



## WAKEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, September 23, 2019

6:30 P.M.

WCAT Studios, 24 Hemlock Road, Wakefield, MA. 01880

**COUNCIL  
MEMBERS  
PRESENT:**

Councilor Edward F. Dombroski, Jr., Chair  
Councilor Ann McGonigle Santos, Vice-Chair  
Councilor Mehreen N. Butt  
Councilor Jonathan P. Chines  
Councilor Paul R. DiNocco  
Councilor Julie Smith-Galvin

**ADMINISTRATION PRESENT:**

Clerk Sherri A. Dalton  
Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio  
Town Counsel Thomas A. Mullen

**COUNCIL  
MEMBERS  
ABSENT:**

Councilor Peter J. May

----- TOPICS OF DISCUSSION -----

**Call to Order**

Councilor Dombroski called the meeting to order at 6:30 p.m. and stated there is a need for Executive Session to discuss Woods Subdivision litigation because an open meeting may have detrimental effects on the bargaining position of the Town, with the intent of returning to open session. Councilor Santos so motioned. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed on a roll call vote with all six councilors voting in the affirmative.

The Council returned to open session at 7:08 p.m.

**Pledge of  
Allegiance**

Leading the body in the Pledge of Allegiance was Natalie Jolly and Kyle McGrail. Natalie is a singer-songwriter and a vocalist and Kyle is the drummer in the band Natalie Jolly and the Reckless Hearts. They are the 2019 song of the year award winners from the New England Music Awards for their song "You Oughta Know." Both Kyle and Natalie are Wakefield Memorial High School graduates.

**Attendance**

Councilor Dombroski noted that Councilors Santos, DiNocco, Butt, Smith-Galvin and Chines were present as well as Madam Clerk Dalton, Town Administrator Maio and Town Counsel Mullen. Councilor Peter J. May was absent.

**Approve of  
Minutes -  
September  
09, 2019**

Councilor Santos motioned to approve the September 09, 2019 Minutes as presented. Councilor Chines seconded. Motion passed 5-0-1 with Councilor DiNocco abstaining.

**Public  
Engagement**

Eric Reid of 26 Crescent Street appeared before the Town Council and proposed a new By-Law: 51-4 Electronic distribution (of parts of the Annual Town Report).

**Joint Meeting**

Representatives of the Lucius Beebe Memorial Library Trustees

**- Library Trustees Appointments**

recommended to the Town Council Laura Cutone Godwin and Adam Rodgers as the two applicants for the interim Library Trustees appointments. These two (2) appointments are to fill two (2) unexpired terms Councilor Santos motioned to appoint Laura Cutone Godwin as an interim Library Trustee with a term ending April 21, 2020. Councilor Smith-Galvin seconded. Motion passed 13-0-0 with seven (7) Library Trustees and six (6) Town Councilors voting in favor of the motion. Councilor Santos motioned to appoint Adam Rodgers as an interim Library Trustee with a term ending April 21, 2020. Cindy Schatz seconded. Motion passed 13-0-0 with seven (7) Library Trustees and six (6) Town Councilors voting in favor of the motion.

**Notice of Events**

Representative Nancy Bertrand of the Wakefield Historical Society provided information on upcoming Wakefield Heritage Day celebrating the 375<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the founding of the Town on September 28, 2019.

Representatives from Wakefield Alliance Against Violence (WAAV) provided information about upcoming “WAAV Racing to End Domestic Violence” 5K race and walk around Lake Quannapowitt on October 5, 2019 with a request for promotional signage placement on Town property. Councilor Santos motioned to grant the posting of signs. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0.

**Committee, Board & Commission Updates**

Representatives of the Zoning Board of Appeals provided project updates and undertakings. Televised Zoning Board of Appeals meetings in the future were discussed as well as posting their minutes on the Town’s website. The Town Council thanked the Board for their dedication to the Town.

**Liaison Updates**

Councilor Santos stated that representatives of the Fire Department and the Emergency Management Director is looking into the town’s ambulance contract as well as the Deputy Fire Chief position. She will also be reaching out in January to all committees regarding appointments/re-appointments to all committees.

Councilor Chines stated that the High School working group is in formation and the first meeting is to be determined. The School Department has ratified contracts with six of the seven bargaining units. MCAS results are due to be released tomorrow and the School Committee is getting an update at their meeting tomorrow. He suggested to have the Superintendent come to a Town Council meeting to speak about the MCAS results as well as how the school department evaluates their performance. Another area he highlighted for the school department is around the social and emotional needs of students and it was the main theme of the administrative retreat that Superintendent Lyons had over the summer. The School Committee also added a subcommittee specifically to focus on student services as part of this broader theme.

Councilor Smith-Galvin stated that the WMGLD at their last meeting decided to change the energy efficiency charges and expand the energy efficiency program. Currently all customers have a flat fee for energy efficiency. Going

forward it will change to mils per kilowatt hour so that customers will be charged more on usage than on a flat rate. Since this is a rate change, there will be a public hearing at their meeting on October 2, 2019 at 6:30 p.m. at the WMGLD. The WMGLD will be adding weatherization heating system incentives and adding programs for both commercial and industrial customers to be more consistent with surrounding communities. She also touch upon Communications and she has received good feedback on the website but she would like to start having more information pushed out through the newsletter or other ways.

Councilor Butt stated that hopefully by the end of the year the Albion Cultural Exchange building will have a bathroom. The Farmers Market is Saturday as well as the 375<sup>th</sup> celebration of Wakefield and the library is celebrating all things graphic with a comic conference event called Beebecon from 10:00 a.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the library with events being indoor and outdoor.

Councilor DiNocco – Community and Economic Development - stated that a very rough draft has been sent out for review and for comments. Commended the Police Department for their assistance with the Town of Lynnfield with locating a missing person. Parking enforcement has been doing a great job.

Councilor Dombroski – stated that Finance Committee applicants are going to be interviewed on October 1, 2019 and potentially October 3, 2019.

**Debit Service  
Capital Needs  
Account**

Councilor Chines motioned to transfer \$1,000,000.00 from the General Fund to the Debit Service Capital Needs Account. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motioned passed 6-0-0.

**Constituent  
Issues**

Councilor Chines stated that Councilors had a table at the Farmers Market for office hours and as part of the office hours they did an informal survey with pom-poms to see what those in attendance were concerned about and what was important to them. Schools got the most votes followed by roads and then everything else. There were a number of write-in suggestions that included various topics, including publishing a town newsletter, greater efforts to reduce litter around the lake and other parts of town in downtown, improvements to the recycling program, greater support for the Beebe Library, budgetary support for the Wakefield Human Rights Commission, programming for LGBTQ seniors through the Council on Aging, working with the Wakefield Community Partnership in changing the name of Festival Italia, changing Wakefield Memorial High School mascot or the logo, sidewalk conditions and storm drains on West Water Street.

Councilor Smith-Galvin asked for an update on where the town is with the downtown revitalization and any future Town Meeting votes. Also concern about sidewalk construction that apparently is now taking place near Dolbeare and the High School right at the same time that all the kids are walking to school

## **Chairman's Comments**

The Public Safety Building Reassessment Committee has been meeting and working on this issue for quite some time. The last meeting was September 18, 2019 and there is a lot of headway in terms of doing assessments and approaching the issues from every angle to figure out the best solution. At present, it appears that moving forward with a better defined plan of what we had previously considered is probably the direction that the committee will be heading in. He anticipates tremendous communication efforts going forward so that members of the public are fully informed of the facts to understand what the issues are with visual and virtual tours with possible in-person tours. The biggest concern is time and every month that work gets delayed the town is looking at additional costs. It is expected that the Committee will bring the building project to the Annual Town Meeting in the Spring. A communications subcommittee has been formed to make sure that everyone is educated on all the issues. The next meeting is scheduled for December.

Preliminary feasibility designs based on the concepts presented at multiple public forums and focus groups on the Envision Wakefield Downtown Revitalization project will be presented by VHB, the project's design and engineering firm, at a meeting in early December with Massachusetts Department of Transportation. This meeting will preliminary discuss potential design options and help guide planning and design going forward, based upon elements meeting MassDOT requirements. As the State is a significant funding partner, the bike lane issue that some people have raised continues to be considered by the Town and VHB and there are still options being explored. There more community forums are expected to be hosted starting in January/February of 2020 when VHB has more details to provide. The parking enforcement piece has had tremendous success and he expects to have data for the next Town Council meeting. Councilor Chines asked if there was going to be another public forum before the December meeting. Councilor Dombroski stated he already spoke to VHB and they strongly recommended the next public forum convene after they have met with MA DOT, as VHB will then have more information to be able to provide in answer to questions raised both at the last forum and the next. Otherwise, it would be premature as they would have no further information to report. Councilor Chines respectfully disagrees with VHB. Councilor Santos added that she doesn't think having another public meeting at this time would add anything. Councilor Dombroski stated he defers to VHB's expertise and their concern was that if the town were to come back in essence where we are currently it wouldn't be any different than where we left off at the last meeting. Councilor Smith-Galvin suggested that we ensure the website is kept updated relative to the project information and with what is presented to MassDOT. She asked about when this will go before Town Meeting and Town Administrator Maio stated that it all depends on where the funding comes from as it may not need to go to Town Meeting.

A meeting with Chief Skory, DPW Director Conway and Chairman Dombroski regarding the placement of the benches downtown will take place in the next week or so before the next Town Council meeting.

<b>Licenses</b>	Councilor Santos motioned to approve the One Day Liquor License request for a private event fundraiser at the Wakefield Masonic Building on October 26, 2019. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0.
<b>Gift Acceptance</b>	Councilor Chines motioned to accept and expend a gift or gifts to the library in the amount of \$2,873.50 from various donors with thanks. Councilor Santos seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0.
<b>Warrants</b>	Councilor Chines signed Warrant #5 dated July 30, 2019 through Warrant #8 dated August 20, 2019 regarding town affairs.
<b>Matters Not Anticipated for Agenda</b>	There were no matters unanticipated.
<b>Announcements &amp; Acknowledgements</b>	<p>Councilor Chines – Mystic Valley Elder Services is having a fundraiser on October 17, 2019 at The Porch in Medford; congratulations to the Wakefield Memorial High School marching band on their recent awards; Lynnfield is having a Special Town Meeting on Thursday, September 26, 2019 to discuss funding for the design portion of the Wakefield Lynnfield Rail to Trail</p> <p>Councilor Butt – WAAV 5K is October 5, 2019; noted the caliber of library trustees was unbelievable; every place was packed as she drove through town Friday night</p> <p>Councilor Smith-Galvin – this Saturday there is an event being organized by the Unitarian Universalist Church and Sustainable Wakefield called Wakefield Climate Organizing 101; there will be a Flu Clinic at the Farmers Market on Saturday; asked for a report on the Emergency Assistance Fund</p> <p>Town Counsel – filed a Proof of Claim on a town vendor that went bankrupt and the Town received a check for roughly \$167,000.00</p> <p>Councilor Dombroski – reminder of the 375<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration this weekend; Nahant Street Pit is open every Saturday, every Wednesday and every second and fourth Sunday; WAAV 5K is October 5, 2019</p>
<b>Adjournment</b>	At 9:16 p.m. Councilor Santos motioned to adjourn. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 6-0-0.
<b>Next Council Meeting</b>	<p>The next regular Town Council meeting is October 7, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at WCAT Studios, 24 Hemlock Road, Wakefield</p> <p>Town Council Strategic Retreat: October 2, 2019 at 6:00 p.m. at the Americal Civic Center, 467 Main Street, Wakefield</p>

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri A. Dalton, Executive Assistant