



**Town of West Newbury
Select Board
Monday, April 13, 2023 at 5:30pm
381 Main Street, Town Office Building
www.wnewbury.org
Meeting Minutes**

Open Session: The open session was called to order at 5:32pm by Chairman Archibald.

Participation at the Meeting:

- David Archibald, Richard Parker, Wendy Reed- Select Board
- James Blatchford- Town Clerk
- Angus Jennings- Town Manager

Announcements:

- This meeting is being broadcast on local cable TV and recorded for rebroadcast on the local cable channels and on the internet. Meeting also accessible by remote participation; instructions below
- Earth Day 2023: Town-Wide Roadside Cleanup! Saturday, April 22nd. Pick up supplies at Town Offices, Library, or Food Mart. Details on Town website. Thank you!
- Annual & Special Town Meeting: Monday, April 24, 2023 at 7pm, Town Annex
- Town Election Monday, May 1st. Polls open 7am-8pm
- Call for volunteers! Open positions on Boards/Commissions/Committees. See www.wnewbury.org/volunteer
- Reminder to subscribe for emailed Town agendas/news/announcements at www.wnewbury.org/subscribe

Regular Business:

- A. Request to perform volunteer work, for Eagle Scout Project, on trails behind Page School in coordination with the Conservation Agent**
Eagle Scout candidate Jack Rau spoke to the Select Board about his desire to undertake the maintenance project, utilizing only hand tools. Parker asked if an adult should be present during the work hours, and it was determined that the necessary work permit paperwork for minors should be used. **The item was tabled for a future Select Board meeting.**
- B. Request for permission for Fire Dept. to undertake prescribed burn of brush pile (removed invasives) on Cherry Hill conservation land, in coordination with the Conservation Agent**
The Select Board discussed the additional steps to be taken regarding the use of the conservation land for this purpose, including mounting appropriate signage and sending out an e-blast to inform the public. The Fire Department would be on hand to manage the burn. **Reed motioned to approve the burn. Parker seconded. The motion unanimously passed. (3 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain).**
- C. Follow-up discussion if/as needed, regarding draft Town Meeting motions**
No motion was made at this time.

Pre-Town Meeting Info Session and Q and A- to Begin at 6pm:

- D. Review of proposed Warrant articles with summary of Select Board and Finance Committee recommendations; public question and answer**
Town Manager Angus Jennings summarized Special and Annual Town Meeting Articles of particular concern/interest. These included:

On Articles 4-20 Annual Town Meeting: Jennings summarized discussions related to the Town Budget and overall reduced municipal expenses as laid out in the Articles. Among items of interest was the water rate increase of 1.06% which was necessary to cover operating expenses, the replacement of the Church and Prospect water mains, and the proposed transfer of funds from the CPA Housing Reserve Fund to the

Affordable Housing Trust- a transfer which would bring the funds out of the purview of Town Meeting voters.

On Article 18 Annual Town Meeting: Jennings summarized the Corridor Planning for Pedestrian, Cycling, and Equestrian Safety Improvements as laid out in the Article, which Jennings stated drew praise from members of the public as an important project.

On Article 2 Special Town Meeting: Jennings summarized Finance Committee's recommendation to make an investment in emerald ash borer beetle prevention as laid out in the Article, but a lower amount than the Select Board's recommendation. The Select Board inquired about who would provide expertise and information about the Article during the Meeting, if needed, with Board Member Parker offering himself.

On Article 4 Special Town Meeting: Jennings summarized the transfer or appropriate moneys in the sum of \$50,000 for an engineering study at 31 Dole Place as laid out in the Article, and where the process in preparing the parcel stood.

On Article 5 Special Town Meeting: Jennings underlined the growing importance of buying water from Newburyport under municipal agreement as laid out in the Article.

On Article 12 Special Town Meeting: Jennings stated that ARPA fund would be used the fund the replacement of Page School Office HVAC as laid out in the Article.

On Article 16: Jennings underscored the size of the initiative to utilize the One Stop for Growth grant if secured with matching funds as laid out in the Article.

Archibald motioned to adjourn the session. Parker seconded. Motion unanimously passed. (3 Yes, 0 No, 0 Abstain). The session adjourned at 5:55pm.

To view a video recording of this meeting, use the link below:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MyENUilpbSU>