski commented that the Conservation Commission, the Planning Board and the Master Plan Steering Committee are working together and communicating with each other.

Review Meeting Dates

The Board received draft meeting dates for consideration. The Board will be voting on the dates after the election.

Bills/Payroll Warrants

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote 2-0 to approve bills/payroll warrant W23-21 & W23-21A (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Minutes

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote 2-0 to approve minutes of March 30th, 2023. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

On a motion made by Czekanski and seconded by Wysocki the Board voted unanimously by roll call vote 2-0 to adjourn at 7:51pm. (Czekanski-yes, Wysocki-yes)

Respectfully submitted by J. Jacobsen.