

**Regular Session Minutes – Bedford, MA Select Board Meeting
Hybrid Participation Meeting (Select Board Meeting Room and Zoom)
October 11, 2022**

PRESENT: Town Manager Sarah Stanton, Assistant Town Manager for HR and Administration Colleen Doyle, Chair Emily Mitchell, Shawn Hanegan, Edward Pierce, Margot Fleischman

ALSO PRESENT: Leanne Petto, Administrative Assistant, Town Manager’s Office; Sandra Clarey, MBTA; Bin Zhou, MBTA; Robert Guptill, MBTA; Mike Rosenberg, *The Bedford Citizen*; David Manugian, Director of Public Works; Charlie Ticotsky, Special Assistant to the Town Manager; John Fisher; Nicholas Howard; Aaron Bourret; Rick Rosen; John McClain; Chris Mohen; Shaun Kennery; Katie Guerino; Karl Wirth; Mark Bailey; Dawn LaFrance-Linden; Doug Horton; Randy Fixman; Steven Hagan; Ben Thomas.

Ms. Mitchell called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm.

22-158 Executive session for the purposes of conducting strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or litigation and approval of minutes.

Mr. Hanegan moved to open Executive session for the purposes of conducting strategy sessions in preparation for negotiations with nonunion personnel or litigation and approval of minutes, to return to open session. Mr. Pierce seconded.

**Mr. Hanegan moved to open the Public Session. Mr. Pierce seconded.
The motion passed 4-0-0.**

22-182 Public Comment

There was no public comment.

22-183 Appointment of Police Chief – John C. Fisher

Ms. Stanton provided an explanation of Chief Fisher’s background and what he would bring to Bedford. She explained the rigorous interview process with community stakeholders.

Ms. Mitchell welcomed Chief Fisher to Bedford. Mr. Hanegan asked him to explain his philosophy on restorative justice. Chief Fisher replied that he wanted more for our young people, to get more out of their upsides and less focus of their downsides. Mr. Hanegan asked about department turnover. Chief Fisher explained that the established staff had an excellent foundation, and as new staff were brought in, he was able to recruit individuals with similar values. He also noted one must also reinforce positive behavior and put the public first, the department second. Mr. Pierce asked about his priorities over the next 90 days and the next year. Chief Fisher said he intends to begin by reviewing the needs and status of the department, and spend one-on-one time with officers on the job as much as possible. Ms. Fleischman asked Chief Fisher how he plans to introduce himself to the Town and leverage his relationships with other communities. Chief Fisher said he will attend local events, to show investment in the community, and will stay active regionally with Northeastern Municipal Law Enforcement Council and Northeast Homeland Security Advisory Council, to understand best practices in the area with the ever-growing changes in public safety.

Mr. Fleischman moved to approve the appointment of John C. Fisher as the Police Chief consistent with the employment agreement in the paperwork. Mr. Pierce seconded.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

Materials: John Fisher Contract

22-185 Department of Public Works (This item was taken out of order)

Ms. Stanton presented one change order for Corr-Tech, Inc. This is an existing contract that manages our water distribution program. Two previous change orders have already been approved.

Mr. Pierce moved that the Town approve Corr-Tech, Inc., Change Order #3 for the Water Tank Rehabilitation Project in the amount of \$196,971.00. Mr. Hanegan seconded.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

Materials: Memo to Select Board Water Tank Rehabilitation CO#3 Corr-Tech; Corr-Tech Change Order #3

22-188 Consent Agenda

Ms. Stanton explained the four items: Election Warrant; Election Workers Appointments; Chapter 268A, Section 20(b) Disclosure for Courtney Socobasin; and

Regular Session Meeting Minutes: September 26, 2022.

**Mr. Hanegan moved to approve the Consent Agenda. Mr. Pierce seconded.
The motion passed 4-0-0.**

Materials: State Election 2022.11.08 Warrant; Election Worker Appointments; Chapter 268A, Section 20(b) Disclosure – Socobasin; 09262022 Select Board Minutes Draft

22-189 Town Manager's Report

Ms. Stanton presented The Bedford Utility Box Project. Sarah Scoville, the coordinator, is hoping to paint two more boxes in Bedford in spring 2023, and will send out a call for artists through the Cultural District.

Ms. Mitchell commented that Ms. Scoville has applied for a Cultural Council grant for materials.

**Mr. Hanegan moved to approve two additional utility box projects. Mr. Pierce seconded.
The motion passed 4-0-0.**

Materials: Bedford Utility Box Project Select Board 2023

22-184 Utility Hearing (this item was taken out of order)

**Mr. Pierce moved to open the public hearing. Mr. Hanegan seconded.
The motion passed 4-0-0.**

There were no comments from the public during the hearing.

**Mr. Pierce moved to close the public hearing. Mr. Hanegan seconded.
The motion passed 4-0-0.**

Mr. Hanegan moved that the Town approve the petition to construct the utility as described and shown on the Order and Plans, dated September 22, 2022, for Homestead Circle on behalf of NSTAR Electric Company DBA Eversource Energy, with the condition of repair to the sidewalk, road, and granite curb to existing conditions or better and that Eversource will submit an application for a Street Opening Permit with the Department of Public Works which will outline repair conditions. Mr. Pierce seconded.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

Materials:

10053918 HOMESTEAD CIRCLE (PLAN), 10053918– HOMESTEAD CIRCLE TO DPW (PLAN), 10053918– HOMESTEAD CIRCLE – LETTER, 10053918 – HOMESTEAD CIRCLE – ORDER, 10053918 – HOMESTEAD CIRCLE – PETITION, DPW Comment – Homestead Circle, Memo to Select Board, Public Meeting Notice Eversource – Homestead Circle

22-186 Board and Committee Interviews (this item was taken out of order)

Ms. Mitchell thanked everyone that applied for appointment. Ms. Mitchell reminded appointees that prior to the commencement of their duties, they are required to visit the Town Clerk’s Office to take the oath of office. Appointees may not participate in any votes until they have taken the oath of office. At that time, they will receive a Certificate of Appointment and a copy of Chapter 268A, Section 23, the Conflict of Interest Law, and Chapter 39, Sections 23A-24, the Open Meeting Law. All members are expected to be familiar with and follow the Town’s Civil Discourse Policy while serving. The Select Board suggests that Committees and Board rotate chairs annually.

Materials: Memo to the Select Board re: Committee Interviews

Committee Interviews:

1. Depot Park Advisory Committee—William Deen

Mr. Hanegan reviewed the general responsibilities of the Depot Park Advisory Committee.

Mr. Deen commented been a member of Friends of Depot Park since it was founded in 1995. He has collaborated with the Depot Park Advisory Committee on various projects for the past 11 years. He has a longstanding and strong interest in Depot Park and enjoys historic preservation.

Mr. Hanegan moved that the Select Board appoint William Deen to the Depot Park Advisory Committee for a term ending June 30, 2023, and authorize the Town manager to sign the appointment letter on behalf of the Select Board. Mr. Pierce seconded.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

Materials: William Deen questionnaire

2. Bicycle Advisory Committee—Nicholas Howard, Aaron Bourret, and Curt Dudley-Marling

Mr. Pierce reviewed the general responsibilities of the Bicycle Advisory Committee.

Three applicants (Nicholas Howard, Aaron Bourret, and Curt Dudley-Marling) have submitted Volunteer Questionnaires to serve on the Bicycle Advisory Committee. There is one vacancy on the Bicycle Advisory Committee, with a term ending June 30, 2025. Mr. Curt Dudley-Marling was not able to attend the meeting but submitted a statement. He has been an active cyclist for over 40 years and is interested in creating safe and accessible opportunities. Mr. Howard took up cycling to commute to work, and would like to develop youth riding, prioritizing greater accessibility for youths to build confidence. Mr. Bourret has been cycling for many years; he often would commute in Cambridge and understands the perils of shared roads. He moved to Bedford in 2014 and is pleased with the variety of trails. He believes that there should be better access in some neighborhoods and busy road intersections that could be addressed in the Master Plan.

Mr. Hanegan asked the applicants if they had attended a Bicycle Advisory Committee meeting and what they would bring to the board. Mr. Howard said he is a contrarian voice, to identify items that could become a problem in the future. Mr. Bourret hopes to have more in-person meetings; he thinks more natural and productive conversations happen while in person.

Mr. Hanegan asked how to mitigate bad behavior among cyclists, drivers, and pedestrians. Mr. Bourret believes in education initiatives for cyclists and drivers as well. Mr. Howard wants to identify problem areas in particular lines of sight, cutting back vegetation to reduce blind corners and paint lines.

Mr. Pierce asked how they felt about bicycle license plates. Mr. Bourret did not feel that it would be feasible unless the state would be willing to implement a policy, though local enforcement would definitely bring value like corrective behavior.

Ms. Mitchell asked what co-existing looks like among bikes, cars, and walkers. Mr. Bourret wants individuals to be mindful of their skills and use the appropriate trails for such, relying on education and safety measures to mitigate harm. Mr. Howard commented that he would like to get individuals involved as families, and focused on how infrastructure can improve safety, such as connecting trails.

Mr. Pierce commented that he was partial to Mr. Dudley-Marling.

Ms. Fleischman commented that she liked that Mr. Bourret looked at the Pedestrian Bicycle Master Plan and has reached out as a stakeholder about integrating changes. Mr. Hanegan commented that he was partial to Mr. Bourret as he was active during the Fox Run project with the Planning Board.

Mr. Hanegan moved that the Select Board appoint Aaron Bourret to the Bicycle Advisory Committee for a term ending June 30, 2025, and authorize the Town manager to sign the appointment letter on behalf of the Select Board. Ms.

Fleischman seconded.

The motion passed 4-0-0.

Materials: Nicholas Howard questionnaire; Aaron Bourret questionnaire; Curt Dudley-Marling questionnaire

22-187 MBTA Bus Stops

Bin Zou of MBTA gave a project overview. Sandra Clarey, Project Manager for MBTA, explained the MBTA is planning stop improvements at the Bedford VA, at Springs Road Opposite Building 23 and Springs Road at Building 70. VA staff have already approved a 100% design plan. Within the Bedford right-of-way, MBTA plans to eliminate stops at Springs Road at Pine Hill Road, which has poor visibility, low ridership and major right of way issues, as well as Springs Road at Hancock Street, due to low ridership. Springs Road at Nickerson Road, which has major right of way issues, is already temporarily closed, and MBTA plans to make that permanent. Oak Park Drive at CREO is planned for elimination due to low ridership and proximity to another stop. Great Road opposite Masardis Street is under MassDOT jurisdiction, but the MBTA would like feedback from the Town.

Ms. Fleischman commented that the first time the Town heard of eliminations was in 2017, through the Transportation Advisory Committee. She asked if MBTA and the Town can work collaboratively to get some East/West connectivity, perhaps by offsetting the locations of eliminated stops.

Mr. Hanegan asked if MBTA gave any consideration to the Pine Hill Crossing development. Ms. Clarey commented that Springs Road at Pine Hill is still not an ADA compliant site. Ms. Stanton wants to collaborate with the Department of Public Works and MBTA to make the necessary accessibility improvements. The board asked MBTA to give priority to bus stop locations serving the Pine Hill Crossing development.

Mr. Pierce moved acknowledge MBTA's proposed elimination of these stops, with recommendation that the MBTA work with the Department of Public Works to restore a stop in the Pine Hill/Spring Road area specifically to improve access to the Pine Hill Crossing and surrounding neighborhoods. Mr. Hanegan seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Materials: 2022-10-11 Bedford SB PATI Final 2022-09-27; Recommendation Bedford TAC-MBTAROUTECHANGES_Apr11

22-190 Open Discussion and Liaison Reports

Ms. Fleischman reported that the Zoning Board of Appeals will be getting additional training on variances. The Energy and Sustainability Committee noted that residents enrolled in the community choice aggregation program will benefit, as traditional energy rates are expected to increase significantly this winter. ESC is also co-sponsoring a Pumpkin Smash at the middle school in collaboration with Mothers Out Front.

Mr. Hanegan had no report.

Mr. Pierce had no report.

Ms. Mitchell reported that the Historic Preservation Consultant for the 139 Great Road Fire Station, Ryan Hayward, attended the Historic District Commission meeting and outlined his scope of work to the commission. The Finance Committee voted in favor of two of the remaining warrant articles for Special Town Meeting, but were unable to reach a quantum of the vote to make recommendation for the other three outstanding articles. The Town is hosting the last community forum for the Minuteman Bikeway Extension project on October 17.

Mr. Hanegan moved to adjourn. Mr. Pierce seconded. The motion passed 4-0-0.

Meeting adjourned at 8:44 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Leanne Petto