

Town Council Ordinance Committee
May 7, 2012 at 7:00 PM
Town Council Chambers

Present: Chairman Michael Smart
Arthur Mathews
Jane Hackett
Ed Harrington

Not Present: Kenneth DiFazio

Also Present: Brian McDonald
Robert Conlon
Patrick O'Connor
Michael Gallagher, Director of Administrative & Comm. Svcs.

Chairman Smart called the Town Council Ordinance Committee Meeting to order at 7:05 PM.

South Shore Hospital Merger with Partners HealthCare

Chairman Smart announced that he spoke with Allan McDonald, Community Outreach for the South Shore Hospital, who was not able to attend this evening. He read the following email, from Diane Hachey/Assistant to the Council, into the record for the benefit of the committee:

“I am emailing in confirmation of our telephone conversation, at which time I requested your appearance at the Town Council Ordinance Committee Meeting. We are seeking an update on the merger of South Shore Hospital with Partners Healthcare.

I would request that you contact me directly once you are able to schedule a mutual time for your update.

It was noted that Mr. McDonald contacted the Town Council Office to inform us that he is unable to attend the meeting.

Chairman Smart's intentions were to have both South Shore Hospital and Partners HealthCare appear this evening for an update on the potential merger. He is also reaching out to the Department of Public Health to ascertain the process, inclusive of the public comment procedure.

Councilor Mathews noted that he and Chairman Smart contacted South Shore Hospital once the merger was announced in the newspaper and they couldn't appear. Phone calls to Councilors started on Saturday and an article appeared in the Globe on Sunday.

An update from all parties will be forthcoming at a future meeting.

Fore River Bridge Labor Resolution

A draft of the resolution, prepared by Councilor O'Connor was distributed to the committee. Chairman Smart asked that Councilor O'Connor speak to the resolution. He is seeking Mass DOT to set criteria for the Fore River Bridge replacement project labor agreements (PLA), in an effort to secure local jobs in this challenging economy. Councilor O'Connor noted that it is under consideration that portions of the bridge are constructed in New Jersey and shipped here - and he is not in favor of this. He has reached out to the city of Quincy and wants the Town's voice heard regarding this important issue.

Chairman Smart read the resolution into the record:

*“Whereas, the Fore River Bridge overlooks Wessagusset, the oldest settlement site in the Massachusetts Bay Colony, also known as the Thomas Weston Colony of 1622, and
Whereas, the municipalities of Weymouth and Quincy are communities of historic significance in the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, notably, as birthplaces of Abigail Smith Adams, John Adams and John Quincy Adams, and
Whereas, the Fore River, a significant estuary in the Boston Harbor Watershed, is formed by the confluence of the Monaquot River and Smelt Brook in the Weymouth Landing area of Braintree, and
Whereas, the Fore River borders both Quincy Point and the North Weymouth Business District, which are two distinct villages of geographic, economic and historic importance, and
Whereas, the Fore River Bridge, erected in 1936, crossed over the Fore River and served as the gateway to the majority of South Shore towns from the City of Boston, and
Whereas, the site was home to major industrial entities such as General Dynamics, the Fore River Shipyard and Bethlehem Steel and has witnessed the passing of every warship built at the former Fore River Shipyard with some of the most notable being the, USS Massachusetts, the USS Wasp and the USS Salem, CA-139 which is currently at port in the former Quincy Shipyard, and
Whereas, the Fore River Bridge because of its location, architectural style and purpose was eligible to be placed on the National Register of Historic landmarks, and
Whereas, the Fore River Bridge deteriorated beyond repair and was slated for replacement in 2002, with a temporary bridge erected in its place, and
Whereas, the United States Coast Guard (USCG) has determined that the Fore River Bridge Replacement Project in Quincy and Weymouth, Massachusetts, will have an effect upon the Fore River Bridge (Q-01-001/W-32-001). A property eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places, and has consulted the Massachusetts State Historic Preservation Office (MA SHPO), pursuant to 36 CFR 800, regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. 470f);
and
Whereas, the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) and the Massachusetts Highway Department (MassHighway) participated in the consultation and concurred in the fully executed Memorandum of Agreement between the U.S.C.G. and the MA SHPO regarding the Fore River Bridge Replacement Project, and*

*Whereas, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts has appropriated substantial monies for the erection of a new bridge, and
Whereas, the Town of Weymouth's Historical Commission reviewed and voted a similar resolution on 11 January 2011,
Resolved, the Town Council of the Town of Weymouth urges the U.S. Coast Guard, Federal Highway Administration and MassDOT to ensure the Fore River Bridge Replacement Project is designed and constructed as a low-impact, bascule bridge with a style and function worthy of the location, purpose, economic impact and historic effects on the South Shore for the betterment of future generations and all South Shore residents, and
Now, therefore, on 18 January, 2011, the Town Council of Weymouth urges its state and federal delegation of elected officials to support the design and construction of a bascule style bridge on the Fore River Bridge Replacement Project as a matter of paramount concern to the citizens of Weymouth."*

Councilor Hackett motioned for favorable action, motion seconded by Councilor Mathews. It was noted that the resolution will be submitted to Mass DOT, the city of Quincy and our local legislators. Motion passes unanimously.

With no further business to attend to, Councilor Hackett motioned to adjourn at 7:10 PM motion seconded by Councilor Mathews and voted unanimously.

Respectfully Submitted by

Diane T. Hachey as Recording Secretary

Approved by Michael Smart, Chairman of the Ordinance Committee