

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Zoom # 836 1 0684 8642
October 5, 2020, Monday

Present: Arthur Mathews, President
Michael Molisse, Vice President
Pascale Burga, Councilor
Kenneth DiFazio, Councilor
Brian Dwyer, Councilor
Jane Hackett, Councilor
Fred Happel, Councilor
Ed Harrington, Councilor
Rebecca Haugh, Councilor
Christopher Heffernan, Councilor
Maureen Kiely, Councilor

Also Present: Kathleen Deree, Town Clerk
Joseph Callanan, Town Solicitor
Kate Marshall, Community Development Coordinator

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

President Mathews called the meeting to order at 7:30 PM. After the Pledge of Allegiance, Town Clerk Kathleen Deree called the roll, with all members present.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Councilor Dwyer announced road work scheduled for Pond Street. The contractor and MassDOT plan to begin next Monday and while the work is underway Pond Street will be subject to one-way traffic. Councilor Dwyer is working on a notification strategy with Pond Plain Improvement Center.

MINUTES

Town Council Meeting minutes of September 21, 2020

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve the minutes from the September 21, 2020 Town Council meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Ordinance Committee Meeting minutes of September 22, 2020

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve the minutes from the September 22, 2020 Ordinance Committee meeting and was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

RESIDENT AND COMMUNITY COMMENT

Alice Arena of 6 Blueberry Street – Concern for lack of safety, risk analysis and evacuation plan for the Compressor Station

Ms. Arena, President of the Fore River Residents Against the Compressor Station (FRRACS) was invited to address the meeting. FRRACS has a 6-year history of speaking out against the compressor station and on the safety and risks that could spell disaster for the Fore River Basin, and its residents.

There is no scenario in which this station can be made safe. She provided annotated information from the Environmental Assessment was published in May 2016 as to what was required by Enbridge, which includes the requirement to provide a written plan to minimize hazards in a natural gas pipeline emergency. To date, it has not been made available to the public.

She noted that key elements of the emergency plan include:

1. Establishing and maintaining communications with local fire, police and public officials and coordinated emergency response. In the second, most recent accident at the station, a blowdown, was revealed to the public not by Enbridge, but from a tweet by Congressman Lynch and they are therefore justifiably skeptical of notification to public officials by Enbridge. FRRACS asked for a meeting with Mayor Hedlund and emergency personnel, in a letter dated June 17, 2020. It was discussed with the Mayor, but no meeting was planned.
2. The Enbridge plan was also to include making personnel, materials and tools available to local officials in the event of an emergency. She asked how long after an emergency would these be deployed? When the valve froze in January, 2018, no one seemed to know who was responsible for shutting the gas down, and it took Enbridge over two hours to get it shut down. They first had to find where the gas was coming from, since the valve responsible was not part of the alarmed system monitored remotely in Texas. First responders will be first on scene, and cannot enter the property without Enbridge personnel on site. Where will they be coming from and how long will it take to get the gas shut off?
3. It continues; making people first and then property safe from accident reprisals, evacuating individuals and rerouting traffic from any area deemed to be unsafe. For a company that states in its own documents that it has no liability beyond its own fence point, it is laughable to expect Enbridge to protect the people. Who is responsible for evacuating and rerouting the traffic? The report makes it seem as though Enbridge will be doing it, and not emergency personnel. Any evacuation area, including if the bridge is open, what is Enbridge's plan, and why?

Also, in the first accident in January the comments include provision for an evacuation in an emergency, but has no documents for liability beyond its own property. She reported there are significant risks in the event of any gas emergency. There are health risks to the immediate abutters and the entire Fore River basin and Enbridge has still not provided the plan it was required to establish for the minimum standards and an evacuation plan. She asked the Council to:

1. Request, review and report the police and fire 911 records from the incident Friday, September 11 and Wednesday, September 30 to determine whether Enbridge performed the required mandate to notify first responders in a timely manner of an emergency situation. Congressman Lynch noted that Enbridge said they didn't advise first responders because they weren't required to-only if there is bodily injury, death or property damage involved.
2. Request the investigative report from NStar for both accidents and for Council to make it available to the public.
3. Call a public meeting of all first responders and emergency agencies within the town for information as to the level of training received from Enbridge up to this point, and present a clear plan for safety and evacuation for the residents of North Weymouth and surrounding areas.

Councilor Burga thanked Ms. Arena and the North Weymouth residents who have been working in opposition of the compressor station. This compressor location in Weymouth (only one in US to be placed in such a populated area) thus exposes the residents to toxins as part of the regular operation and maintenance. The other concern is in the event of emergency with varying degrees of severity, anywhere along the pipeline; up to and including the compressor, has the potential to cause catastrophic impact. It's so dangerous that it is under the law of the Department of Homeland Security as a potential terrorist target. In the September 11th failure, over 150,000 cubic feet of gas was released into the environment and per regulation, was required to be notified to the MA DEP. The release was 15 times what was reportable. The residents in several neighboring areas reported odors hours before MA DEP was notified. An O ring was determined to be the cause of the leak. Another failure occurred on September 30th in which 465,000 cubic feet of gas was released; 26 times the requirement to be reported to MA DEP. While the report and review of that incident is underway by several agencies, including the FBI, an electrical component is the suspected culprit. On a recent tour with Congressman Lynch, Senator O'Connor, State Representatives Murphy and Mariano and Chief of Staff Langill, Enbridge was asked the protocol when an event occurs. The response was the gas is dissipated high above the environment and the offsite control site is notified. She asked the specific protocols for emergency notification to the town- fire, police, etc. and the response was, there is no notification process. The project might be federally funded and overseen, the Council has an obligation to pursue any and all options to inform and protect the citizens of Weymouth and the neighboring towns of Quincy and Braintree; a notification or alert system and that the town of Weymouth is high on that system. Waiting over two hours is too late. They need to develop an emergency plan for evacuation, road closures and whatever else might be necessary. It's not gas versus electric, it's a matter of safety. There needs to be a plan in place for a town that is forced to contend with a compressor station that has been forced on it, and for residents who think it is a North Weymouth issue, part of the project includes Access NorthEast which extends the line

right through the Fore River Basin, Idlewell and Presidents neighborhoods and up through Pond Meadow Park.

Councilor Haugh noted they have been asking for an emergency response plan for several years. Congress passed the Emergency Planning and Community Right to Know Act (EPCRA) in 1986 which established the requirements for local and state government to increase the public knowledge and access to information on chemicals at facilities and releases into the environment. She has the regulations and the laws that governs them. The town should have had this months ago when construction begun. She will request a referral of the matter to the Environmental Committee, but more immediately she will write a letter to the local and state delegation and the several entities as a Council. They have a right to know this information.

Councilor Haugh made a motion to write a letter to FERC and the EPA, state delegation and other entities in regards to the emergency response plan for the Weymouth Compressor Station and was seconded by Councilor Burga.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Councilor Haugh made a motion to refer the matter to the Environmental Committee, and make it a standing item in committee. She also requested they invite Ms. Arena to their meeting. She will follow up with letters in the next few weeks. The motion was seconded by Vice President Molisse.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Councilor Heffernan thanked Ms. Arena for her 6 years of dedicated grassroots activism. During the period, every Councilor, administration, and congressional delegation all spoke out in opposition to the project. Gov. Baker supports the temporary shutdown. He hopes that he knows he has a stake in how this pans out for the whole Fore River basin; it's not just Weymouth that's affected and the town needs long-term solutions.

Councilor Kiely thanked Ms. Arena for her dedication.

Laura Sabadini of 386 Front Street – COVID-19 Safety

Ms. Sabadini was invited to address the meeting. In the wake of the current pandemic and increasing numbers, she urged the town:

1. To provide more ways for residents to get tested and improve access to the locations. There are two current health care sites- one in South Weymouth and one in Fox Plaza. The new tenant in the Fox Plaza site, which is more accessible to public transit, is a barrier to care because of physical and psychological barriers. She proposed that Weymouth reinstate a traffic detail paid for by the tenant hosting political festivals on the site to improve access to the Fox Plaza site.
2. Consider surveying the needs of specific populations, especially vulnerable ones, and those with school-aged children, in order to support them as a community.
3. One Councilor hosted a forum on substance abuse- where we are and where we go with regards to the issue. She urged they consider organizing a similar interactive forum on the issue of COVID-19. The community needs science-based information that comes from within the community and to connect residents with the resources they need.

President Mathews responded that it is his intent to forward Ms. Sabadini's comments and defer to the Board of Health and the Health Department and its director to take a lead role in determining what action the council should take.

Councilor Dwyer thanked Ms. Sabadini for her comments and agreed that it's appropriate to turn over to the experts.

PUBLIC HEARINGS

20 105 CPA Funding Request-Historical Architectural Services for First Church Exterior

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to open the public hearing on measure 10 105 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett. This was advertised on September 25, 2020.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Kate Marshall, Planning Department and Tom Wilburn, a member of the board of Trustees for First Church explained the project. The church was originally established in 1623 and the building has undergone a few iterations to the current 187 year old building. Some of the exterior has been renovated in anticipation of their anniversary. The vinyl siding will be removed so the building's condition can be determined. McKinnell, McKinnell & Taylor was commissioned to determine what to do with the exterior once the vinyl is removed. The proposal before Council is \$10,050 for the first of 3 phases, which will determine which actions are appropriate. The 2nd phase will then contract to get drawings and docs to go out to bid and the third phase will be the actual cost of the work, if it is approved.

Vice President Molisse reported that the town auditor has reviewed the measure and determined it is acceptable.

President Mathews asked if there were any comments from the public, to which there were the following:

Harry Castleman, 25 Hyde Street asked how to avoid creating a precedent for other churches claiming repairs are also historical in nature and deserving? President Mathews responded that the CPA hears each case and vets based on the subject. The CPA deemed it a worthy project and voted to submit it to the Mayor.

Councilor Harrington clarified. This is the 2nd time a church has come before CPA; it is a historically significant building both as the 1st church and meetinghouse in Weymouth. It's not a matter of setting a precedent, but more to the historical significance to the town.

Councilor Burga notes the age of the church places it in existence three years after the Pilgrims landed; even before the town was incorporated.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to close the public hearing on measure 20 105 and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

COMMUNICATIONS AND REPORTS FROM THE MAYOR, TOWN OFFICERS AND TOWN BOARDS

20 110-Reserve Fund Transfer – Unpaid Bills

On behalf of Mayor Hedlund, Solicitor Callanan requested that the Town of Weymouth transfer the sum of \$84,832.27 from the Fiscal Year 2021 Reserve Fund for the purpose of paying the following unpaid FY21 legal bills:

Miyares & Harrington LLP	Partial April 2020 Bill	\$35,193.52
Miyares & Harrington LLP	May 2020 Bill	\$20,333.75
Miyares & Harrington LLP	May 2020 Bill	\$29,305.00

Furthermore, that the Town Accountant is hereby authorized to pay such bills.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to refer measure 20 110 to the Budget/Management Committee and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Budget/Management Committee- Chair Michael Molisse

20 101- Appointment to Cultural Council-Marie Stoeckel

This measure was referred on September 8, 2020. The committee met on October 5, 2020 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. Ms. Stoeckel presented her interest and qualifications to the Council.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve measure 20 101; that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Marie Stoeckel of 63 Alroy Road to the Cultural Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

20 102-Appointment to Cultural Council-Daniel Callahan

This measure was referred on September 8, 2020. The committee met on October 5, 2020 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. Mr. Callahan presented his interest and qualifications to the Council.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve measure 20 102; that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Daniel Callahan of 31 Paris Street to the Cultural Council for a term to expire on June 30, 2022. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

20 103-Appointment to Scholarship Committee-Alicia Lyons

This measure was referred on September 8, 2020. The committee met on October 5, 2020 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. Ms. Lyons presented her interest and qualifications to the Council.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve measure 20 103; that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Alicia Lyons of 90 Taft Road to the Scholarship Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilor Haugh.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

20 104-Appointment to Scholarship Committee-Matthew Tierney

This measure was referred on September 8, 2020. The committee met on October 5, 2020 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. Mr. Tierney presented his interest and qualifications to the Council.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve measure 20 104; That the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Mathew Tierney of 567 Summer Street to the Scholarship Committee for a term to expire on June 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

20 106-Appointment to Historical Commission-Kerri Donnelly

This measure was referred on September 21, 2020. The committee met on October 5, 2020 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. Ms. Donnelly presented her interest and qualifications to the Council.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve measure 20 106; that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Kerri Donnelly of 52 Morningside Path to the Historical Commission for a term to expire on June 20, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

20 107-Appointment to Historical Commission-Dennis J. Sullivan

This measure was referred on September 21, 2020. The committee met on October 5, 2020 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. Mr. Sullivan presented his interest and qualifications to the Council.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve measure 20 107; that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Dennis J. Sullivan of 520 Commercial Street to the Historic Commission for a term to expire on June 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kiely. Councilor Molisse wanted to thank Rodney Lunden, who previously held the seat.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

20 108-Appointment to Board of Library Trustees-Casey Tocchio

This measure was referred on September 21, 2020. The committee met on October 5, 2020 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. Ms. Tocchio presented her interest and qualifications to the Council.

On behalf of the Budget/Management Committee, a motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve measure 20 108; that the Town of Weymouth, in accordance with Section 2-10 of the Town Charter, appoint Casey Tocchio of 209 Green Street to the Board of Library Trustees, for a term to expire on June 30, 2023. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

20 105-CPA Funding Request –Historic Architectural Services for First Church Exterior

This measure was referred on September 21, 2020. The committee met on October 5, 2020 and voted to forward to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action. A public hearing was conducted on October 5, 2020.

On behalf of the Ordinance Committee, a motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve measure 20 105; that the Town of Weymouth appropriate the sum of \$10,050 for historic architectural services for the exterior of First Church, from the Historic Resources Fund Balance Account. The motion was seconded by Councilor Kiely.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

NEW BUSINESS

20 109- Call of the Presidential Election

Vice President Molisse announced the upcoming Presidential Election on Tuesday, November 3, 2020.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to consider measure 20 109 under 2-9 (b), same night action and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-

Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

A motion was made by Vice President Molisse to approve measure 20 109; In the name of the Commonwealth, the Town of Weymouth is hereby required to notify and warn the inhabitants of said town, who are qualified to vote in the Presidential Election to vote on Tuesday, November 3, 2020. The motion was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

ADJOURNMENT

The next regular meeting of the Town Council has been scheduled for Monday, October 19, 2020. At 8:35 PM; there being no further business, a motion was made by Vice President Molisse to adjourn the meeting and was seconded by Councilor Hackett.

A roll call vote was taken: Councilor Burga-Yes, Councilor DiFazio-Yes, Councilor Dwyer-Yes, Councilor Hackett-Yes, Councilor Happel-Yes, Councilor Harrington-Yes, Councilor Haugh-Yes, Councilor Heffernan-Yes, Councilor Kiely-Yes, Vice President Molisse-Yes, President Mathews-Yes. UNANIMOUSLY VOTED.

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary

Approved by Arthur Mathews as President of the Town Council
Voted unanimously on 9 November 2020