

## BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING

July 25, 2016

Chairman Judith L. O'Connell called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m. in Room 9 of the Town Hall. Present were Selectmen Gregory B. Bendel, Kevin A. Caira, Michael L. Champoux and Michael V. McCoy. Also present was Town Manager Jeffrey M. Hull.

Chairman O'Connell asked those present to rise and led the pledge of allegiance.

Chairman O'Connell advised that the purpose of tonight's meeting is to conduct interviews with those residents interested in serving on the Board of Appeals. She advised that candidates were not obligated to attend as this was intended to be an informal meet and greet. To the best of her recollection, the Town has never had this many candidates interested in a volunteer position. She advised that the Board is grateful for the interest in the position. Members of the Board were in agreement that it would be beneficial to conduct a public forum for the applicants to meet with the Board. Chairman O'Connell advised members of the Board that the process will be to allow the candidate approximately five minutes to introduce themselves and allow ten minutes for members of the Board to ask questions.

### **MARK NELSON**

Mr. Nelson stated that he is a resident of 4 Poplar Street and has lived in Town since 1955. He became involved in construction in 1968 and he began building new homes and developing private ways in 1984. Mr. Nelson stated that he has received certificates for completing four land development law classes. He stated that he is familiar with Massachusetts General Laws relating to land use, the zoning by-laws, inhabitant by-laws and the rules and regulations of the Board of Appeals and Planning Board Subdivision Control.

### **RICHARD HUPPER**

Mr. Hupper stated that he was born and raised in Wilmington. He stated that he has been involved with construction for much of his life and for the past six years has been in real estate. He thought the position would be a great opportunity to learn and to give back to his community. He acknowledged that he did not know a lot about the position, but would like to learn. He is also interested in the Planning Board.

### **CONOR LaHIFF**

Mr. LaHiff did not attend the meeting. His application indicated that he is a resident of Avalon Drive. He received an Associate Degree in Information Technology at Albertus Magnus College. He is also interested in the Historical Commission and the Recreation Commission. Other interests include computers, recreation and he is a certified Notary Public.

### **FRANCIS X. OLIVIERI**

Mr. Olivieri stated that he and his wife have been a resident of Wilmington since 1985 and raised two children in the Wilmington school system. He has been a practicing attorney since 1967, specializing in estates and wills and family law. His office is in Somerville. While his children were growing up he was an assistant coach for Pop Warner and Little League and thought this would be an opportunity to do something for the Town.

### **RAYMOND LEPORE**

Mr. Lepore stated that he is a life-long resident of Wilmington. His family arrived in Wilmington between 1927 and 1930. His home is in the same location that his forefathers raised their family. Mr. Lepore stated that he served on the Board of Appeals for four years before serving on the

Board of Selectmen. He knows the rules and regulations of the Board of Appeals, is familiar with how the Town operates and has developed land in Wilmington. He is aware of sensitive areas in Town. He stated that he would like to stay involved in the community and reviewed what activities he has been involved with in the past including little league, helping to construct the soccer field at Shawsheen School and Palmer Park at Town Hall.

### **JACQUELYN SANTINI**

Ms. Santini stated that she has been a resident of Wilmington for 20 years. She is married with three children. She advised that she is an election worker. She stated that she initiated a Place Maker Grant through the Greater Boston Board of Real Estate for the Wilmington Dog Park. As President of the Eastern Middlesex Association of Realtors, she has executive leadership. She also provided information to the Wilmington High School Guidance Department about available scholarships and provided funds to the Wilmington Food Pantry. Ms. Santini reviewed other activities she has been involved with through her role as a realtor including going to Washington, DC and the State House.

### **ROBERT P. LOPEZ**

Mr. Lopez did not attend the meeting. His application indicated that he is a resident of Federal Street. He has 16 years of financial services experience. Mr. Lopez has a Casualty & Property Producer License; Real Estate License and 10hr OSHA Construction safety Outreach. He is also interested in the Cable TV Advisory Task Force and the Conservation Commission. In addition, Mr. Warner's interests include the Historical Commission and is a volunteer coach for Wilmington Pop Warner Flag Football.

Chairman O'Connell stated that once the Board has heard from all candidates, she would be asking for a roll call for each member to provide their preferred candidate. She stated that she believes there is more than one candidate suitable for the position. She would like to do it this way so each member feels they have had the opportunity to come forward with their first choice and will have the ability to provide additional comments.

As the Board of Selectmen were ahead of schedule and the last candidate had not yet arrived, a motion was made by Selectman Cairra, seconded by Selectman Bendel and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Selectmen recess for 15 minutes or until such time as the next candidate is present.

Chairman O'Connell reconvened the meeting at 8:24 p.m. All members were present as well as Town Manager Jeffrey M. Hull.

### **PAUL BROZO**

Mr. Brozo stated that he and his wife are new to town having moved to Wilmington in September 2015. He advised that he is originally from Michigan and studied Political Science at Kalamazoo College and attended law school at Michigan State University. He took the bar exam in New York and works remotely with a New York law firm. They chose Wilmington to be closer to family and further researched the schools and the neighborhood. Mr. Brozo stated that he has been a member of many non-profits but he wanted to wait until he found a community where they would establish roots before becoming involved in local government. He stated that he is meticulous in reading

through statutes. Mr. Brozo expressed his desire to be part of the community in the same way as the Board of Selectmen.

### **BOARD TO CONSIDER APPOINTING INDIVIDUAL TO BOARD OF APPEALS FOR A TERM TO EXPIRE APRIL 30, 2021**

Chairman O'Connell and members of the Board agreed that there were multiple candidates that were qualified and they were confident each would benefit the Town. Chairman O'Connell asked if the Board would like to make comments. Members thanked the candidates for their willingness to step forward and hope that those not selected would consider another position on the Town boards and committees. Selectman O'Connell stated that she would like to poll the members and ask that they identify their top candidate. Selectman Bendel and Chairman O'Connell identified Jacquelyn Santini, Selectmen Caira and McCoy identified Raymond Lepore and Selectman Champoux identified Francis Olivieri.

Chairman O'Connell stated that there are three names that have come forward as potential nominations. Chairman O'Connell offered members the opportunity to provide comments or a motion. There being no discussion, Chairman O'Connell stated that the Board has spoken at length regarding the various candidates and each member must consider the best candidate. Upon a motion made by Chairman O'Connell, seconded by Selectman Bendel and by the affirmative vote of three, with Selectmen Caira and McCoy opposed, it was

**VOTED:** That the Board of Selectmen appoint Jacquelyn Santini as a member of the Board of Appeals for a term to expire April 30, 2021.

Members of the Board of Selectmen encouraged the other candidates to remain engaged in the community.

### **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Frank West, Birchwood Road, stated that there were multiple candidates for the Board of Appeals and asked that the Board of Selectmen consider having a discussion at their August meeting to schedule a Special Town Meeting for the purpose of revising the by-laws to allow one or two associate members to the Board of Appeals.

Chairman O'Connell stated that the Town has not had Associate members for years and have had multiple Annual Town Meetings and asked Mr. West to explain his rationale that this rises to the level of a Special Town Meeting. Mr. West stated that it is his impression that if this is done at an Annual Town Meeting and it passes, it must be approved and that would be in August. He said many of the current members have been on the Board of Appeals for many years and may decide to step down.

Town Manager Hull commented that it would be interesting to learn how many instances over the past two or three years, due to travel plans or other conflict, has created a challenge on the Board. It would be helpful to know to get a sense as to whether this is a systemic problem. He also noted that the cost for a Special Town Meeting is approximately \$7,000.

Mr. West stated that if the Board does not think this warrants a Special Town Meeting, he would like to see it on the Annual Town Meeting warrant. He opined that there has been enough discussion from the Town to warrant that discussion to see if the Board would agree that the taxpayer should be allowed to vote on this issue.

Chairman O'Connell asked to clarify that Mr. West is asking that the Board of Selectmen bring an article forward as opposed to Mr. West gathering signatures and submitting a petitioned article. Chairman O'Connell stated that she would take his request under advisement. The Board of Selectmen only has one meeting in August and she has not yet had the opportunity to discuss with the Town Manager.

Selectman Champoux stated that when the question initially came up he advocated that the Board did not want to act irrationally. He believes he has had ample time to think about the issue and believes it would not be in the best interest of the Town to have alternates. It was determined that the three member Board of Appeals with alternates was not working to the best advantage of the Town. He stated that the five member board is working with a few exceptions. Selectman Champoux stated that he is not opposed to discussion at a future meeting.

Selectman McCoy stated that with a three member Board of Appeals, one must have a unanimous vote for a Special Permit. He noted that Town Meeting changed the membership to five allowing for there to be one "no" vote.

Selectman Caira stated that the five member board is working fine and one issue should not result in changing the Board.

Mr. West asked that the Board of Selectmen find out from other towns how their Board of Appeals is constituted.

Town Manager Hull stated that when discussed earlier in the year, it was brought to his attention that one of the challenges with associate members is it became difficult for them to continue to attend all the meetings when often times they were not called upon to serve at a meeting.

#### NEW BUSINESS

Selectman Champoux stated that he attended the Public Safety Camp graduation run by the Middlesex County Sheriff's Department on Friday, July 22 and said it was a great event.

Selectman Champoux advised that he would be attending the Massachusetts Selectmen's Association Regional Meeting in Plymouth scheduled for Tuesday, July 26.

Selectman Caira would like the Board to consider having an agenda item relative to the Facilities Master Plan for members to offer their opinions on what was presented to the Town. He stated that he did not believe there was a plan presented that was worthwhile for the Town. Chairman O'Connell stated that Town Manager Hull has been clear to her that he wants to take a step back and work with the Board of Selectmen, School Committee, Planning and Conservation and other boards and committees to make sure there is more unity from the various stakeholders. Town Manager Hull stated that following the public hearing on June 29, there was internal discussion and the thought was to have conversations with the various effected groups, citing the Elderly Services Commission, Library Trustees and Recreation Commission, to explain what was being proposed and to receive input. He suggested that this be an agenda item in September to inform the Board about comments that have been received by boards and committees and to receive their input.

Selectman Bendel requested that a letter of thanks be sent to those candidates for the Board of Appeals.

Chairman O'Connell stated that there was a site visit to the Yentile Farm Recreational Facility. She stated that the project is going very well and is a credit to Green Acres Landscape Company as well as Paul Alunni and other town personnel. Chairman O'Connell stated that there is a Yentile Farm Development Committee meeting scheduled for Tuesday, July 26. She stated that the project is on schedule, on time and within budget.

Chairman O'Connell wished her niece Maddie a Happy 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday!

There being no further business to come before the Board, a motion was made by Selectman Cairn, seconded by Selectman Bendel and by the affirmative vote of all, it was

VOTED: That the Board of Selectmen adjourn.

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

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Recording Secretary