

Select Board
Minutes of Tuesday, February 21, 2024
Bourne Veterans' Community Center
Buzzards Bay, MA

TA Marlene McCollem
ATA Liz Hartsgrove

Select Board

Mary Jane Mastrangelo, Chair
Melissa Ferretti, Vice Chair
Anne-Marie Siroonian, Clerk
Peter Meier
Jared MacDonald (3:49)

Others: Barry Johnson, Town Clerk, Steve Strojny, and Kevin Hough.

Note this meeting is being televised, streamed, or recorded by Bourne TV. If anyone in the audience is recording or videotaping, they need to acknowledge such at this time. Use of flash photography during Select Board meetings is prohibited.

All items within the meeting agenda are subject to deliberation and vote(s).

3:00 PM Call Public Session to Order in Open Session

1. **Public Comment on Non-Agenda Items** – Public Comments are allowed for up to a total of 12 minutes at the beginning of each meeting. Each speaker is limited to 3 minutes for comment. (Board members are unable to respond due to posting requirements of the Open Meeting Law).
2. **Signing of the March 5, 2024, election warrant for Presidential Preference Primaries**

Voted: Peter Meier moved, and Melissa Ferretti seconded, to authorize the Board to sign the warrant forms for the March 5th, 2024, Presidential Primary.

Vote: 4-0-0.

3. **Policy Workshop: Marijuana**

Chair Mastrangelo said that Town Administrator Marlene McCollem asked the Board to ask themselves what it is that they want to achieve to be successful, and what it is that they might want to avoid as having unintended consequences. Anne-Marie Siroonian said that they want to avoid any legal actions taken against them. Melissa Ferretti agreed and said that litigation would be her top thing to avoid. Peter Meier said that he wants a streamlined process with a commonsense approach, and Ms. Ferretti agreed with Mr. Meier.

Chair Mastrangelo said that criteria are important in making the 3 retail outlets successful. Some of this criteria are the location and the experience of those running the retail outlet. She would also like to see the residents of Bourne being able to secure jobs from this. She also feels that a transparent process is important. She also wants the Board to think about how they integrate the community meetings.

Ms. Siroonian said that there is a link between business owners and the strategic plan. Peter Meier said that it is bringing business to the Town that generates jobs and brings revenue and it's part of the Strategic Plan. Ms. Ferretti said that a lot of the processes are already written, and it is the business that needs the Town's support. Ms. Ferretti also said that the voters have spoken, and they are doing this work, and she thinks their job now is to make a fair and equitable process with the least community impact.

Peter Meier asked about the process of the applicants going to the Planning Board, and Chair Mastrangelo said that the zoning that was passed says that they must have a host community agreement with the Select Board to go to the Planning Board for zoning. There was some discussion about who hosts community outreach meetings. Chair Mastrangelo and Ms. Siroonian said that the applicants are responsible for their own outreach meetings.

Ms. McCollem recapped the conversation that the Select Board just had. She said that the Select Board wants to achieve a streamlined process, simplicity, successful businesses, local jobs, a transparent local process, community integration, alignment with the Strategic Plan, local ownership, and to be fair and equitable. She said that the things that the Select Board wants to avoid are litigation risk, marketplace instability, duplication of the CCC process, and negative community impacts.

a. Process for developing draft Marijuana review procedures.

Ms. Siroonian said that she thinks the three important things to answer are time, place, and manner regarding the applications. Chair Mastrangelo said that they will need a web page for the application process.

Chair Mastrangelo asked Ms. McCollem about resources for the application process. Ms. McCollem said that this is logistically very confusing. She said that one of the resources that they will need is legal review on the application process. She said that none of the Massachusetts license examples are under the new procedures. Ms. McCollem said that they would be safe to accept paper applications and said that there should be only one way to accept applications. Assistant Town Administrator Liz Hartsgrove said that the process could be like the acceptance process of RFP's, which lays out the steps for the applicants and for staff.

Voted: Peter Meier moved, and Anne-Marie Siroonian seconded that there will be a competitive application process for qualified applicants as outlined in the RFP.

Steve Strojny, Monument Beach, said that he thinks that the Select Board is on the right path. He said that his only quibble with the motion is that somebody may think that they are a qualified applicant, and when they get in front of the Select Board it will be obvious that they are not. Chair Mastrangelo said that the RFP will be sent out with the qualifying criteria.

Vote: 4-0-0.

Chair Mastrangelo said that a site is needed to apply. Ms. Siroonian said that you cannot get a host community agreement without a site. Kevin Hough said they should not only have a site, but also have some sort of legal contract over that site.

There was some discussion about community outreach. Mr. Hough said that the Cannabis Control Commission requires applicants to post in the newspaper and have two community outreach meetings. It was decided that as part of the application, the applicants will submit a community outreach plan.

Ms. McCollem asked the Board to circle back to the resources, and she said that the resources that have been discussed are a web page and Town Counsel. Chair Mastrangelo said that they will have a paper application that will be available on the website.

Ms. McCollem added that by regulation, it is their responsibility as the municipality to provide advice, which is not done in any other industry or for any other applicant that applies for any other kind of permit. She said that the website is a serious commitment, as well as Town Counsel. Ms. McCollem said that a fee system needs to be developed. There was some discussion on estimating the costs involved for the application process regarding the website and Town Counsel fees. There also was more discussion about the RFP process.

Ms. McCollem asked if the Select Board will be doing the screening for all the comparative criteria, and Chair Mastrangelo, along with a few of the other board members, said yes. They all agreed that the minimum criteria will be screened by both staff and the Select Board.

i. Criteria

Chair Mastrangelo said that the community outreach plan will be part of the criteria.

The Board all said that the minimum criteria for property location is that it must be in the overlay. There was a discussion about comparative criteria for property location. Ms. Hartsgrrove said that that the Board must establish a scale for their ideal location for these establishments. Jared MacDonald suggested that the Board make a list, and then break out the distances after the list is established.

Chair Mastrangelo said that they need to decide what the Board wants for broad categories for criteria, and there was some discussion about what the Board would like to use. The list of criteria that was decided includes social equity status, residency, preliminary safety and security plan, industry experience, business plan, sustainability/green energy, and an employment plan.

ii. Competitive scoring system.

iii. Outline of steps in the licensing process

b. Dissolve ad hoc subcommittee?

Voted: Peter Meier moved, and Jared MacDonald seconded, to dissolve the ad hoc subcommittee.

Vote: 4-0-1. Melissa Ferretti abstained.

c. Televised? Hybrid/remote option?

Chair Mastrangelo said that she is fine with these workshops being televised. She said that she prefers not to have a hybrid option because it would be too hard to manage. Mr. MacDonald agreed to the hybrid option, and regarding being televised they decided it would be televised if Bourne TV was available. It was also decided the meetings would be hybrid on a case-for-case basis if there is a Board need for it.

d. Future special meeting schedule.

The next workshop meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 13th at 3:00 PM.

Chair Mastrangelo said that the homework for the Board is to think about the minimum and comparative criteria regarding the criteria that was discussed earlier. Ms. Ferretti said that they should also think about the scoring system.

Mr. Strojny suggested a 100-point scoring system with 4 major categories with each one worth 25 points. He said that regarding social equity, they should evaluate it if they fit in, or if they align with it. He spoke about a few other categories that he feels that the Board should evaluate. He said that he hopes that the Board will reconsider the letters of support. There was some discussion about the overlay.

4. Adjourn

Voted: Anne-Marie Siroonian moved, and Peter Meier seconded to adjourn.

Vote: 5-0-0.

This workshop meeting of the Bourne Select Board was adjourned at 4:36 PM.

Respectfully Submitted,

Kim Johnson, Recording Secretary

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