



# TOWN OF WAKEFIELD

## TOWN COUNCIL

### MEETING MINUTES

April 26<sup>th</sup>, 2021 | 7:00 p.m.

Via Zoom: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89594673331>

**Call to Order:** Ann Santos called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

**Pledge of Allegiance:** Ann Santos led the body in the reciting of the Pledge of Allegiance.

**Attendance:** Ann McGonigle Santos, Chair; Julie Smith-Galvin, Vice-Chair; Mehreen N. Butt; Jonathan P. Chines; and Edward F. Dombroski, Jr.

**Town Council Absent:** Paul R. DiNocco and Peter J. May.

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

**Town Counsel Present:** Thomas A. Mullen.

**Public Engagement:** Teresa Cook of 38 Prospect Street spoke regarding the Northeast Metropolitan Vocational school project and asked for support and partnership in advocating for including a pool at the location. Marie Rej of 25 Montclare Avenue spoke regarding membership to the Disability Commission.

**Approval of Minutes:** Jonathan P. Chines motioned to approve the April 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 regular meeting minutes as proposed. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Blatz Field:** Julie Smith-Galvin motioned to approve the request of Robert Burnett along with a letter of support from Billy Teixeira and David Teixeira, grandsons of Marty Blatz regarding the expanded naming of Blatz Field to Blatz Park, Meghan Burnett Field. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Hazard Mitigation Plan:** DPW Director Conway presented the Certificate of Adoption for adopting the Town of Wakefield Hazard Mitigation Plan and reviewed the Plan previously presented to the Council. Ann Santos read the Resolution Adopting the Town of Wakefield Hazard Mitigation Plan as amended. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. motioned to adopt the Plan. Jonathan P. Chines seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Financial Update:** Town Administrator Maio presented a PowerPoint regarding Fiscal Year 2022 "Final" Budget. He reviewed the current reserves; reserves policy; projected reserves; revenues; department budget expenses (all outlined in the Appropriations Book); Articles and offsets as well as budget uncertainties. The Town is slated to receive money through the American Rescue Plan Act Fund which can be used through December 31<sup>st</sup>, 2024. There will be a time for input from the Council as well as the public on how to use that money. His suggestions were to use the money to replace revenue



loss, capital, new technology, business development, infrastructure. The Council would love to see some of the money used to replace some of the deferred capital; bathrooms around the lake; public facilities and infrastructure; another community garden as well as streets that needs sidewalks.

**Flag and Banner Requests:** Jonathan P. Chines motioned to approve the flying of the “progress” Pride Flag at the Americal Civic Center for three weeks in June 2021. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0 by a roll call vote. Jonathan P. Chines motioned to approve the flying of the Juneteenth Flag at the Americal Civic Center for one week in June 2021. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0 by a roll call vote. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. motioned to approve the request to hang “Hometown Heroes” banners along Main Street from sometime in May through June 01<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and granting the Town Administrator the flexibility on the timing. Jonathan P. Chines seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Appointments:** Jonathan P. Chines motioned to appoint Building Inspector, Benjamin DeChristoforo to serve as the Zoning Administrator and to delegate the Zoning Administrator the power to determine, under MGL Chapter 40A, Section 6 and Zoning Bylaw Section 190-50(A), whether a proposed reconstruction, change, extension or alteration to a pre-existing nonconforming single or two-family residential structure would increase the nonconforming nature of said structure. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0 by a roll call vote. Jonathan P. Chines motioned to add one (1) additional member to the Disability Commission from 8 members to 9 members. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0 by a roll call vote. Jonathan P. Chines motioned to appoint Janice Mirabassi to the Disability Commission for a three-year term ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0 by a roll call vote. Julie Smith-Galvin motioned to increase membership on the Arts Council from 6 members to 9 members. Jonathan P. Chines seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0 by a roll call vote. Jonathan P. Chines motioned to appoint Lori Dupuis to the Arts Council for a three-year term ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024 and Stephanie Martinovich and Diana Kennedy to the Arts Council for two-year terms ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023. Julie Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0 by a roll call vote.

After discussion from the Council regarding the adoption of the proposed Purpose, Powers & Duties of the Human Rights Commission the Council tabled the adoption of the document until the Council can further review and comment.

Human Rights Commission Chair, Maria Muti presented the HRC Annual Report outlining the structure of the Commission; past events and what the Commission is hoping to accomplish going forward.

Jonathan P. Chines motioned to appoint Teresa Aravena-Gonzalez, Jeremy Little and Eileen Rooney to the Human Rights Commission for three-years terms ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024; Daniela Nedbalek to the Human Rights Commission for a two-year term ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and Lindsay Averbook to the Human Rights Commission for a one-year term ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Mehreen N. Butt seconded. After discussion Jonathan P. Chines motioned to amend the motion to appoint Lindsay Averbook to the Human Rights Commission for a two-year term ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2023 and Daniela Nedbalek to the Human Rights Commission for a one-year term ending April 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022. Motion passed 5-0-0 by a roll call vote.

**Inter-Municipal Contract:** Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. motioned to approve the Inter-Municipal Agreement between Town of Reading and Town of Wakefield for Purposeful Opportunities for Successful Transition Program (the “POST Program”) commencing on September 01<sup>st</sup>, 2021 and ending June 30<sup>th</sup>, 2024. Jonathan P. Chines seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0 by roll call vote.

**Matters Not Anticipated for Agenda:** Jonathan P. Chines asked if there was an update regarding the Broadway Crossing. Town Administrator Maio answered no news yet. Julie Smith-Galvin questioned committees having public participation. Town Counsel Mullen stated that committees do not have to have public participation and urges the ZBA, Planning Board and Conservation Commission to not have public participation as those are judicatory boards and they exist to hold public hearings. Mr. Mullen explained that public hearings can get continued as long as necessary and the public has the ability to participate in those hearings as long as the public hearing part of the meeting has not closed.

**Announcements:** Edward F. Dombroski, Jr.: asked that we continue to make sidewalks a priority going forward; reminded everyone to vote tomorrow as the polls are open from 7:00 a.m. until 8:00 p.m.; Saturday, May 08<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 8:00 a.m. is Town Meeting. Julie Smith-Galvin: thank you to Paul DiNocco; Boating proposals are in and will be open for public input; go out and vote tomorrow. Jonathan P. Chines: the next forum for Vision 2030 is Wednesday, April 28<sup>th</sup>, 2021 at 7:00 p.m. via Zoom and you will need to pre-register via the website; vote tomorrow; thank you to Betsy Sheeran and her staff as well as the election workers; please participate in Town Meeting and thank you to Steve Maio's team, Bill Carroll and WCAT for making Town Meeting happen. Mehreen N. Butt: thank you to Paul DiNocco; thank you to Ann Santos, Chair and Julie Smith-Galvin, Vice-Chair; vote tomorrow; Town Meeting is Saturday, May 08<sup>th</sup>, 2021; everyone in Massachusetts 16 and older can register to get vaccinated. If you need help please call the Health Department or a Town Councilor; be mindful of people using crosswalks. Town Administrator Maio: thank you to Paul DiNocco; Adirondack chairs have been painted and will be out on the Library Plaza this week; art students will be painting the barriers; High School project will be before the School Building Authority on May 03<sup>rd</sup>, 2021 at 2:50 p.m. via Zoom; please send your comments regarding the HRC document. Ann Santos: thank you to Paul DiNocco; be thoughtful of who you are voting for tomorrow and is hoping the community can move together after the election.

**Adjournment:** Jonathan P. Chines motioned to adjourn at 9:30 p.m. Edward F. Dombroski, Jr. seconded. Motion passed 5-0-0 by a roll call vote.

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri A. Dalton  
Town Council Clerk