

Select Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting Date: 8/8/2023

Members in Attendance: Michael Zullas, Chair; Erin G. Bradley, Vice Chair, Roxanne Musto, Secretary; Benjamin Zoll, Member; Nicholas Milano, Town Administrator (REMOTE) and Lynne DeNapoli, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

Late Arrival : Richard G. Wells, Jr. -7:34PM (REMOTE)

Meeting Location: Council on Aging - Hybrid

Time Meeting called to Order: 7:03PM

Time Meeting Adjourned: 10:20PM

- 1. Call to Order**
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**

Chair Zullas called the meeting of the Select Board to order at 7:03 PM and led the Pledge of Allegiance.

3. Public Comment

Chair Zullas introduced Colin Loiselle, the new Assistant Town Administrator.

Mark Christo – 14 Waldo Road

Mr. Christo shared his support in favor of a letter requesting the reclassification of Milton's current rapid transit designation to an adjacent community. Mr. Christo highlighted a few key points: The Mattapan trolley is distinctly dissimilar from rapid transit. It is a small standalone loop, just over two miles in length that provides service to the Ashmont station. The Mattapan trolley does not provide passengers with direct transport to the downtown corridor as the other MBTA rapid transit lines do. Milton does not enjoy the same benefits as the 11 other rapid transit communities.

Maggie Wilson – 21 Woodlot Drive (President of the HOA for Milton Woods)

Ms. Wilson was joined by representatives from Quesset Brook, Indian Cliffs, Gov. Stoughton Lane and residents from neighboring communities that abut the Town Farm. On behalf of these residents, Ms. Wilson made two requests:

1. Public Engagement and input regarding the use of the land.

The residents would like their comments/concerns heard before the RFP is finalized and submitted to the Attorney General for approval. They would also like the Town to host future Town Farm discussions. The neighbors want to stay informed.

2. Additional Thoughts on the RFP before it is released.

The abutting residents are concerned that stormwater and infrastructure are not included in the draft RFP and are key factors that need to be addressed.

Mr. Geoff Wilkinson - 199 Beacon Street (Co-Founder of Affordable Inclusive Milton)

Mr. Wilkinson shared his thoughts on two issues:

He is appreciative of the progress that the Trustees have made on developing Affordable Housing on the Town Farm.

Mr. Wilkinson does not support the Town's request to reclass its rapid transit designation. He believes that Milton should comply with the MBTA Communities Multi-Family Zoning law.

Ms. Linda Champion – 19 Aberdeen Road

Ms. Champion offered her support in favor of developing more affordable housing opportunities for various age groups in Milton. She feels that the Town Farm is a good location for such a development.

Mr. Jackson Humphreys – 34 Hoy Terrace

Mr. Humphreys shared his support in favor of expanding the Town's affordable housing portfolio. He also applauded the hard work of the Team in the Planning and Community Development Office for the progress the Town is making in complying with the MBTA Communities Multi-Family Zoning law. Mr. Humphreys suggested that the Town continue its efforts to comply with MBTA Communities Zoning Requirements and explore the history of the Mattapan trolley line.

4. Discussion/Approval- "Milton Glows Gold" Proclamation

Ms. Kari McHugh joined the meeting to promote "Milton Glows Gold" in recognition of the Michael McHugh Foundation and Childhood Cancer Awareness Month in September.

The MCM Foundation has a new event for Milton Glows Gold in 2023: The Jumping Jack Challenge.

Jump, alone or with friends to raise awareness and funds to support families whose lives were permanently impacted by cancer. Just like the 2022 event (the Run/Walk/Ride) by registering and committing to your goal of jumping jacks for the month of September you will fuel our goal of reaching 15,780 jumping jacks, one for every child diagnosed with cancer each year.

The Members applauded Ms. McHugh for her hard work and dedication.

Chair Zullas read the Milton Glows Gold Proclamation. Ms. Musto moved to approve the proclamation designating September 29, 2023 as 'Milton Glows Gold' Day in honor of Michael McHugh. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bradley. The Board voted unanimously to approve the proclamation.

5. Discussion/Approval – Citations honoring Sergeant Mike Breen and Sergeant Mike Dillon on their retirements from the Milton Police Department

Chair Zullas read citations honoring Sgt. Mike Breen and Sgt. Mike Dillon on their retirements from the Milton Police Department.

Ms. Bradley moved to approve the citations honoring Sergeant Mike Breen and Sergeant Mike Dillon on their retirements from the Milton Police Department. The motion was seconded by Ms. Musto. The Board voted unanimously to approve the citations.

Chair Zullas noted that the Board will address item #12: next. Wharf Park CPA Project

(12)

Discussion/Update/Approval – Wharf Park CPA Project

Chair Zullas invited Mr. Nicholas Milano, the Town Administrator and Mr. Scott McKay, a Board Member for the Friends of Milton Recreation and Milton Farmers Market to provide an update on the status of the Wharf Park CPA project.

Adjacent to the waterfront, the park is home to the Milton Farmer’s Market and Milton Crew during the off-season. It is a small area, but a hub of activity. The grounds/walkways have eroded and are in need of repairs. Wharf Park is titled for General Municipal Purposes and is overseen by the Select Board.

The CPA awarded a \$25,000 grant to Friends of Milton Recreation and Milton Farmers Market for an architect to design a more usable space for the park and a possible expansion. These organizations have prepared the solicitation for landscape architects. Three firms are due to submit their applications by week’s end. The Friends of Milton Recreation and Milton Farmers Market will work with Mr. Milano to choose the architect/firm and establish a timeline. These organizations will request that the Firm hold community meetings to share the designs and seek input from the residents. The goal is to submit designs to the Select Board in February 2024 for their approval. Wharf Park is titled for General Municipal Purposes and any changes need authorization from the Select Board.

The Members were all supportive of this initiative and asked that one of the community meetings be held at the Council on Aging to allow Seniors to participate. Mr. McKay noted the request. Chair Zullas suggested that Town Counsel review any future contract with the landscape architect for clarity.

At 7:46PM, Ms. Bradley moved to recess from the Select Board Meeting to convene the meeting of the Trustees of the Gov. Stoughton Trust. The motion was seconded by Ms. Musto. The Board voted all in favor to recess.

Mr. Loiselle informed the Board that Mr. Wells had joined the meeting through Remote Access. All votes will be done via roll call.

The Board Members resumed the Select Board Meeting at 8:37PM.

6. Discussion/Approval – Contract with BETA Group, Inc. for traffic engineering consulting services

Mr. Chase Berkeley, Director of the Department of Public Work and Chair of the Traffic Commission provided an overview of the contract with BETA Group, Inc. This contract is the final step in securing a traffic engineer role in Town. This position is a recommendation of the Traffic Mitigation Study completed in 2020. Mr. Berkeley noted that BETA Group, Inc. is affiliated with several MA communities and is well versed on Milton’s traffic patterns and signal equipment. He is looking forward to working with the team at Beta Group, Inc.

Mr. Wells moved to approve the Contract with BETA Group, Inc. for traffic engineering consulting services and authorize the Town Administrator to sign on the Board’s behalf. The motion was seconded by Ms. Musto. The Board voted unanimously by roll call vote (5-0) to approve the contract.

BRADLEY: YES

MUSTO: YES

WELLS: YES

ZOLL: YES

ZULLAS: YES

7. Discussion/Approval – Bike Master Plan

Chair Zullas invited Mr. Tim Czerwienski, Director of Planning and Community Development to provide the Members with an overview of the Mater Plan Implementation Committee’s, (MPIC) recommendation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

The draft was completed in June 2022 and finalized in the Fall. It was a collaboration between the Town and the Metropolitan Area Planning Council. Discussions of the plan are on-going and the recommendation from MPIC includes suggestions for next steps. The Plan, if approved by the Select Board will be used as a guide for future roadway improvements.

The goals include but are not limited the following:

- Develop a culture where residents and employees choose to walk, bike, and roll to schools, retail areas, places of employment, and other points of interest and can do so safely and conveniently.

- Develop a bicycle and pedestrian network plan connecting these Town-wide destinations and surrounding communities through safe, comfortable, and convenient routes
- Begin to institutionalize the implementation of pedestrian and bicycle accommodations at the local level as part of all roadway projects.

Ms. Musto expressed her appreciation to all those who participated in drafting the Plan. While she supports components of the Plan, she did acknowledge concerns raised by residents to MPIC. Ms. Musto suggested that before any specific proposals are implemented, that they be thoroughly vetted by neighborhood associations, residents and Town Departments in order to meet the needs of the Town and current standards.

Mr. Zoll noted that some residents did express specific concerns about the Plan, many were supportive. Mr. Zoll shared his support and is looking forward to seeing the Plan unfold.

Ms. Bradley, an advocate for bicycle safety, also supports this initiative.

Chair Zullas inquired about who would oversee the implementation of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan. Mr. Czerwienski suggested that the Select Board could make that determination as they are the authoritative, governing body of the Town. Mr. Czerwienski suggested that the Traffic Commission is an advisory body that can administer the Plan.

Mr. Wells, speaking as a former Police Chief and Chair of the Traffic Commission offered his support in favor of the Plan. There are traffic concerns in Town and by investing in BETA and the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan we can work together to address those concerns.

Mr. Zoll moved to approve the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan from the Master Plan Implementation Committee. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bradley. The Board voted unanimously by roll call vote (5-0) to approve the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan from the Master Plan.

The Board Members requested that the cover memo and corresponding documents always accompany the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan.

BRADLEY: YES

MUSTO: YES

WELLS: YES

ZOLL: YES

ZULLAS: YES

8. Discussion/Approval- Recommendations of the Airplane Noise Advisory Committee

- a. Letter to the Department of Transportation regarding advanced air mobility

Chair Zullas noted that the Board Members will address item #10: Water and Sewer Rates for Fiscal Year 2024 next and return to item # 8.

(10)

Discussion/Approval – Water and Sewer Rates for Fiscal Year 2024

DPW Director Chase Berkeley and Consultant Todd Prokop of Woodard and Curran reviewed the water and sewer usage and rates in Milton over the last year and the proposed increases for fiscal year 2024.

Following the presentation and discussion, Ms. Musto moved to approve the FY’2024 water and sewer rates. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wells. The Board voted unanimously by roll call (5-0,) to approve the water and sewer rates for FY’2024 according to the table below:

BRADLEY: YES
MUSTO: YES
WELLS: YES
ZOLL: YES
ZULLAS: YES

	WATER RATE	% INCREASE	SEWER RATE	% INCREASE
Tier 1	\$6.75	3.0%	\$8.12	11.1%
Tier 2	\$8.15	3.0%	\$15.30	11.1%
Tier 3	\$8.99	3.0%	\$16.83	11.1%
Tier 4	\$9.55	3.0%	\$18.00	11.1%

(8)

Discussion/Approval- Recommendations of the Airplane Noise Advisory Committee

b. Letter to the Department of Transportation regarding advanced air mobility

Ms. Kathleen Conlon, Chair of the Airplane Noise Advisory Committee joined the Members. She stated that a notice was posted in case we had a quorum, but that no quorum of ANAC was present.

Ms. Conlon provided an overview of the comment letter to the Department of Transportation regarding Advanced Air Mobility. She expressed her appreciation on behalf of the Airplane Noise Advisory Committee, John King, Milton’s Chief of Police; Frank Schroth, former editor of a drone publication, and Juan Navarro, who operates an aerial photography business that uses drones for their assistance and advice on this matter.

Mr. Wells moved to approve the Letter to the Department of Transportation regarding advanced air mobility per the recommendation of the Airplane Noise Advisory Committee. The motion

was seconded by Ms. Musto. The Board voted unanimously by roll call (5-0,) to approve the letter.

BRADLEY: YES

MUSTO: YES

WELLS: YES

ZOLL: YES

ZULLAS: YES

9. Discussion/Approval – Letter to the MBTA Board of Directors regarding the classification of and fares on the Mattapan High Speed Line

Chair Zullas shared the draft letter addressed to the MBTA Board of Directors relative to the classification of and fares on the Mattapan High Speed Line. Chair Zullas collaborated with Ms. Hall, Chair of the Planning Board; Mr. Czerwienski, Director of Planning and Community Development and Mr. Milano, Town Administrator on this letter. It highlights some inequities and requests that Milton’s designation as rapid transit be reevaluated.

Mr. Zoll made some revisions. Mr. Zoll’s recommended changes were filed with the Town Clerk and posted on the Town’s website so the Public and the Board Members had access at the same time.

Mr. Zoll noted that he is not in support of the re-classification of Milton’s rapid transit designation but is open to gaining a better understanding of why Milton received this designation. He also noted that he replaced the historical references with more relevant current events.

Chair Zullas thanked Mr. Zoll for his efforts and offered his support in favor of the revisions. Chair Zullas noted that the changes make a better, more focused presentation. He indicated that there is no material change to the request or real change to the arguments. Chair Zullas did make one suggestion: change the courts of justice to resort to legal action.

Ms. Musto felt that Mr. Zoll’s recommendations changed the tone and focus of the letter. She preferred the original draft that included historical references and a request for reclassification. She did request that the Board make one change: extend the response deadline to September 8, 2023.

Mr. Wells shared his feedback and concerns raised to him by residents. He suggested that it would be prudent for the Board to approve the language drafted by the Chair of the Select Board, Town Administrator, Chair of the Planning Board and the Director of Planning and Community Development. It was a collaborative effort.

After further discussion, Ms. Bradley moved to accept the draft letter red-lined by Mr. Zoll and the deadline change to September 8, 2023. Ms. Bradley then offered a friendly amendment to include the phrase resort to legal action rather than mighty courts of Justice. Mr. Zoll seconded the motion. The Board voted by roll call (3-2) to accept the amended, red-lined draft letter to the

MBTA Board of Directors regarding the classification of and fares on the Mattapan High Speed Line.

BRADLEY: YES
MUSTO: NO
WELLS: NO
ZOLL: YES
ZULLAS: YES

11. Discussion/Approval – Letter to the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the Lower Neponset River Community Involvement Plan

Mr. Milano provided the Board Members with an overview of the letter to the EPA regarding the Lower Neponset River Community Involvement Plan. The Town of Milton would like the EPA to expand its Superfund Designation to include the entire Neponset River.

Mr. Zoll moved to approve the Letter to the Environmental Protection Agency regarding the Lower Neponset River Community Involvement Plan and to include the Mayors of Boston and Quincy in the correspondence. The motion was seconded by Ms. Musto.

Chair Zullas suggested that the letter be amended to highlight the language relative to containments.

Mr. Zoll offered a friendly amendment to highlight the language relative to containments. Ms. Musto approved the friendly amendment. The Board voted by roll call (5-0) to approve the amended letter.

BRADLEY: YES
MUSTO: YES
WELLS: YES
ZOLL: YES
ZULLAS: YES

12. Discussion/Update/Approval – Wharf Park CPA Project

This item was discussed earlier in the evening.

13. Discussion/Approval – Select Board Policies: Public Participation at Select Board Meetings

The Members discussed extending the Public Participation portion of their meetings to accommodate more residents who wish to speak on an issue. The current allotment is 15 minutes, three minutes per speaker for a total of five speakers. Mr. Zoll suggested increasing the time to 21 minutes, allowing for two additional speakers.

Mr. Zoll moved to amend the Select Board Policy regarding Public Participation: public comment shall not exceed twenty-one (21) minutes. The motion was seconded by Mr. Wells.

The Board voted by roll call (5-0) to approve the amended policy regarding Public Participation at Select Board meetings.

BRADLEY: YES
MUSTO: YES
WELLS: YES
ZOLL: YES
ZULLAS: YES

14. Discussion/Approval – Request for Written Quotations for Fiber to the Home (FTTH) Master Plan Services

Chair Zullas, a Member of the Municipal Broadband Committee provided the Members with an update. The Municipal Broadband Committee is requesting approval from the Board to authorize a request for quotations (costs) for a consultant to draft a fiber home service plan.

Mr. Wells moved to approve the Request for Written Quotations for Fiber to the Home (FTTH) Master Plan Services.” The motion was seconded by Mr. Zoll. The Board voted by roll call (5-0) to approve the Request for Written Quotations.

BRADLEY: YES
MUSTO: YES
WELLS: YES
ZOLL: YES
ZULLAS: YES

15. Discussion/Approval – Parkway Cab Co, Inc. Taxi License

Mr. Wells moved to approve a Taxi License to Parkway Cab. Co., Inc. The motion was seconded by Ms. Musto. The Board voted unanimously by roll call to approve the Taxi License for Parkway Cab. Co., Inc.

BRADLEY: YES
MUSTO: YES
WELLS: YES
ZOLL: YES
ZULLAS: YES

16. Discussion/Approval – Reconsideration of June 13, 2023 Meeting Minutes

Ms. Musto requested that the minutes for June 13, 2023 be re-considered for clarity and accuracy.

Ms. Musto shared concerns that the minutes from the June 13th do not paint a clear picture of what transpired during three separate discussions. Ms. Musto requested that Ms. Bradley

elaborate on what occurred during the meeting and amend the minutes. Ms. Bradley stated that she will not amend the minutes and the Board needed to move past the matter.

17. Discussion/Approval -Meeting Minutes

a. June 27, 2023

b. July 6, 2023

(a)

Mr. Zoll requested a spelling correction on agenda item 19 on the minutes for June 27th.

Ms. Musto moved to approve the amended meeting minutes of June 27, 2023. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bradley. The Board voted by roll call to approve the amended minutes for June 27, 2023.

BRADLEY: YES

MUSTO: YES

WELLS: ABSTAIN

ZOLL: YES

ZULLAS: YES

(b)

The Members had no objection to including Ms. Musto's comments in the minutes for July 6, 2023.

Mr. Zoll moved to approve the amended meeting minutes of July 6, 2023. The motion was seconded by Ms. Musto. The Board voted by roll call to approve the amended minutes for July 6, 2023.

BRADLEY: YES

MUSTO: YES

WELLS: ABSTAIN

ZOLL: YES

ZULLAS: YES

18. Town Administrator's Report

Mr. Milano provided an update on the goings-on from Town Hall:

The bid proposals for the Animal Shelter are due on August 9, 2023.

The parking lot at the MBTA, Milton Station has been repaved.

The next public forum to discuss the MBTA Communities Law and Milton's planning efforts will be held at 7:00 PM on Tuesday, August 15, 2023 on Zoom. Mr. Czerwienski, Director of Planning and Community Development will be in attendance at the Warrant Committee meeting on August 14th to provide a progress report. Mr. Czerwienski worked with Ms. Galvin (Town

Clerk) and Robert Hiss (Town Moderator) to distribute an e-mail notification to Town Meeting Members about this process.

The S&P Global Ratings has affirmed the Town of Milton's outstanding AAA Bond Rating and assigned its 'SP-1+' rating to the Town for its anticipated \$20.15M general obligation (GO) bond anticipation notes (BANs) in connection with the construction of the new Milton Fire Department Headquarters.

Oral arguments for the FAA case will begin on September 7th at 9:30AM on Zoom.

19. Chair's Report

Chair Zullas emphasized the importance of the results of the S&P Global Ratings report.

20. Public Comment Response

Ms. Musto extended her appreciation to the residents who participated in Public Comment earlier this evening.

21. Future Meeting Dates:

The Board will meet on Tuesday, August 22, 2023 and Tuesday, September 12, 2023, Tuesday, September 26, 2023. Mr. Zoll informed the Members that he will not be able to attend the meeting on September 26th.

22. Future Agenda Items

a. Select Board Committee Reassignments

This matter has been deferred.

23. Executive Session - Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(6) - To discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property (Blue Hill Ave: B 7 5 and 676 Brush Hill Road: B 7 4)

This matter has been deferred.

24. Executive Session - Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(6) – To discuss the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property (Town Landing, Wharf Street)

This matter has been deferred.

25. Executive Session -Executive Session- Pursuant to M.G.L. c. 30A, § 21(a)(3) – To discuss strategy with respect to collective bargaining

a. Milton Firefighters, Local 1116

This matter has been deferred.

26. Discussion/Approval – Lease Agreements for the Town Landing, Wharf Street

This matter has been deferred.

27. Adjourn

At 10:20PM Ms. Musto moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Ms. Bradley. The Board voted unanimously by roll call to adjourn.

BRADLEY: YES

MUSTO: YES

WELLS: YES

ZOLL: YES

ZULLAS: YES

Respectfully submitted by Lynne DeNapoli, Executive Administrative Assistant to the Select Board

Documents

Michael C. McHugh Memorial Foundation Information

Milton Glows Gold Proclamation

Contract with BETA Group, Inc. for traffic engineering consulting services

Recommendation of the Master Plan Implementation Committee - Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan

Town of Milton - Bike and Pedestrian Master Plan

Woodard & Curran – Fiscal Year 2024 Water and Sewer Rates Analysis and Recommendation Report

Town of Milton-Wharf Park Design

Select Board Policy- Public Participation at Select Board Meetings

MIIA Risk Management- Code of Conduct – Guidelines for Town Boards and Committees

Draft – Request for Proposals for Affordable Housing at the Town Farm

Draft Letter to the MBTA Board of Directors - Request to reevaluate Town of Milton’s Rapid Transit Designation

Draft Memo to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 1 - Lower Neponset River Superfund Site, Community Involvement Plan

Recommendation from the Airplane Noise Advisory Committee:

Draft Letter to the U.S. Department of Transportation – Advanced Air Mobility

Memo from Milton Police Department – Inspection - Parkway Cab Co., Inc.

Meting Minutes: June 13, 2023, June 27, 2023 and July 6, 2023