



TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

TOWN COUNCIL

Notice of Meeting Minutes: Town Council
2023 May 08
7:00 pm Eastern Time
WCAT Studio – 24 Hemlock Road | Via Zoom

Call to Order: Mehreen N. Butt called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

Pledge of Allegiance: Mehreen N. Butt let the body in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

Town Council Present: Mehreen N. Butt, Chair; Jonathan P. Chines, Vice-Chair; Anne P. Danehy; Edward F. Dombroski, Jr.; Michael J. McLane; Julie Smith-Galvin and Robert E. Vincent II.

Administration Present: Stephen P. Maio, Town Administrator; Sherri A. Dalton, Executive Assistant, and Town Council Clerk.

Town Counsel Present: Thomas A. Mullen.

Engineering Update: Town Engineer William Renault, and Department of Public Works Director Conway provided improvement project updates on roadways and sidewalks, completed and current construction projects, water and sewer utilities, bridges and dams, culverts and drainage systems, traffic signals. They also provide technical assistance to Town departments and boards including the Zoning Board of Appeals, Planning Board, and the Inspectional Services Department. The Engineering Division is responsible for NPDES MS4 Permit Compliance which consists of private construction oversight of erosion and drainage, wet weather and dry-weather outfall testing, GIS System mapping updates, public outreach and reporting. The division is also responsible to maintain town records/asset management in the GIS System for roadway and sidewalk conditions, sewer/water/drain infrastructure, sign database, ADA transition plan.

4th of July Parade: Jonathan P. Chines moved to approve the request to hold the 76th, 4th of July Parade on Tuesday, July 4, 2023 beginning at 5:00 p.m.; and to use North Avenue from the Wakefield/Reading line to the intersection with Church Street, Church Street to its intersection with Common Street, Common Street, and Main Street from Common Street to the Galvin Middle School driveway from 4:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. or until the parade's conclusion; and to use Quannapowitt Parkway for staging purposes for the parade; and to use the Civic Center for



restroom facilities; and to use the Galvin Middle School parking lot for participants. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Public Hearing: Jonathan P. Chines moved to set the date of June 26, 2023, at 7:02 p.m. for Fiscal Year 2024 Water and Sewer Rate Public Hearing. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Public Engagement Policy: Town Counsel Mullen advised the councilors to not hold any public participation periods at all, as the law does not require them; the Open Meeting Law only guarantees that the public has the right to attend, to listen to, and record open sessions. The public has no right to speak unless a public hearing is conducted within an open session, and public hearings are required only where a statute regulation or Bylaw calls for one. Or, at the very least, amend the Policy to include language the Supreme Judicial Court has approved. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. moved to adopt the handout with the revisions proposed by Town Council Mullen. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. After further discussion, Jonathan P. Chines moved to table approval of the Policy to the next meeting, where the revised Public Engagement Policy can be viewed and voted on. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. suggested that the Policy be first on the agenda and then have the Public Participation item next. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Liaison Updates: Julie Smith-Galvin provided updates on the Environmental Sustainability Committee, Police Department, Traffic Advisory Committee, and MBTA Community Working Group. Anne P. Danehy provided an update on Public Health. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. provided updates on Department of Public Works, and the Historical Commission. Michael J. McLane asked that he be able to give an update in a couple of weeks on the Council on Aging, and Commission on Disabilities. He did provide an update on the Municipal Gas and Light Department, and the Library. Robert E. Vincent II provided updates on the Bylaw Review Committee, Fire Department, Wakefield Housing Authority, and Veteran Advisory Board. Jonathan P. Chines provided updates on the Wakefield Public Schools, Permanent Building Committee, and Youth Council. Mehreen N. Butt provided updates on the School Building Committee, Human Rights Commission, Finance Committee, and Capital Planning Committee.

Annual Town Meeting: Michael J. McLane stated there is no need for discussion based on what he read in the Foreword of the Annual Appropriations Book.

Committees/Appointments: Special Municipal Employee: Jonathan P. Chines moved to advertise for a Special Municipal Employee for the Wakefield Memorial High School project. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0. **Permanent Building Committee:** Jonathan P. Chines moved to clarify the Permanent Building Committee terms to end December 31st as stated in Bylaw. Any member who has a current term ending April 30, 2026, will now end December 31, 2025; any member who has a current term ending April 30, 2025, will now end December 31, 2024; and any member who has a current term ending April 30, 2024, will now end December 31, 2023. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0. **Human Rights Commission:** Jonathan P. Chines moved to advertise for an open position on the Human Rights Commission to fill an unexpired term. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0. **Albion Cultural Exchange Committee:** Town Administrator Maio stated at last year's Town Council Retreat that one of the priorities of the Town Council were to have the town manage the Albion Cultural Exchange building, much like the way the town operates all town-owned facilities. Town Administrator Maio met with the Chair of the Albion Cultural Exchange Committee on February 8, 2023, and made it clear that this is a town building and had to be handled in a certain way, and from now on, this is how it will be managed. Mr. Maio informed the Town Council through his TAN on February 11, 2023, of what transpired at that February 8, 2023, meeting. On March 1, 2023, Mr. Maio and Town Council Chair Butt met with the Albion Cultural Exchange Committee to review those changes, and received pushback from the Committee. Following that meeting, the town was made aware of additional concerns and Mr. Maio, on April 4, 2023, implemented the management of the Albion Cultural Exchange building. Town Counsel Mullen explained the problems the town was recently made aware of being that Christopher Carino, Chair of the Albion Cultural Exchange Committee, had a surveillance camera in the Albion Cultural Exchange building, a town-owned building, and synched to his personal computer, procured services without following the public bidding laws, accepted donations on behalf of the Friends of Albion Cultural Exchange, a nonprofit that was not established at that time, and missing meeting minutes on the town's website for 15 meetings. Mr. Mullen sent Mr. Carino three letters asking Mr. Carino to provide answers to those issues, including an accounting of the donations, specifically the names and addresses of each donor together with the date and amount of each one of his, her, or its donations plus any limiting instructions concerning the use to which the funds would be put, the name of any banks at which donations have been deposited together with the name on each account, the account number, the taxpayer ID number associated with the account

and the name of the person or entity having that taxpayer ID number, the date, amount, purpose, and payee of any disbursement made from the donated funds. Responses from Mr. Carino were received that the surveillance camera had been operative but was shut off in or by July 2021, the Committee had solicited a quote for window washing but hadn't yet procured it and would work through the Department of Public Works, and the donations the Committee received are about \$1,100.00 and spent around \$800.00 but did not offer any accounting, promised to create the 501c3 for the Friends of Albion Cultural Exchange. Jonathan P. Chines moved to dissolve the Albion Cultural Exchange Committee and continue the management through Recreation Director McGrath, and Department of Public Works. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Further discussion ensued. Motion passed 6-1-0 with Jonathan P. Chines, Julie Smith-Galvin, Edward F. Dombroski, Jr., Anne P. Danehy, Robert E. Vincent II, and Mehreen N. Butt voting in favor of the motion. Michael P. McLane voting against the motion.

Donations: Jonathan P. Chines moved to accept and expend a gift or gifts to the Council on Aging for \$20,690.00 from various donors with thanks. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Approval of Minutes: Jonathan P. Chines moved to approve April 24, 2023, Town Council meeting minutes as presented. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Town Council Reorganization: Julie Smith-Galvin nominated Jonathan P. Chines as Chair of the Town Council for May 2023-May 2024. No other nominations and Jonathan P. Chines having accepted the nomination, Mehreen N. Butt declared the nominations closed unanimously 7-0-0. Anne P. Danehy nominated Michael J. McLane as Vice-Chair of the Town Council for May 2023-May 2024. No other nominations and Michael J. McLane having accepted the nomination, Jonathan P. Chines declared the nominations closed unanimously 7-0-0.

Adjournment: Michael J. McLane motioned to adjourn at 9:52 p.m. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Respectfully submitted,

E-SIGNED by Sherri A. Dalton
on 2023-06-02 08:09:18 EDT

Sherri A. Dalton,
Town Council Clerk