

## SELECT BOARD

Minutes of Meeting of February 9, 2022. The meeting took place via remote participation using Zoom Webinar. Members of the Board present were Jason Bridges, Matt Fee, Dawn Hill Holdgate, Melissa Murphy and Kristie Ferrantella.

### I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Bridges read a prepared statement as to how the meeting will be conducted via remote participation and the ground rules for any discussion and called roll for those present, Chair Bridges called the Select Board meeting to order at 5:33 PM.

### II. SELECT BOARD ACCEPTANCE OF AGENDA

The agenda was accepted without change.

### III. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1. The Select Board Meeting is Being Audio/Video Recorded.

2. Select Board Announcements/Comments. Chair Bridges noted that this week's wastewater testing results have reached a recent low, indicated 1-5 COVID cases per day, which is good news.

Mr. Fee welcomed back Select Member Kristie Ferrantella. Chair Bridges concurred.

### IV. FOLLOW-UP ON COMMENTS FROM PRIOR SELECT BOARD MEETINGS

No follow up comments.

### V. PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment.

### VI. NEW BUSINESS

There was no new business.

### VII. APPROVAL OF MINUTES AND WARRANTS

Ms. Murphy moved approval of items VII – 1-3; seconded by Mr. Fee. So voted by roll call vote: Chair Bridges – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Ms. Murphy – Yes. Ms. Ferrantella – Yes.

1. Approval of Minutes of February 2, 2022 at 5:30 PM.

2. Approval of Payroll Warrants for February 6, 2022.

3. Approval of Treasury Warrants for February 9, 2022.

### VIII. CITIZEN/DEPARTMENTAL REQUESTS

1. Resignation: Planning Board Alternate. Ms. Holdgate moved to accept the resignation of David Callahan with thanks for his service to the Town; seconded by Ms. Murphy. So voted by roll call vote: Chair Bridges – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Ms. Murphy – Yes. Ms. Ferrantella – Yes. Operations Administrator Erika Mooney reviewed the process to fill a Planning Board alternate member vacancy and said advertising will begin shortly, she reviewed the timeline.

## IX. TOWN MANAGER'S REPORT

1. Nantucket Public Schools: Update on Campus-Wide Master Plan. Ms. Gibson introduced School Superintendent Dr. Elizabeth Hallett to review the update. Dr. Hallett noted that a presentation was previously provided to the Board last fall of the master plan and this update is intended to review items that have occurred since then. Dr. Hallett introduced Richard Webb of SMRT, architects for the project. Mr. Webb reviewed a presentation as contained in the Board's agenda packet, including growth in Nantucket Public Schools athletic programs and need for athletic facilities improvements. Tom Hanlon, a member of the School's work group for this project, spoke as to the usage of the grass playing fields and wear and tear. Mr. Webb continued reviewing campus master plan phasing history and described the current fields, and the proposed additional fields, including two synthetic turf fields. He spoke further about the impact of usage on grass fields and the limitations caused by wear and tear and weather conditions. Mr. Webb reviewed the current conditions of the various existing fields. Mr. Hanlon spoke on the impacts that poor field conditions have on playability, including interscholastic issues. He also explained the difficulties of grass field maintenance with heavy usage. Mr. Webb reviewed track and field improvements, including surfacing, lighting, size and multi-sport use potential. He noted the addition of five tennis courts, which could also be available for community use when not in use for school purposes. Mr. Webb said that a meeting was held yesterday by the School specifically regarding the turf fields. He introduced Marie Rudiman of Weston & Sampson, a risk assessor. Ms. Rudiman reviewed a study done on Martha's Vineyard regarding the same synthetic turf system being proposed here. She reviewed the conclusions of that study which show "no significant risks" and said that Weston & Sampson has also concluded that the proposed Nantucket turf fields "pose no significant health risk to field users or the environment". Steve LaRosa of Weston & Sampson spoke on the proposed and existing field PFAS (and associated chemicals) concentrations as compared to State regulatory limits. He said that turf field components contain non-detectable levels of PFAS (and associated chemicals). Mr. LaRosa spoke about a groundwater monitoring program that would be put in place in association with the turf field installation, for a variety of substances, including PFAS (and associated chemicals), nitrogen, pesticides and others. Mr. Webb continued with a review of the project schedule. David Fredericks, a member of the School's project work group, spoke on the goals that have been in place for years with respect to these athletic facility improvements and emphasized principles of safety, among others. Chair Bridges asked for public comment. Dr. Kyla Bennett spoke on the information brought forward at the school meeting yesterday and said that she and other experts spoke against some of the information presented and said that PFAS and other chemical substances actually were found with the Vineyard project. She spoke about the need to keep Nantucket's aquifer from becoming contaminated. She urged that the project specifications be double-checked and that the Board members watch the School meeting held yesterday. Nantucket Land Council Executive Director Emily Molden acknowledged the hard work that has gone into this planning process. She expressed concerns over the installation of synthetic turf fields with respect to the water supply and noted a letter sent to the School expressing these concerns. Mr. Webb said that letter has been received and a response is being prepared. D. Anne Atherton said she is thrilled with the work that has gone into the development of this plan. She commented on the proximity of the athletic facility improvements to Nantucket Ice and asked if the Nantucket Ice board has been consulted. Mr. Fredericks spoke on this and reviewed conversations with them. Megan Perry urged Board members to review correspondence that has been submitted on the turf fields and to watch the School meeting. Logan O'Connor spoke in favor of the plan and the proposed fields, saying that athletic participation has never been higher or more necessary. She said the opponents have not spoken about their concerns in a fair and balanced way. Chair Bridges opened the discussion to the Select Board members. Ms. Holdgate said she would like to hear from Water Department Director Mark Willett as to the aquifer concerns. She added that she is in favor of an indoor facility containing a synthetic

field. Mr. Willett said that the information that has been received is under review. He noted that PFAS substances are already in the soils and that chemicals from both natural fields and synthetic have the potential to get into the aquifer. He said he will be reaching out to a variety of experts to consult on the proposal. Mr. Fee agreed that the planning has involved a lot of time and effort. He said that the chemicals in question need to be taken into consideration. He said he would like written opinions from Town Counsel as to the impact on the Town's multi-district PFAS litigation if a turf field were installed; the Water Department that there is no harm; and the Board of Health. Ms. Murphy noted that she served on the School Committee from 2009 – 2018 and is well-versed in the planning that has gone into this. She said the information presented at yesterday's meeting was extremely helpful. She asked about timing of the project and asked if there were an alternative way to build out the plan until the synthetic field materials can be satisfactorily reviewed. Mr. Webb responded, noting there would be complications with that, logistically. Ms. Murphy said that with respect to a Board of Health opinion as requested by Mr. Fee, the Board is scheduled to have a discussion in March as to potential public health risks. She agreed with Ms. Holdgate as to an indoor facility. Discussion proceeded with regard to timing and the integration of various phases of the project; and, whether or not the information as to the field materials will be sufficiently available before the May town meeting and/or in March when the Select Board makes comments on warrant articles. Ms. Ferrantella agreed with Ms. Holdgate and Ms. Murphy regarding an indoor facility. Chair Bridges thanked everyone involved for their participation and comments.

2. Request to Amend Jetties Beach Concession Lease Agreement for New Roof. Ms. Gibson introduced Assistant Town Manager Gregg Tivnan to review the request. Mr. Tivnan explained the request as well as the lease agreement provisions with respect to improvements to the concession building. He spoke on the benefits of the proposal, which is a roof over an open area of the building, which was previously covered by an awning, which was destroyed over multiple storms and has been removed. He reviewed the staff recommendations, which relate to approving the request. Mr. Fee asked if this plan has been run by the Historic District Commission (HDC). Mr. Tivnan said not until the Board would authorize the request to proceed to the HDC. Mr. Fee expressed support for the proposed roof. He added that he would like to see the site restored to the way it was years ago. Ms. Murphy moved to authorize the concessionaire to move forward with the process to seek HDC approval; and, if it is provided, to consider a lease amendment; seconded by Ms. Holdgate. So voted by roll call vote: Chair Bridges – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Ms. Murphy – Yes. Ms. Ferrantella – Yes.

3. Employee Recruitment, Retention and Position Vacancy Updates. Ms. Gibson introduced Human Resources Director Amanda Perry to provide the updates, noting that the presentation has been developed after recent comments from Board members asking for vacancy information, as concerns are growing about the number of vacancies in Town government. Ms. Perry reviewed a presentation contained in the Board's agenda packet. Ms. Murphy thanked Ms. Perry for such a comprehensive presentation and asked about succession planning. Ms. Perry responded and reviewed the scope of work contained within a current contract for succession planning. Ms. Murphy asked about the challenges with recruitment and hiring. Ms. Perry said that housing is a main challenge, as is being able to reach out to potential candidates very widely and also cost-of-living expenses on the Island. Some discussion followed on recruitment efforts. Mr. Fee thanked Ms. Perry saying the presentation was well done. Mr. Fee commented that Town employees have a very good rate of pay with benefits. Chair Bridges and Ms. Ferrantella agreed with the comments about the presentation.

## X. SELECT BOARD'S REPORTS/COMMENT

1. Adoption of Revised May 10, 2022 Election Warrant. Ms. Gibson explained that a warrant article containing a charter change (Article 96) of the 2021 Annual Town Meeting, which related to the timing of mailing the Town Meeting warrant to voters, was approved by that Town Meeting; however, in order to take effect it also requires the approval of voters at the next election. She said that the necessary ballot question was inadvertently left off the town meeting and election warrant adopted by the Board on January 26<sup>th</sup> and requested adoption of a revised election warrant, which will be published in the newspaper and also mailed to voters with the warrant booklet that will have the article motions in it, prior to town meeting. Ms. Holdgate moved approval to add the additional ballot question; seconded by Ms. Murphy. So voted by roll call vote: Chair Bridges – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes; Ms. Murphy – Yes; Ms. Ferrantella - Yes.

2. Committee Reports. Mr. Fee commented on a Nantucket Planning & Economic Development Commission meeting yesterday regarding various 2022 annual town meeting warrant articles. Mr. Fee also spoke on a Coastal Resilience Advisory Committee meeting yesterday. Ms. Murphy said she appreciates the time and efforts of all those involved in recent Planning Board and other meetings regarding the warrant articles. Chair Bridges reviewed upcoming Select Board agenda items and said a current goal is to return to in-person Select Board meetings in mid-March.

## XI. ADJOURNMENT

At 7:25 PM, Ms. Murphy moved adjournment; seconded by Ms. Holdgate. So voted by roll call vote: Chair Bridges – Yes; Ms. Holdgate – Yes; Mr. Fee – Yes; Ms. Murphy – Yes; Ms. Ferrantella - Yes.

Approved the 16<sup>th</sup> day of February 2022.

**SELECT BOARD  
FEBRUARY 9, 2022 – 5:30 PM  
REMOTE PARTICIPATION VIA ZOOM  
NANTUCKET, MASSACHUSETTS**

List of documents used at the meeting:

- VII. 1. Draft minutes of 2/2/2022
- VIII. 1. David Callahan Planning Board Alternate resignation; Planning Board Alternates membership list; PB Alt Vacancy Appt Timeline; Committee Appointment Policy
- IX. 1. Nantucket Public Schools Campus Wide Master Plan presentation
- IX. 2. AIS re: Jetties Beach Concession proposed porch roof; Current Concession lease with Sandbar; Proposed plans
- IX. 3. Employee Recruitment, Retention and Position Vacancies presentation
- X. 1. Charter Amendment Ballot Question; Revised May 10, 2022 Election Warrant