



WAKEFIELD TOWN COUNCIL

Monday, October 07, 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 Peter J. May Councilor Julie Smith-Galvin	ADMINISTRATION PRESENT: Clerk Sherri A. Dalton Town Administrator Stephen P. Maio Town Counsel Thomas A. Mullen
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----- TOPICS OF DISCUSSION -----

Call to Order	<p>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.</p> <p>Councilor Mehreen N. Butt arrived at 6:31 p.m.</p> <p>The Council returned to open session at 7:03 p.m.</p>
Pledge of Allegiance	<p>Leading the body in the Pledge of Allegiance was Alec Ross who is a senior at Wakefield Memorial High School who was recently recognized in a ceremony at the State House last week for his outstanding academic achievement in the study of the Italian language. Alec received a scholarship from the Italian Consulate of Boston and Councilor Dombroski congratulated Alec on behalf of the Town Council and Town of Wakefield.</p>
Attendance	<p>Councilor Dombroski noted that all seven (7) Councilors were present as well as Madam Clerk, Town Administrator and Town Counsel.</p>
Approve of Minutes – September 23, 2019	<p>Councilor Santos motioned to approve the September 23, 2019 Minutes as presented. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Councilor May abstaining.</p> <p>Councilor Santos motioned to approve the September 23, 2019 Executive Session Minutes as presented. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 6-0-1 with Councilor May abstaining.</p>

**Public
Engagement**

Bob Mailhoit of 157 Montrose Avenue addressed the Town Council opposing the reconfiguration of the benches.

Lauren Rotondo, a merchant having a business at 924 Main Street addressed the Town Council regarding parking enforcement and merchant parking permits.

Merry Eldridge of 52 Oak Street and Alan Drinkwater of 41 Church Street addressed the Town Council regarding the Hartshorne House fundraiser on November 9, 2019.

**Committee,
Board &
Commission
Updates**

Representatives of the Health Department and Board of Health provided an overview with values and goals to promote the personal and environmental health of the community through education and policy development supported by enforceable regulations and collaboration with other people and organizations. Councilor Butt asked the Board to let the Town Council know how the Council can help them with their budget for next fiscal year. The Town Council thanked the Board for their dedication and service to the Town.

**Reconfigurati
on of Benches**

Chief of Police Steven Skory stated that the benches have become a focal point for some groups to gather and as a result there have been some issues. Since August of 2019 the Police Department has received 19 calls somehow related to the benches. Chief Skory suggested rearranging the benches by removing one (1) bench from each pair and rearrange the remaining bench by facing it inwards towards the stores and find new locations for the ten (10) benches that are removed. He also identified possible new locations for the single benches. Councilor Santos suggested Town Hall as a possible location. Councilor Smith-Galvin said the benches were to be in the core of the downtown and suggested including Main Streets in the discussion of what the footprint might be. Councilor Chines motioned that the Town Administrator in consultation with the Police Chief and the DPW Director explore and implement reconfiguration of benches with the caveat that you look at the original intent of the donations. Councilor Butt seconded. Councilor May suggested having a representative of Main Street involved. Motion passed 7-0-0.

**Parking
Enforcement**

Parking enforcement began in the middle of July 2019. There were 520 tickets issued in August 2019 compared to 161 tickets issued in August 2018. In September 2019 335 tickets were issued compared to 118 tickets issued in September 2018. The total revenue collected for August and September 2019 is \$12,130.00 compared to \$6,360.00 collected for August and September 2018. There now appears to be more ample parking for customers in the business districts. The Traffic Advisory Committee will be reviewing issues on an ongoing basis and some adjustments are needed as people are now parking further from Main Street. The lot behind Omelet Headquarters has been resurfaced and is a good spot for people to park for longer term parking. There is more signage that will be installed for the Greenwood area. There are some areas that are still an issue with commuters parking further and further into neighborhoods. Councilor Chines suggested that the Council monitor the cost

of the program relative to the collections. Chief Skory credited the two parking attendants as they have an unforgiving job but they deserve credit for the success of the enforcement.

Emergency Fund

The Emergency Fund was established in 2018 with a beginning balance of \$13,000.00 in order to provide assistance to Wakefield residents who are facing difficult situations. The limit is \$1,000.00 per applicant, the identity of all applicants are confidential and the payments are made directly to the vendor. Attempts are made in every instance to work toward long term solutions and refer the applicants to programs that may help them in that regard. The fund has a current balance of \$9,125.75.

Constituent Issues

Councilor Chines stated that an individual in town had sent the Town Councilors an article from the Globe about the “Waze” effect where people are cutting through towns and routes that aren’t used to traffic because Waze or other apps will take you away from more heavily traffic routes. The article mentioned strategies on how cities and towns are looking at resident only access and other traffic calming devices. He asked that the Traffic Advisory Committee look in to things that are more strategic.

Councilor Santos stated that Wakefield is a cut through town. She stated that Melrose does a great job of having the whole City flashing 25 as well as the no turning on a certain time.

Councilor Butt received an email regarding the Water Shed at Crystal Lake and trees being cut down and asked that this be looked in to.

Councilor DiNocco received a request from the Wakefield Community Partnership to be added to the October 28, 2019 Town Council agenda regarding Holiday Stroll. Over the past several weeks he has talked with people about cut through traffic and pedestrian safety. One of the areas that came up was Lowell Street heading towards four corners trying to get to the Dolbeare School. If you are heading towards the lake on the cemetery side there is no way to get across the street to the sidewalk side of Lowell Street unless you go back to Walton. They would like a sidewalk put in going up towards the Dolbeare School. If that can’t happen they would like help from the Town Council to enforce no parking on the sidewalks. There is a similar situation from Foster Street off of Vernon Street asking for sidewalks. Lastly, asked if the Town Council was going to see a copy of the presented plan on the Envision project before it goes to MassDOT. Councilor Dombroski answered that the Envision project is not near the 25% mark yet and at the appropriate time when we are there as he mentioned at the last meeting right now VHB is working through feasibility of a lot of what has been discussed then running it past MassDOT to get some preliminary feedback and then they will come back to the town and answer open questions from the last Envision meeting and then there will be further public engagement.

Councilor Smith-Galvin is understanding from a constituent that the parking at the entrance to Brightview and if there are cars parked there its turning section

into basically a single road at that curve and there is some safety concerns. Councilor Dombroski stated that he will meet with the Town Administrator and go through all the feedback and then whatever can be provided to the Traffic Advisory Committee for further follow-up.

**Chairman's
Comments**

There are ongoing efforts to best identify parking within town. One of the more successful things that has been done through the DPW at very little cost is to define more parking spaces and we will continue to do this along with where we can allocate spaces that are merchant only.

The Tri-Board meeting is Thursday, October 17, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at the Galvin Middle School and he has been working with chairs of those committees to put this together.

Town Council strategic retreat was this past week at the Americal Civic Center. Thank you to those who participated. We talked a lot about strategies and priorities moving forward and we had a really good discussion about alcohol policy.

Licenses

Councilor Santos motioned to approve the One Day Liquor License request for a private event fundraiser at the Col. James Hartshorne House on November 9, 2019. Councilor May seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor May motioned to approve the One Day Liquor License request for a private event at the Americal Civic Center. Councilor Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Councilor May motioned to approve the Class II License renewal application for Quality Auto Service located at 51 New Salem Street. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

**Gift
Acceptance**

Councilor DiNocco motioned to accept and expend a gift or gifts to the library in the amount of \$535.30 from various donors with thanks. Councilor Santos seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

**Matters Not
Anticipated
for Agenda**

There were no matters unanticipated.

**Announcements &
Acknowledgements**

Councilor Dombroski – congratulated Joe and Kim Conway on the birth of their daughter

Councilor Smith-Galvin – there is a business resilience workshop on October 16, 2019 at 8:00 a.m. at Brightview

Councilor Chines – State Senate unanimously passed the Student Opportunity Act – thank you to Senator Lewis; walk to school day was last week – thank you to the police department the school department and parents for their help; attended the dedication of the “Kelly Trail” today

Town Administrator – on October 9, 2019 Pleasant Street from Brewster Road to Lowell Street will be paved during the day and on October 10, 2019 in the evening Lowell Street all the way Vernon Street to Main Street weather permitting for both days

Adjournment At 9:21 p.m. Councilor Santos motioned to adjourn. Councilor DiNocco seconded. Motion passed 7-0-0.

Next Council Meeting The next regular Town Council meeting is October 28, 2019 at 7:00 p.m. at WCAT Studios, 24 Hemlock Road, Wakefield

Respectfully submitted,



Sherri A. Dalton, Executive Assistant