

TOWN COUNCIL MINUTES
Public Works Committee
May 3, 2023

Present: Ken DiFazio, Chair
Lisa Belmarsh, Councilor
Arthur Mathews, Councilor

Absent: Greg Shanahan, Vice Chair
Chris Heffernan, Councilor

Also Present: Jim McGrath, Asst. Town Engineer

Recording Secretary: Mary Barker

Chair DiFazio called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM. Councilor Shanahan had a prior commitment, and Councilor Heffernan was on his way back from the western part of the state.

23 021- Street Acceptances

The measure was referred to committee on March 6, 2023, 2023. A public hearing was conducted on April 24, 2023. Jim McGrath, Asst. Town Engineer, was present. The Planning Board's recommendation, unanimously voted 4-0 at its meeting on April 11, 2023, was read into the record.

Mr. McGrath provided feedback on Fort Point Road regarding future parking concerns of residents. The roadway is being widened to 27' to accommodate a 6' parking lane. Other small design issues brought up were also worked out.

Councilor Belmarsh reported residents reached out to her about the Fort Point Road parking situation and asked if the residents are amendable to the solution proposed by Engineering. She had also heard that another couple had requested removal of their signatures from the agreement. Mr. McGrath responded that he had sent an email with the information, and as of today, did not get a response back. He had also worked with another resident to arrive at a resolution he accepted. The solution- to allow overnight parking by permit, is technically in violation of the Ordinances; however, Mr. McGrath has spoken with the traffic enforcement officer. It will not be enforced (except in case of snow emergency) unless they get a complaint about illegally parked vehicles. Councilor Mathews noted the same accommodation is made in his district and he applauded the work in bringing this resolution. . - no overnight parking in W whether police choose to . technically in violation. 75% of the residents signed off, and it's not possible to make everyone happy, but this is good. Councilor Belmarsh will forward the email she received for Mr. McGrath to contact the resident.

Councilor Mathews motioned to forward measure 23 021 to the full Town Council with a recommendation for favorable action and was seconded by Councilor Belmarsh. Unanimously voted, 3-0.

April 7, 2023 Massachusetts Water Management Act Letter

Status of Tide Mill Brook Sewer Project

Status of MWRA Application

2022 ASR

There was a brief discussion of the remaining agenda items, that will be continued since there are no administrators available. They were placed on agenda both because there were documents the council received from residents, and also because the issue of water procurement was included in the Mayor's budget presentation on April 24th. A measure was submitted for MWRA water application without any backup. Councilor Mathews had invited the Mayor, with the appropriate notice, as required under the town charter. The Mayor's response was read into the record. Chair DiFazio noted the subject of water is an ongoing issue within the Public Works committee. He asked if the council should consider sending a memo to the Mayor, since the residents deserve an explanation. Will he be presenting it in a series of community meetings? He did with lesser subjects, and this is a monumental decision. He will not plan to report out from committee, except the vote on the street acceptance measure. Councilor Belmarsh suggested the memo from the Mayor is disingenuous. She finds it hard to believe no one was available. She also noted the DEP responded 2 weeks ago and some of it differs from what was presented to council (re: raw v. finished water). The Tide Mill item concerns the completion of the sewer line across Rt. 18, increasing capacity. Councilor Mathews noted that one of the things the Mayor hasn't provided is the amended Water/Sewer agreement with the SRA and the mitigation fees for add-ons. The discussion also briefly touched on the use of ARPA funding for the Columbian Square project, which was required by the developer under the MEPA certificate, and an explanation of the Consent Order issue and overflow mitigation- since the Consent Order was met, it was supposed to be internally monitored, which is why the 2022 ASR placed on agenda. Councilor Belmarsh said it would be helpful hearing the history. Other documents that the committee received in the packet from the chair include the master development utilities report and the engineering document from the consultant. These were not from the administration, but came from residents. The committee will wait to see what the Mayor presents at the annual town meeting before scheduling their next meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

At 7:18 PM, there being no further business, Councilor Mathews motioned to adjourn and was seconded by Councilor Belmarsh.

Attachment: Planning Board's Decision on Measure 23-021

Mayor's response to Invitation

Respectfully Submitted by Mary Barker as Recording Secretary.

Approved by Ken DiFazio, Public Works Committee Chairman
Voted unanimously on 5 June 2023