



Town of Ashland

MASSACHUSETTS

BOARD OF SELECTMAN Retreat Minutes January 6, 2018 – 9:00AM Warren Conference Center 529 Chestnut Street, Ashland

Call Meeting to Order

9:05 AM Carl Hakansson opened the meeting in open session.

Carl Hakansson, Joe Magnani, Rob Scherer, Yolanda Greaves, Steve Mitchell, Michael Herbert, & Jenn Ball attended the meeting.

Yolanda Greaves moved to go into Executive Session pursuant to GL c. 30A section 21(a)(6) to consider the purchase, exchange, lease or value of real property if the chair declares that an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the negotiating of the public body. Mitchell seconded.

Roll call vote – Mitchell, Magnani, Greaves, Scherer, Hakansson

Joe Magnani left the retreat at 10:25 AM.

Steve Mitchell made a motion to move out of executive session and move back into open session.

Yolanda Greaves seconded. Roll call – Carl Hakansson, Steve Mitchell, Yolanda Greaves, Rob Scherer

Old / New Business

Charter

The BOS reviewed the July 26 minutes. There are two actions that are required: 1) placing the recommendations on a future BOS agenda and 2) outlining a process to move this forward.

The members believed that holding public hearing at a BOS meeting and allow public input. Based on the comments, the BOS can determine whether they think they need to make any adjustments. It was proposed that the Board can present each recommended change to the Charter Review Committee's proposal and then take public comment.

The members discussed the next steps to bring the charter review process forward. The board discussed the need for a special town meeting to discuss the recommendations with Town Meeting. The Board discussed whether it should be done before the Annual Town Meeting in May. Based on scheduling constraints the Board agreed that it would be best to hold the Charter recommendations on a second night of the Annual Town Meeting in May. Steve Mitchell moves to propose to the Moderator that the Annual Town Meeting have a second night on May 7th to discuss the Charter recommendations. Rob Scherer seconded. Motion passed 5-0.

The public hearing will be posted on a future regularly scheduled BOS meeting.

Marijuana

The Board discussed the need to allow the voters to decide whether the Town wants to exercise the Town's right to opt out of recreational marijuana establishments. This would mean that it would be on the Annual Town Meeting warrant and on the May 15th ballot. A public vote will be taken at the next regularly scheduled BOS meeting.

Upper Charles Trail

Rob Scherer explained that the Upper Charles Trail Committee is waiting for the Board's decision on the final report submitted by Alta Planning. The Board discussed the Ashland Upper Charles Trail Committee's charge; there was discussion about whether they have met their charge because the final report was submitted. It was determined that the Upper Charles Trail Committee's charge is broader than solely submitting a final proposed plan for a trail through Ashland. It was agreed upon that the Upper Charles Trail Committee's charge was to complete the Upper Charles Trail through Ashland.

Rob Scherer advocated for the Board to accept the final report in concept. The Board did not feel comfortable endorsing the final proposed trail because the report does not provide the necessary data or information to determine feasibility. Rob explained that the accepting the report would allow the Upper Charles Trail Committee to continue to move the ball forward, which will require several decision points along the way. Carl Hakansson made a suggestion about completing a small section, such as connecting the RTD to downtown or the Dyke Trail, of the Trail to show progress. The members thought it was important to find a section that could be completed, and the committee could provide information regarding the needed funding. Yolanda informed the Board that DCR is looking at grant funds to put a bridge over the spillway at the Ashland Reservoir, which will be ADA compliant.

The Board thought it is necessary to schedule a joint meeting with the Upper Charles Trail Committee to discuss next steps.

Adjournment

Roll Call Vote 4-0-0.