

Select Board
Regular Meeting Minutes
November 14, 2022, 5:30PM

Present: Chair Hazard, Selectman Keyes, Selectman Stock, Town Administrator Schindler

Chair Hazard called the meeting to order at 5:30PM.

Consent Items

Review and Approve Request for Fire Department to Host Gobble Wobble Race, November 24, 2022

Selectman Stock moved to approve the Fire Departments request to host the Gobble Wobble Race on November 24, 2022. Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Appointments & Resignations

Accept Resignation of Career FF Matthew Berger effective 11/13/2022

Selectman Stock moved to accept the resignation of Career Firefighter, Matthew Berger, effective November 13, 2022. Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Appointments to Zoning Board of Appeals; One Regular Member and Two Alternates:
Applicants: Wayne Ashworth, 32 Anthony Rd.; Nicole G. Small, 4 Bancroft Park; Hope Ann Perkins, 9 Mellen St.

Town Administrator Schindler stated that the regular member position will expire in 2025. Chair Hazard disclosed that Hope Perkins is a friend of hers from High School. Hazard called the Ethics Commission and was informed that it is not an issue; Hazard has filed a disclosure form with the Town Clerk. Selectman Keyes stated that Nicole Small is a third cousin on his wife's side of the family, he also filed a disclosure form with the Town Clerk and was informed by Town Counsel that it is a non-issue. Chair Hazard stated that all three applicants wanted the regular member position; the Select Board will need to decide who gets the regular member position. Selectman Keyes stated that Nicole Small has been active in other Boards/Committees and has a record of participation. Selectman Keyes would like to speak with the other applicants to discuss their interests and qualifications for the Zoning Board of Appeals. Wayne Ashworth's wife, Linda informed the Select Board that Wayne is an engineer and is familiar with working with Zoning Boards. Selectman Keyes asked Ms. Small how she would handle controversy on the Zoning Board. Ms. Small requested that the record reflects that she is Nicole G. Small, there has been confusion in the past as there is another Nicole Small with the same date of birth in the state of Massachusetts. Small responded to Selectman Keyes stating that she has been an active member of the Town, serving on the Master Plan Steering Committee, she also summarized her

work experience and background and how it would apply to the Zoning Board of Appeals. Small stated that she wants to be a regular member, not an alternate. Selectman Keyes asked Small if she would be swayed by the public opinion or follow facts and bylaws. Small stated that she is not swayed by others opinions and would follow Town bylaws and facts.

Chair Hazard spoke on behalf of Hope Perkins, stating that Perkins has followed the ZBA meetings and projects and it wouldn't be foreign for her to step in and become a member. Scott Savage, member of the Zoning Board, asked that the Select Board choose someone that has a strong knowledge of the Zoning Bylaws and can contribute to the clerical leg work. Resident Len Guertin stated that Nicole G. Small is a very active member of the community and would be a good fit for the Zoning Board. Ms. Small asked for these items to be put on record: there was a comment in the chat box that she is aggressive; Small responded that she may speak in a loud tone but that is not her being aggressive. Further, Small referred to Chair Hazard's comment that Hope Perkins has attended all of the Zoning Board meetings, stating that per Perkins' talent bank form, she has attended six Zoning Board meetings. Lastly, Small stated there is currently a public record request regarding this Zoning Board position, the Town Clerk and Selectman Keyes have already responded but Selectman Stock and Chair Hazard have not. Chair Hazard stated that Selectman Stock and herself have ten days to respond. A member of the Zoning Board urged the Select Board to proceed with an appointment to the ZBA.

Selectman Keyes moved to appoint Nicole G. Small as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. There was no second to the motion.

Chair Hazard moved to appoint Wayne Ashworth as a regular member of the Zoning Board of Appeals. There was no second to the motion.

Wayne Ashworth joined the meeting and reviewed his work experience with the Select Board stating that he is a chemical engineer and his job has given him experience with working with Boards and Committees. He noted that he plans on retiring in the next few years and is interested in serving the Town. In response to the same questions Selectman Keyes posed to Ms. Small, Ashworth stated that at his current job, there are decisions that he needs to make, he looks at the pros and cons of the situation, how it will affect the business, employees and what management response would be. Even if the management response is negative, he sometimes needs to go against the management's opinion.

Hope Perkins joined the meeting, noting that she is very interested in this position and wants to put her skills towards helping the Zoning Board address issues that come before it. She has worked in corporate America for twenty years assisting in creating contracts. Perkins stated that she is very receptive to all opinions. In response to a question from Selectman Keyes, Perkins responded that she does not have any relation to a member of the Zoning Board. Selectman Keyes asked Perkins the questions he posed to the other two candidates. Perkins responded that she would evaluate each issue, review the pros and cons, and gather all facts and statistics. She would have an open mind to listen to residents' opinions, but she would never compromise her beliefs or decisions. She would not be swayed by others and look to facts and data.

Selectman Keyes asked the applicants if they have ever been vocal on social media in favor or opposition to current issues and if any of them are on a petition opposing a current issue. Perkins responded that yes, she has made a comment on social media regarding 75 Plain Street and she signed a petition. Ashworth responded that he has commented and has signed a petition on an issue. Small responded that she does not believe she has commented on social media regarding current items. As a resident, she follows the Plain Street Development Facebook page. As a Development & Industrial Commission member, she has gone on record supporting the GFI Partners' Plain Street proposal. Selectman Keyes thanked the applicants for being transparent.

Selectman Keyes moved to appoint Nicole G. Small as a regular member of the Hopedale Zoning Board of Appeals. Selectman Stock seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – No Passed 2:1

Chair Hazard stated that the Select Board will revisit the alternate appointments at a later date.

New Business

Old Business

ARPA Request for \$120,000 for Year 4 Contract for Stormwater MS4 Permitting

Town Administrator Schindler stated that at Annual Town Meeting the Finance Committee had deferred the stormwater management costs and asked the Select Board to use ARPA funds. Schindler stated that there are enough funds in ARPA to pay for this.

Selectman Stock moved to approve \$120,000 of ARPA funds for year 4 contract for Stormwater MS4 permitting. Selectman Keyes seconded the motion.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Review Final Motions & Funding Sources for Special Town Meeting at 7 pm

Chair Hazard stated that there is not enough time to review the final motions as a Board.

Public and Board Member Comments (votes will not be taken)

Correspondence and Select Board Informational Items (votes will not be taken)

- Rosenfeld Concrete v. Town of Hopedale, Default Judgment, Recorded 10/27/2022
- GU RR Access Agreement, Executed 11/2/2022
- A/P Warrant #23-09, \$373,110.87, 11/3/2022
- P/R Warrant #23-09, \$814,430.27, 11/3/2022
- A/P Special Warrant, #23-09C, \$5,000, 11/4/2022
- Issuance of Constructive Grant for Hopedale Ridge (a.k.a. Overdale Parkway)

- Benefit for Toys for Tots, Sponsored by the US Marines; Saturday, Nov. 26th, 2022, 10:00 am-1:00 pm; Roadside Collection for Spare Change, Rt. 16, Main St., and the Cumberland Farms Store

Requests for Future Agenda Items

- Select Board Meeting/Classification Hearing, 11/21/22
- Fire/EMS Appointments, 11/21/22
- Approve 9/12/22 Select Board Minutes, 11/21/22
- Interviews for Interim Town Administrator, 11/21/22
- Annual Select Board License Renewals, 12/12/22

Administrator Updates (In Packet)

Executive Session: None

Selectman Stock motioned to adjourn the regular meeting, seconded by Selectman Keyes.

Stock – Aye, Keyes – Aye, Hazard – Aye

Chair Hazard dissolved the meeting at 6:46PM.

Submitted by: Lindsay Peterman

Board Adopted: 3/27/2023